



At Fe y Vida, we have entered into a season of “REVITALIZATION,” designed to bring new life and dynamic energy in who we are, our mission, and all that we do. This issue of *A Look At* describes the start of a three-year initiative to sow the seed of the Gospel in the vineyard of the Lord. We invite you to be part of this important effort to “Empower young Latinos for leadership in the Church and society.”

NEW LEADERSHIP AT INSTITUTO FE Y VIDA



Dr. Carmen Cervantes with her three children and two granddaughters celebrating 28 years of service as Executive Director of Fe y Vida

On July 1, Juan Escarfuller, MDiv, MA, assumed the role of Executive Director. Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes, who served as ED since the inception of Fe y Vida in 1994, accepted a new role as Editorial Director. Juan shares his vision for Fe y Vida:

More than ever, successful Catholic teen and young adult ministries must place young Latinos at the center and meet them where they are. The days of a “one-size fits all” approach have long passed. The youth group model that served well in the past is no longer effective with teens and their families. That model focused on age-segregated activities and silos in the parish, dependent on a sole youth minister, often a volunteer with little or no training.



Juan Escarfuller sharing his vision for Fe y Vida

Today, everyone is busier than ever, and budgets and staffing are getting tighter. Fe y Vida inspires me with our legacy drive to keep listening and innovating to meet the signs, challenges, and opportunities of the times. I also see this path as a father of four sons, teens and young adults who just flew the nest.

I want to keep working on connecting young Latinos to God, themselves, and their peers, as well as to their communities, parents and other adults who are vital to their growth and to finding their own place in today's world. They will be the parents and guides of the next generation. How do we best prepare them for a future not our own?



THREE-YEAR JOURNEY FOR REVITALIZING PASTORAL JUVENIL

Instituto Fe y Vida began a three-year journey to revitalize ministry with Latino youth and young adults —*Pastoral Juvenil*— this past summer. The pandemic wreaked havoc in this ministry, but there are pastoral leaders in the field willing to invest in building new paths for the transformation of the life of teens and young adults with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Like Isaiah, we see that God is doing something new. We can perceive new life (Is 43:19): Jesus is encountering young people through evangelizers seeding the Gospel in their lives.



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FULL OF LIFE

After two years of having postponed our National Catholic Leadership Program due to Covid, we held a Spirit-inspired in-person program with 74 people from 20 dioceses. Here are some highlights of participants in this one-week intensive training event, vibrating with new life:

- The **National Leadership Symposium** implemented its brand-new program after a thorough revision and translation. Thirty-six people participated; 75% were jóvenes (single young adults ages 18-29). A priest from Panama with a remarkable charisma for ministering to young people—invited by one of our alumni—said:

“I was ready to leave my ministry to young people. Participating in the Symposium and in this National Program profoundly renewed my vocation to continue working with them.”

—Fr. Raúl De León, Pastor, National Advisor of Encuentros de Renovación Juvenil and of the Renovación Carismática Católica, Panama

- The **Training-the-Trainers for the Foundational Course on Pastoral Juvenil (CPJ)** gathered 22 leaders from ten dioceses. Now they are ready to offer the CPJ at their dioceses, multiplying in this way the formation ministry of Fe y Vida.



Leadership Symposium 2022



Training the Trainers for the Foundational Course on Pastoral Juvenil

Welcoming Ricardo Veloz as Director of Programs

Ricardo—husband, father of three, and lay pastoral minister—has been a member of Fe y Vida’s Pastoral Team for over 12 years. He brings a vibrant personality, human and spiritual wisdom, great doses of creativity, a musical and dancing heart, and outstanding experience and success working with teens, young adults, and parents at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. We are grateful to God for his decision to join Fe y Vida’s staff at this time of renewal and revitalization of our mission.



Ricardo Veloz with his wife and three children



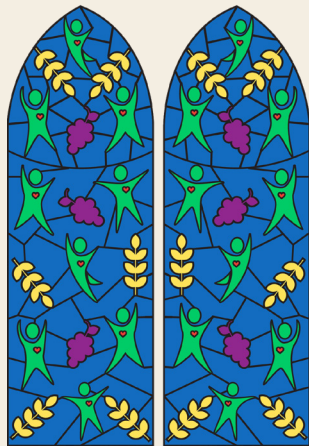
Ricardo Veloz teaching a course on Christian Education of Sexuality

Engaging Stories — Youth Theology Institute

This program is conducted in collaboration with Lewis University. It was filled to capacity, with Latino junior and senior high school teens from all over the country. Six participants from previous years returned as “leaders-in-training,” a training track building on their first year as participants. In 2023, some of these teens will serve as “co-leaders” in the teens program. We are beginning to have young adults who came to this program participate in the National Leadership Symposium.

The first year I came was wonderful to share with other Latino teens who have the same values and ideals I have. I also learned a lot about my faith and strengthened my convictions. This year, the leaders-in-training program was great and prepared me to be a hands-on co-leader next year.

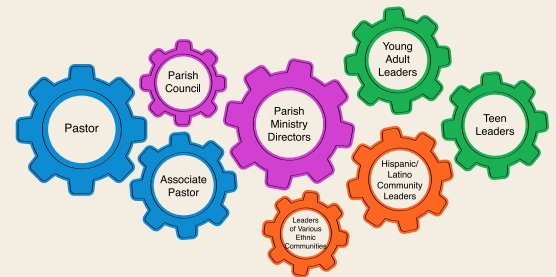
—Sarah Monique Matty-Ortiz



Advancements in the Thriving Catholic Parishes Project

The Thriving Catholic Parish Project—sponsored by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.—seeks to energize parishes with a significant Latino population through a committed shared leadership of the clergy, laity, and young people. To achieve this goal, the project trains adult leaders and parents to continue the process of human and Christian maturity of teens after the Sacrament of Confirmation. Cohorts of parishes in the mid-Atlantic and the Midwest regions will soon begin their training phase.

In the past year, several focus groups that included pastoral experts and teens took place. A resource to help pastors, ministers, and parents reflect on the values, ideals, and challenges in the personal development of Latino teens was developed. You may download this resource in English, and in Spanish by scanning the QR codes



Help us to continue doing a great work with Latino young Catholics!

The Board of Directors, staff and participants in our programs are committed to forming the next generation of Latino leaders in our parishes. We invite you to join us in this mission with your prayers and financial contribution. Fe y Vida is offering formation programs at significant discounts and granting scholarships. Your pledge of a three-year donation would allow us to plan ahead to invest your collaboration and see the REVITALIZATION

of ministry with young Latinos through to completion. God will multiply your gift, and we will give witness to you of the many fruits your gift bears!

Please send your check to Joe Matty, Instituto Fe y Vida, 1737 West Benjamin Holt Drive, Stockton, CA 95207. Let us know if you can pledge this amount for three years! **Gracias**