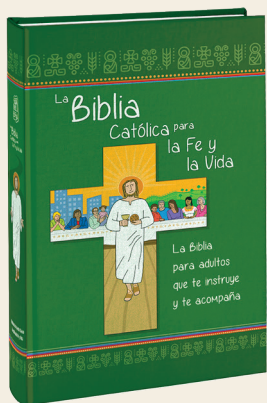




Instituto Fe y Vida has been living an exciting time! *La Biblia Católica para la Fe y la Vida (BFyV)*—an adult version of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes (BCJ)*—has been very well received. Our participation in the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry energized our ministry and confirmed its direction. The restructuring of our Leadership Training System and our work on the Bilingual Youth Leadership Initiative not only fit well with the conclusions drawn at V Encuentro but also are opening new pathways of service.

LA BIBLIA CATÓLICA PARA LA FE Y LA VIDA



La Biblia Católica para la Fe y la Vida (BFyV) was launched at the V National Encuentro, last September. It has a format similar to *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes (BCJ)*, now in hands of 1.5 million young people in three languages and coming in English by the end of 2019.

The commentaries and pastoral resources in the **BFyV** are geared toward the adult community, particularly parents, catechists, and pastoral ministers, with two main goals in mind:

- Offering instruction and accompaniment when reading the Scriptures as if having a friend, who is a biblical expert, guiding them to know, pray, live, and share the Word of God.
- Supporting the adults as they share their faith and God’s Word with the younger generations.

The **BCJ** is at the core of Fe y Vida’s leadership training programs for young adult leaders, the **BFyV** will be at the center of its programs that train parents as the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. To know more about these Bibles, visit: www.BibliaParaJovenes.org and www.BibliaFeyVida.org.

FE Y VIDA’S PARTICIPATION IN THE V ENCUENTRO

Since 2014, when the preparation for the V Encuentro began, Nadia Jara, the youngest member of Fe y Vida’s Pastoral Team, served as a delegate to ENAVE, the National Team of Accompaniment to the Encuentro, consisting of representatives of national Catholic organizations. In 2017, Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes, Fe y Vida’s Executive Director, served as main facilitator of the Stockton Diocesan Encuentro, coordinated by Digna Ramirez and José López, directors of Hispanic Ministry and *Pastoral Juvenil* (Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry), who were trained as leaders while they were young adults. In 2018, Carmen co-facilitated the sessions on Academic Education at Region XI Encuentro, in California.

Having booths at the regional and national Encuentros allowed us to talk with old friends and make new contacts. It was great to see many of Fe y Vida’s alumni as delegates from their dioceses serving in leadership roles and senior members of our Pastoral Team facilitating key sessions. Certainly, this type of process is a seedbed and springboard for transforming local young adult leaders into national leaders.

At the National Encuentro, Adriana Visoso, our Associate Director of Programs, served as a panelist in the session on Biblical Ministry and reported wide interest in our biblical programs and resources. Fe y Vida’s staff and Pastoral Team expressed our excitement with our mission of empowering young Latinos for leadership in Church and society.

Another great experience was offering the **BFyV** or the **BCJ** as a gift to the 900 participants at the dinner of young adult delegates with the bishops. We thank Editorial Verbo Divino and the organizers of the V Encuentro for donating the Bibles, and Mar Muñoz-Visoso, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity at the USCCB, for presenting the gift at the dinner.



Stockton parish leaders and diocesan directors with Dr. Cervantes



Staff, Pastoral Team members and friends of Fe y Vida at the National Encuentro



Nadia Jara and the Bibles to be given at the National Encuentro



Fe y Vida has been a prophetic advocate and strong collaborator in the field of youth and young adult ministry since its inception in 1994. It worked for many years with the USCCB and the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) to have *Pastoral Juvenil* (Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry) recognized as a specialized ministry, a goal accomplished in 2011.

In 1977 Fe y Vida was a co-founder of the National Catholic Network of Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La RED)—a representative organization of diocesan and parish personnel ministering to young Latinos. Until today, Dr. Cervantes and Walter F. Mena, former Director of Programs, have served as advisers to its Board of Directors. In addition, Fe y Vida served as in-kind staff for nearly 15 years, until La RED was ready to assume its work.

In 2017, the USCCB, the NFCYM and La RED started a multi-year process called “National Dialogue” to build unity, foster dialogue, and mobilize Church leaders of national organizations ministering to young Catholics. Fe y Vida is one of seven Latino organizations participating in this process, together with over 50 mainstream organizations, several of which now also serve young Latinos.

RESTRUCTURING OF FE Y VIDA'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING SYSTEM



Fe y Vida restructured its Leadership Training System (LTS) to improve and expand its mission. The LTS consists of over 30 programs that may be offered nationally as well as locally in dioceses and parishes; they are organized in four levels:

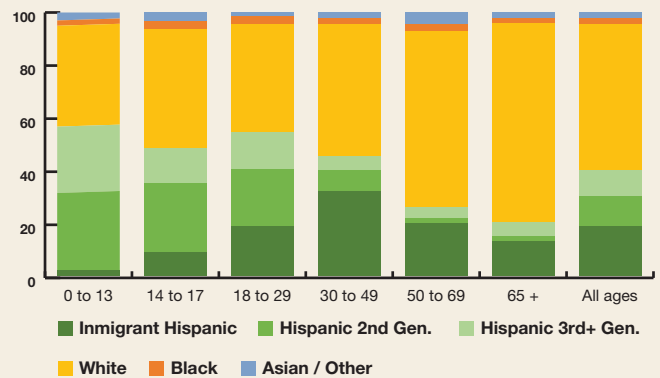
- **Fundamental:** Affirms the principles of the faith and trains the participants to carry out an evangelizing, communitarian, and missionary ministry.
- **Intermediate:** Offers a deeper focus on several aspects of life and pastoral ministry; and provides methods and tools for leadership in Church and society.
- **Advanced:** Delves into the spirituality, theology and praxis for an ecclesial ministry at the institutional level.
- **Training of Trainers:** Prepares ministers with the appropriate profile to become trainers in dioceses or nationwide, to expand Fe y Vida's leadership training reach.

Our “Bilingual Young Leadership Training Initiative” is being implemented in two national programs:

- In the **Annual National Leadership Program (NLP)**, the five alternative programs serve the new wave of Latino young people and most programs are offered bilingually.
- In the **Youth Theology Institute** offered annually at Lewis University, for junior and senior teens, all the participants in 2017 and 2018 were Latinos from Fe y Vida's constituency.

INSIGHT AND FACTS

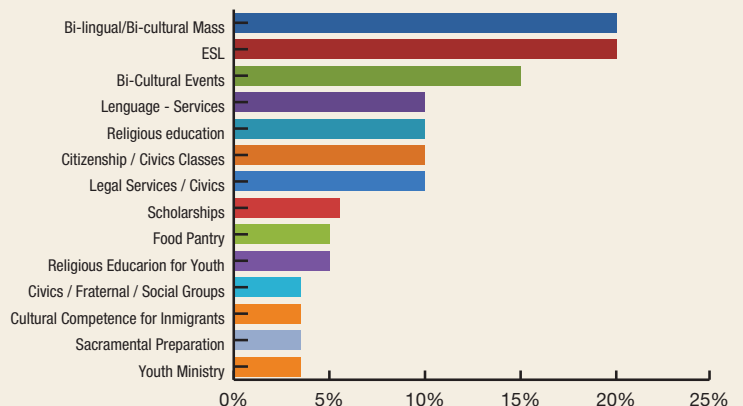
The following statistics underscore the relevance of Fe y Vida's mission and collaboration with other institutions that minister to young Latinos in our Church.



U.S. Catholics in 2016 by Age Group and Race / Ethnicity / Generation
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Youth Ministry needs to Improve the Integration of Immigrants

The Center for Migration Studies—a ministry of the Scalabrini Missionaries—considers newcomers and their children as immigrants. In a recent study assessing how different ministries help to integrate immigrants in the Church, it discovered that youth ministry occupied one of the last places in this important task. As Church, we must find effective ways to integrate young Latinos into its life and mission as well as into the broader ecclesial community!



Pastoral programs and social services as they support immigrants integration (open-ended question)

Building Structures of Solidarity and Instruments of Justice: The Catholic Immigrant Integration Surveys. CMS Report. New York: Center for Migration Studies, 2017.