

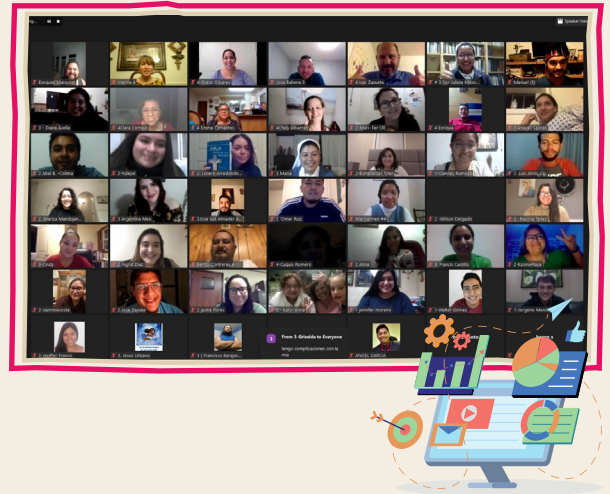


These past two years, due to the pandemic, have been painful and upended most aspects of Fe y Vida's programs to empower young Latinos for leadership in Church and society, same as in dioceses, parishes, and families. In light of this, we dedicated time to review, update, and translate our flagship programs. We also received a major blessing through an important grant for a vital multiyear project. This report presents what was accomplished during 2020-2021.

Virtual and In-presence Programs

Our first response to the challenges posed by the pandemic was to offer a course on online pedagogy to our teaching team who strongly appreciated it and prepared us for a new virtual stage in our formation programs. Then, we developed a series of virtual courses, which were very well received. The spirit of community and the support from each other was outstanding, extending to Latin America; people from 10 countries participated. However, by the time we offered a second virtual series the response was smaller due to two factors: several pastoral ministers at the parish and diocesan levels have been let go, and young adults were tired of webinars and online courses.

On the other hand, several dioceses and parishes have begun to request onsite programs. We are ready to launch an era focused on rebuilding pastoral ministry with Latino youth and young adults across the country.



Engaging Stories — Theology Institute for Latino Teens

The Engaging Stories Institute (ES), offered in partnership with Lewis University, is a week-long intensive summer program geared towards Latino junior and senior teens. The program consists of presentations on Jesus, Scriptures, and Catholic Social Teachings followed by personal and communitarian reflections and prayer services related to the life of the teens. It includes a one-day retreat that helps participants explore their Christian vocation and call to service as leaders.

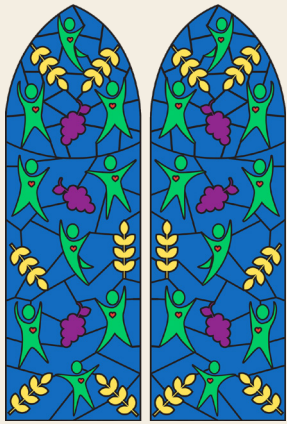
It was a blessing that in 2021 we were able to offer ES in-person. The response was outstanding: the program was filled to capacity, and the evaluations from the teens were positive and appreciative. The curriculum was reviewed for a better engagement with the teens' realities. In addition to the regular program, a Leaders-in-Training (LIT) track was added for several teens who participated in previous programs. About half of the participants in any given ES Program express they would like to return to LIT the following year.

Updated and Renewed Long-standing Flagship Programs

Fe y Vida offers an array of programs at the fundamental, intermediate, advanced and training of trainers levels. The three most attended programs were reviewed, updated, and restructured:

- Starting 2022, the resources for the Foundational Course for Pastoral Juvenil (CPJ) and the National Leadership Symposium will be bilingual, to welcome U.S.-born and educated young Latinos while continuing to serve immigrants.
- Our Biblical course and the CPJ now may be offered in-person, online, and in hybrid modes. In the hybrid modality, the presentations are online, and the reflection processes, prayers, and building of community are done locally with participants gathered in person assisted by trained facilitators.
- Our Annual National Leadership Program will resume next year at Lewis University, June 26—July 2. We will offer the Symposium, a training of trainers for the Foundational Course on Pastoral Juvenil, and a seminar on Spirituality, Discernment, and One's Life Plan.

Thriving Catholic Parishes through dynamic, integrative and continuous ministry with young people



The Thriving Catholic Parishes Project (TCP) was launched in 2021 financed by a five-year grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. In these five years Fe y Vida will create processes and resources to help parishes with a large Latino population thrive by achieving the following goals.

Goals

- Energize the parish with the gifts and strengths of all its members through committed and complementary leadership of the clergy and laity, including young people.
- Train adult leaders and parents to continue the process of human and Christian maturity of adolescents after the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- Integrate young people into the life and mission of the parish, considered as a community of communities.
- Foster a culture of inclusivity in diversity inspiring a missionary discipleship of all Catholics.
- Promote that young people be the leaven of the Reign of God transforming their family, community and society with love, justice, joy, and peace.

Initial Five-year Process

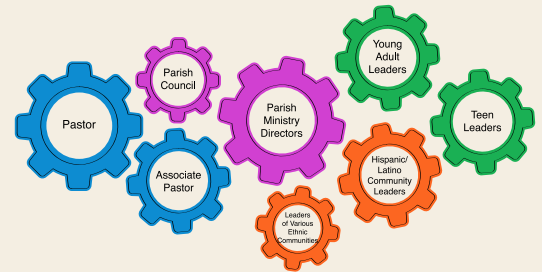
The process, as planned for the TCP, for the five years funded by the grant, is as follows:

Year 1: Preparation of the processes and resources to work with cohorts of selected parishes.

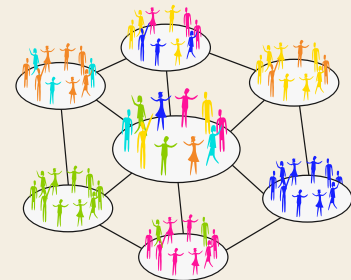
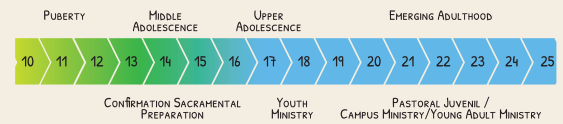
Years 2 and 3: Hands on process with the parishes in the first cohorts, allowing the TCP team to learn from the experience, and make modifications to better serve the parishes.

Year 4: Have a national convocation with delegates from all the parishes in the TCP project to learn from their collective wisdom and plan the next stage.

Year 5: Offer the first leadership training symposium open to parishes from across the United States that would like to train their leaders for becoming a Thriving Catholic Parish.

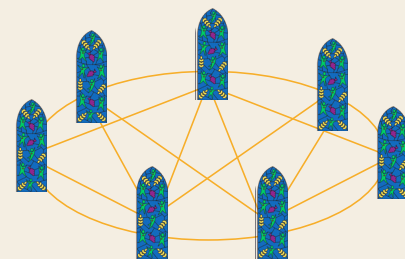


CHILDHOOD ▬ ADOLESCENCE ▬ ADULTHOOD
Phases of Development



Year 6 and beyond

From year 6 on, the TCP project will be incorporated into Fe y Vida's Leadership Training System, open to all parishes that would like to implement the program.



The Team of the TCP is Interdisciplinary and Intergenerational

Fe y Vida is grateful to God for having sent Crystal Serrano-Puebla to work full-time on the TCP project. She is a young adult born in Chicago of immigrant parents, understands well Generation Z U.S.-born Latinos and has strong bilingual communication skills. She holds a master's degree in Theology, a BA in Psychology, and diocesan pastoral experience. She works with Juan Escarfuller, MDiv, MA, who is the project director and with Carmen María Cervantes, who serves as advisor with a doctorate in Education and a MA in Sociocultural Anthropology. In addition to this team, the TCP has an advisory board and works with consultants with different expertise that enrich the project.



Juan Escarfuller, MDiv, MA, Project Director; Dr. Carmen María Cervantes, Advisor; Crystal Serrano-Puebla, MA, Assistant Programs Director