



Office of the Archbishop

Archdiocese of Mobile

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November 22, 2016

To: All Pastors

Dear Monsignor/Father,

The process known as the V Encuentro can assist pastors of all parishes in developing among their parishioners a missionary spirit and an outreach to those on the peripheries. It is a process of evangelization, a process of communion, a process of consultation. Its themes are taken from Pope Francis' Exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel." The themes challenge us all to become authentic and joyful missionary disciples. While the Encuentro process itself has been predominately utilized in the Hispanic community, it has benefits for all parishes, and so I invite all pastors to participate.

In the Archdiocese of Mobile preparation began in September to participate in the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry. While there will be work to do for the V National Encuentro, much of the work has been accomplished through our own Archdiocesan Encuentro in 2015 which updated our Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

To prepare for the Fifth National Encuentro the Archdiocese of Mobile will have another Archdiocesan Encuentro on October 14, 2017. Preparation for the Archdiocesan Encuentro will take place in Parish Encuentros which should take place in the first six months of 2017. The implementation within your parish of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan should be of great assistance in planning and organizing your parish efforts. Parishes that did not have an Encuentro in 2015 can learn from those who did have that process.

There will be training for Parish Teams in January 28, and February 4, 2017. The times and locations will be provided so that the members of your parish that you select will be able to attend.

Just as your parish is part of the Archdiocese, so also is the Archdiocese of Mobile part of regional and national efforts to "build unity in diversity." The process of building unity in diversity is ongoing. It supports the goals of family, vocations, evangelization and care for the needy. I encourage all pastors to participate in our 2017 Archdiocesan Encuentro, and urge pastors with Hispanic Communities to involve, not only Hispanics, but also other groups and individuals within their parishes.

There is great concern in my heart for the spiritual wellbeing of our youth and young adults. They are an at risk group. The evangelization of our youth is a challenge in all cultures. This is certainly true for our Hispanic population. The demographics of our parishes and of the larger communities are changing. The V Encuentro is one means to evangelize within the changing pastoral reality we are facing.

I thank you for your corporation and support.

May God bless you and all your parishioners.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+ Thomas J Rodi

Most Reverend Thomas J Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile