



Mission and
Consultation Journal

VENCUENTRO

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE





Prayer for the V Encuentro

God of Mercy,

You that went out to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus,
grant us a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our brothers and sisters,
to walk along beside them,
listen to their hopes and dreams,
rekindle their faith with the fire of your Word,
prepare them to recognize you in the Eucharist and send them as missionary disciples
to share the joy of the Gospel to present and future generations
of every race, language and culture.

We ask you this from our burning hearts filled with the Holy Spirit,
in the Name of your beloved Son
and through the intercession of our Mother, Mary of Guadalupe
Star of the New Evangelization
Amen.

Name _____

Diocese _____

Parish/School/Organization _____

City _____

THANK YOU!

Thank you for accepting the invitation to be part of the process of the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry! This is a time of grace for Catholics in the United States to renew our faith and respond to the call to the New Evangelization as we reach out more intentionally to our Hispanic/Latino sisters and brothers in our midst.

The V Encuentro Mission and Consultation Journal is a very important resource. This Journal will help you to:

Reflect on your own experience of the V Encuentro Sessions

Engage people in the peripheries, build relationships, and ask questions

Discern & Write down new insights gained from this missionary experience and fill out the consultation form

We invite you to focus as much as possible on Hispanic/Latino young people and families, especially those living in the peripheries of church and society. What is a periphery? Places where our sisters and brothers are vulnerable, excluded, treated as outsiders, living in fear, isolated, ignored, invisible. Many Hispanic/Latino Catholics may not be active in our churches. Others find themselves estranged, feeling that they do not belong to our parish communities. They can be college students, farmworkers, at risk youth, people who are homeless, and those in prison. Many are waiting for someone to share the Good News of the Gospel and that God cares about them. You are God's eyes, hands, and feet to reach out to them. Carry this journal with you. Treasure it. Discuss it. Bring it to the V Encuentro sessions.

GOAL

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. The V Encuentro process is a priority activity in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Strategic Plan 2017-2020. All Catholics in the country are invited to be part of the V Encuentro process.

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few. ~ Luke 10

TIPS FOR MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

If you are a baptized Catholic, then you already are a missionary! Yes, our entire lives as Christians are about participating in the Lord's evangelizing mission. The Church exists to evangelize. As baptized Catholics, the Holy Spirit moves us to announce the Good News and give witness of the great things God has done in our lives through Jesus Christ.

Just by living an authentic Catholic life inspired by the values of the Gospel and faithful to God's Word, you are doing missionary work. Make sure you continue to do this!

10 Tips

1. Choose who is going to be your missionary partner. Go with someone else. The Lord sent his disciples in pairs (Lk 10:1).
2. Pray for wisdom before going to visit someone. Pray in thanksgiving after returning.
3. If you are reaching out to people you know, identify the person, family or group you want to visit. Contact them in advance.
4. If you are going to the periphery, engage people in a natural and polite way, showing authentic interest in getting to know them. Speak about what you know and what you have experienced as a Christian.
5. Bring some information about your parish or faith community to share.
6. Be respectful. Avoid entering into controversies. If you don't know the answer to a question, write it down and indicate that you will bring an answer next time.
7. Use the questions in this journal. Then, listen... listen... listen attentively and lovingly.
8. Keep the conversation short.
9. Write a few notes and respond to questions in this Journal after your return.
10. If you have any questions, consult with the leaders of the V Encuentro team in your parish or faith community.

Note: Missionaries should not visit or contact minors under the age of 18 without the presence of a parent or adult following Safe Environment Guidelines.

Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church

Reflect

How did Session 1 prepare you to be a missionary disciple?

What was the most important thing you learned in this session?

To whom is Jesus leading you to reach out (primerear)?

“ The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. ”

POPE FRANCIS
The Joy of the Gospel, n. 24



Engage

Missionary Action

You have two options for your Missionary Action. You can either: Reach out to someone in the periphery. Option A: It might be someone that you know or someone that you meet as you visit the peripheries. Or Option B: You can visit and observe in active contemplation people in a periphery. Choose from Missionary Action A or B.

Missionary Action #A: Take the initiative to reach out to someone

Read the tips for Missionary Action before going out to the peripheries. When you encounter people in the peripheries, make sure to note their age and gender and the language(s) they speak. Introduce yourselves and tell them you are visiting on behalf of your parish/school/organization to learn about the needs and dreams of the Hispanic/ Latino community. Ask the following questions while talking with them. Make sure it does not sound like a survey, but a conversation in which you want to learn about them. You are not conducting a survey, rather, you are getting to know someone in a spirit of welcome and affirmation. Feel free to change the question so it sounds more like something you would say. If they do not want to answer or don't feel comfortable answering, do not push them. When you are done, thank them for their time and ask if you can stay in touch. Give the person a V Encuentro wristband. When you get home, jot down this information in your journal and complete Consultation Form 1.

1. Where are you from? Try to learn their country of origin or their parents' or grandparents' country of origin. Feel free to share where you are from.

2. What are your hopes and dreams?

3. What are your worries?

4. Do you consider yourself Catholic? After they answer try to learn why. Do not judge or react to their answer. Just listen. Do not try to convince them of

Missionary Action #B- Going into the peripheries

What is a periphery?

Places where our sisters and brothers are vulnerable, excluded, treated as outsiders, living in fear, isolated, ignored, invisible. Many Hispanic/Latino Catholics may not be active in our churches. Others find themselves estranged, feeling that they do not belong to our parish communities.

Find a public place like a park, mall, university campus, shopping center or community center where you can observe in active contemplation, with the eyes of Christ, without disturbing or annoying others. Depending on the situation, spend no more than 30 min to an hour in active contemplation.

Use all your senses to perceive the reality of the place: the persons who are present, their ages, what do they do, how do they relate to each other, what type of place is this and how is it taken care of; what moods people seem to have, how they are dressed, what type of music they listen to, in which language do they communicate, what conversations do you hear, what do they talk about.

Upon returning home, share with your missionary companion:

- What you observed, heard, perceived.
- What you felt and thought while you were actively contemplating reality.
- New things you learned from this experience.
- How does it prepare you to interact with people in a second visit to this place?

Discern & Write

What insights or ideas come up after visiting a periphery and speaking with this person or family?

With Words and Actions: Do it!

Reflect

How does Session 2 help you to get involved in your faith in your community and with those in the periphery?

What was the most important thing you learned in this session?



“ An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances; it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. ”

POPE FRANCIS
The Joy of the Gospel, n. 24

Engage

Missionary Action

If you remained in touch with the person or family from Session 1, visit them again to continue the conversation. Here are some questions you might ask. Remember to make it a conversation rather than a survey.

If you lost touch with that person or family, then go ahead and reach out to another person or family. If you completed Missionary Action B for Session 1 or lost touch with the person or family, use the questions in Session 1 on page 4 and then ask the following questions:

What is most important in your life? What makes you happy?

What obstacles prevent you from achieving your hopes and dreams?
What do you expect from God?

Do you feel a sense of belonging or welcome in the Catholic Church or in a faith community? Why or why not?

How can the Catholic Church or your faith community be more present in your life?

At the end of the conversation, offer a sign of peace (e.g., a word, a gesture) to the person or persons with whom you spoke. If they did not receive one during the last visit, you can give them a V Encuentro wristband. When you get home, jot down some notes from your conversation and complete consultation form 2.

Notes

Discern & Write

How has God already been involved in the lives of the person or family that you visited?

Considering the obstacles they face, in what ways can the Church respond?

Walking Together with Jesus

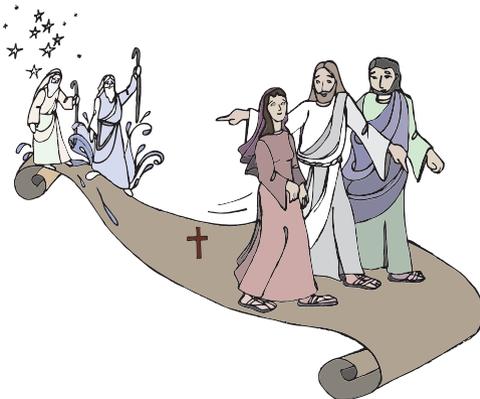
Reflect

How did Session 3 prepare you to better accompany people in your faith community and in the peripheries?

What was the most important thing you learned in this session?

“ An evangelizing community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic endurance. Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time. Faithful to the Lord’s gift, it also bears fruit. ”

POPE FRANCIS
The Joy of the Gospel, n. 24



Engage

Missionary Action

Decide which family living in a periphery you plan to visit. This should be a new family you have not visited before. Start the dialogue by introducing yourselves, offering a greeting of welcome and peace and identifying the parish, ecclesial movement or Catholic organization to which you belong. Get to know the family a little better by using questions proposed for the missionary action in Sessions 1 & 2.

During the visit, one of you shares an experience in which God accompanied you during a difficult time in your life. You can identify what gift God gave you to overcome this situation- such as wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God. Your sharing should last no more than 10-15 minutes.

Continue the dialogue. Invite them to share the following:

How has God accompanied you during challenging times in your life?

Has the Catholic Church helped you face difficult situations? If yes, how?

What can the Catholic Church do to welcome you and accompany you in your life? What gifts and talents do you bring to help the Catholic Church?

At the end of your visit, pray for that family and say good-bye wishing them peace. Give the family a V Encuentro wristband. When you get home, jot down some notes from your conversation and complete consultation form #3.

Notes

Discern & Write

How has God already been involved in the lives of the person or family that you visited?

Considering the obstacles they face, in what ways can the Church respond?

Bearing Fruits of New Life

Reflect

How did Session 4 prepare you to better understand your own gifts and talents and those of others?

What was the most important thing you learned in this session?



“ An evangelizing community is always concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful. It cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds. The sower, when he sees weeds sprouting among the grain does not grumble or overreact. He or she finds a way to let the word take flesh in a particular situation and bear fruits of new life, however imperfect or incomplete these may appear. The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God’s word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed. ”

POPE FRANCIS
The Joy of the Gospel, n. 24

Engage

Missionary Action

Make a commitment to learn more about the ways the Church reaches out to people in the local and global peripheries. Find out what social ministries are present in your parish or diocese. Here are some websites you can visit about important ministries the Church carries out:

- Feed the hungry and live in global solidarity through Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl: <http://crsricebowl.org/vencuentro>
- Explore in more detail some of the efforts related to social services that the Catholic Church provides in the United States:
 - » Communities of Salt and Light. <http://www.wearesaltandlight.org>
 - » Catholic Charities: <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org>
 - » Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCDH) <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development>
 - » Justice for Immigrants: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org>
 - » USCCB Pro-life activities: www.usccb.org/prolife
 - » Catholic Legal Network/Clinic: <https://cliniclegal.org>
 - » Catholic Climate Covenant: <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>
 - » Visit the electronic page of your arch/diocese or of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([http:// www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) to learn about projects at the local and national level to protect life, fight poverty, educate new generations, confront human trafficking, etc.

Complete Consultation form #4.

Discern & Write

What did you learn about the social mission of the Catholic Church after this session's missionary activity?

How can your gifts and talents help to better serve your faith community and those living in the periphery?

What can you and your parish/movement/group do to more adequately serve Hispanics/Latinos who are poor and vulnerable and let them know that they truly belong to your community?

Celebrating the Joy of Being Missionary Disciples

Reflect

In what ways did Session 5 help you understand the importance of rejoicing and celebrating as missionary disciples?

What was the most important thing you learned in this session?



“ Finally an evangelizing community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization. Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving.”

POPE FRANCIS
The Joy of the Gospel, n. 24

Engage

Missionary Action

Contact all the people you met during the past four missionary experiences and invite them to your parish community and the Parish Encuentro.

Complete Consultation form 5

Discern & Write

How did the V Encuentro process of five-sessions and mission help you to appreciate the needs, aspirations and contributions of Hispanic/Latinos you met in the peripheries?

In what ways do you think your faith community responds to the people you met and helps them to feel welcome?

What can your faith community do to better respond to the needs of those you encountered and help them feel welcome?

What can your faith community do to invite them to share their time, talents, and treasures?



V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

Consultation Form Session 1

IMPORTANT: This form is not to be used as a survey or completed in front of the person or family you visited. Complete the form after the conversation. It is ok if you don't get all the information. Tear out and submit to your group facilitator at Session 2. You can also submit via the VEncuentro Mobile App or website - <http://www.vencuentro.org> if your parish or diocese is utilizing the electronic form.

Who did you visit? (Circle one) Youth/Young adult Adult Family

In what periphery did you meet them?

Male(s)/Female(s)

Languages they speak:

English Spanish Both- English and Spanish Other _____

Where are they from?

Do they identify as Catholic? (Circle one) Yes No Yes and No

What are their hopes and dreams?

What are their worries?

What insights or ideas come up after visiting the peripheries and speaking with this person or family?



V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE



Consultation Form Session 2

IMPORTANT: This form is not to be used as a survey or completed in front of the person or family you visited. Complete the form after the conversation. It is ok if you don't get all the information. Tear out and submit to your group facilitator at Session 3. You can also submit via the V Encuentro Mobile App or website - <http://www.vencuentro.org> if your parish or diocese is utilizing the electronic form.

Who did you visit? (Circle one) Youth/Young adult Adult Family

In what periphery did you meet them?

Male(s)/Female(s)

Languages they speak:

English Spanish Both- English and Spanish Other _____

Where are they from?

Do they identify as Catholic? (Circle one) Yes No Yes and No

What are the obstacles that prevent this person/family from reaching their potential as children of God?

How would you describe the relationship with God of the person/ family you visited?

How welcome do they feel by the Catholic Church? (Circle One)

Very welcome Welcome Somewhat welcome Not Welcome

How can the Catholic Church or your faith community be more present in their life?



V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

Consultation Form Session 3

IMPORTANT: This form is not to be used as a survey or completed in front of the person or family you visited. Complete the form after the conversation. It is ok if you don't get all the information. Tear out and submit to your group facilitator at Session 4. You can also submit via the V Encuentro Mobile App or website - <http://www.vencuentro.org> if your parish or diocese is utilizing the electronic form.

In what periphery did you meet them?

Males(s)/Females(s):

Languages they speak:

English Spanish Both- English and Spanish Other _____

Do they identify as Catholic? (Circle one) Yes No Yes and No

Has the Catholic Church helped the family face difficult situations?

Yes No Yes and No

How can the Catholic Church welcome them and accompany them in their life?

What gifts and talents do they bring that can contribute to the mission of the Church?



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DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
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Consultation Form Session 4

Answer these questions about yourself after the missionary action. Tear out and submit to your group facilitator at Session 5. You can also submit via the V Encuentro Mobile App or website - <http://www.vencuentro.org> if your parish or diocese is utilizing the electronic form.

Your Name:

Are you a youth or young adult?

What is your ethnic background?

What is your preferred language?

English Spanish Both- English and Spanish Other _____

Are you involved in any ministries in the parish?

What social ministries, that you learned about in your parish or online, are you most interested in serving?

What gifts and talents can you put at the service of your parish community?

What can you, your parish, school, or organization do to better serve Hispanic/Latino Catholics who live in poverty or are vulnerable and to help them feel a sense of belonging?



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DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

Consultation Form Session 5

Complete this form after Session 5. Tear out and submit to your group facilitator after Session 5 or via the V Encuentro Mobile App or website - <http://www.vencuentro.org>

In what ways, do you think your faith community responds to the people you met and helps them to feel welcome?

What can your faith community do to better respond to the needs of those you encountered and help them feel welcome?

What can your faith community do to invite them to share their time, talents, and treasures?

