

# Small Group Facilitator Training

#### THE V ENCUENTRO PRAYER

God of Mercy,

You who went out to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus, Grant us a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our brothers and sisters, To walk along beside them, listen to their hopes and dreams, Rekindle their faith with the fire of your Word, Prepare them to recognize you in the Eucharist And send them as missionary disciples to share the joy of the Gospel To present and future generations of every race, language and culture. We ask you this from our burning hearts Filled with the Holy Spirit, In the Name of your beloved Son And through the intercession of our Mother, Mary of Guadalupe Star of the New Evangelization. Amen.

#### V Encuentro...





#### V Encuentro...





#### V Encuentro...

THEMES & GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATORS PARTICIPANT JOURNAL & CONSULTATION FORMS





## **Historical** Memory

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#### **Historical** Memory



- Brought many Hispanic
   Catholics out of anonymity
- Expressed needs, aspirations, and contributions as baptized Christians and members of the Church of the United States.



- Affirmed Hispanic Catholic experience
- Facilitated discernment of being Church based on communion and a preferential option for those who are alienated and living in poverty

#### **Historical** Memory



Resulted in the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry



Opportunity to host and share an experience of Encuentro with all the cultures and races

2006:
THE FIRST NATIONAL
ENCUENTRO OF HISPANIC
YOUTH MINISTRY

Listened to the voices of Hispanic/Latino youths to respond to their needs and aspirations, as well as to recognize their contributions



## V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

#### **Invites all Catholics:**

- to continue our journey as People of God
- to discern the most appropriate pastoral priorities and strategies for our times,



## **Vision** And Objectives



### The V Encuentro...

- is a four-year process of reflection and action
- invites Catholics to intense missionary activity, consultation, leadership development, and identification of best ministerial practices in the spirit of the New Evangelization.
- starts at the grass-roots level
- calls for the development of resources and initiatives

The main goal is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church Call all Catholics to become authentic and joyful missionary disciples

# BY GIVING WITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE

embracing the cultural diversity in the North American Church.

Promote a vision of the Church in mission that invite, engage, and form Catholics of all ages to

# LIVE OUT THEIR BAPTISMAL VOCATION

Invite all Catholic leaders to

## **ENGAGE AND ACCOMPANY**

**Hispanic Catholics** 

## PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN THE PERIPHERY

# IDENTIFY & PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES

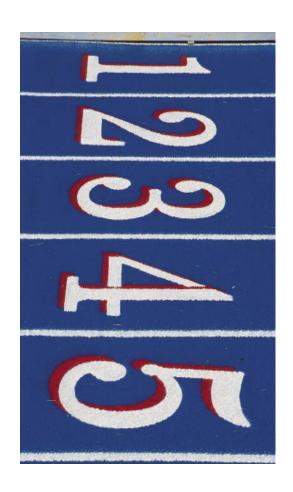
for Hispanic Catholic pastoral leaders to serve in leadership positions and

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LAY AND ORDAINED MINISTERS DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Stimulate a new wave of

# FAITH FORMATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

#### The HEART of the V Encuentro Process



Five-week experience of reflection, evangelization, and consultation

Inspired by Pope Francis' call to foster a culture of Encounter

#### The Five Themes:

- 1. Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church
- With Words and Actions: Do it!
- 3. Walking Together with Jesus
- 4. Bearing Fruits of New Life
- 5. Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples



# **Process** Of Evangelization

AN MANAGEMENT AND MAN



# Response to the Church's Invitation to New Evangelization

SIGNS OF HOPE

**CHALLENGES** 

OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE JESUS CHRIST AND HIS MESSAGE





#### **Process** Of Communion

A MANAGER AND A



The V Encuentro is a way we can respond to God's call for all to live in communion as missionary disciples in light of our shared faith in Jesus Christ, listening to God's Word, celebrating the sacraments, and affirming the many ways in which we experience God in the everyday.



#### **Process** Of Consultation

AN MANAGEMENT AND MAN



## The V Encuentro...

 is committed to engaging Catholics in a process of intentional listening and consultation

empowers Catholics to "go out" to the peripheries

## The V Encuentro...

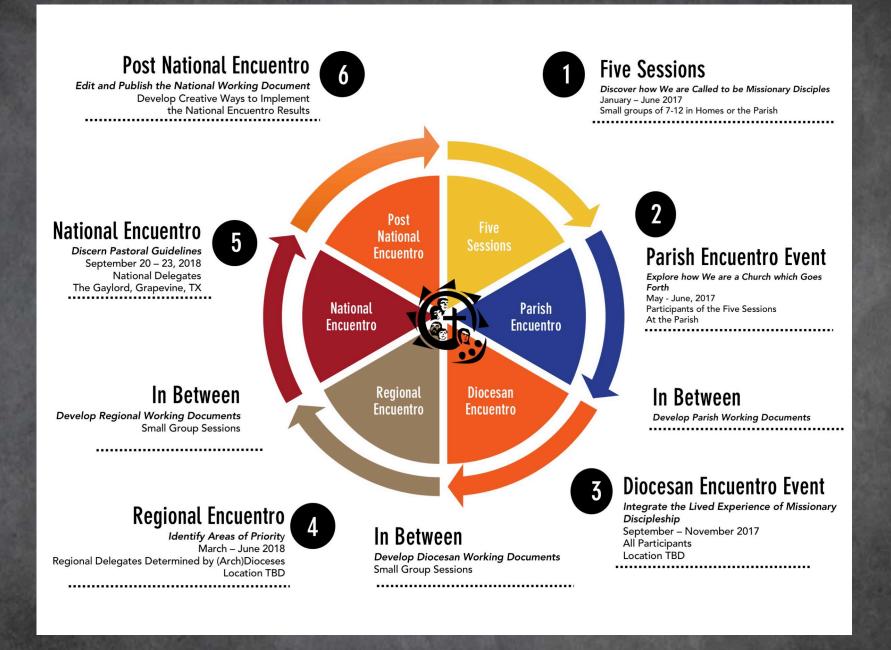
- is an evangelizing process that prepares missionary disciples to listen attentively, engage people's lives, and acknowledge hopes and frustrations
- invites people to express their voice, their hopes, and their dreams
- evaluates structures and ways of doing ministry at the local level



#### Milestones Of The Process

AN MANAGEMENT AND MAN







# Themes, Objectives & Structure Of The Guide



## 1. Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church

- 2. With Words and Actions: Do it!
- 3. Walking Together with Jesus
- 4. Bearing Fruits of New Life
- 5. Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples



## General Objectives

By entering this process, Catholic faith communities and groups are invited to ...

- 1. Experience being a Church that goes forth.
- 2. Inspire a process of reflection and faith sharing among members of the small group.
- 3. Contemplate the calling to being missionary disciples.
- 4. Prepare to engage in evangelizing missions and consultations in the periphery.
- 5. Document the experience and the process of consultation to discern pastoral implications.
- 6. Make the transition from small groups into small faith communities.

## STRUCTURE OF EACH SESSION

#### General Information

- Objectives
- Symbols
- Instructions to prepare the setting

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Share experiences of encounter with Jesus and how he seeks us out first so we can see.
- Deepen our understanding of our baptismal call to be missionary disciples.
- Prepare as missionary disciples to give priority to those who need it most.

#### SYMBOLS

Blindfolds, the V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal, V Encuentro Wristbands

#### PREPARING THE SETTING

Before starting the session, prepare the space where the small group will meet. Arrange the chairs in a circle and place the image of a path in the center. Place the blindfolds near the path symbolizing all those things that prevent us from seeing. Ideally, there should be one blindfold per participant. There should also be a basket with V Encuentro wristbands. These will be distributed at the end of the session.

## STRUCTURE OF EACH SESSION

#### Introductory Section

- Introduction
- Biblical excerpt from Luke
   24: The Encounter on the
   Road to Emmaus
- Reflection on the text
- After a few moments of silent reflection, a person assigned by the group shares a reflection on the reading, focusing on the evangelizing step that inspires the session



After a few moments of reflection in silence, a person from the group shares the following reflection on the reading:

Reach out, take the first step (Primerear)..

In the biblical passage of the disciples on their way to Emmaus, Jesus comes forth to meet these two disciples who are returning from Jerusalem filled with fear, anxiety, and frustration. Jesus actively looks at the reality affecting his disciples and inserts himself in it. Jesus knows all his disciples have been traumatized by the death of their teacher, friend, and Lord. His death deeply disturbed them and filled them with fear. Their master had been arrested, tried, and found guilty of a crime deserving the death penalty, according to the laws of the time. The passage indicates that these two disciples remained three days in Jerusalem after the death of Jesus before deciding to leave town. It is possible that, during those days, they were in hiding out of fear of being recognized as disciples of the executed one, as Peter feared when three times he painfully denied knowing and even being a disciple of Jesus. They finally decide to leave the city, to get far away from that place of death, and return to their lives, to what they were doing before following The first action Jesus takes in this passage is to join the disciples in their walk. With this action, Jesus takes the first step, primerear. He gives priority to the disciples by reaching out to them and coming forth to meet them. Jesus approaches them with deep respect in order to listen to what they are saying, grasp their feelings, and perceive their reaction to the events. He reaches out to them, and listens to them, knowing their thoughts and feelings, and how much they have endured.

The biblical narrative indicates that the disciples did not recognize the stranger who joined them along the way because "something prevented their eyes from recognizing him." We do not know how close to the disciples Jesus was walking, or for how long. What we do know is that Jesus is listening to what they say, and he recognizes their gestures of discouragement and sadness. This action of anonymous accompaniment shows great respect to the mourning the disciples are experiencing due to the death of such a beloved person in whom they had placed all their hopes. Deep in their sorrows, the disciples also face the harsh temptation that they may have wasted their time by following someone who turned out not to be who they thought he was. It is very likely that it was precisely this pain and confusion that prevented them from recognizing Jesus.

## STRUCTURE OF EACH SESSION

#### Core Sections

- SEE
- JUDGE
- ACT
- CELEBRATE
- MISSION

#### SEE

The facilitator invites the group to share in light of the following questions:

This sharing can happen in pairs, making sure that, while a person is sharing his or her experience, the other one is listening without judging, making comments, or giving advice. The person simply listens with all his or her senses and heart.



#### JUDGE

God seeks us out first through the sacrament of Baptism and calls us to be missionary disciples of God's divine love.

God is the Lord of History. We were called to God's own life, and through the waters of Baptism we rose with Christ to a new life as sons and daughters of God.

Such splendid dignity makes us kings—children of a King; priests—participating in the priesthood of Christ and prophets—proclaimers and messengers of the Word of God in the world. Thus, our Baptism is an urgent call to participate in the life and mission of God. Pone Prancis

#### ACT Taking the first step

How could we prepare ourselves for mission, what steps should we take, what

gestures should we make to be the hands,

the feet, and the eyes of God in the world?

Let us follow the example of Jesus in the story of Emmaus. Before joining the disciples who are on the way, Jesus actively looks at the reality affecting them and inserts himself in it Jesus does not engage his disciples from afar. It is necessary for the Risen Christ to go to the periphery where his disciples are. That physical, political, emotional, and mental periphery has potentially turned them into confused and hopeless followers that may well share the fate of the one who died on the cross. This action teaches us to be present to the particular reality in which people live and,

#### CELEBRATE

Song: Cristo No Tiene Pies en el Mundo (Estela García-López y Rodolfo López) or Pescador de Hombres (Cesáreo Garabain)

#### LEADER

Loving Lord, you have taken the first step and reached out to us. You have sought us out in so many ways, through so many events and people in our lives. Sometimes we have covered our eyes with blindfolds of our own making and

#### MISSION

Choose one action.

OUTLINE OF MISSIONARY ACTION A

Take the initiative to reach out to someone





## **Instructions** For Facilitators



# 5 Basic Responsibilities of Facilitators

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1. Prepare the space for the group to meet.

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## 2. Guide the conversation



## 3. Distribute the materials



4. Keep records of who participated in the sessions



## 5. Submit report at the end of the 5 sessions



# Practical Recommendations for Facilitators

- 1. Pray!
- 2. Read the entire session prior to your small group meeting
- 3. Assign enough time for each section of the session. The SEE and JUDGE sections require more time
- 4. Develop a strategy to facilitate the conversation

# Practical Recommendations for Facilitators

- 5. Test your media equipment before the session!
- 6. Make sure that the interaction among the group is always welcoming, respectful, and affirming.
- 7. If a participant misses a session, communicate with this person to follow up
- 8. At the end of each session, thank all participants, and remind them of the day and time of the next meeting. Send a reminder the day before the next meeting.

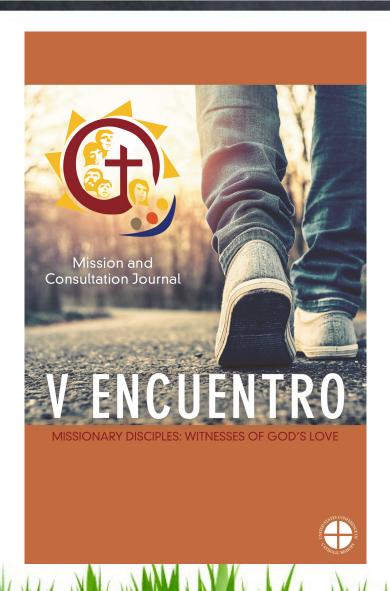


## **Participant Journals**

And Consultation Forms



## PARTICIPANT JOURNAL





#### Prayer for the V Encuentro

God of Mercy,

You that went out to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus, grant us a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our brothers and sisters, to walk along beside them,

to walk along beside them, listen to their hopes and dreams,

rekindle their faith with the fire of your Word,

prepare them to recognize you in the Eucharist and send them as missionary disciples

to share the joy of the Gospel to present and future generations of every race, language and culture.

We ask you this from our burning hearts filled with the Holy Spirit, in the Name of your beloved Son

and through the intercession of our Mother, Mary of Guadalupe

Star of the New Evangelization Amen.

Name
Diocese
Parish/School/Organization
City

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## PARTICIPANT JOURNAL

#### THANK YOU!

Thank you for accepting the invitation to be part of the process of the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry! This is a time of grace for Catholics in the United States to renew our faith and respond to the call to the New Evangelization as we reach out more intentionally to our Hispanic/Latino sisters and brothers in our midst.

The V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal is a very important resource. This Journal will help you to:

Reflect on your own experience of the V Encuentro Sessions
Engage people in the peripheries, build relationships, and ask questions
Discern & Write down new insights gained from this missionary experience
and fill out the consultation form

We invite you to focus as much as possible on Hispanic/Latino young people and families, especially those living in the peripheries of church and society. What is a periphery? Places where our sisters and brothers are vulnerable, excluded, treated as outsiders, living in fear, isolated, ignored, invisible. Many Hispanic/Latino Catholics may not be active in our churches. Others find themselves estranged, feeling that they do not belong to our parish communities. They can be college students, farmworkers, at risk youth, people who are homeless, and those in prison. Many are waiting for someone to share the Good News of the Gospel and that God cares about them. You are God's eyes, hands, and feet to reach out to them. Carry this journal with you. Treasure it. Discuss it. Bring it to the V Encuentro sessions.

#### **GOAL**

The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/ Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/ Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church. The V Encuentro process is a priority activity in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Strategic Plan 2017-2020. All Catholics in the country are invited to be part of the V Encuentro process.

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few. ~ Luke 10

#### TIPS FOR MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

If you are a baptized Catholic, then you already are a missionary! Yes, our entire lives as Christians are about participating in the Lord's evangelizing mission. The Church exists to evangelize. As baptized Catholics, the Holy Spirit moves us to announce the Good News and give witness of the great things God has done in our lives through Jesus Christ.

Just by living an authentic Catholic life inspired by the values of the Gospel and faithful to God's Word, you are doing missionary work. Make sure you continue to do this!

#### 10 Tips

- 1. Choose who is going to be your missionary partner. Go with someone else. The Lord sent his disciples in pairs (Lk 10:1).
- Pray for wisdom before going to visit someone. Pray in thanksgiving after returning.
- If you are reaching out to people you know, identify the person, family or group you want to visit. Contact them in advance.
- 4. If you are going to the periphery, engage people in a natural and polite way, showing authentic interest in getting to know them. Speak about what you know and what you have experienced as a Christian.
- 5. Bring some information about your parish or faith community to share.
- Be respectful. Avoid entering into controversies. If you don't know the answer to a question, write it down and indicate that you will bring an answer next time.
- Use the questions in this journal. Then, listen... listen... listen attentively and lovingly.
- 8. Keep the conversation short.
- 9. Write a few notes and respond to questions in this Journal after your return.
- 10. If you have any questions, consult with the leaders of the V Encuentro team in your parish or faith community.

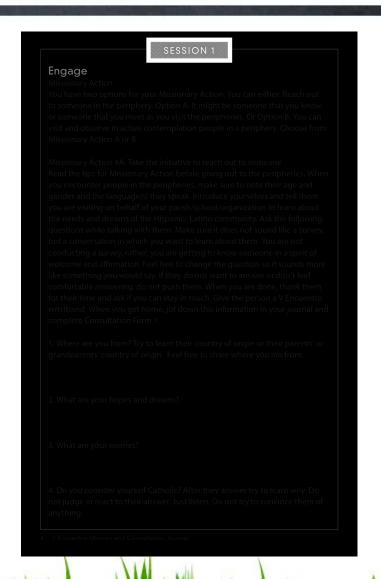
Note: Missionaries should not visit or contact minors under the age of 18 without the presence of a parent or adult following Safe Environment Guidelines.

2 V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal

V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal

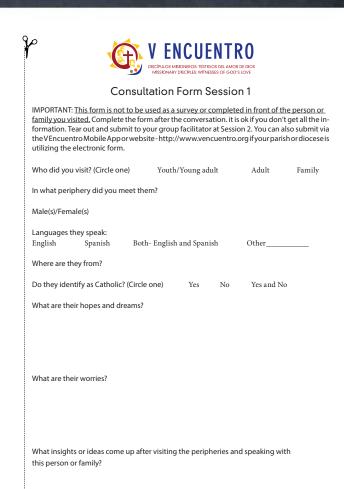
## PARTICIPANT JOURNAL





## PARTICIPANT JOURNAL & CONSULTATION FORMS





V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal 17

#### THE V ENCUENTRO PRAYER

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