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

Participant Partnership Agreement

Overview and Purpose: This program provides students with Theological education and a hands-on Immersion Experience meant to broaden their horizons and open their eyes to various pastoral, social, and economic realities.

Catholic Extension, in conjunction with Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) and Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI), will provide 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 in the Southeast region, led by Dr. Olga Villar, Executive Director of SEPI. The program is national in scope and crosses geographic and socio-economic borders with participants from diverse backgrounds. Through it, we seek 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.

The program will gather a cohort of 25 students to participate in a summer theology course imparted by MACC, which includes prayer and lectures, and a supervised traveling social justice immersion experience through the southeast imparted by SEPI. Students will also need to attend the wrap-up weekend Friday through Sunday, Sep. 30th - Oct 2nd at Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Holy Trinity, Alabama. These experiences are meant to broaden their horizons and open their eyes to various pastoral, social, and economic realities.

As an option for this program, students may ask to receive academic credit at the undergraduate or graduate level based on their academic background at the time of admittance. Students should ask their college or university if they recognize and accept credits from the Mexican American Catholic College.

Please Note: COVID vaccination is required to participate in this program. All applicants MUST travel.

Program Structure

Formation: July 25 – August 3, 2022

- In-person intensive and immersion experience at the Southeast Pastoral Institute in Miami, Florida.
- Course: Transformational Leadership for Young Adult Ministers, imparted by the MACC.

Mission Immersion Experience

- This will be an immersion Travel Experience throughout the southeast of US (Florida, Alabama, Georgia). This immersion seeks to meet those who have responded to the Lord and made a difference in their times and their
efforts to gain Social Justice, recognizing the dignity and rights of all human beings. It wants to meet those who today witness the power of community building through their ministry. It also wants to give discernment opportunities to be inspired by those voices in order to embrace the ways in which participants are called to make an impact in their own reality and possibilities.

**Itinerary**

1st Stop, July 25th, 2022  
• Key West, Florida- Meeting the borders at Key West

2nd Stop, July 29th, 2022  
• St. Augustine, Florida- Encounter of two cultures

3rd Stop, July 30th, 2022  
• Holy Trinity, Alabama- Each catholic, a disciple; An encounter with the Trinitarians

4th Stop, July 31, 2022  
• Clio, Alabama- Mission our lady of Guadalupe; Encountering missionary disciples

5th Stop, July 31, 2022  
• Selma, Alabama- Bridging peace and justice

6th Stop, August 01, 2022  
• Montgomery, Alabama- Walking down the path of “the Dream”

7th Stop, August 02, 2022  
• Cullman, Alabama- Networking God’s word globally

8th Stop, August 03, 2022  
• Atlanta, Georgia- I am ready to do you will Lord

• **IV. Program Conclusion:** Wrap-up weekend Friday through Saturday, Sep. 30th - Oct 2nd at Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Holy Trinity, Alabama.

  Students reconvene for a post-immersion reflection and program wrap-up with other program participants and “missionary mentors.” *Travel required one day prior.*

**Post EM Program video conference:** June 2023  
• 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) 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.

• Bilingual (English/Spanish) speakers are strongly encouraged

• Work with the Hispanic community
• Dreamers (DACA) are encouraged to participate

Completed applications 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
✓ Attestation Form
✓ Signed Partnership Agreement by all parties (Student, Diocesan rep., Supervisor/Mentor)
✓ COVID Proof of Vaccination

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 between ages of 21 – 35.
• Must provide proof of health insurance.
• Must present a reference letter from Pastor or Hispanic Ministry Director/Mentor.
• 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
• 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 at SEPI in Miami, FL.
CATHOLIC EXTENSION:

- Provides an impactful missionary immersion experience by partner organization SEPI through the southeast.
- Coordinates final reflection reunion 10 months after the program.
- Provides travel for students.

CONDUCT RULES:

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

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

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.

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Diocesan Representative First and Last Name  Signature and Date

Click here to enter text.

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On-Site Supervisor/Mentor First and Last Name  Signature and Date

Click here to enter text.

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Student First and Last Name  Signature and Date