

CERTIFICATION IN HISPANIC YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

A Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Minister (*Agente de Pastoral Juvenil*) is a person who nourishes and inspires the life and mission of the Church by working with Latino youth and *jóvenes* at the institutional level. It could be a lay person, religious brother or sister, deacon or priest, and serve as salaried staff or as a volunteer.

Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministers promote the participation of young people in the threefold mission of Jesus as *prophet*, with their evangelizing action; as *priest*, with their praying and participation in the sacraments; and as *king-shepherd*, through servant, shared, and co-responsible leadership. Their role is founded on Sacred Scriptures and the criteria for their action are reflected in Second Vatican Council documents and in the Magisterium that inspires their vision and spirit to respond to the signs of the times.

Goal of the Certification

The Leadership Formation System allows a person to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Minister. Throughout the years, a large number of people have been trained pastorally through Fe y Vida programs at different levels. Based on this experience, Instituto Fe y Vida as of 2020 offers a Certificate as *Agentes de Pastoral Juvenil* (Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministers).

The goal of this certification is to make available to the Catholic Church in the United States *Agentes de Pastoral Juvenil* who:

- Show awareness of their apostolic vocation and commitment as co-responsible leaders, and persons willing to bear witness from their lives in the key environments where youth and *jóvenes* are found.
- Draw on solid theological and pastoral foundations, wholesome human development, and a mature spirituality that allows them to accompany and train youth and *jóvenes* in their own faith formation and evangelizing and missionary actions among their peers.
- Are prepared to serve Latino youth and *jóvenes* according to their sociocultural reality and pastoral needs, while developing collaboration among ministries with an intercultural awareness that ministry promotes unity in the Church.
- Demonstrate the ability to create and implement short- and medium-term pastoral plans and programs with youth and *jóvenes*, including their parents and the adult community to encourage intergenerational ministries that help them mature in the faith and live out the social doctrine of the Church.
- Are willing to motivate and encourage the Church community at its different levels—parish, deaneries, dioceses, nation—to foster a *pastoral de conjunto* with the purpose of integrating *Pastoral Juvenil* in the life and mission of the Church, together with other models of pastoral action.

Requirements for the Certification

1. Obtain a diploma for each of the Required and Elective Programs indicated in the following table, during a 5 to 8-year timeframe. Some programs are offered only at the national level once a year.
2. Present two letters of recommendation from a pastor, a diocesan director, or an apostolic movement. Both letters must mention the personal qualities of the candidate, the application of his/her theological and pastoral knowledge; and the quality of his/her pastoral work.
3. Show evidence of having conducted successfully a leadership training program for young people at a local level.
4. Submit a written project plan demonstrating the ability to plan programs. The plan will be evaluated by a member of Fe y Vida's Pastoral Team as part of the application process.
5. Upon meeting the above requirements, pay the associated fee.

The following table presents the programs required for Certification in Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. **Eight required programs plus three elective programs are necessary to earn the certification.** Participants choose the elective ones in dialogue with the Director of Leadership Training.



REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE CERTIFICATION IN HISPANIC YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Programs	Class Hours	Eight Required Programs	Three Elective Programs	Total Required Hours
Foundational Level				
# 4 – Symposium on Leadership	56	X		
# 5 – Foundational Course for <i>Pastoral Juvenil (CPJ)</i>	56		X-Lic.	
Intermediate Level				
# 11 – Practical Theology and Social Action: 2 modules (*) (**)	84	X-Lic.		
# 12 – Formation for a Christian Integration of Sexuality (**)	56	X-Lic.		
# 13 – Ministry with Adolescents and Peer Counseling in <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i>	56	X		
# 14 – Christian Spirituality, Discernment, and the Life Project	56	X		
# 15 – Pastoral <i>dinámicas</i> and Music in Worship and Ministry	56		X	
# 16 – Evangelization and Catechesis with Adolescents and <i>Jóvenes</i>	56		X	
# 17 – Intercultural Relations and Skills	56		X	
# 21 – The Bible and Our Salvation History or equivalent	56	X		
# 22 – Biblical Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Inspiration in Ministry	56		X	
Advanced Level				
# 24 – Pastoral Leadership at the Institutional Level: 2 modules (**)	84	X-Lic.		
Training of Trainers				
# 26 – Training for the Foundational Course for <i>Pastoral Juvenil (CPJ)</i> (**)	56	X		
NUMBER OF REQUIRED PROGRAMS		8	3	
TOTAL HOURS OF REQUIRED STUDY		504	168	672

(*) Grace period for alumni. As of January 2020, a three-year grace period will be granted, so that Instituto Fe y Vida alumni who studied before this certification was granted and who have taken at least 70% of the required and elective programs can complete their certification. The *Programa de Certificación para Asesores y Líderes en Pastoral Juvenil* offered in the past is equivalent.

(**) Possibility of obtaining academic credits at the institution where the participant is studying, if its requirements are met.

(X-Lic.) Programs that may be taken at Instituto Fe y Vida or in a diocese or institution that has a license to teach them.

