

Encuentro y Misión Program: Theological Education for Latino Millennials and Gen Z

Participant Partnership Agreement

Overview and Purpose: Catholic Extension Society, in conjunction with The Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI), offers Latino young adults who have completed diocesan formation and are looking for subsequent opportunities to learn and serve, a unique theological education and mission experience. The program is national in scope and crosses geographic and socio-economic borders with participants from diverse backgrounds. It will expose them to diverse pastoral and socio-economic realities such as migrant workers and social justice initiatives, which will help deepen their learning experience by allowing the concepts and theories they learn in the classroom to come alive in their experiences.

The program seeks to create pathways for emerging Latino leaders to discover more about their faith, society, culture, and to discern how they are being called to build a stronger Church and world. Our goal is to cultivate talented, generous, well-rounded, and compassionate Latino/a faith leaders who will go on to apply their learnings to ministry and service in their churches and communities.

Program Summary: The hybrid program comprises an online course and an in-person mission experience, bringing together a cohort of like-minded young adults from extension dioceses who will join other young leaders from the southeast region to share their experiences, learn from each other, and build community. The course includes prayer, theological and pastoral lectures with an emphasis on practical ways of implementing the knowledge in their own communities.

After the online course completion, students attend a five-day supervised hands-on experience where they will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge, have a missionary experience, and be exposed to realities beyond their own. This experience will help them to identify the struggles and realities that unite all people, embrace memories, transform the present, and build bridges to help make a positive impact in the overall church. The experiences are meant to broaden their horizons and open their eyes to various pastoral, social, and economic realities.

Program Structure

Formation: Students are required to take the online course, “Pastoral Juvenil Hispana,” offered by the Southeast Pastoral Institute, from June 25 to July 30, 2024, in Spanish with bilingual dialogue (English/Spanish). The class will take place weekly, via Zoom, on Wednesdays, from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Central Time.

Mission immersion experience: After the online course, students will travel to a 5-day formation, missionary immersion and multi-cultural experience in Birmingham, AL. **Dates: August 7-11, 2024.**

Pastoral project: After the formation and mission immersion experience, every student will present a pastoral plan for a ministry project, which they will complete within a year of their participation in the program.

Post-Program Reunion and Reflection: Final reunion via zoom for post-program reflection and project presentations in June 2025.

Who is Eligible?

Any mission diocese agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of the Initiative and submitting nominations for qualified, well-formed young people may apply. Selected candidates should possess the following profile:

- Young adult Latinos (a) from ages 21 - 35 who have completed a formation program, are connected to their parish, considering getting more deeply involved in a vocation of service, or pursuing theological studies.
- Students must be Bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Work with the Hispanic community
- Dreamers (DACA) are encouraged to participate

Completed applications must include:

- ✓ Online Catholic Extension Application Form (to be completed by Diocesan representative, **not the student**)
- ✓ Official Letter of Endorsement from Bishop
- ✓ Safe Environment Training Education Certificate
- ✓ Signed Partnership Agreement by all parties (*Student, Diocesan rep., Supervisor/Mentor*)
- ✓ Signed Attestation Form (*Bishop*)

Partnership Agreement

Terms and Conditions 1: Rules and Responsibilities

DIOCESE:

- Provides a student who is currently serving in a capacity, connected to his/her parish, considering getting more deeply involved in a vocation of service, or pursuing theological studies.
- Identifies and selects an On-Site Supervisor/Mentor to guide the young leader during the program, including the follow-up community/ministry project.
- Fulfills Catholic Extension reporting requirements, by providing an evaluation with experiential data and highlighting how this program impacted the students' involvement in their community and the degree to which they were able to share their pastoral experiences and theological knowledge with their peers.
- Provides Human Resources services and oversight, including all screenings and trainings, in accordance with diocesan policies.

STUDENT:

- Must be between the ages of 21 – 35.
- Must provide proof of health insurance.
- Agrees to complete Encuentro y Misión formation (online course: June 25-July 30, 2024) and in-person mission immersion experience (**must agree to a travel commitment of five (5) days: Aug 7 – 11, 2024**)
- Implements a follow-up project in their home community.
- Attends a final reflection virtual reunion ten months post-program and presents follow-up project.
- Participates in follow-up Catholic Extension Young Adult gatherings.
- Cooperates with the Catholic Extension Marketing Team when interviews or other marketing materials are requested.

SOUTHEAST PASTORAL INSTITUTE (SEPI):

- Provides the online course, “Pastoral Juvenil Hispana,” and an in-person mission immersion experience.
- Accompanies students on developing a pastoral plan for their faith community.

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

- Provides a Digital Arts-Catholic Extension program bootcamp.

CATHOLIC EXTENSION:

- Provides an impactful missionary immersion experience and digital arts bootcamp, through a partner organization.
- Provides, coordinates, and supervises all travel for students.

CONDUCT RULES:

By signing this agreement, you agree to abide by SEPI, immersion partner housing rules, and ethical standards. Failure to adhere may jeopardize your participation in the program. Your Bishop and diocese will be informed accordingly.

Partnership Agreement: Diocesan Representative, On-Site Supervisor/Mentor, and Student

Please upload this signed agreement into the application submission.

I have read the Terms and Conditions of the Partnership Agreement and agree to uphold my individual commitment as an active partner in the Encuentro Y Misión Program.

Click here to enter text.

Diocesan Representative First and Last Name

Signature and Date

Click here to enter text.

On-Site Supervisor/Mentor First and Last Name

Signature and Date

Click here to enter text.

Student First and Last Name

Signature and Date