



## Hispanic/Latino Ministry and Social Justice Collaboration

Since 2015, the [Justice, Peace, and Human Development Department](#) at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and [The National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry \(NCADDHM\)](#), have been journeying and working together in the development of practical tools, educational resources, and assisting in the on-going professional development of diocesan staff, to facilitate the full participation of Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the Church's social mission. NCADDHM is a national organization recognized by the USCCB with diocesan/regional representation throughout the United States. For over 30 years, NCADDHM has been providing support to diocesan leadership serving the Hispanic/Latino community in the Church by providing networking opportunities, mentoring, and best practices in the field of Hispanic/Latino ministry.

[The Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors](#) is also a strategic collaborator of the Justice, Peace, and Human Development Department at the USCCB. Roundtable provides professional support to members through education, formation, professional relationships, and management development. The association is committed to increasing the capacity of social action directors to engage in the social mission of the Church. Roundtable members hail from (arch)dioceses, religious orders, and parishes across the nation representing urban and rural communities at large and small dioceses, and minority and majority populations.

According to a 2023 report on the [U.S. Catholic Population by Race/Ethnicity](#) prepared for the V Encuentro based on 2021 Survey Data and Census Estimates, approximately 40.2% of the U.S. Catholic population self-identified as Hispanic/Latino. Similarly, a 2023 report on [Ministry with Young Hispanic Catholics: Towards a Recipe for Growth and Success, A Summary Report of Initial Findings from the National Study of Catholic Organizations Serving Hispanic Youth](#), prepared by Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Ph.D., for Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry, estimates that "60% of Catholics younger than 18 self-identify as Hispanic." Thus, in recognizing the gifts, talents, and contributions of Hispanic/Latino Catholics and the many contributions of the social action directors, the Justice, Peace and Human Development Department at the USCCB encourages collaboration between the staff/offices of Hispanic ministry and social justice concerns to strengthen relationships so that diocesan staff can become more aware of common interests, good work that is already happening, and potential areas for collaboration. Through this collaboration, our communities can become more vibrant, and our efforts more successful, when we take the time to listen, learn, and include the voices/gifts of the diverse faces of the Body of Christ.

As disciples of Christ, we share his mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor... proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Lk. 4:18). Together we are transformed and sent forth to fulfill God's will in our daily lives (CCC, nos. 1325-26, 1332).

## Suggestions for Hispanic/Latino Ministry and Social Justice Diocesan Staff

Here are key people you should consider developing relationships with:

- Your diocesan director for Hispanic/Latino ministry (or staff from the diocesan office that oversees pastoral initiatives with Hispanic/Latino Catholics).
- [Priests](#), [deacons](#), and [religious sisters](#) who work with Hispanic/Latino Catholics in your diocese.
- Where possible, Hispanic/Latino leaders at parishes who coordinate efforts around catechesis, youth ministry, or movements ([Renovación Carismática Católica](#)/Catholic Charismatic Renewal, [Jóvenes Adultos para Cristo](#)/Young Adults for Christ, etc.).
- Your diocesan colleagues who work in social justice, social concerns, or human life and dignity.
- Your Catholic Charities agencies/colleagues who work in parish social ministry, advocacy, and immigration/legal services.
- Organizations that receive funding from the U.S. Catholic bishops' [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) (CCHD). These organizations often work on issues that particularly impact Hispanic/Latino communities, such as immigration, workers' rights, affordable housing, etc.
- Catholic Relief Services regional offices, local [chapters, and clubs](#).
- Where possible, leaders of parish social concerns or social justice efforts.

Please consider these additional resources to assist you in these efforts:

- [Missionary Disciples Going Forth with Joy: National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry \(June 2023\)](#)
- [V National Encuentro Proceedings & Conclusions](#)
- [Bilingual Catholic Social Teaching Certificate Program for Hispanic/Latino Regional Facilitators](#)
- [JPHD Fe en Acción Page: Recursos para la misión social](#)
- [Communities of Salt and Light: Resources and Success Stories](#)
- [Catholic Social Ministry Gathering \(CSMG\)](#)
- [PovertyUSA.org: Resources and Statistics](#)
- [Catholic Farm Worker Network](#)
- [Pastoral Migratoria Network](#)
- [Justice for Immigrants \(JFI\)](#)
- [CCUSA: Parish Social Ministry Resources](#)
- [JustFaith Ministries Catholic Programs](#)