



A LOOK AT 2015-2016

Now in its 22nd year, Instituto Fe y Vida is a full-fledged leadership formation institute empowering young Latinos for leadership in Church and society. More than 20 programs, from foundational to training of trainers, are offered at local dioceses, universities, and at an Annual National Leadership Program. A vibrant biblical pastoral ministry, and pastoral publications that respond to the spiritual, cultural, and social needs and characteristics of young Latinos help them strengthen their faith and develop leadership skills. Some highlights of our ministry follow.

AFFILIATION WITH LEWIS UNIVERSITY

Instituto Fe y Vida affiliated with Lewis University, in Romeoville, IL, in May 2015. Lewis is a Catholic university sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the Midwest District where Fe y Vida began its ministry at Saint Mary's Press, in Winona, MN. So, in a way, we are coming home.

We have built a very positive relationship with Lewis in the short time we have been on campus. We offered our two largest Annual National Leadership Programs ever on the Lewis campus, and are collaborating with the Lewis Theology Department to develop the Engaging Stories Program—a Youth Theology Institute for high school juniors and seniors sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc.



Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes, Executive Director of Fe y Vida, at the Inauguration of its office at Lewis University

ENGAGING STORIES: YOUTH THEOLOGY INSTITUTE AT LEWIS UNIVERSITY

This weeklong summer experience is an integral component of Fe y Vida's U.S.-born young Latinos initiative. Its title, "Engaging Stories," represents the spirit of the program, which seeks to recognize and foster creativity, joy, enthusiasm, and interpretive skills, when reflecting on life in the light of the Sacred Scripture. Through theological reflection, participants will develop the ability to see the larger picture of life in their community, figure out where they fit into it, and then acquire the vision to take steps toward changing the world for the better.

The main goals of this Institute, which will start in 2017 and will be held annually thereafter are:

1. Shed light on how to live with integrity the Christian vocation in everyday and in challenging historical and sociocultural situations.
2. Engage participants in reflection about the life stories of saints and of contemporary Catholic leaders as examples of people who have dedicated their lives to exercising leadership.
3. Offer participants the opportunity to pray and develop a more mature practice of their faith, by engaging in selected stories of Jesus in the Sacred Scripture through a *lectio divina* that includes theological reflection based on the application of sound hermeneutics and exegesis.
4. Ask participants to grapple with important moral challenges in our global community from the perspective of the Catholic Tradition, especially Catholic Social Teaching.
5. Engage the participants in service projects with local community members and organizations, embracing the spirituality of the Lasallian tradition.



Participants in the 21st National Leadership Program

GREAT 21ST AND 22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS!

Fe y Vida's 21st and 22nd Annual Programs, held at Lewis University, broke the record for the number of participants. In 2015, 200 Catholic Latino leaders representing 40 dioceses in the United States, and dioceses in Colombia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and Mexico, came together in four different programs. It was the largest program ever.

Then in 2016, five programs were offered for the first time and, again, the record was broken. All of the programs were full to capacity, with 225 participants and 22 pastoral team members making them possible. This year, we had participants from 47 dioceses in the U.S., and four from Colombia and Mexico.

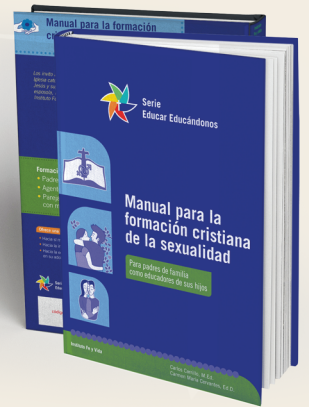


FIRST FRUITS OF FE Y VIDA'S INITIATIVES ON U.S.-BORN YOUNG LATINOS AND THEIR PARENTS

- Fe y Vida began its work to empower leaders for ministry with U.S.-born young Latinos, twelve years ago. In 2009, the Lilly Endowment Inc. funded a research project and the development of several publications to serve as resources for leadership formation programs designed for them and their parents.
- At the request of young Latinos, the first bilingual program was on "Spiritual Development, Life Project, and Self-improvement." It was piloted in the Annual National Program of 2015 and offered again in 2016 with great reviews. We are now ready to offer it at the local level as well.
- The *Manual para la Formación cristiana de la sexualidad: para padres de familia como educadores de sus hijos* [Manual for a Christian Formation of Human Sexuality: For Latino Parents as Educators of their Children], recently published, offers a comprehensive perspective on human sexuality. Bishop Jaime Soto, of Sacramento, wrote the Foreword, and Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, of Stockton, granted the Ecclesiastic Permission for publication, after careful review by a moral theologian recommended by Archbishop José H. Gomez, of Los Angeles.
- The first training based on the Manual was offered this summer. Several participants are already using the Manual in their local ministry and serving as consultants to Fe y Vida for the development of a workbook for parents at the grassroots level. Once this additional resource is published, Fe y Vida will offer training of trainers in dioceses and regions to help create local teams to offer formation on this important topic.



Training on Human Sexuality focused on Latino adolescents, for family and youth ministers



LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR MINISTRY AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

Among the advanced level programs offered by Fe y Vida, the Training for Pastoral Leaders at the Institutional Level, stands out. It is a two-year program for lay ministers who serve in dioceses, parishes, apostolic movements, and other institutions.

Module 1 centers on the spirituality of a ministry at the institutional level, and the theory and praxis of pastoral work done within the organizational structure of the Church. **Module 2** focuses on the theory and practical skills needed in general administration, strategic planning, management of finances and human resources, stewardship and fundraising. Ministers may start the program with either module. About a third of the participants are young adults with advanced pastoral theological formation who serve in ecclesial contexts. Since the program started in 2012, 190 people have participated and 82 graduated after fulfilling the requirements of both modules. The graduates include 19 professional ministers, 35 pastoral advisers in Hispanic Ministry, and 28 pastoral advisers in *Pastoral Juvenil*. This program will be offered again in 2017-2018.



Training on biblical animation of *Pastoral Juvenil*, in Veracruz, Mexico

MISSIONARY OUTREACH TO MEXICO

For the past two years, members of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team offered leadership formation programs in Veracruz, Mexico. First, they presented a training for biblical animation of *Pastoral Juvenil* for the nine dioceses in the Veracruz Province, with over 170 participants. Last year, a shortened version of our Pastoral Leadership Symposium, was offered to 140 participants from the Province, and a Training of Trainers for Biblical Pastoral Ministry in *Pastoral Juvenil*, was offered to 52 participants in the Archdiocese of Veracruz.

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