



US Catholic Bishops
Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry
The Southeast Pastoral Institute
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Esteemed Diocesan Directors and Leaders of the Southeast,

The growing Hispanic presence in our midst challenges us to find a pastoral response which can help us bridge the communication and culture gap, as we provide means to help our brothers and sisters preserve their faith and integrate into the life of our Church and society. Hence the importance of this SEPI program, which we would like to tell you about.

Given the present situation we regret that we are unable to hold our ordinary Language and Culture program at SEPI Headquarters in Miami, as we do every year. As an alternative we are offering instead an online program covering most of the Culture aspect of it and providing **Fundamentals for Intercultural Ministry within the Hispanic Reality of the Church in the US**. The series of classes, taught by Theologians and experienced Hispanic Catholic leaders will place an emphasis in Hispanic family life and ministry with young Latinos, all in the context of the pastoral response of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

Beginning on June 2, 2020, we will offer online classes every Tuesday and Thursday during the month of June from **3:00 to 4:15 pm EST** as follows:

June 2 - **What is Culture?** By Rev. Juan Sosa who has written extensively on the topic and intends to give an overview and stress the importance of culture in the life of the individual.

June 4 - **Intercultural Competencies**. By Ms. Laura Franco, Programs Director at SEPI, will explore the knowledge, attitudes, and skills in intercultural and interracial relations that are essential for engaging in the Church's evangelizing mission to preach, teach and witness to the Gospel.

June 9 - **Hispanic Customs, Traditions and Liturgy**. By Rev. Rafael Capó, Executive Director at SEPI. Hispanics have a rich tradition of celebrations, fiestas and ways to celebrate their faith that all pastoral agent ministering to them should know.

June 11 - **Pastoral Principles for Hispanic Ministry**. By Dr. Marzo Artime. The development of Hispanic Ministry in the US is more than 60 years old. It has developed a series of principles and guidelines, ending with the V Encuentro, in how to successfully minister to them.

June 16 - **Family Life Ministry with Hispanics**, by Dr. Claudia Herrera. Family is one of the most important aspects of Hispanic Culture and anyone ministering to Hispanic should be familiar with the dynamics of the Latino family.

June 18 - **Ministry to Hispanic/Latino Immigrants: challenges and opportunities.** By Dr. Olga Villar, former diocesan director for Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Mobile, AL. The reality of immigration, legal status and related issues is an ever present reality in the mind and life of most Hispanics communities in the US.

June 23 - **“Pastoral Juvenil” Ministry with young Hispanics.** By Armando Cervantes of NFCYM and Pastoral Juvenil Director of the Diocese of Orange, CA. The Hispanic population in the US is very young and at times it is isolated and has no one to accompany them. Pastoral Juvenil has been a response to the Evangelization and accompaniment of young Hispanics.

June 25 - **Why a Hispanic Youth Group?** By Ms. Brittany García, Diocesan Director for Pastoral Juvenil in the diocese of Knoxville, TN. Parish Youth and Young Adults groups have played an indispensable role in advancing the Evangelization process of the Hispanic youth. Why is such a group so important?

This program is especially designed to help bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, religious, and lay people involved in ministry to Hispanics or for those who are preparing to engage in Hispanic Ministry in the near future.

SEPI understands the financial challenges that the Church is experiencing at all levels due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We would like to encourage this formation opportunity, without financial obstacles. For this reason, we are offering need-based scholarships, understanding that each situation is unique.

We encourage interested leaders to **prayerfully discern their participation and scholarship request.** Their financial support for SEPI programs will be invaluable in allowing us to continue our mission in these difficult times.

Once again I am counting on you to encourage your clergy, seminarians, religious, and lay people in your diocese who minister to Hispanics to participate in this program. I am sure that after taking it, they will be better prepared to serve the needs of those they minister to.

Gratefully yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Rafael Capó". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rafael" being more prominent.

Rev. Rafael Capó
Director

[REGISTRATION LINK HERE](#)