



For 23 years, Instituto Fe y Vida—affiliated with Lewis University since 2015—has formed and empowered young Latino Catholics for leadership in Church and society with multiple training programs, pastoral publications, and a continually growing and vibrant biblical ministry in the United States and Latin America. The past two years have brought new programs, strategies, and initiatives that are helping dioceses throughout the U.S., to minister to their Latino youth and young adults. Fe y Vida is pleased to present some of the year’s ministry highlights in this report.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LEADING FE Y VIDA TO NEW HORIZONS

The Holy Spirit is bringing together various dynamic forces that are propelling the work of Instituto Fe y Vida toward new horizons:

1. The V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry asks that 30% of the delegates be young adults, and dioceses are taking advantage of the opportunity to promote young leaders and give them leadership experience.

Fe y Vida offers local and national leadership training programs to Latino young adults and adults, at basic, intermediate, advanced, and training of trainers’ levels.

2. A National Leadership Network—sponsored by the USCCB National Advisory Team on Young Adult Ministry, the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), and La RED-National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana—will unify and mobilize young adult Catholics to form and engage young people as missionary disciples.

Fe y Vida is an active participant in this Network, contributing through its programs, biblical pastoral ministry, and publications to form young missionary disciples.

3. Pope Francis’ call for a Synod on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment,” is energizing the Church worldwide.

Fe y Vida is participating in the Synod, by responding to Pope Francis consultation and by integrating its spirit and content in its programs and publications.



A TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE FOR LATINO TEENS

For one week in June 2017, nearly 30 Latino teens from 14 states participated in the **Engaging Stories, Youth Theology Institute**, a life-changing, intensive program sponsored by Lewis University in partnership with Fe y Vida. The high school juniors and seniors engaged in theology sessions, reflection, prayer, and social action, which helped them mature in their faith and reflect on their own calling.

“In this program, I became very much aware that teens need priests to accompany them in their faith journey! Now, I am wondering if God is calling me to be one of those priests.”

—Leonardo López, Beaumont, TX

“I loved the social service project we were involved in! The work definitely impacted me personally, and I am sure it also impacted the kids I worked with, too. The whole experience brought me a lot closer to God.”

—Mónica Johnson, Albuquerque, NM

“Having shared this week with Latino teens from all over the country, most from public schools, broadened my horizons and strengthened my commitment to my faith as member of the young Church.”

—Elena Visoso, Sylver Spring, MD

“All the participants, but one, were bilingual! While they studied in English, they loved to speak and pray in Spanish. Using both languages, plus Spanglish, helped me to build a close relationship with them.”

—Elisabeth Román, Instructor, Chicago, IL



FIRST SEMINAR ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION GOT GREAT REVIEWS

Observing the need for financial education at the personal and pastoral levels among Fe y Vida’s students, the Institute launched a new seminar called **Financial Training for Life from a Christian Perspective: Foundations and Practical Tools** at its 2017 National Catholic Leadership Program in Austin, Texas. The goals are to improve attitudes and personal relationships with money, and obtain the tools to properly manage it in the home, parish, and community.

Most participants were volunteers in their parishes; only three were paid church ministers. The majority was self-employed and one owned a small business; they came from diverse economic backgrounds and stages in life, making for dynamic and interesting conversations during every discussion of the various financial topics.



Six topics prompted greatest interest for the participants’ own good and their ministry: **(1)** Creating a personal and family budget; **(2)** Breaking the vicious circle of debt; **(3)** Purchasing useful and cost-effective insurance policies; **(4)** Developing a financially sound business; **(5)** Instruments for retirement and investment; **(6)** Fundraising and grant writing for their ministry. Thanks to the great reviews, the seminar will be offered again in the 2018 National Leadership Program at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.

**FE Y VIDA'S
LEADERSHIP FORMATION SYSTEM
PUT INTO PRACTICE**

**LEADERSHIP
FORMATION SYSTEM**




Instituto Fe y Vida's Leadership Formation System (LFS) is designed to advance the continuous, intellectual, human, pastoral, and spiritual formation of young Catholic Latinos. A combination of programs offered at its Annual National Leadership Program and at the local level when contracted by a diocese, parish or other institution, helps to build a curriculum as time and circumstances permit.

Year-after-year, new and returning students enroll in LFS programs. For example, Julio Beltrán, from Beaumont, Texas, has participated in six programs and completed over 400 hours of pastoral formation and leadership training.



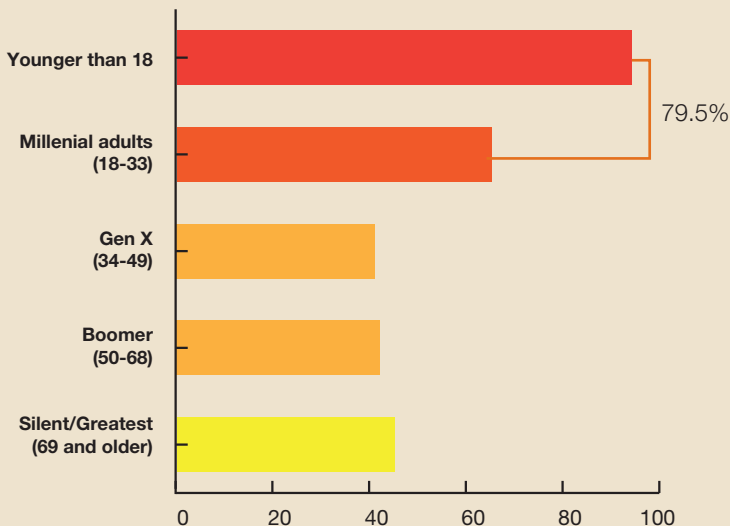
"Fe y Vida's programs have helped me to grow and mature as a person, as well as to improve my pastoral skills. Freedom to choose the program according to my needs has been very useful and I am committed to promote a similar process for the new generation of young Latino leaders."

*—Julio Beltrán, Coordinator of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Beaumont, TX
V Encuentro Episcopal Region X Chairperson*

STUDENT RECORD		LEADERSHIP FORMATION SYSTEM	
<i>Julio Beltrán, Beaumont, TX September 1, 2017</i>			
PROGRAM	YEAR AND LEVEL	TYPE	HOURS
Certificate Program for Advisers and Leaders in Ministry with Hispanic Young People	2010 - Intermediate	Local	150
Ministry at the Institutional Level – Theology and Spirituality	2013 - Advanced	National	52
Ministry at the Institutional Level – Administration, Finances, and Human Resources	2014 - Advanced	National	52
Young Latinos Human Development, Spirituality, and Life Project	2015 - Intermediate	National	52
Formation for a Christian Living of Sexuality – Parents as Educators of their Teens	2016 - Advanced	National	52
Leadership Symposium for a Holistic Ministry with Young Latinos	2017 - Foundational	National	52
Total Hours			410

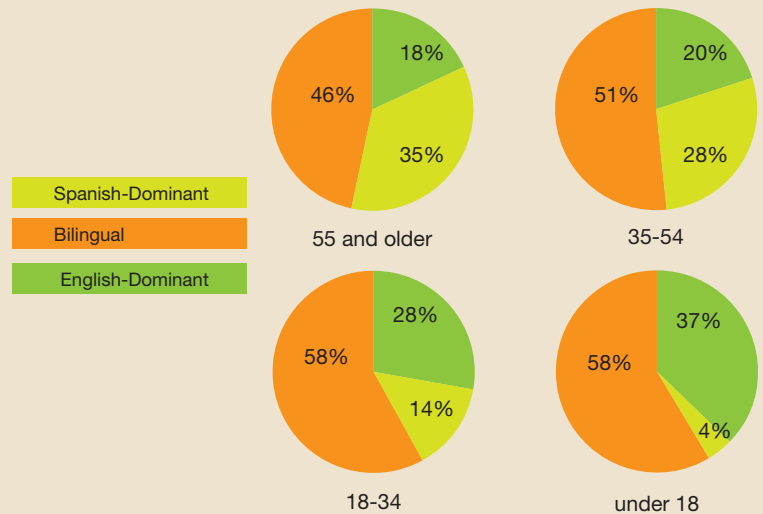
INSIGHTS AND FACTS

YOUNG HISPANICS ARE U.S. BORN
% U.S. born among Hispanics



Based on Pew Research Center Analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

**LANGUAGE EVOLUTION AND BILINGUALISM
AMONG HISPANICS BY AGE**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014.