

Dear Executive Committee:

The parishes in the Diocese of Toledo are grateful for your generosity. Thanks to the grant you provide us with, we are blessed to have more leaders ready to work with our Latino youth.

In the V Encuentro process, the Hispanic/Latino community in the Diocese of Toledo discovered the lack of pastoral care provided to young Latinos and Latinas. The V Encuentro is an initiative of the Bishops of the United States and a priority activity in the Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. 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.

During the local V Encuentro process, the participants with the blessing of our Bishop made it a priority to offer a diocesan formation program for emerging leaders. Our goal is to create a pool of well-formed leaders to serve as advisers, trainers or coordinators for Pastoral Juvenil (Hispanic Youth & Young Adult Ministry). Thanks to the grant money our Diocese received from the Mark D. Pacione Foundation and the Annual Catholic Appeal, I was able to offer the Formation Course on Pastoral Juvenil.

The main goal of the course is to lay the foundations for the Certificate Program for Advisers and Leaders in Pastoral Juvenil Hispana, and by introducing them to the Prophets of Hope model. This model begins with the experience of Hispanic youth in the United States, and shares in the theological and pastoral vision and spirituality of Hispanic young adult ministry.

The course took place at Widewater Retreat Center (050 US-24, Liberty Center, OH 43532). I chose that venue because 75% of the participants needed overnight accommodations. Having the opportunity to stay overnight gave the group a chance to build community. I was blessed to spend time with the participants because it gave me an insight into their struggles and hopes. The program consisted of 64 training hours. We completed the process during 4 weekends of 14 hours each.

The scheduled was as follows: March 16-17, May 4-5, June 1-2 and July 13-14, 2019. Twenty-seven participants registered for the first weekend. Due to life circumstances, three participants had to drop out of the program and seven only attended half of the time. The participation during the third and fourth weekends was very low, due to important family events, such as graduations or Quinceañera celebrations. I have provided a copy of the attendance sheet for your convenience. In order to receive the certificate, participants had to attend all classes and/or have only missed a half-day due to extraordinary circumstances. Nine students received their certificate, and the rest of the participants will be eligible once they attend the classes they missed.

The \$3000 I received from your organization went towards the cost of the professor stipend, travel, and room and board, which had a total cost of \$4173.08. Attached to this email is a copy of all the receipts from our professors, the attendance sheet, and pictures from our participants.

If you have any questions or comments, please email or call me at 419-966-5257. Thank you again for your generous support!

Blessings,

Andrea De la Roca
Coordinator of Intercultural Ministries
Department of Discipleship & Family Life

Diocese of Toledo
1933 Spielbusch Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604-5360
419.214.4887

