



US Catholic Bishops
Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry
The Southeast Pastoral Institute
7700 SW 56th St. – Miami, Florida 33155 – 305.279-2333

September 15, 2014

Dear brother Bishop:

In the context of the New Evangelization, US Bishops have reaffirmed their strong support for the family by identifying marriage and family life as one of the USCCB priorities for 2013-2016. Pope Francis has also identified the family as an evangelization priority within his papacy by calling an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in October 2014 and a General Synod in 2015, both centered on the family. In September 2015, Pope Francis is expected to preside at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, seeking to strengthen bonds between families and witness to the crucial importance of family to all of society.

In response to these priorities, and looking forward to the pastoral implications of the Synods of Bishops and the World Meeting of Families, our US Catholic Bishops Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry and the Southeast Pastoral Institute, together with its network of diocesan leadership of Hispanic ministry, have prepared a Hispanic family life pastoral reflection and formation process for the dioceses of USCCB regions V and XIV.

The process is to be carried out with wide representation of Hispanic leadership in the dioceses:

- to assist in a discernment and planning process for Hispanic family life ministry in the Southeast;
- to obtain a renewed sense of mission and a clear vision on Hispanic family life ministry in the region;
- to provide the dioceses with pastoral resources and strategies to help in the evangelization of Hispanic families; as well as
- to strengthen the Southeast network's capacity to serve and empower Hispanic families facing their different challenges.

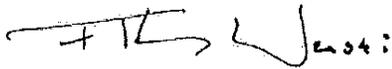
The organization of the Hispanic Family Life Encuentro Process began with a consultation and planning with Diocesan Directors at a regional meeting in Miami, in August 2014. It is expected to continue in the upcoming Raíces y Alas National Congress of Hispanic Ministry, to be held in San Antonio in October 2014.

As part of the process, SEPI will convene **Provincial Encuentros** (2015) to engage leaders in the process of reflection leading up to participation in the **World Meeting of Families** (September 2015).

Following the work of the Synods and the fruits of the World Meeting, with the coordination of the Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry, the region will begin a pastoral implementation process that will include **Diocesan Encuentros** (2016) leading up to a **Regional Encuentro** (October 2016). The process will continue through October 2017 with Workshops to train family life ministers and prepare for the future Fifth National Encuentro of Ministry with Hispanics to be convened by the USCCB.

As we prepare for the upcoming Synods and Pope Francis' visit to the US with the World Meeting of Families, we would like to encourage all our dioceses to participate actively in the Family Life Process for Hispanic Ministry in the Southeast and support SEPI's efforts in its coordination and implementation. We pray it will be a moment of grace for all our Hispanic communities and that it will help develop a pastoral response to the challenges of the Hispanic family in the context of the new evangelization.

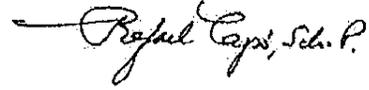
Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Chairman of the Board



Most Rev. Joseph Kurtz
Vice-Chairman of the Board



Rev. Rafael Capó, Sch.P.
Director

cc. Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry