ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

PASTORAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY

Where are we two years later?

It's hard to believe that two years have passed since Bishop Cunningham approved the Hispanic Pastoral Plan for our Diocese. The pastoral plan emphasizes four priorities identified in each area of Formation, Missionary Option, *Pastoral de Conjunto* and Liturgy & Prayer. Over these past two years, the staff of the Office for Cultural Diversity has been working diligently to realize the recommendations made by all those who took part in the process. We've expanded the leadership development programs offered through the *Instituto Pastoral Hispano*, increased our online presence through social media, developed new initiatives to reach out to *jóvenes* and families, and so much more. You can read more about these accomplishments on page 2.

Looking Ahead Toward the Future

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Instituto Pastoral Hispano*. We will be celebrating this significant milestone in our history with a number of events, workshops, and listening sessions that will lead to the new 6-week summer leadership development program in Spanish.

We will continue to work with pastoral leaders to increase awareness of the present-day challenges within the Hispanic community, especially among the migrant farmworker community, families, youth and young adults.

Our hope for the next couple of years is to have more people engaged in Hispanic Ministry. It would be fantastic to reach 500 or more subscribers for our monthly email newsletter. Another goal would be to double the number of current students attending the *Instituto Pastoral Hispano*. All of this can be possible with your help. Contact me at 585-328-3210 or lsaenz@dor.org to find out more about how you can help.

Sincerely,

Lynette Saenz
Director of Cultural Diversity
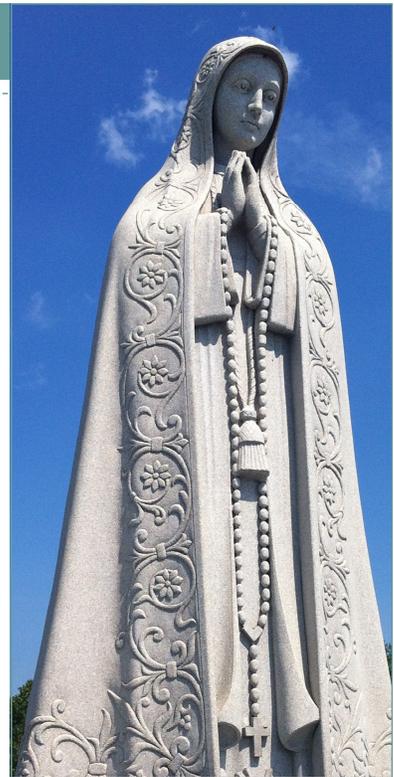
Hispanic Family Day at the National Shrine for Our Lady of Fatima in Lewiston, NY

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Formation

As a result of the recommendations in the Hispanic Pastoral Plan the *Instituto Pastoral Hispano* was re-structured. Over the last two years, 50 students have completed 12 courses offered. In 2013, we also extended the program to the Diocese of Buffalo where 40 students participated in 6 courses. In May 2014, eight students from Rochester and Buffalo graduated.

For youth and young adults, we offered a *Pastoral Juvenil* workshop for 27 youth leaders and adult advisers from six different parishes. We also piloted a new program, *Friday Diálogos*, for Hispanic young adults which is modeled after "Theology of Tap".

We also developed a marriage enrichment retreat for couples in 2013. This year, 22 couples took part in the *Encuentro de Parejas*.

This past Spring, we also initiated a Luncheon Speakers Series for diocesan and parish personnel to promote dialogue and the sharing of information around the topics of cultural diversity and ministry. Presentations took place once a month from March through May.

Missionary Option

The *Santa Misión* continues to renew the faith of many in the Hispanic community. In 2013, 175 people heard Fr. Enrique López Escalera from New Mexico speak about God's love and how we can live our faith. This summer, our own Fr. Paul English shared a message about faith and family with 163 participants. These last two years, the Saturday following the *Santa Misión,* in partnership with the Buffalo Diocese, we have also participated in Hispanic Family Day at the National Shrine for Our Lady of Fatima.

In an effort to reach Latinos throughout our Diocese, we have created a Facebook page (DORculturaldiversity) as well as a monthly e-newsletter. You can subscribe to the newsletter on our Facebook page or the diocesan website.

Two specific initiatives are also taking place at the parish level. ChristLife is a Catholic evangelization program helping form missionary disciples and Rochester ACTS is a faith-based community organizing project that enables systemic change.

Pastoral de Conjunto

Communication, collaboration and cultural understanding are key if we are to achieve communion in mission. Since 2011, the Urban Ministry steering committee has facilitated ongoing dialogue with Pastors/Pastoral Administrators, including the development and implementation of the Hispanic Pastoral Plan. We have also established a Leadership Commission for Hispanic Ministry that meets quarterly.

Through the Office of Vocations, seminarians have participated in a summer cultural immersion program as a component of their formation for diocesan priesthood these past two years.

Presentations of the Hispanic Pastoral Plan have also been offered for catechetical leaders, parish staffs, pastoral councils in a number of parishes and a few have even begun to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month (Sept 15—Oct 15) and other cultural celebrations.

Liturgy & Prayer

Parishes continue to celebrate Marian feast days for the various Latin American countries that are represented in our Diocese: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Cuba, Dominican Republic, etc. We have also provided opportunities for the migrant community to gather for prayer during a Lenten retreat at Nativity in Brockport and a Pentecost retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Marion.

Mission Statement for Hispanic Ministry

We, the Hispanic community of the Diocese of Rochester, commit ourselves to:

• proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God;

• celebrate the Eucharist which call us together in community, nurtures our faith, and sends us in mission;

• actively participate in civic and ecclesial life by sharing our traditions, gifts, and values.

Volunteers & Supporters

88 volunteers

165 hours

124 FB likes

187 newsletter subscribers

Thank you!