

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

Participant Partnership Agreement

Overview and Purpose: Catholic Extension in conjunction with Mexican-American Catholic College (MACC) offers well-rounded 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 (border issues, migrant workers, etc.) that will help deepen the 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-grounded and compassionate Latino/a faith leaders who will go on to pursue theology degrees, ministry and/or service in their churches and communities.

Program Summary: The program will gather a cohort of 20-25 students to participate in a two-week and a weekend intensive that will include prayer, theological lectures, a border/migrant immersion, and a supervised missionary immersion experience among a marginalized community in our country. These experiences are meant to broaden their horizons and open their eyes to various pastoral, social and economic realities.

Program Structure

Part 1 (Intensive):

Week 1: July 17-24, 2021

Days 1-7 (plus travel days): Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) Course

- Team-building exercises at the MACC in San Antonio, TX.
- Classroom course: Hispanic Ministry in the 21st Century.
- Pastoral Immersion Experience at the U.S. – Mexico Border.

Week 2: Late Summer 2021

Days 8-13 (plus travel days): Mission Immersion Experience

- Students travel to the one-week missionary immersion experience site.
- Missionary Immersion Experience: One-week supervised “hands-on” program designed and provided by Encounter and Mission partner organization.

Each student will be assigned to one of the following Missionary Immersions:

July 24 – Aug 1 Kalamazoo: Migrant Ministry with migrant farm workers and their families.

Aug 20 – Aug 27 El Paso/Ciudad Juarez, Mex: Youth faith formation program and border project.

Days 14-15: Weekend wrap up gathering: August 27-29, 2021.

- Students reconvene for a post-immersion reflection and program wrap-up.

Part 2 – Post EM Program video conference (10-months after program)

- Final reunion for post-program reflection and community project presentation.

Who is Eligible?

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

- Young adult Latinos (a) in their 20's and 30's 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.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) strongly encouraged.
- Working with the Hispanic community.
- Dreamers are encouraged to participate.

How to Apply?

Completed applications include:

- ✓ Official Letter of Endorsement from Bishop
- ✓ Safe Environment Training Education
- ✓ Attestation Form
- ✓ Online Catholic Extension Application Form (to be completed by Diocesan representative)
- ✓ Signed Partnership Agreement by all parties (Student, Diocesan rep., Supervisor/Mentor)
- ✓ Any Supplemental Documents (i.e. Student résumé, recommendation letter, etc)
- ✓ Online Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) application and supplemental documents
- ✓ Online Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) scholarship application

***Please note:** Covid vaccination is required to participate in this program.

Please contact Veronica Avila, vavila@catholicextension.org , 312-795-5128, for questions related to the Encuentro y Misión Program.

Partnership Agreement

Terms and Conditions 1: Rules and Responsibilities

DIOCESE:

- Provides a student who has completed a formation program, is 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 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 18 years of age or older.
- Must provide proof of health insurance.
- Must present a reference letter from Pastor or Hispanic Ministry Director/Mentor.
- Applies for admission to undergraduate theological program and fulfills all Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) enrollment requirements.
- Completes the Encuentro y Misión two-week program.
- Attends the wrap-up meeting after the two-week program.
- Keeps a journal during the program.
- 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 Catholic Extension Young Adult gatherings (virtual)
- Cooperates with the Catholic Extension Marketing Team when interviews or other marketing materials are requested.

MEXICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE (MACC):

- Provides a three-credit hour theology course which will provide an overview of the culture, history, and faith expressions of Mexican-Americans.
- Provides a U.S. Border pastoral immersion experience.
- Provides housing for students during week 1 of the program.
- Contributes 56% of the total program cost.

CATHOLIC EXTENSION:

- Provides an impactful missionary immersion experience, through a partner organization.
- Coordinates final reflection reunion 10 months after the program.
- Provides travel for students.
- Contributes 44% of the total program cost.

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

Instructions: Please print, sign, and return to Veronica Avila at Catholic Extension.

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