



*A Lasallian institution  
training leaders for ministry  
with Latino youth and young adults  
since 1994*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2019

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## Instituto Fe y Vida hires Juan Escarfuller as Director of Leadership Training and Biblical Pastoral Ministry

Instituto Fe y Vida is pleased to announce the hiring of Juan Escarfuller, MDiv, MA, as Director of Leadership Training and Biblical Pastoral Ministry. Under this newly created position Escarfuller will provide direction to the programs in Fe y Vida's Leadership Training System; design customized services and workshops solicited by other organizations; and expand the reach of the Biblical Pastoral Ministry. He will assume this position on August 1, 2019.



Escarfuller has been a senior member of Fe y Vida's Pastoral Team, joining the team in 2004, when he was recruited to contribute to the Institute's Biblical initiatives due to his post-graduate work in Sacred Scriptures and his role as Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, Missouri. He made Fe y Vida's radar when he founded in Saint Louis the first diocesan *pastoral juvenil* (Latino youth and young adult ministry) with philanthropic support and sent annually *jóvenes* to Fe y Vida's National Leadership Program, the result of a diocesan strategic planning process he led to cultivate young leaders for service in the Church and society.

Beyond his expertise in ministry, he is also known for his published work as an educator and project manager in NIH-funded obesity prevention public health research among Latino youth at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University, including the first-ever successful intervention and largest and longest study. He also brings program design and communications skills as a multilingual motivational speaker in transforming conferences with interactive keynotes and teambuilders that spark engagement and inspire creative thinking. He has given priority to clients committed to improving diversity and inclusion within their organizations.

Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, raised in New Orleans, Escarfuller earned degrees from Yale and Aquinas Institute of Theology. He currently calls Nashville home with his wife and four children. For fun with a purpose he volunteers as a peer facilitator in local parent engagement workshops to improve high school graduation and college application rates among Latino students in public schools and as an alumnus interviewer for the Yale undergraduate admissions committee.

“Working with Fe y Vida is an American dream come true!” says Escarfuller. “As an immigrant son of divorced parents, finding where I belong has been the story of my life. Thanks to Catholic ministry in the U.S., I found my place in the world. I look forward to working alongside Fe y Vida’s team, Board of Directors, and partners that inspire, equip and mobilize young Latinos and Latinas to fulfill their potential while celebrating their roots. My commitment to these values has been the compass guiding my personal and professional journey. It is God’s gift to come home full circle now and serve young Latino communities finding their own way and place in our Church and nation.”

“Juan’s love for Scripture and his experience guiding programs to new levels of success and innovation as well as his commitment to training the next generation of leaders will be of great benefit to Fe y Vida’s ministry over the coming years,” said Executive Director Carmen Cervantes. “I look forward to welcoming Juan to this important role and to working with him to realize Fe y Vida’s mission.”

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