



# HISPANIC CATHOLICS IN U.S. AND THE RESPONSE OF THE DIACONATE

Samuel Vásquez  
Managing Director of Hispanic Evangelization  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

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Bendita sea tu pureza  
y eternamente lo sea,  
pues todo un Dios se recrea  
en tan graciosa belleza.  
A Ti, celestial Princesa,  
Virgen Sagrada María,  
yo te ofrezco en este día  
alma, vida y corazón.  
Mírame con compasión,  
no me dejes, Madre mía.

Blessed be thy purity  
and eternally let it be  
for God, entirely, takes pleasure  
in such graceful beauty.  
To you, heavenly Princess,  
Holy Virgin Mary,  
I offer you on this day  
soul, life and heart.  
Look upon me with compassion,  
do not leave me, my Mother.



# Outline

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**The Hopes & Challenges of Hispanic Evangelization in the U.S. Today**

**The Challenge of Ordaining Deacons for Hispanic Ministry**

**The Challenge of Serving the Hispanic Community as a non-Hispanic Deacon**

A photograph of a diverse group of people in a church or community setting. In the foreground, a young boy on the left looks upwards with his hands clasped in prayer. Next to him, a woman with long dark hair has her eyes closed and hands clasped in prayer. In the background, other people are visible, some with their hands clasped, suggesting a prayer service or a religious gathering. The lighting is warm and focused on the individuals in the foreground.

# The Hopes & Challenges of Hispanic Evangelization in the U.S. Today

# The Hopes & Challenges of Hispanic Evangelization in the U.S. Today

- The US Bishops overwhelmingly approved a New Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the U.S.
- **Asesorar** (oversight)
- **Abogar** (advocacy)
- **Formar** (formation)



# Asesoramiento (oversight)

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**Acts 6:1-4, 6** Now in these days when the disciples were *increasing in number*, the **Hellenists** murmured against the **Hebrews** because their widows were **neglected** in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, **pick out** from among you seven men of **good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom**, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose [...] These they set before the apostles



# Asesoramiento (oversight)

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- Hispanics often live in a de facto parallel parish because of a cultural and language gap
- This makes it difficult to accurately assess the needs of the community
- Oversight must also be accompaniment and not just a top-down exercise





# Abogacía (advocacy)

- For a church that finds itself contracting and aging, the challenge of serving a newly emergent and growing community is a real burden and concern
- Nearly 30 million of the 65 million Catholics in the U.S. today are Hispanics
- 55% of all population growth in the U.S. since 2000 is due to Hispanics
- In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, there are 100,000 Hispanics with a yearly increase of 5,000
- Hispanics are a present and ever-growing reality
- **Many people would like to think that Hispanics are not really present**
- The goal of Hispanic Ministry, especially where there is an emergent Hispanic population, is that the Hispanic community become a net giver to the local church



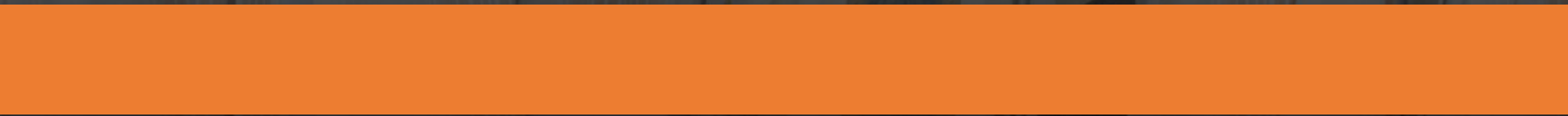


## Formación (formation)

- Most Hispanics immigrants entered the country illegally
- Most Hispanic immigrants (59%) have not finished High School (39% all)
- 36% don't speak English
- Those less educated struggle in catechetical settings
- Many parish groups attempt to take on the task of forming their members themselves with mixed results
- Lots of Hispanic Catholics speak with strong Protestant accents



# The Challenge of Ordaining Deacons for Hispanic Ministry



## Why Train Deacon Candidates in Spanish

Without a Spanish program the number of Spanish speaking men who would be able to serve in leadership roles as deacons would be severely limited

Men who have a descent understanding of the English language will still struggle in theological classes especially if they have to write papers

Spanish is the language of your heart if you have always prayed and worshipped in Spanish

Many aspirants are rich in experience and wisdom but poor in articulation

Spanish deacons will be working in Spanish → formation in Spanish gives them a language



# What do you need to train aspirants in Spanish?



A wholistic on-line program



A competent team of instructors in an in-person setting



A team of formators to assess the overall growth and formation of individual aspirants



# Considerations for aspirants to the diaconate deacons

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A disciple of Christ

A regular prayer life

A Catholic in good standing



# Considerations for aspirants to the diaconate

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Legal immigration status

Education

English

A Certificate of Discipleship  
and Catechesis

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## Considerations for aspirants to the diaconate

A recognized and well-respected leader in their parish

Their wife and their family's blessing

# What would a Hispanic Deacon Provide?

- Skilled leadership with the grace of ordination
- A model Christian
- A man among the people who can be a voice of wisdom
- An intercessor for the people through the praying of the Liturgy
- A teacher of the Word
- Assistance for the priest

- A particular apostolate
  - Natural Family Planning
  - Procurator Advocates
  - Catechists
  - Bilingual Parochial Employees
  - Parochial Vicar for Hispanics
  - Music Ministry







# The Challenge of Serving the Hispanic Community as a non-Hispanic Deacon

# I want to help the Hispanic Community

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All different kinds of opportunities to do social work

There are different levels of Spanish skill that could be useful for carrying our ministerial work

1. Be able to read the Ritual of Baptism well in Spanish
2. Quinceañera celebration or a Nuptial Mass
3. Learn Spanish well enough to preach regularly in Spanish



Questions or comments

Samuel Vásquez

Managing Director of Hispanic Evangelization

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

[svasquez@catholicaoc.org](mailto:svasquez@catholicaoc.org)

(559) 283-1061