

**DIVISION OF YOUTH AND YOUNG
ADULT MINISTRY
ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE**



Hispanic Young Adult Ministry
Strategic Plan

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ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

AUXILIARY BISHOP OF BALTIMORE
OFFICE OF THE SETON VICAR

October 24, 2009

In the letter from St. Paul to the Ephesians, we are reminded that in Jesus Christ, we have been brought together "So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God" (2:19). Prompted by the presence and growth of the Hispanic young adult population in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the enclosed *Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan* affirms and celebrates the voices of our Hispanic young adult "members of the household of God."

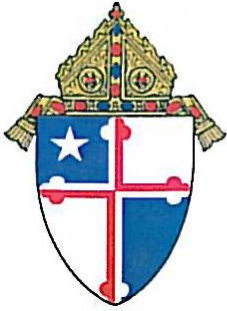
Drawing from strong pre-existing resources, including Sons and Daughters of the Light (1997) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' and the Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore (2003), the *Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan* articulates our next steps as together, in solidarity, we continue the journey to welcome all who are called to the Eucharistic table.

Incorporated in this plan is a mutual call to action. The *Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan* calls upon parish leaders to read, reflect, and pray over the best practices regarding implementation of the priority objectives. The plan simultaneously calls upon Hispanic Young Adults to be active agents of evangelization and leaders in their parish communities.

To young adults of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, I echo the words of *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, that "The Church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your ideals, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilization of true justice and love."

May the entirety of the Archdiocese of Baltimore continue to sojourn together in prayer, true justice and love.

Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore
Seton Vicariate



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 24, 2009

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Pope John Paul II, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America*, spoke to us about solidarity, "The awareness of communion with Christ and with our brothers and sisters . . . leads to the service of our neighbors in all their needs, material and spiritual, since the face of Christ shines forth in every human being."

The Department of Catholic Education Ministries joyfully welcomes the face of Christ shining forth from the Hispanic young adult community. As we continue to journey in solidarity, the enclosed *Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan* delineates our first steps towards a true celebration of the many cultures that make up the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The extensive processes that lead to the creation of this Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan provided an opportunity for the voices of stakeholders to be heard and respected. In that process a number of people deserve special appreciation. Primarily, His Excellency, Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, Seton Vicar, who has provided unfailing guidance and support for the Hispanic young adult community and the creation of this plan. Secondly, the Hispanic Young Adult Council and Planning Committee deserve our gratitude for their dedication and perseverance to the vision and mission of the Hispanic Young Adult Pastoral Plan. Lastly, the success of this plan will be determined by the commitment of Archdiocesan and parish leadership to implementation through collaboration and communication. To all those who will bring the words on these pages to life in community, we are much obliged.

In John 13:35, Jesus Christ tells us that "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." May we continue to manifest our love of the Lord in our love and outreach to one another.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald J. Valenti,
Executive Director
Department of Catholic Education
Ministries

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With gratitude to the Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski for providing the leadership and vision that served as the foundation for this pastoral plan.

With gratitude to Mark Pacione, former Director of the Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, for his unceasing support of the planning committee conviction regarding the critical nature of this plan.

With gratitude to the clergy, religious, and Hispanic young adult leaders who served on the planning committee: Cristina Lopez and Aurora Ortega from Holy Trinity Parish in Glen Burnie; Sr. Jude Cianfroga and Manuel Ordoñez from Sacred Heart Parish in Glyndon; Heriberto Martinez from St. Clement Parish in Lansdowne; Sr. Ligia Maria Corrales, Luz Rodriguez, and Rev. Wilson Saldaña from St. Gabriel Parish in Woodlawn; Rosy Trejo from St. Joseph Parish in Cockeysville; and Leonardo Machado, Walter Sibrian and David Zaldivar from St. Michael and St. Patrick Parish in Baltimore City.

With gratitude to the pastoral agents who serve the Hispanic community of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, to the Hispanic Young Adult Council who provided insight and feedback during the consultation process, and to Wilson Ariza from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Frederick who facilitated and led the first stage of the planning process.

With special thanks to our collaborators within the Catholic Center for their insight and consultation throughout the creation of this plan including: Carol Augustine, Division of Evangelization and Catechesis; Alison D'Alessandro, Office of Child and Youth Protection; Fr. Gerald Francik, Office of Vocations; Maria Johnson, Office of Hispanic Ministry; Fr. Jay O'Connor of the Division of Clergy Personnel; Ruth Puls, Division of Ministry Formation and Development; and Fr. Gilbert Seitz, of the Metropolitan Tribunal.

PREFACE

"Ministry in the twenty-first century requires the commitment to welcome and foster the cultural identity of the many faces in the Church while building a profoundly Catholic and culturally diverse identity." (*Encuentro & Mission* #36)

In 2006, the Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (DYYAM) orchestrated the Archdiocese of Baltimore's participation in the "Encuentro Process." Bishops and organizations had invited Hispanic young adults to share their pastoral needs, desires, and to name the gifts they can contribute to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Building from an intentional dialogue in the parish setting, the process called for a diocesan-level dialogue, a regional dialogue, and eventually culminated nationally at the University of Notre Dame.

The enclosed pastoral plan was birthed from that experience of the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Notre Dame University.¹ Harnessing the enthusiasm and excitement of the Encuentro, the DYYAM continued to support all previously existing ministries with Hispanic young adults and initiated plans to set a concrete five year plan for expansion of that ministry.

In the fall of 2007, under the guidance of Bishop Rozanski, the DYYAM formed a committee to create and implement the plan. This committee, made up of representatives of Hispanic young adult parish communities, had the goal of constructing the enclosed *Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Hispanic Young Adults*. This Planning Committee met with regularity between 2007 and 2009 and conducted its work bilingually through a translator. Despite challenges and struggles along the way, the committee was determined in regards to accomplishing its mission.

Although the planning team developed their value statements, vision, and mission for ministry to and with Hispanic young adults of ages 18-35, the document reflects the wisdom of previous sources. The pastoral recommendations in this document echo the vision of ministry presented in *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*² from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The goals of the plan parallel the four dimensions of *Vision and Mission: The Archdiocese of Baltimore Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry*³ from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. [See Appendix A]

¹ The general objective of the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry "was to engage Hispanic adolescents and *jóvenes*, as well as the professional leadership of Hispanic ministry, youth ministry, and *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*, in a process of encounter—conversion—communion—solidarity—mission that would promote the active, enthusiastic, and co-responsible participation of Hispanic young people in the life and mission of the Church in the United States." *Conclusions: First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry*. National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana—La Red, 2008.

² United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1996.

³ Archdiocese of Baltimore. *Vision and Mission: The Archdiocese of Baltimore Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry*. Baltimore, MD: Archdiocese of Baltimore, 2003.

VISION FOR PASTORAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Vision

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is a place where all members are welcomed to celebrate their traditions and where their gifts are valued as part of one Church, regardless of their origin or point of departure. Hispanic young adult ministry is recognized and celebrated as integral ministry in the Church and is a concrete opportunity to incarnate the vision of the New Evangelization.

Mission

The creation, establishment, promotion of a plan that attracts, welcomes, integrates, and forms Spanish speaking young adults so that they may continue to grow in Christ and live their faith in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in their parish communities, and in their social reality.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is two-fold: to provide a “plan of action” for Hispanic young adult ministry at the parish level and to provide archdiocesan-wide advocacy and formation for Hispanic young adult leadership. The plan clearly illustrates and invites the entirety of the church to participate in the ministerial opportunities presented by the growing Hispanic young adult population.

Goal

The overarching goal is to welcome and to evangelize Hispanic young adults. The desire is that as an increasingly intentional evangelization occurs throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore, so will an increase in the vitality and vibrancy of the young church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. By implementing the parish and archdiocesan recommendations in a deliberate fashion, leaders who serve Hispanic young adults will be uplifted, affirmed, and provided direction.

Values

Early in the creation process the Planning Committee identified and reached a consensus of communal values that reflect their personal values. The communal values reflected in the pastoral plan are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Love of God | 5) Unity / Solidarity |
| 2) Family: Root of our faith | 6) Honesty / Sincerity |
| 3) Commitment | 7) Respect |
| 4) Tolerance | |

PARISH INITIATIVES / RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal I / Dimension I

Pastoral de Conjunto (Communion in mission)

To put into practice a collaborative model of ministry that stems from the experience of young adults. This model is developed through communication and participation of the ministers (clergy and lay).

Objectives:

- a. To promote a dialogue between young adults (Spanish and English speaking) and parish leadership that will foster ownership of the projects and activities of the community.
- b. To have representation of the Spanish speaking young adults in the leadership of the parish.

Goal II / Dimension II

Liturgy and Prayer Life

To reflect a model of Church that celebrates the religious traditions of Hispanic young adults, allowing them the expression of their faith in their own language and culture.

Objectives:

- a. To motivate and support that (with the collaboration of other parish ministries and with the approval of their pastors) Hispanic young adults coordinate and carry out parish-wide events that are bilingual and multi-cultural thus promoting communication and interaction between communities.
- b. To promote solemn celebrations, such as the Easter Triduum and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and important feast days for the non-Hispanic and Hispanic communities where young adults of the entire community participate. Among others, some of such celebrations include the feast of the parish patron saint, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, All Saints Day, and the Day of the Dead.
- c. To promote community-wide liturgy workshops that educate and promote the integration of the different cultural expressions of faith.

Goal III / Dimension III

Formation

To promote opportunities for young adults that are yeast for the Kingdom of God in society through leadership and catechetical formation adapted to Hispanic culture in the United States.

Objectives:

- a. To train young adult leaders with the necessary skills to work bilingually in all parish committees.
- b. To form Hispanic young adults on the workings of day-to-day operations of parish life and promote mutual understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic and U.S. cultures.
- c. To promote that English resources and curricula be adapted culturally and be accessible to those receiving catechetical or sacramental formation.
- d. To provide leadership formation for young adult group leaders for the facilitation of young adult ministry.

Goal IV / Dimension IV

Mission

To evangelize young adults and to help them evangelize others, organizing them to respond to the needs of community and to be united in their efforts towards justice.

Objectives:

- a. To raise awareness of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching among Hispanic young adults.
- b. To promote the principles of Catholic Social Teaching through already existing parish social ministry programs and to help young adults have active roles in these programs.
- c. To create opportunities where young adults can develop their skills, their talents, and their social values while practicing the “option for the poor.”

ARCHDIOCESAN INITIATIVES / RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal I / Dimension I

Pastoral de Conjunto (Communion in mission)

To put into practice a collaborative model of ministry that stems from the experience of young adults. This model is developed through communication and participation of the ministers (clergy and lay).

Objectives:

- a. To raise awareness among archdiocesan divisions and offices about the presence and needs of Hispanic young adults.
- b. To raise awareness among Hispanic young adult leaders about the resources and assistance available from the Catholic Center.
Archdiocesan divisions and offices include:

Division of Clergy Personnel
Division of Evangelization and Catechesis
Division of Ministry Formation and Development
Office for Worship
The Tribunal
Vocations Office

- c. To advocate to pastors and pastoral life directors of parishes with Hispanic communities to develop Spanish-speaking young adult groups.
- d. To continue the work of the Archdiocesan Hispanic Young Adult Council as a forum for parish leaders to network and help implement the objectives of this Strategic Plan.
- e. To collaborate with the office of Child and Youth Protection on finding ways to educate parish personnel and Hispanic young adult leaders on the policies and procedures for working with minors.

Goal II / Dimension II

Liturgy and Prayer Life

To reflect a model of Church that celebrates the religious traditions of Hispanic young adults, allowing them the expression of their faith in their own language and culture.

Objectives:

- a. To provide liturgical training to Spanish-speaking young adults.
- b. To advocate for the language and spirituality of Hispanic young adults in Archdiocesan liturgical celebrations.

Goal III / Dimension III

Formation

To promote opportunities for young adults that are yeast for the Kingdom of God in society through leadership and catechetical formation adapted to Hispanic culture in the United States.

Objectives:

- a. To create a series of workshops for parish volunteers who are beginning in leadership or have leadership roles in parish Hispanic young adult groups.
- b. To work with the Division of Ministry Formation and Division of Evangelization and Catechesis to provide formation for those who evangelize and catechize Hispanic young adults.
- c. To offer training for associate pastors for Hispanics on *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*.

Goal IV / Dimension IV

Mission

To evangelize young adults and to help them evangelize others, organizing them to respond to the needs of community and to be united in their efforts towards justice.

Objectives:

- a. To continue the work of the Archdiocesan Hispanic Young Adult Council as a forum for parish leaders to collaborate and help implement the objectives of this strategic plan.
- b. To promote Catholic Social Teaching among the Hispanic young adult groups.
- c. To create a link on the Archdiocesan webpage that contains resources for ministry to, for, and with Hispanic young adults.

APPENDIX

National Goals for Young Adult Ministry, Dimensions for Hispanic Ministry and Pastoral Responses and Principles in Hispanic Ministry

Four goals of Ministry with Young Adults

From “Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults”, pages 25-38.

- Connecting Young Adults with JESUS CHRIST
- Connecting Young Adults with the CHURCH
- Connecting Young Adults with the MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD
- Connecting Young Adults with a PEER COMMUNITY

Dimensions of Hispanic Ministry

From “Vision and Mission: Archdiocese of Baltimore Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry”, page v.

- I. *Pastoral de Conjunto* (communion in mission)
- II. Liturgy and Prayer Life
- III. Formation
- IV. Mission

Pastoral Responses and Principles in Hispanic Ministry

From “Vision and Mission”, pages xiv-xvii.

1. Articulate a Clear Vision of Ministry Based on Unity in Diversity
2. Foster a Spirituality of Communion and Mission
3. Promote Small Ecclesial Communities and Apostolic Movements
4. Plan WITH the People, NOT FOR the People
5. Promote and Support Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Life
6. Form Lay Leaders as Bridge-builders for Today’s Culturally Diverse Church
7. Develop Relevant Stewardship Models
8. Strengthen Diocesan, Parish, and Regional Structures
9. Commit to Social Justice
10. Promote Intercultural Dialogue and Collaboration
11. Give the Church a Voice in Spanish

Ideas for Collaboration on Parish Recommendations

1. Designated parish young adult coordinator /contact could meet to share, to reflect on and to discuss the Plan and its implications on ministry to Hispanic young adults with Archdiocesan Coordinator of Hispanic Young Adult Ministry or Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Team (co-creators of this plan).
2. The leadership of Hispanic young adults groups and their participants could meet to discuss the Plan and its implications to their current ministry.
3. Parish young adult coordinator /contact (parish staff responsible for young adult ministry) could meet with Hispanic young adults to discuss the plan.
4. The Pastor/ PLD, pastoral staff, Pastoral Council and parish ministry leaders (of the areas where Hispanic young adults would minister), could meet to review the Plan and its implications and implementation for parish ministry.
5. In coordination with the pastoral staff, Pastoral Council and ministry leaders, the Hispanic young adults develop a parish centered timeline to implement this Plan and to set up an evaluation method and a date for this evaluation with the Pastor/ PLD.

MINISTERIAL CONTEXT OF PLAN

Strengths and weaknesses of Hispanic Young Adult Ministry 2006-2009⁴

Hispanic young adult ministry has accomplished some remarkable strides among both English and Spanish-speaking communities, such as:

- Transcending culture by focusing on the Eucharist at the center of our faith and through bilingual Masses
- Developing social activities that encourage the integration of the parish community and the exchange of principles and values, which strengthen the church's unity
- Participating in the Archdiocesan Hispanic Pastoral Formation Institute and other opportunities, such as, the St. Andrew's School of Evangelization⁵ which provide opportunities for pastoral formation
- Public recognition that Hispanic Young Adult Ministry is a parish ministry
- Discovering and applying Hispanic young adults' gifts towards the evangelization of their own community

The Archdiocese promotes the concept that "we are one church", without barriers of language, race, color or nationality. As we progress towards integration to the "one church" which celebrates culture, it has become apparent that there are areas that need to be strengthened and supported. Some of the more pressing ones are:

- The need for parishes to incorporate in their pastoral plans intentional ways to welcome immigrant young adults as part of the Church.
- Priests, religious and lay leaders who are from Spanish-speaking countries and serve Hispanic young adults should be assisted with learning about American culture, particularly about the traditions of the Catholic Church in the United States.
- Both Spanish and English-speaking communities need to develop a greater consciousness that "we are one church" requiring a

⁴ This section was gleaned from a SWOT process conducted at the Hispanic Young Adult Contact Meeting in 2008.

⁵ La Escuela de Evangelización San Andrés (St. Andre School of Evangelization), which was pioneered in northern Mexico, was brought by Hispanic young adult leaders into the local parish communities in Baltimore. With the help of personnel in its Virginia office, the St. Andre School's formation has reached many members of the Hispanic community in last four years. For more information: <http://www.evangelizacion.com/>

commitment to unity in word and deed from pastors, priests, religious, as well as from lay leaders.

- The willingness for mutual support and communication between the English and Spanish-speaking communities. For example, providing Hispanic young adults the opportunity to participate in the parish council promotes the integration of all young adults in the planning and development of group meetings and activities, fosters mutual support and enables increased communication.
- The need for formation and conversion in both the Spanish and English-speaking communities. Jointly planning formation and community service programs provide young adults the opportunity to see Christ in their fellow human beings.
- Parishes should plan to budget the cost of formation for both Spanish and English speaking young adults.

SYNOPSIS OF HISPANIC YOUNG ADULTS IN MARYLAND

45.5 million Latinos residing in the U.S. ⁶

“Over the last eight years, Maryland’s Hispanic population has increased by 65 percent. This compares to a 1.5 percent decrease for white residents, 9.9 percent increase for African Americans, and 32.0 percent increase for Asians. The growth in the Hispanic population continues to be centered in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, which accounted for nearly 60 percent of the Hispanic population increase over the last eight years. However, many other jurisdictions are beginning to realize a significant percentage increase in their Hispanic population. For example, Frederick and Washington counties, in Western Maryland, had the highest percentage increase in their Hispanic population for the eight-year period. The strong growth in the State’s Hispanic population in recent years continues to transform Maryland’s communities. In 2008, Hispanics represented 6.7 percent of the State’s population, an increase from 4.3 percent in 2000.”⁷

The Hispanic young adult community in the Archdiocese of Baltimore is very diverse. Studies show that the Hispanic immigrant population in Maryland is deemed more highly educated and skilled in comparison to the national immigrant population, however, many immigrants remain in low-wage and low-skilled jobs because of insufficient English skills and work training opportunities. ⁸

Hispanic young adult immigrants in Maryland are employed in a variety of professions and settings. Some carry out professional services ranging from medical practices to government contracting, others perform household and construction services while others own their own businesses.

Adding to the diversity of the Hispanic community is race. The Hispanic community is made of people of African, Asian, European, and Native heritages who have roots in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Among the Maryland Hispanic population, 17.5% are of Mexican descent, 24.63% are from Central America, with a most dramatic 15.11 percent from El Salvador and 3.64 % from Guatemala, 11.2 % are Puerto Rican, 2.96% are Cuban, 2.46% are from the Dominican Republic, and 11.28% are from South American countries, with 2.79% from Peru and 2.31% from Colombia.⁹

The diversity of the Hispanic young adult community reflects much richness yet poses a unique ministerial challenge for the Church of Baltimore. A sign of hope

⁶ <http://www.hispanic.maryland.gov/>

⁷ <http://www.hispanic.maryland.gov/>

⁸ <http://www.hispanic.maryland.gov/documentsHispanic/2008Report.pdf>

⁹ http://www.mdhcc.org/about/about_hispanics_in_maryland.php

for the Church is the desire of the Hispanic young adult community to share their faith mutually in their local church as a response to their baptismal call.

DESCRIPTION OF HISPANIC YOUNG ADULTS

NOTE: The following paragraphs reflect a rough qualitative snapshot of Hispanic young adults in the Archdiocese of Baltimore according to the lived experience of the Planning Committee alone.

Immigrants from Urban Areas:

A large number of young adults who emigrated from large cities in Latin America or the Caribbean have studied at the high school or university level. As such, they tend to be technologically inclined and have a better understanding of English. Because of the similarities of urban societies and lifestyles across the globe, they are prone to adapt to American culture yet seek church communities in which they can feel accepted and can share their own culturally identity.

Immigrants from Rural Areas:

Many immigrants who emigrate from rural areas in Latin America or the Caribbean have very little or no education. As such their knowledge of English and computational skills is very limited and in most instances work in labor intensive jobs. Immigrants from rural areas find it difficult to accommodate to the American culture because of the difference of lifestyle they encounter in the United States. Welcoming and hospitable church communities can aid in helping such immigrants find a “home away from home”.

Immigrants Brought as Children:

The majority of immigrants brought to the United States as children grow up with English as their primary language and in many cases do not acquire native fluency in Spanish. Although many immigrant children achieve a high school diploma, their legal status poses a great challenge for attaining higher education. Immigrants brought as children to the United States grow up as young adults with a dual-cultural identity. They can identify quite well with American culture and lifestyle. Church communities offering welcoming environments where young adults can express all aspects of their identity (being Catholic, Latino, and American) are bound to reap the gifts of young adults with bi-cultural identities who can serve as liaisons between communities.

Children of Immigrants Born in the US:

The majority of young adults who are first and second generation American grow up with a dual-cultural identity. Their lifestyles differ very little from that of any other American-born child, yet they maintain some or most of the cultural values

and customs of their parents. While their primary language is English their knowledge of Spanish can range from near-native fluency to non-existent. As with all young adults, church communities can evangelize first and second generation Hispanic young adults by engaging in welcoming and hospitable practices.

Puerto Ricans:

Puerto Rico is a territory of the US, which makes all Puerto Ricans natural citizens. While most Puerto Ricans are exposed to English in the Puerto Rican educational system, not all speak the language. Many Puerto Ricans have high school diplomas or a university degree and are functionally bilingual at varying levels. Although Puerto Rican and American lifestyles are very similar, there are a significant amount of cultural differences. Puerto Ricans are prone to adapt to American culture yet they often seek church communities in which they can feel accepted and can share their own culturally identity.

Program Planning Template

Title: (Should be young adult friendly.)

"A mile of cans!"--Young Adult Group Anniversary

Objective: (Explain what is the intended outcome of the activity.)

To celebrate the third anniversary of the Hispanic Young Adult Group, harvesting the fruits of three years of conversion and prayer.

To promote "the option for the poor" among young adults and the parish.

Description: (Explain briefly what is involved in the program that you are proposing. Be specific without going into details.)

"A Mile of Cans" will be an evening community gathering where a short presentation, music, food, and dance will take place. A collection of canned nonperishable food items will be expected from all participants. Food donations will be sent as help to the local Catholic Charities agency.

Proposed dates and times: (Have several dates in mind at least six months in advance)

Expected participation: (Budget will be based on projected number of participants)

Required space: (Where will the event be held? Parish hall, parking lot, etc.?)

Budget: (What are the costs for the facility? Materials? Equipment? Entertainment? Decorations? Publicity? Personnel? Who will finance the activity? (parish budget, fundraiser, participant fee, donations, sponsor, other)

Revenue = Income (money made) -- Expenses (amount program will cost)

Permissions: (Who is the first person to be contacted to plan and propose event? Who should be asked for permission to schedule event?)

Pre-existing funds and materials: (What resources are already available from the parish, community or young adult community?)

Committee Members names and responsibilities: (Who will be chair? How will the tasks be spread among community members? Keep names and contact information.)

Time-line: (Event proposal should be submitted to parish leadership at minimum six months in advance. By when should the different parish staff be contacted? When should the speaker and choir be recruited? When should tasks be delivered?)

Publicity: (Successful programs are usually well publicized. Plan out publicity carefully using available resources. Who receives the information is as important as when they receive it.

Evaluation: (Committee should evaluate the program by checking if the objective statement was fulfilled. Written reports should be kept on file on each program. This will help committee build from one program to the next.)

Sample Young Adult Programs

SPIRITUAL

Day or evening of reflection	Bilingual Holy Hour
Lenten observance: Stations of the Cross	Advent posadas
Young Adult Charismatic Mass	Pilgrim Mary
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Prayer partners
Feast of parish patron saint	Prayer or Bible study groups
Feast of Latin American patron saints	Discussion groups
Trips to places of religious significance	CRS' Food Fast
Young adult catechesis program	

SERVICE

Parish ministry fair
Clothing and canned food drives
Dances and Fiestas as fundraisers
State prisons: send cards or make gifts
Service to hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages,
Young Adult Day of Service at a food shelter

EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

Parish or inter-parish choir concert or competition	
Multi-cultural food celebration	Multi-cultural picnic
Latin-American Independence Day festival and parade	
Inter-cultural exchange presentation	Hiking Trips
Trips to nearby large cities	Trips to multicultural events
Visits to local areas of interest	Beach Trips
Drug and alcohol programs for young adults	
Information on topics of civic interest: immigration, health care, war, abortion, the death penalty, homelessness, solidarity, etc.	

ATHLETIC

Parish or Inter-parish tournaments for:

Soccer	Basketball	Bowling
Canoeing	Softball	Volleyball
Miniature Golf	Biking / hiking	Camping trip
Backpacking	White-water rafting	