

Empowering Young Latinos for Leadership
in Church and Society



Instituto
FE Y VIDA
Institute for Faith & Life
Leadership Training

Memorias

Commemorative Publication

Instituto Fe y Vida Celebrates

20 years

of ministry with young Catholic Latinos

&

launches a new era with broader horizons

- Leadership Training Programs
- International Biblical Ministry
- Parents Training
- Pastoral Publications
- Research and Resources
- Institutional Advocacy and Collaboration





**The USCCB Secretariats of Cultural Diversity in the Church
and of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth**

wish to congratulate **Instituto Fe y Vida**

**on its 20th Anniversary of service to the Church,
particularly dedicated to the cause
of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry**



**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS**



Memorias

Commemorative Publication

Instituto Fe y Vida





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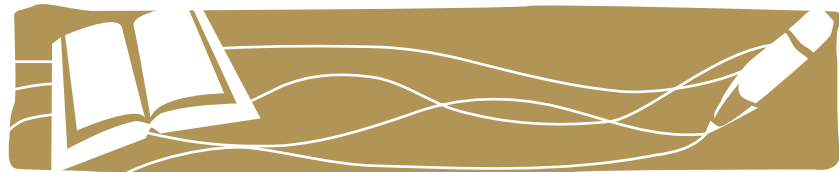
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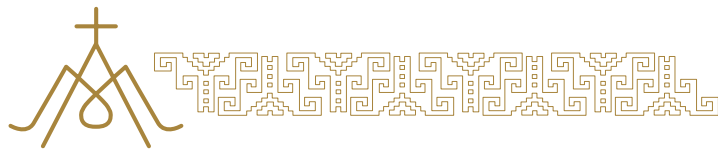
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**Introduction,
Articles, and Testimonies**



My soul proclaims
the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor
on his lowly servant.

—Luke 1:46a-48a





This commemorative publication, *Memorias*, celebrates the first two decades of **Instituto Fe y Vida (Institute for Faith and Life)**, created to train leaders to help keep the Christian faith and Catholic tradition alive in young adult Latinos, in the United States. It also offers a glimpse of the future, including Fe y Vida's new pastoral initiatives and its affiliation with Lewis University, in Romeoville, Illinois.

Thanks to the commitment of its Board of Directors, a small, devoted staff, an enthusiastic national pastoral team, and the collaboration of friends from many congregations and institutions, Instituto Fe y Vida has helped thousands of young people grow into leadership positions in Church and society, in more than 120 dioceses in the United States and 12 other nations.

The first section of this *Memorias* places Fe y Vida's mission in its historical context and highlights its ministry focused on personal growth, faith formation, and pastoral development of young Latinos. The second section offers a series of anecdotes that recall significant challenges during the journey, including the wise advice and important actions that have made a difference along the way. The third section contains congratulatory ads that celebrate Fe y Vida's anniversary and help sustain its ministries. The final section is a tribute to the people and institutions that have sustained Fe y Vida's ministry with their talent, time, and treasure.



OUR MISSION

Instituto Fe y Vida equips pastoral ministers, young adult leaders, and parents for the New Evangelization of young Catholic Latinos. We do this by focusing on their personal development and faith formation, and by preparing them for leadership in Church and society.

OUR VISION

Instituto Fe y Vida envisions a U.S. Catholic Church that has enough Latino leaders capable of nurturing faith and hope in young people and their parents, through sound biblical, pastoral, and leadership programs, built on the positive values and strengths of the Latino culture. Fe y Vida foresees Latino parents living and encouraging an exemplary Christian lifestyle, supporting each other, and helping guide other parents in raising their adolescent children with Christian values. It visualizes young people and their parents in all the Americas, incarnating the Word of God in their life through a vibrant biblical pastoral ministry, relevant to their life in today's sociocultural reality.



PROPHETS OF HOPE CREED

We are a passionate people who believe in the prophetic strength of *la juventud hispana*, followers of Christ committed to extend the Reign of God.

We are a people who offer our different gifts at the service of our Church and its evangelizing mission.

We are a people of faith.

We believe in the utopia that this small prophetic group is a seed of hope and a builder of a new society.

We believe in the strength of the community and in sharing our lives and our love.

We believe that, with God's grace, we can transform hope into reality.

We believe that the Holy Spirit enlightens and strengthens Hispanic *jóvenes* to be collaborators with God in their own history as they face the challenges and burdens of life.

We believe, we dream, we act together with Jesus Christ. We believe in Mary, our Mother, and that God becomes flesh in us.

Amen.



Fe y Vida, its Beginnings, its Fruits and its Inroads into the Future

*Br. Larry Schatz, FSC
Provincial, De La Salle Midwest District
Former President, Instituto Fe y Vida Board of Directors*

So, why is an organization with a name in Spanish that began in Stockton, California, one of the ministries of the De La Salle Brothers of the Midwest District? Good question! Instituto Fe y Vida (Institute for Faith and Life) is celebrating its 20th anniversary and has become the national leader of ministry with Hispanic young Catholics in the United States. At the center of this startling success story is Dr. Carmen María Cervantes, one of the founders of Fe y Vida.

In March of 1994, Instituto Fe y Vida, located in Carmen's home, was incorporated as a California nonprofit corporation. Fe y Vida held its first annual national program in 1995, on the campus of Saint Mary's University in Winona, followed by diocesan programs in several dioceses across the country.



*First Board of Directors, Winona, MN, 1994
Left to right: Br. Damian Steger, FSC; Dr. Carmen María Cervantes; Br. Miguel Campos, FSC; Br. Mark Murphy, FSC; Br. Robert Smith, FSC*

The story really begins back in the mid-1980s at Saint Mary's Press (SMP), in Winona, Minnesota. Brother Damian Steger, FSC, president, and his brother Jack Steger, SMP Board Chair, decided that it was time to address the pressing needs of Latinos in the United States. It was clear from the very start of this ambitious project that it would not be a profit-making initiative for SMP. However, it clearly fit the Lasallian tradition of ministering to the underserved and marginalized.

Three years later, an evaluation of Fe y Vida's programs, ministry, and publications underlined the imperative for a full-fledged institution dedicated to ministry with young Catholic Latinos, and gave the Brothers and SMP confidence that the Fe y Vida team was highly motivated, professionally capable, and cohesive enough within a rich spectrum of Latino cultures and type of ministries, to be able to run such an institution.

Carmen is very clear about the role played by the Press and the District: "Simply put, Fe y Vida would not exist without the Midwest District. Brother Damian's initiative, the partnership with Saint Mary's Press, the financial support from SMP and from the Lasallian Education Fund, and the continuous collaboration of the Brothers who have served on the Board of Directors, all have helped us become one of the largest national organizations of Hispanic Ministry in the United States."

Early in the development of the project, it became clear that training programs for people ministering to Hispanic youth and young adult ministry were also needed. These programs were beyond the scope and expertise of Saint Mary's Press. It was decided to establish a leadership formation institute to embrace these important pastoral and educational dimensions of ministry.



*Fe y Vida Board and Staff Meeting, Napa, CA, 2004
Back Row: Tom Jordan (development consultant); Ken Johnson-Mondragón, staff; Br. Dale Mooney, FSC; John Vitek, board; Steve C. Glynn, board; Timothy Mitchell, board
Middle Row: Kathy Waltz, board; Frances G. Padilla, Board President; Irma Nolla-Corretjer, board; Carmen María Cervantes, EdD, staff; Deacon Justin J. Green, PhD, board; Ángel Manuel del Río, OP, staff
Front Row: José María Matty-Cervantes, staff*

First National Leadership Program, Winona, MN, 1995



One of Fe y Vida's most significant accomplishments has been the publication of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* [The Catholic Bible for Young People]. This publication is not simply a translation of *The Catholic Youth Bible* published by SMP in 1999, but is written and designed specifically for Latino young people. To date, over 1,000,000 copies of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* are in the hands of young people in the United States, Latin America, and Spain, along with translations into Italian and Portuguese.

Recently, a very significant milestone occurred in Fe y Vida's growth. It is now in partnership with Lewis University, a very successful and thriving Lasallian ministry of the Midwest District in the Chicago area. Fe y Vida recently opened an office on the Lewis campus. This partnership, with its ensuing visibility and central location, is definitely a key step in Fe y Vida's development as it expands services to the young Latino Church in the years ahead.

The enduring and vibrant international legacy of St. John Baptist de La Salle clearly lives on in Fe y Vida. As Carmen describes so well: "The most evident way to prove we are a Lasallian ministry is that we do three important things that John Baptist de La Salle did: first, we teach teachers; it may take five or six years to move young adults from where they are to serve as trainers or pastoral agents, but that is not too much longer than a university education. Second, De La Salle put education in the language of the young people. He ran into lots of obstacles, but he was stubborn and persisted. *La Biblia* puts the Word of God in the language of Latino young people. Third, we serve the poor and, in so doing, we follow in his steps."

Here's to a vibrant and thriving next 20 years!



Launching of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, 2005

Br. Frank Carr, FSC, Provincial of the Christian Brothers, Midwest District; Br. Damian Steger, FSC, Co-founder of Instituto Fe y Vida; Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD, Executive Director; John Vitek, President and CEO of Saint Mary's Press



Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2005

Back: Dennis Kurtz;
Back Row: Br. Dale J. Mooney FSC, Board President; Deacon Justin J. Green, PhD; Abraham Solar
Middle Row: Fr. Ted Keating, SM; Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ; Cathy J. Walz
Front Row: Carmen Maria Cervantes, EdD; Stacy A. Reiss, CPA

Witnesses of Hope Bilingual Series



saint mary's press
touching hearts. enlivening minds.



Br. Larry Schatz, FSC, Opening Ceremony of Fe y Vida Office at Lewis University

A Journey of Profound Faith that Offers New Life among Young Latinos

*Most Rev. José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles
Founding Chair, Instituto Fe y Vida Bishops Advisory Council*



On the celebration of this 20th anniversary, I am filled with gratitude to God for bringing together Carmen Cervantes' passion with the vision and support of the Christian Brothers of the Midwest Province. Through this association, a small team of professionals was able to dedicate their efforts to serving our Catholic Hispanic young people on a national level.

young Catholic Latinos, in faithfulness to the Gospel and the teachings of our Church. Our young Latino leaders have been filled with energy, joy, passion, and tremendous hope, as they become protagonists of their own lives and of the renewal of their faith community.

These 20 years of Instituto Fe y Vida have been richly blessed by God. From its first small steps under the wings of Saint Mary's Press and, later on, with the financial support of the Christian Brothers and other institutions, Instituto Fe y Vida was able to grow, little by little, and establish itself among national organizations that minister to Hispanic youth and young adults. With the increase in the Hispanic population in the U.S., having sound leadership formation programs to foster quality pastoral services to this age group, has become a growing need in our Church.

All of these achievements have led me to say "yes" to Carmen and José María's invitation to head the Development Fund Program among the bishops. Having received a great response from my brother bishops, the Bishops' Advisory Council for Instituto Fe y Vida, which I chair, was created three years ago. None of this would have been possible without the tireless support and work of Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ, who has served as Chairman of Fe y Vida's Board of Directors for many years, accompanying them spiritually, pastorally, and with his wise advice.

Whoever has accompanied Fe y Vida through the years can recognize this growth. From the dedicated and zealous work of the staff, to all the leadership training and pastoral formation programs that have been offered across the nation, with the success of their publications, particularly *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, the Institute has been able to honor its name by being an effective instrument to increase the *faith* in young Latinos and elicit a new *life* in their hearts and minds, both in the U.S. and throughout Latin America.

These *Memorias* present many success stories. I know that each one of them has been built with countless sacrifices, not only from Fe y Vida's staff and pastoral team, but also from parish and diocesan leaders, who were instruments of God in sowing the seeds of the Gospel and nurturing them, with thoughtful pastoral care among young Hispanics.

I pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide and strengthen Fe y Vida's staff, board, and pastoral team to carry on their mission in the field of *pastoral juvenil* (Hispanic youth and young adult ministry), and that our Blessed Mother, Mary of Guadalupe, may be a source of hope, protection and joy to our young Latinos in their journey of faith.

The accomplishments of Fe y Vida are the fruits of courage and hard work, motivated by a unique solidarity with



Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes honored with Archbishop Flores Award, 2006
(L) Bishop Plácido Rodríguez, CMF, Chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Hispanic Affairs, honors Dr. Cervantes as a Catholic leader who has strongly advocated and promoted professional and pastoral growth of Hispanic Ministry in the U.S. (R) Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, of Stockton CA.



Bishops Advisory Council of Instituto Fe y Vida, 2012

Left to right: Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ, Emeritus, Yakima; Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS, Auxiliary, Seattle; Jaime Soto, DD, MSW, Sacramento; Archbishop José H. Gomez, Chairman, Los Angeles; Dr. Carmen María Cervantes, EdD, Executive Director; David L. Ricken, DD, JCL, Green Bay; Joe S. Vásquez, DD, Austin; Stephen E. Blaire, DD, Stockton; Anthony B. Taylor, DD Little Rock, José Arturo Cepeda, STL, Auxiliary, Detroit

National Leadership Programs

- 1996 - Moraga, CA
- 1997 - Dickinson, TX
- 1998 - Chicago, IL



Fe y Vida: A Sound Pastoral Formation and Leadership Training Institute

*Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ
Bishop Emeritus of Yakima
Former Episcopal Chairman, Fe y Vida Board of Directors*



*Fe y Vida Board and Staff Meeting,
Napa, CA, 2014*

*Back Row: Fr. Tom Henehan, MM, board; Br. Larry Schatz, FSC, Board President
Middle Row: Deacon Justin J. Green, PhD, staff; Ken Johnson-Mondragón, staff; Carmen M. Cervantes, staff; Br. Frank Carr, FSC, board; Andrew Rivas, board; José María Matty-Cervantes, staff
Front Row: William Sadlier Dingler, board; Adriana Visoso-Valverde, staff; Aurora Macías-Dewhirst, staff; Walter F. Mena, staff; Fr. Paul Frechette, SM, board*

It's been my privilege to be associated with Instituto Fe y Vida for almost all of the 20 years of its ministry with young Latino Catholics that we celebrate this year. For 12 of those years, I served as Chair of its Board. I have been a Bishop for 26 years. To my knowledge, Fe y Vida's commitment to a solid Catholic theology, its understanding of young Latino Catholics, and the latter's embodiment in an exceptional leadership and spiritual formation outreach to that community, are without equal.

The Diocese of Yakima in Central Washington State, where I served as the Diocesan Bishop for 14 years, was one of the first dioceses where the ministry of Fe y Vida found a home. It bore abundant fruit. The seeds planted by it in the late 1990s made possible the effective ministry to young Latino Catholics in the Yakima Diocese today.

A marvelous and unique example of that outreach is *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, which—through its engaging presentation of the Word of God—has successfully touched and transformed the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of Latino youth and young adults in the Americas. A great part of that success is due to the vision and hard work of Carmen Cervantes, a remarkable woman, whose initiatives with the help of the Lasallian Christian Brothers of Saint Mary's Press in Winona, Minnesota led to the beginnings of Fe y Vida.

That's what is so special about Fe y Vida. It not only provides formation to Latino young people who bring life to the Church today but it also enables them to be leaders in the Hispanic community and our Church as adults. This certainly has been our experience in the Diocese of Yakima. The success of Fe y Vida highlights the important and challenging truth that the purpose of all spiritual and leadership formation is to form disciples of Jesus who can continue His mission until He comes again.

Fe y Vida Builds on its Strengths

*Frances G. Padilla, MPA
President, Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
Former President, Fe y Vida Board of Directors*

In a world filled with so much strife—both here and abroad—Fe y Vida is a beacon in the distance. From its beginnings at Saint Mary's Press twenty years ago, Fe y Vida has been developing the potential of people to contribute to their family, church and community. It started with the idea that the education and formation of Hispanic youth required better-quality printed materials and quickly evolved in its understanding that, without the opportunity for interaction and experiential learning, books would not be sufficient to achieve the goal.

The story of Fe y Vida is a story of potential being realized. There are many Hispanic youth and young adults in this country's Catholic parishes with so much to give of themselves but who lack opportunities to develop their gifts. Through its pastoral and leadership formation programs, Fe y Vida has created a means for individuals to learn, share with one another, grow as persons, and contribute in significant ways to their church community and society in general.



Pastoral Juvenil: Formation and Professionalization of Ministry to Young Hispanics in the U.S.

*Ronaldo M. Cruz, MS
Former Executive Director, Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs (USCCB)
Former Member of Fe y Vida Board of Directors*

Instituto Fe y Vida, looked at through the eyes of the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, played a crucial role in the development of *Pastoral Juvenil*—Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry—in the United States. Fe y Vida is one of the most professional and accomplished organizations I have worked with during my 45 years of service within the Catholic Church.

Hispanic young adult leaders and their ministers jumped at the opportunity to learn more about their faith and benefitted from the privilege of being collaborators with their parish and diocese in service among their respective communities. For many, it was their first experience of being trained in a systematic formation and formal education process.

The vision of the Second Vatican Council, enculturated in the States through the Hispanic National Encuentros and the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry, inspired the Hispanic Editorial Team of Saint Mary's Press, who gave birth to Instituto Fe y Vida. The staff partnered with the former Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs to create a national network of leaders capable of ministering to young Hispanics throughout the country.

What has stood out about Instituto Fe y Vida, is its consistent professional ethic that provides formation and certificate programs for Hispanic young adult leaders and ministers. Fe y Vida's resource materials and publications, collaboration and partnership with religious communities, excellent research on youth and young adults, and a strong voice at the national level, have been an unparalleled force in promoting this ministry in our U.S. Catholic Church.

Fe y Vida's talented professionals developed effective educational and pastoral methods, processes, resources and strategies for use in the Hispanic communities. Their work involved consultation with bishops, theologians, missionaries, priests and men and women religious, as well as sound research—the first to be done in the U.S. focused on pastoral needs and the Church's response to the young Hispanic community.

Instituto Fe y Vida's success in its biblical, pastoral, and leadership endeavors has been the result of careful planning, professional staffing, collaboration with national and international institutions and individuals, valor in confronting Catholic institutions and leaders, sound financial discipline, and a strong faith in young people and their gifts. Its visionary stance has made the impossible become possible; strong governance by its board of directors, has guided its institutional development;

National Leadership Programs

- 1999 - Denver, CO
- 2000 - Philadelphia, PA
- 2001 - Los Angeles, CA



Fe y Vida Staff, Stockton, CA, 2000
Back Row: José María Matty-Cervantes; Ken Johnson-Mondragón; Joe H. Castro
Front Row: Aurora Macías-Dewhirst; Adriana Visoso-Valverde; Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD



Board of Directors Meeting, Napa, CA, 2008
Back Row: Fr. Ted Keating, MS, Board President; Ron Cruz
Middle Row: Gery Short; Fr. Tom Smith, OFM Conv.; Dennis Kurtz
Front Row: Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD; Linda Ann Unger; Sr. Sylvia García, MCDP; Mary Pat Clasen; Tom Matty; Deacon Justin J. Green, PhD

and the leadership of the staff paired with the commitment of the pastoral team members that have stuck together, through thick and thin, have nurtured this institution flourishing.

The professionalization of *Pastoral Juvenil* among Hispanic ministers has been a great and generous gift to the Catholic Church. Instituto Fe y Vida has utilized the gifts of talented young people involved in ministry, anthropology, research, education,

catechesis, theology, religious life, as well as other disciplines, to assure that *Pastoral Juvenil* is recognized and has its place as a key ministry model for the future of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Thank you Carmen María Cervantes and your pastoral team and collaborators for a job more than well done! Happy Anniversary.



Training of Staff and Pastoral Team, Dallas, TX, 2005

God Called Me to Hispanic Ministry through Fe y Vida

*Deacon Justin Green, PhD
Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Winona, Minnesota
Member of Fe y Vida Board of Directors*

I was blessed to be part of Fe y Vida almost from its start at Saint Mary's Press. Brother Damian Steger, President of the Press, asked me to meet with Dr. Carmen Cervantes and help her obtain a grant to underwrite the publication of her books on *pastoral juvenil*. I honestly didn't understand much of what Carmen told me that was unique about *pastoral juvenil*, but the grant was awarded; the books were published, and the world began to hear about the *Prophets of Hope*.

It was a privilege to be part of the decision to publish *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* and to launch the Biblical Initiative. Similarly, I was very happy to be part of the decision to affiliate with Lewis University and move to the campus. Even when I was not on the Board, Carmen and I talked about Fe y Vida and how to move it forward. Never had I dreamed that I would have a part in Hispanic ministry, but God moves in mysterious ways to fulfill the mission given by Jesus to the Church.

Later, I joined the Board of Directors and spent seven years working with one of the most remarkable groups of people I have ever met. Carmen provided outstanding leadership. She had a vision for the ministry, persuaded Board members to share the vision, and she then led the way to implementation. The Board guided the development of Fe y Vida as an institution. Together, Board and staff created a successful ministry.

Carmen, thank you for your leadership and your indefatigable energy in carrying out God's plan. Fe y Vida has made a difference in thousands of lives, including mine. May its future be as bright as its past, and may God continue to bless it and you abundantly.



*Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2013
Back Row: Br. Jesús Lara, FSC; Jesús Ábrego; Andrew Rivas, JD; Fr. Thomas P. Henehan, MM; Ken Johnson-Mondragón, DMin Cand; Br. Francis A. Carr, FSC; Deacon Justin Green, PhD; Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ
Front Row: Br. Larry Schatz, FSC; Soraya García Machado; Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD, Serafina Ranadi-Vuda; Fr. Paul Frechette, SM*

Instituto FE Y VIDA
Institute for Faith & Life
Leadership Training Institute

Building our Hope

Newsletter on Latino Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Twenty Years of Sharing the Good News for Hispanic Youth and Young Adults

Allan Figueroa Deck, SJ
Charles S. Casassa Chair and Professor of Theological Studies
Loyola Marymount University

As I look back in my forty years of experiences and key moments in the field of Hispanic Ministry, the work of Instituto Fe y Vida truly stands out. To speak of that work, of course, is to speak of an indefatigable woman by the name of Carmen María Cervantes. She would be the first to acknowledge that the Institute's unique and effective role in the world of youth and young adult ministry owes much to them. But other factors also converge to explain why the Institute is still around and doing such important work: Carmen's knowledge, devotion to youth, skill in forging a team, and success in the uphill struggle to finance all of this.

The outcome is there for all to see: its success in creating an original and effective model of *pastoral juvenil* appropriate for the fluid U.S. context, and the creative manner in which the Institute has bridged the world of *pastoral juvenil* as developed in Latin America with the very different world of U.S. youth and young adult ministry. The dramatic migration from south of the border that characterized the past two decades made this encounter a challenge and an opportunity that Fe y Vida navigated with significant success.

Fe y Vida's professionalism earned the recognition of important players in U.S. youth ministry circles such as the

National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry and the Secretariats of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth and of Cultural Diversity in the Church of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Carmen and the Institute have received many awards including the conferral of an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of America, which I had the honor of witnessing a few years ago.

Fe y Vida's legacy includes the elaboration of original methods and materials for the formation of youth ministers in both English and Spanish. Of special note as well was its research and its timely dissemination of findings that document the shifting demographics and other key factors affecting pastoral ministry with Hispanic youth and young adults.

Fe y Vida has been a key player in the mobilization of Hispanic youth and young adults for two decades now, and in founding the National Catholic Network of Pastoral Juvenil Hispana—La RED. Finally, it has also had a marvelous influence on Hispanic ministry more generally, and is lay ministry as well. May Instituto Fe y Vida enjoy many more decades of service to those who will lead the Church in the future: Hispanic women and men who today constitute the majority of our Catholic youth and young adults in the United States.



Carmen María Cervantes,
Executive Director of Instituto Fe y
Vida, receiving an honorary doctorate
in theology from John Garvey, J.D.,
President of The Catholic University of
America



National Leadership Programs

- 2002 – Dickinson, TX
- 2003 – Leavenworth, KS
- 2004 – Milwaukee, WI



Twenty Years of Prophetic Advocacy

*Robert J. McCarty, DMin
Former Executive Director, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry*

Across our country, pastoral ministry with young Catholics is challenging! Though young people demonstrate a deep interest in spirituality, Scripture, and the transcendent, all too often societal influences counter the impact of religion, and the Catholic Church has actively responded at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. As the fastest growing sector of the Church today, Hispanic youth and young adults deserve particular attention. The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) has long had a collaborative relationship with Instituto Fe y Vida in promoting the Church's ministry to Hispanic young people in the United States.

For twenty years Instituto Fe y Vida has been the leading authority in providing a comprehensive understanding of the current pastoral reality with Hispanic youth and *jóvenes* (single young adults 18-39). When the landmark National Study of Youth and Religion was underway at the University of North Carolina from 2003-2005, Fe y Vida played an essential role as advisor to the research team in the development of the study and in the interpretation of the results. This was a very important step in advocacy, bringing the Hispanic Catholic voice to these secular research studies. Fe y Vida's professional contributions were instrumental in surfacing the religious beliefs and practices of young Hispanic Catholics.

Their commitment to partnering with national ministry organizations has strengthened all of our ministries. Instituto Fe y Vida's collaboration with NFCYM and with the Federation for Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) on our document, *For Ages Unending: The Ministry of Liturgy with Adolescents / Por los Siglos de los Siglos: El Ministerio de Liturgia con Adolescentes*, assured that this essential ministry of the Church would be

responsive to the particular cultural realities of Hispanic Catholics.

Since 1997, NFCYM has partnered with the Alliance (NFCYM, FDLC, the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians) in coordinating a national certification process and in identifying standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers and specialized competencies for ministry leaders in various roles. The NFCYM partnered with Instituto Fe y Vida to develop competencies for youth ministers specializing in *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*. Certification is a sign that we take our ministry seriously, and that we value professionalism and competence in those who minister to, with, for, and by young Catholics. Because of Instituto Fe y Vida's involvement, this professional process strengthens the leadership in the Hispanic Catholic community.

In 2012, NFCYM honored Instituto Fe y Vida's director, Dr. Carmen Cervantes, for her significant contributions and an outstanding commitment to the field of youth ministry. Carmen's work and influence in *Pastoral Juvenil* and on the national youth ministry scene is highly valued and continues to define ministry for the Latino culture in America. It is widely recognized that no other person has positively influenced the face of Hispanic ministry in this country more than Carmen Cervantes. Fe y Vida has dedicated its entire ministry to empowering young Hispanics and their parents for leadership in the Catholic Church and society through formation programs, biblical pastoral ministry, research and publications, and advocacy.

For twenty years of prophetic advocacy, ministerial collaboration and significant ecclesial impact, the NFCYM - and indeed the entire Catholic Church - is very grateful.



Colloquium on the Parish as a Community of Communities, sponsored by Instituto Fe y Vida in 2011

Back Row: Charlotte McCorquodale, PhD, Ministry Training Source; Fr. Jim Myers, S.S., Vatican II Institute for Clergy Formation; Carmen Nanko-Fernández, DMin, Catholic Theological Union; Rev. Allan Deck, SJ, USCCB; Ken Johnson-Mondragón, DMin Cand, Instituto Fe y Vida

Front Row: Germán McKenzie, Diocese of Saint Catharines, Ontario; Sr. Marie Cooper, SJC, Renew International; Miriam Hidalgo, Archdiocese of Hartford; Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD, Instituto Fe y Vida; Sr. Eileen McCann, CSJ, USCCB; Rev. James Coriden, Washington Theological Union.



Twentieth Anniversary: A Journey of Faith, Life, and Hope



Carlos Carrillo, MEd
Continuing Education Specialist
School of Social Work, University of Washington
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

These 20 years have been a process, a journey of faith, life, and hope.

A journey of faith, because this call “came to us from Jesus” who invites us to believe in the “power of his kingdom” and gives us “life in abundance.” A journey of faith because as pastoral agents, “we walk as pilgrims longing to live,” to present Jesus as a friend to all young people and the Virgin Mary as their intercessor and Mother. *A journey of faith*, because we believe that young people are not only the future, but “they already are here today to serve.” *A journey of faith*, because *La Biblia Católica Para Jóvenes*, published by Fe y Vida, has become an integral part of their spirituality. *A journey of faith* because young people believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and in the Catholic Church.

A journey of life, because young people know that a “faith without good works is a dead faith.” *A journey of life* embraced by young adults that have participated in three, four or even up to six different programs, letting us witness how the introductory courses,

certification programs, the summer symposium and seminars, have helped young adults to live their baptismal commitment in many dioceses in the country. *A journey of life* evident in frequent testimonies of conversion, commitment and service that continue to inspire Fe y Vida’s pastoral team to accompany young leaders on their journey. A clear manifestation of this life journey was present at the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry: “Building the Network Together.”

A journey of hope, because each year, more young Hispanic Catholics “are showing others the path of hope, justice, peace and love.” *A journey of hope* because young people are now evangelizers of their peers. Their energy and joy, have taught us that we can “overcome the barriers of race and geography, and that the Reign of God is multicultural.”

I thank God for inviting me to witness and be an active collaborator in this great work that continues moving forward.



Pastoral leaders serving the Catholic Hispanic community have consistently acknowledged the urgency of investing in its youth and young adults. In 1994, when Instituto Fe y Vida was established, they were a large sector of the Catholic population in the U.S. Fe y Vida’s contributions were timely, fresh, and prophetic. Today more than one-half of all U.S. Catholics under the age of 30 are Hispanic. They are the present and future of our Church. At this historical juncture, the work of Instituto Fe y Vida—by far the leading organization addressing the needs of this population through research, advocacy, and training—is not just relevant but indispensable. Fe y Vida is, without a doubt, the partner par excellence to advance Catholic youth ministry in the U.S. during the 21st Century.

Hosffman Ospino, PhD
Assistant Professor of Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education, Boston College
Editor of *Hispanic Ministry in the 21st Century: Present and Future*, Convivium Press, 2010

Fe y Vida's Leadership Programs are Like a Bamboo

*Joe H. Castro, Consultant and Instructor in Hispanic Ministry
Former Director of Fe y Vida Formation Programs Department
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team and Board of Directors*

My involvement with Instituto Fe y Vida started when I attended its second National Symposium, in 1996. I participated because Fr. Juan Díaz-Vilar, S.J., strongly motivated me. At first, I was convinced, that I was going to learn very little because I already had so much pastoral experience. By the end of the Symposium, my perspective had changed completely.

The holistic perspective offered through the week, matched with a lived experience that combined in-depth reflection, sound leadership training, and various forms of prayer, opened my eyes to a new and highly effective way of bringing young Hispanic people to follow Jesus. I saw the content and the process of the Symposium as sowing bamboo, which takes time to sprout and requires substantial nurturing with water and fertilizing, but it grows high and is resilient to weather changes.

Another pastoral minister who came with me, Vilma Pardo, was as impressed as I was not only with the knowledge that we acquired but also with the shared leadership approach to train the participants and with the various processes to develop a strong spirituality as a foundation to ministry. Because of this, we decided to invite Fe y Vida to have its next Symposium in our Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. We wanted our leaders to experience the transformation that had occurred in us at the Symposium.

Vilma and I joined Fe y Vida's Pastoral Team in 1997. Since then, I have maintained contact with young people in different parts of the country who participated in Fe y Vida programs. I have been able to follow their growth as pastoral leaders and observe their spiritual maturation. Fe y Vida's programs helped them to become organized and carry out effective and inspiring ministries. Many of them are leading apostolic movements, youth groups, and serving in parish and diocesan ministries.

My own growth as a leader was highly influenced by the programs offered by the Institute. Sometimes I was an observer. Other times I co-taught with Carmen Cervantes. Then, I was on my own. I learned to plan, teach, and evaluate. Eventually, I was able to take on the responsibility for creating The Passionist Institute of Spirituality, a certification program in Spanish for Spiritual Direction.

I thank God for the response of so many young people to our Lord. They have responded to his invitation by studying with discipline and serving with passion in their pastoral praxis. I also thank the Institute for breaking barriers and charting new paths to offer the best formation for us, as pastoral ministers, so that we may continue the mission, with quality, deep spirituality, and passion.



Training of Staff and Pastoral Team, Houston, 2002



Pastoral Team Members: Ángeles Díaz, Alicia Avilés, David Lara, Adela Yáñez

My history with Fe y Vida is long. I served as a consultant and as a member of the editorial staff in Saint Mary's Press Hispanic project. I was the first Administrative and Formation Programs Director at Fe y Vida. Now, after my retirement, I continue to assist with editorial projects.

Undoubtedly, Fe y Vida has developed magnificent work in pastoral leadership training among Hispanics, thanks to a group of pastoral agents from different countries and various geographical locations, led by Carmen M. Cervantes. Its fruits—visible throughout the country—confirm that God's will was, and continues to be carefully discerned.

The pastoral formation and leadership training programs, publications, development, and services offered by Fe y Vida are important milestones in the history of Hispanic ministry. They serve as a remarkable example of ecclesial collaboration and as an invitation to continue walking as Hispanic people in alliance with our God of life and the Lord of history.

Eduardo Arnouil

Former Staff Member, Saint Mary's Press and Fe y Vida



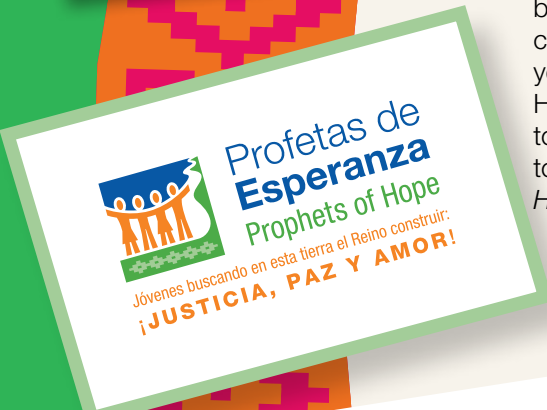
The Prophets of Hope Model is a Pot of Gold

Jorge Rivera
Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Joliet
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

Instituto Fe y Vida was instrumental in my pastoral ministry when I began working with the Latino community in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1996. My relationship with Fe y Vida began when I was a volunteer youth coordinator in my local parish and attended its first week-long Leadership Symposium in 1995, in Winona, Minnesota.

The Prophets of Hope model (PoH Model)—as experienced in the Symposium—was a pot of gold for my ministry. At my return, I immediately began to organize weekend retreats in my local parish and throughout the Archdiocese to present the PoH model. It was a hit and young adult leaders began to apply the model in their faith communities. Also, in a matter of a few years, the Archdiocesan Network of Hispanic youth and young adults began to take shape and the young leaders took ownership of *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* in Chicago.

Over the years, I became a member of Fe y Vida's pastoral team, and have given workshops in various dioceses across the United States and at the annual summer programs. I have seen many young adults who, based on the sound formation acquired with Fe y Vida, have matured and assumed ministry positions in the Church and leadership roles in various areas of the social arena. I am a living witness of the impact that this Institute has across the nation, among young people and adults alike, and can assert that Fe y Vida stands at the top as a resource for Latino youth and young adult ministry in the United States.



I have been blessed by the *jóvenes* of Houston, who have participated in Instituto Fe y Vida's programs. They reveal God's life throbbing in them—a life that encourages, inspires, and generates more life. It is wonderful to see them acquiring the tools that strengthen their integrity as human beings and followers of Jesus.

I see them grow as persons and increase their self-confidence to share their inner being, a more mature faith, stronger and down to earth in its foundations. They learn to interpret the signs of the times, become agents of transformation when facing the challenges of life, and use technology for the benefit of *Pastoral Juvenil*.

I see prophets of hope, instruments of peace in the midst of violence; men and women free of the slavery of consumerism. They live the values of the Beatitudes, are in solidarity with the community, go without sleep or food, and share their resources to bring the Gospel to other young people in our diocese.

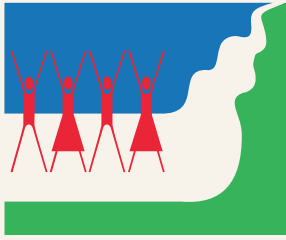
I see young adults being trained as trainers and become stronger leaders. They are protagonists of the Reign of God through their words and deeds, and form families with the spirit of a domestic Church.

Heart of Heaven and Heart of Earth—as our Creator is called in the Mayan culture—creates more life in each one of them, males and females. Thank you, young people of Houston, for bearing witness of our Creator giving life through you in our Church and society. We love you very much!

Gloria Huevo
Pastoral Adviser, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

Prophets of Hope

Profetas de Esperanza

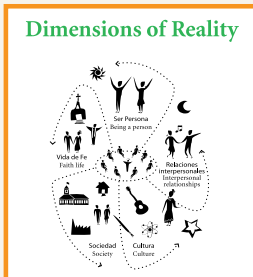
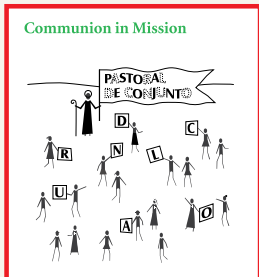
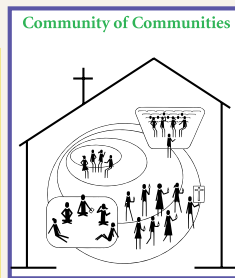
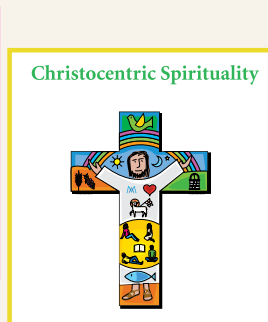
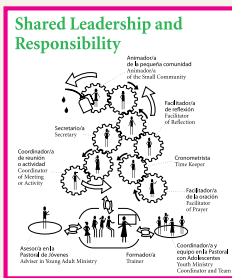
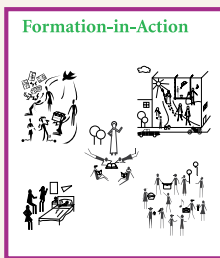
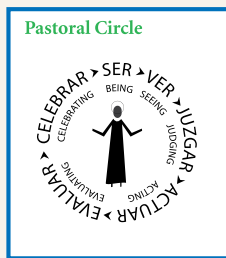


The Prophets of Hope model promotes adolescents and young adults engaging as leaders in a ministry that is communitarian, evangelizing, and missionary; that builds the Reign of God; and that is a living example of justice and peace.

- It fosters a pastoral ministry that is rooted in a profound personal and communal relationship with God, incarnated in the cultural context of the young, and open to the diversity of cultures.
- It offers young people a holistic, progressive, and systematic formation that favors a process of spiritual, psychological, social, and intellectual maturation, enriching their life and work as Christian leaders in church and society.

- It adapts to the ages of the participants through the collaboration of adults prepared to serve as coordinators in ministry with adolescents, and as advisers in ministry with single young adults.

At the heart of the model lies a **Christocentric spirituality** that, founded on the Word of God, animates and guides all pastoral and formative actions. Following the **Pastoral Circle** and a methodology of **formation-in-action**, the model promotes the development of faith communities in a Church seen as a **community of communities**. Each community lives its journey of faith responding to the five **dimensions of reality** in the lives of the young. The members plan and implement their pastoral efforts according to the six **characteristics of a comprehensive ministry**, in a spirit of **communion in mission** with other communities and ministries in the parish and diocese. In the community, they learn to offer their gifts through **shared leadership and responsibility** for the good of the Church and society.



The Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes by Fe y Vida

*Abraham Solar
Director of Hispanic Ministry
Saint Vincent de Paul Parish—Petaluma, CA
Former Member of Fe y Vida Board of Directors and Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

Speaking about Instituto Fe y Vida reminds me of Jesus feeding five thousand people through the multiplication of five loaves and two fish brought forth from the people (Mt 14:13-20). This same multiplication occurs when the gifts God gives Hispanic youth and young adult leaders come in contact with the spirit, professionalism, dedication, and numerous training opportunities offered by the Institute.

My history with Fe y Vida is long and a very important part of my life. I was offered employment in my parish after participating in the summer program of 1996. I reconnected with the Institute a few years later when it began to offer advanced level seminars for me and for all who needed that level of studies to be effective in our ministry. In 2003, I began to serve as part of the Fe y Vida Pastoral Team.

I also served as a member of the Board from 2005 to 2011. It was a great learning experience and I was able to share with other Board members the fruits of the excellent formation, research, and leadership training that Fe y Vida offers

thousands of leaders working with young Catholic Latinos in the United States.

Fe y Vida has been a great blessing for the Diocese of Santa Rosa. In the absence of diocesan staff serving Hispanic young people, graduates of Fe y Vida programs have exercised leadership to meet the pastoral needs of our young people. With the support of the Office of Youth Ministry, we repeatedly obtained funds to bring more Fe y Vida programs to the diocese, to send young adult leaders to its Summer Program, and to train a team of trainers that now offers Fe y Vida's *Pastoral Juvenil* Course in several regions of the diocese.

In addition to teaching and preparing young Catholics to be prophets of hope, Fe y Vida accompanies young leaders in their journey of faith and service. Through continuous formation and mentoring, our gifts multiply and help people in our parishes to support each other and overcome the challenges they face in daily life and in their pastoral work.



Thanks for having laid the foundation for a comprehensive, communitarian, evangelizing and missionary ministry among our young people and for forming trainers and adult advisers to support it. Thank you for these 20 years of love for our Hispanic youth and young adults and for your continuous support of those of us who were shaped and formed by your programs and are now serving in parishes and dioceses.

Elizabeth Torres

*Director, Religious Education and Youth and Young Adult Ministry
St. Aloysius Parish, Toppenish, WA*

National Leadership Programs

- 2002 - Dickinson, TX
- 2003 - Leavenworth, KS
- 2004 - Milwaukee, WI



Fe y Vida's Impact on my Leadership

Ricardo Veloz
Director, Office of Pastoral Juvenil, Diocese of Raleigh
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

In 1999, my life changed. I was invited to serve as Coordinator of *Pastoral Juvenil* in the Diocese of Charlotte. I lacked the experience, pastoral formation, and guidance for fulfilling this role; all that I had was my involvement as a young leader in *Pastoral Juvenil*, in Mexico.

Fr. Vicente Finnerty, Director of Hispanic Ministry, sent me to be trained. In 2001, I participated in the Seminar for Ministry with Latino Adolescents, offered by Fe y Vida in its Summer Program at Los Angeles. After that, I attended several seminars focused on different subjects. As I applied what that I learned, I lived a "formation-in-action process" that I replicated with young leaders in the Diocese, creating a dynamic and life-giving *Pastoral Juvenil* for our parishes.

In 2004, thanks to a grant obtained by Fe y Vida, we presented the Formation Course on *Pastoral Juvenil* at two different sites within the diocese. This course offered catechetical foundations and pastoral skills to the young adult leaders who participated.

When, in 2006, I experienced the Leadership Symposium, I became even more aware of the tremendous value of the Prophets of Hope model. The participation of a group of young adult leaders in the Symposium was an energizing and integrating force for our ministry.

With the knowledge and skills that I learned from Fe y Vida, I began to create programs for young people and their parents, and to develop resources for peer ministry, during my free time. In 2009, when I was hired as Director of *Pastoral Juvenil* for the Diocese of Raleigh, I brought not only knowledge and experience to lead the ministry, but also resources to support young leaders.

I am very pleased that Fe y Vida has invited me to coordinate three Symposia and teach three seminars at the national level. I also have been able to contribute to ministry with young Latinos in the South East through SEPI—South East Pastoral Institute. In 2014, I was invited to present the *Pastoral Juvenil* in Raleigh, as a national best practice, in the Raíces y Alas Congress, in San Antonio.

Thanks to Fe y Vida's Leadership Formation System and to the support of Carmen Cervantes and the staff, I have been able to develop as a Christian, Catholic leader, presenter, and writer. *May God continue to bless Fe y Vida's mission to serve Latino young people through the formation of pastoral leaders in our Church!*



National Leadership Programs

- 2005 - Wheeling, WV
- 2006 - Dickinson, TX
- 2007 - Leavenworth, KS



Fe y Vida

Bridges and Enhances my Pastoral Experiences

*Rev. Alejandro López-Cardinale
RENEW International
President of La RED
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

During the past eight years, I have had the grace of being part of the Pastoral Team of Fe y Vida, and being the chaplain of several National Leadership Programs. This has allowed me to take up again one of the areas in which I had exercised my pastoral ministry as a diocesan priest in South America: youth and young adult ministry, but now in the reality of Latinos in the United States.

I credit Fe y Vida for enabling me to create a bridge between the experience I carried over from my ministry with youth and young adults in Latin America (*Pastoral Juvenil*) and in the United States. In fact, becoming the current president of the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana—La RED, is a testament to the powerful influence and respect that Instituto Fe y Vida has among my colleagues.

Collaborating as an instructor, as a writer of the team of writers of the series *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús* [Weekly Dialogues with Jesus], and as a chaplain of the National Leadership Formation Program, has enriched both my personal and ministerial life, and the life of the young people we serve. I firmly believe that the Pastoral Circle from the

Prophets of Hope model is a valid path for bringing about many fruits in the practice of *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*.

One of my dreams, among many, is that the young people who come into contact with Fe y Vida are enabled to become pastoral leaders in their parishes, dioceses, and episcopal regions. Another dream is that these young people are encouraged to study and do practical and pastoral theology in their neighborhoods, and that they are animated to find the presence of Jesus in their midst.

As the president of La RED, one of the greatest joys I have, as we celebrate these first 20 years, is to recognize the pastoral and professional leadership Fe y Vida has developed continuously in several cohorts of young people in the United States and to observe the maturity they have reached. Their courage and joy is, without a doubt, a gentle breeze of hope for all who strive to serve and to strengthen Hispanic Ministry in this country.

Happy Anniversary!
Ad multos annos!

My job at Fe y Vida began as a case of mistaken identity. I received an email from Carmen asking if I'd be interested in a position that was about to open. The only problem was that the email was addressed to someone else! Since we had known each other for a number of years, I called Carmen to let her know that I had received the email erroneously. But as our conversation continued, it drifted back to the job opportunity, and I became more and more interested. Well, at the end of the hour-long phone call, and since the other person never actually received the email, Carmen offered me the position and I accepted it!

Working at Fe y Vida was like being immersed in a family dedicated to Hispanic young people in the U.S. and committed to a mission that is pivotal to the Church in the United States. I experienced the warmth of their devotion to that mission and a determination to take on the immensity of the task at hand. May the Holy Spirit keep guiding them and may

God bless their every effort with the Pastoral Juvenil Hispana.



Sylvia L. Sánchez, MA

*Associate Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of St. Petersburg
Former Director of Instituto Fe y Vida Development and Institutional Advancement*

Walking with Strength, Hope, and Commitment

Alicia Avilés

*Pastoral Adviser and Instructor, Houston, TX
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*



When we drink from the *fountain of knowledge* and discover the gifts, talents, and potential that God planted in us before we were born, there is no turning back on our mission to bring about the Reign of God in our surroundings. This *knowledge* is the same Spirit of God.

I have seen our leaders in Hispanic Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston drink deeply from that fountain and help many others to share in God's word and work. All this and more has happened largely thanks to the solid and comprehensive formation offered to us by Instituto Fe y Vida since 1997.

I am a witness to hundreds and hundreds of young people who have benefited from training that has empowered them to lead effectively in the Church and in society, with vision and hope. Three National Leadership Programs, three Certification Programs, seminars in different disciplines, biblical formation, and training of trainers . . . have produced countless fruits.

Because they are so well formed, young adults have taken on roles in archdiocesan and parish ministry, and have succeeded in them. Now they train more young people and, with great zeal, continue to accompany and encourage youth ministry. Large numbers of young adults help transform society, leading many to embrace Gospel values and strive constantly for justice in employment, education, and government. Thanks to God and the dedication of Fe y Vida, today a team of local trainers offers the Formation Course on *Pastoral Juvenil* and there is a growing corps of leaders doing Biblical Ministry.

May our God of Life continue to fill all who are part of Fe y Vida with a passion to always be bearers of Fe y Vida (Faith and Life) for the next 100 years!



The shared leadership approach and the rotation of roles and responsibilities, taught me that we all have much to contribute, and it is a way to foster personal and professional growth. It helps to build self-esteem, improves relationships and fellowship, better distributes the workload and enables each one to respond effectively to an emergency.

As a business manager, I have supervised many people with different skills, abilities, and attitudes toward work and life. What I learned at Fe y Vida, I applied to my civic profession, and it has been a great source of satisfaction to see employees who were about to be dismissed from other teams, find their place and discover the motivation to learn and improve. So often, no one had properly trained them and given them the tools for success; as a result, they felt they had nothing to contribute.

Fe y Vida does an excellent job of teaching us how to develop the gifts and leadership of others. In my case, it has helped me to train people in the workplace, with gospel values and Christian attitudes. Certainly, this is a big step beyond the parish youth group!

Rafael Visoso

*Director, Food & Nutrition Program
Saint Francis International School, Silver Spring, MD
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*



A Way Of Life: “Love God with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself”

*Vilma Pardo, MA, LPC
Houston, TX
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

My friends often hear me say that Jesus was a great psychologist. I say that with a conviction that generates reflection and the attempt to live the principle that he gave us: “Love God with all your heart... and your neighbor as yourself” (Lk 10:27). From the perspective of human development, this instruction speaks of balance, respect, self-esteem, and empathy . . . a way of life!

For 20 years, I have seen many young people go through formation at Instituto Fe y Vida. Some are shy and introverted at the beginning; others are outspoken, extroverts, and ready to lead. They come from different cultural, socio-economic, religious, and historical realities, but all come with faith, energy, optimism, joy, ideals, and goals. Most importantly, they come with a thirst for human formation, spiritual development, and training for effective peer ministry.

When they bring strong family foundations, the formation process strengthens their own psychosocial development, enriches their experience and brings new knowledge for their own benefit and that of their community. Unfortunately, many young people come from homes or social environments marked by neglect, violence, alcoholism, parental absence due to immigration. . . . They bring a deep pain that they

themselves cannot identify, feel attacked by the world or are filled with despair because they are repeating behaviors that hurt others. Each story is different, but the suffering is the same!

Fe y Vida is convinced that its mission is to promote the emotional maturity of young leaders and adult advisers, or they, too, will experience the consequences of psychosocial deficiencies in their lives, in their families and in their community. For that reason, it constantly offers courses and processes on human development.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of being a member of Fe y Vida’s faculty is when—after a long academic journey—a young person or an adult, often with tears in their eyes, and a smile of hope comes to me and says: “Thanks, I needed to hear that” or, “I will seek psychological help without feeling ashamed.” These words are priceless!

Thank you, Fe y Vida, for letting me teach something so beautiful, simple and profound that can transform so many lives and affirm them in the path of holiness: “Love God with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself.” I pray that the next 20 years are as life giving!

National Leadership Programs

- 2008 - Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 - Seattle, WA
- 2010 - Leavenworth, KS



Instituto Fe y Vida's Impact on my Journey as a Lay Ecclesial Minister

Jesús Ábrego

*Director of Hispanic Ministry—Diocese of Beaumont
Former Member of Fe y Vida Board of Directors and Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

I first encountered Fe y Vida in 1997, when I was a young adult leader in *Pastoral Juvenil* in my diocese. I organized my ministry using the model I had brought from Mexico, since that was all I knew.

The Leadership Symposium in Houston helped me a lot. I became aware of the reality of the Church in the United States, which is very different from that in my home country. The Institute's shared leadership system fascinated me. The focus on the holistic development of young people, not solely on their spiritual growth, encouraged and motivated me.

After three of us from the diocese participated in that memorable week, we returned home and implemented what we learned. Latino youth and young adult groups grew and multiplied, and we watched Mexican-Americans join Mexican immigrants in our groups and retreats. As a Jesuit, Bishop Galante asked me to work for the diocese, but I declined due to my limited understanding of the U.S. Catholic Church.

My participation in Fe y Vida programs led me to accept his invitation to serve as Assistant Director of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry, then as Associate Director and, five years ago, as Director of Hispanic Ministry.

For several years, I was a member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team. I collaborated in its summer programs and offered courses in different dioceses. Because of this experience, I was able to serve as President of the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana—La RED, and as a member of Fe y Vida Board of Directors, where I contributed to building the future of the organization from a strategic position.

My personal, professional, spiritual, and pastoral development have been positively impacted by Fe y Vida. The same is true of many other Hispanic leaders. I pray to God that the Institute may further expand its programs and services to the Hispanic community in our U.S. Catholic Church.



Inauguration of the "Carmen M. Cervantes Award" by the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana - La RED, for Young Adult Leaders in Ministry with Hispanic Youth and Young Adults; presented to Carmen by Jesús Ábrego, President of La RED (R). Fr. Mario Viscaino, SchP, Director of the South East Pastoral Institute (SEPI) (L).



Instituto Fe y Vida, when translated into English, adds a preposition that it is not totally implied in the Spanish: Institute for Faith and Life. For over 20 years it has fostered faith and life in a culture that does not connect them. Many participants in its programs are testimony to how faith and life feed each other.

For more than 10 years as a student and as a professor, I encountered Christ in the voices and faces of the young people who come to the trainings. Christ is present in their passion, energy, joy and bold desire to learn about their faith, how the gift of the Father impacts their life and how they can be transformed. I have also been blessed to encounter the suffering Christ in the lives of so many young people who come to Fe y Vida carrying heavy crosses: loneliness, low self-esteem, addictions, violence, racism...

During the trainings, we all become vulnerable to each other. The prayers, pastoral process, group activities and discussions, lead to healing and transformation. The questions, comments, experiences and discussions lead young people to a better understanding of their faith, themselves, and their lives as testimony of faith.

Each component plays a significant role, with God-Spirit being in constant action and manifested through the lives of the participants. Their prophetic voices find a safe space to build and plan; to heal and transform; to denounce and tear down; to encounter their inner Christ, to become light, to become Church. We all come to the trainings carrying our heavy crosses. The experience transforms us into living testimonies of faith and life

Edgar Ramírez, MA, MDiv

*Director of Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Austin
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

Instituto Fe y Vida

Equipping the Church to Live the Pastoral Circle

Ken Johnson-Mondragón, DMin Cand
 Director, Latino Research and Development, RCL Benzinger
 Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team



One of the hallmarks of Hispanic ministry for the last 40+ years has been the use of the Pastoral Circle methodology. From its inception 20 years ago, Fe y Vida has led the effort to adapt the use of this methodology for ministry with Latino youth and young adults.

In Fe y Vida's adaptation, the Circle begins with a step, called "being," which reinforces their identity as Latino young people in the U.S., and as Christians who are members of the Catholic Church. Only from a situation of strength, can they follow the other steps in the Circle with secure footing, broaden their horizons, and establish intercultural, ecumenical, and interreligious relationships in the various environments in which their life takes place. Through the work of Fe y Vida, thousands of ministers and young adult leaders have learned to employ the Pastoral Circle as a way to strengthen their leadership skills and develop pastoral programs that respond to the most pressing needs in the communities they serve.

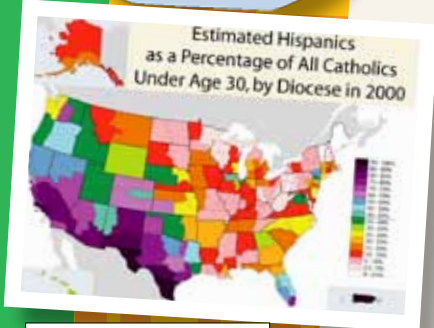
When I joined Fe y Vida's staff in 1999, it had a well-earned reputation for enabling grassroots leaders to do effective pastoral planning based on a critical analysis of their experience in each local setting. However, higher-level pastoral leaders in parishes and dioceses often lacked an in-depth personal experience of ministry in the Hispanic community. As a result, we heard countless stories of how our motivated and trained young leaders had been stymied by well-intentioned pastors and other ministers who directed them unto unfruitful pathways.

About that time, the data from the 2000 Census began to show that the U.S. Hispanic population had grown faster than anyone had expected. The problem was that there was no data to help pastoral leaders understand what this rapid growth

meant for their ministry. To fill this gap, Fe y Vida established the National Research and Resource Center for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Our first report was prepared for a gathering of the bishops of the California Catholic Conference in 2001. Other important milestones include:

- Consultation services to the Program for the Analysis of Religion Among Latinos (PARAL)
- A national map of the percentage of young Catholics who were Hispanic in 2000, by diocese
- Consultation and analysis of the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) Hispanic data
- Research design and data analysis for the Primer Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana
- Publication of *Pathways of Hope and Faith Among Hispanic Teens*, based on the NSYR
- Contributor to three symposia on Hispanic ministry and the Emerging Models of Parish Leadership
- Advocated for and led the design and implementation of national standards for the certification of leaders in *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*

The result of Fe y Vida's research and advocacy has been a heightened awareness of the importance of Hispanic ministry in general—and *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* in particular—for the future of the Catholic Church in the United States. Fe y Vida also has laid the foundation for a more effective use of the Pastoral Circle methodology, from the grassroots to the national level. In addition, pastoral leaders throughout the country have learned how to support and form their Latino young people for effective ministry in the Church and leadership in society. I pray that Fe y Vida's pioneering work in this area will continue to bear fruit for the next 20 years and beyond!



My Happy 15-Year Encounter with Instituto Fe y Vida

*Christian Smith, PhD
Professor of Sociology
Director, Center for the Study of Religion and Society
University of Notre Dame*

Fifteen years ago, I had never heard of Instituto Fe y Vida, but am happy now that I was then introduced to Fe y Vida and its good work. In 1999, I was just exploring the possibility of developing a major project studying the religious and spiritual lives of American teenagers—which eventually became the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. While brainstorming the research possibilities with officers from Lilly, I asked which existing groups already did good work studying the faith of young people in the U.S. Among the names suggested by the good people at Lilly was Fe y Vida.

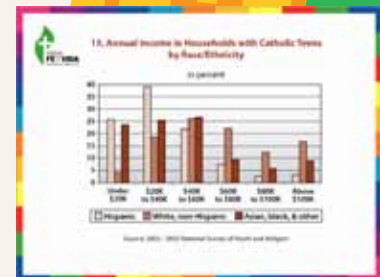
I contacted Dr. Carmen Cervantes and invited her to serve on a Public Advisory Board for my NSYR project, which she accepted. That was the start of a fruitful formal and informal collaboration, which I am happy to say, continues to this day. I remember Carmen's contributions in early planning meetings of that Board as being especially important and helpful.

Fe y Vida quickly became the main go-to resource for advice and input on research on Hispanic Catholic youth. We appreciated and benefitted from the Fe y Vida staff's expertise and readiness to help. Ken Johnson-Mondragon became a valuable researcher for our study.

Our relationship with Ken continued as we had many important discussions about key issues related to our research findings.

From this early relationship developed a formal collaborative partnership between NSYR and Fe y Vida. My project subcontracted with Fe y Vida to produce an anthology of articles based on analyses and pastoral reflections of NSYR findings, as they related to Hispanic youth in particular—*Pathways of Hope and Faith Among Hispanic Teens: Pastoral Reflections and Strategies Inspired by the National Study of Youth and Religion*, edited by Ken Johnson-Mondragón. Dr. Edwin Hernández and other authors, brought Protestant Latino concerns to an ecumenical dialogue.

Very rarely does a major social-science study engage the skills and insights of ministry- and church-related scholars to produce such a "crossover" publication. But the interested and able personnel at Fe y Vida made the publication of that resource possible, and we have good reason to believe that it has served young people and the Church well. Fe y Vida has added to my own scholarly life, and I look forward to ongoing discussions and collaborations.



I first came to know the Instituto through their superb Prophets of Hope series of publications, and I have grown in admiration of their work ever since. Their research and contributions to the formation of young people and those who accompany them is of course unparalleled. Incarnating the vision of Ecclesia in America and our popes and bishops, they are also noteworthy for their capacity to bridge Latin America and the United States while also addressing the particular context of U.S. church and society. Instituto Fe y Vida embodies a model of pastoral ministry that leaders from any apostolate do well to imitate.

¡Feliz aniversario, y muchos años más!

Timothy Matovina, PhD
Director, Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame
Author of "Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church"



Tira La Red (Cast The Net) is Increasing its Effectiveness Thanks to Fe y Vida

*José Funes
Coordinator of Formation, Adviser and Trainer in the Ministry of Tira la Red,
the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Young Latinos, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.*

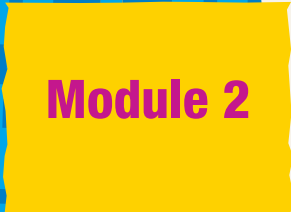
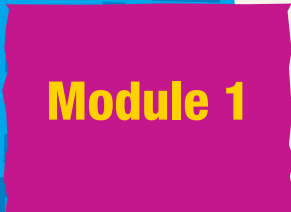
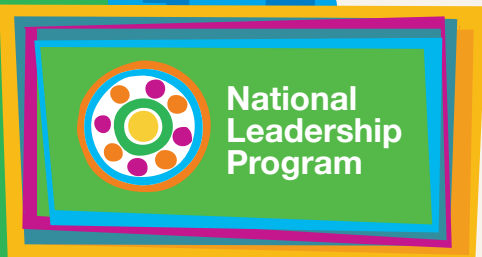
I currently serve as the Coordinator of Formation in Tira La Red (Cast The Net). We are the Charismatic Renewal for Latino Young People in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C.

The impact of Module 1 dealing with “Spirituality, theory and praxis in ministry at the institutional level” is already evident in the actions of Tira La Red. Our leadership team decided that we wanted to be “thoroughly trained educators” in order to better form and help our young people to be transformational leaders as they may encounter challenges in their respective ways of life. We also decided that we will work as one body, the body of Christ, following the vision of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the United States. We also learned to value and appreciate more our mission as lay ministers in the building of the God’s Reign, here and now, by helping other young people transform their life.

I’ve participated three times in Instituto Fe y Vida’s national program, and I have always learned a lot and discovered new approaches to my ministry. Today, I would like to highlight the greatest contributions from the two training modules on pastoral leadership at the institutional level; they have helped us to grow as good leaders and be firmer in our ministry of forming and developing young disciples of Jesus.

One of our biggest challenges is the culture of young Hispanics born in the United States and we are using the knowledge and resources acquired at Instituto Fe y Vida to support them. Lastly, I’d like to recommend Instituto Fe y Vida to all leaders of youth and young adult groups, at the parish or diocesan levels, and especially to leaders of youth and young adult groups in the Charismatic Renewal. You will not regret it! Fe y Vida doesn’t only form prophets of hope, they also walk with them, becoming family, while uniting us all in faith.

Since our ministry was growing significantly, Module 2 dealing with “Administrative matters, program coordination and handling of human and financial resources” helped us greatly in improving our accounting process and fundraising activities. Thanks to the donations we received, we were able to carry out our second Mission trip to Nicaragua. Our financial reality improved, our planning became more organized, and our communication is now more effective. This module also helped us take the first step in order to collaborate with the Director of Evangelization and Youth and Young Adult Initiatives in our Archdiocese. The advice received from the presenters at the training module, to create a network and partner with people in other ministries, was a precious treasure that is bearing many good fruits.



National Leadership Programs

- 2014 - Austin, TX
- 2015 - Romeoville, IL
- 2016 - Romeoville, IL



My Five Years of Developing *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*

María Pilar Cervantes Gutiérrez
Member of Fe y Vida Biblical Editorial Team
San Luis Potosi, Mexico

I would like to share the great blessings that I received as one of the major collaborators in the development of *La Biblia Católica Para Jóvenes (BCJ)*, a study Bible for young Latinos. Since the impact this work had on my faith and my life can be understood only in the context of my life, I provide some background to appreciate it.

From an early age, I have been hungry for the Word of God, which is the joy and strength of my heart. Despite suffering from chronic fatigue and frequent health crises since I was a toddler, I studied in the university and worked at the same time. Hugging the Bible while crying was of great comfort on many occasions. The Church reveres Sacred Scripture as much as the body of Christ (Dei Verbum 21), a truth that was very tangible for me: when I hugged the Bible, I embraced the very presence of Jesus, who little by little filled me with the necessary strength to go on.

When I studied the Scriptures, it was a real joy to acquire the tools to interpret the texts and to understand the notes in the Jerusalem Bible. Following God's call, I joined a contemplative congregation, regardless of my very poor health. In the convent, I had more advanced biblical courses that broadened my conceptual horizons and allowed me to delve into the Word of God. This experience was enriched by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as I used the Sacred Scripture to support my dialogue with Jesus.

With the grace of the Holy Spirit, I began to develop a solid vision of the history of salvation, relying on the writings of the Fathers of the Church. Scripture lit up my life and my spirituality. Like Job, I suffered intensely when my health prevented me from fully living the

life of the community and when I could not continue my contemplative life, due to my illnesses. Years later, I was consecrated in the order of Consecrated Virgins, to always belong only to Jesus and remain at the service of the Reign of God.

Then I was invited to collaborate with Instituto Fe y Vida, directed by my older sister. My first job was as a librarian and later as an editor. When the Institute began to plan for publishing a Bible, similar to *The Catholic Youth Bible* published by Saint Mary Press, in a version that would respond to the yearnings and questions of Latino young people in the United States and Latin America, I was invited to be part of the team. My heart was deeply touched and I became passionate about this project.

My role was to coordinate a team of biblical scholars and catechists from Latin America, and do editorial development. They submitted their work to me, and I would enrich it and bring it all together. Since my language was too theological, I benefitted from the help of a lay person who helped me to make adjustments in the text so that she could understand what I had written. A team of catechists and pastoral ministers in the United States, with extensive experience in working with Latino young people from all the Americas, revised, edited and complemented my work.

It was a journey filled with enthusiasm. The *BCJ* came together like a puzzle with many different parts brought in by a very diverse team of people, all united by our passion for the Word of God and our commitment to young people. Sometimes I wonder where I got the strength to work so many hours a day amid the tiredness and the pain that are part of my life.



I came to appreciate and understand that my years in the Congregation deepened and expanded my knowledge of the Scriptures, and gave me the opportunity to be part of the New Evangelization of young people. I realized that God was calling me to make this contribution to *pastoral juvenil*, which closed the circle of my passion for the Word of God and of my professional studies.

Shortly after the *BCJ* was completed, we started the publication of the series *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús* [Weekly Dialogues with Jesus], a *lectio divina*

adapted for ministry with young people. I received so much inner life through both projects! I wish my health would let me continue working the same way! I thank God that I can still collaborate as a consultant on smaller projects, and I pray that the Lord will continue to bless the Biblical Pastoral Ministry of Instituto Fe y Vida.

Writing for the *BCJ* was a turning point in my entire life. I learned so much with this project. My spiritual life changed. Well, my entire life changed! Thank you, Jesus!

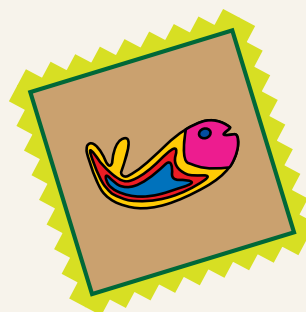
Thank you for a Very Fruitful Collaboration!

*Rev. Adam Grontziel, SVD, Administrative Director;
Rev. Guillermo Santamaría, SVD, Editorial Director
Editorial Verbo Divino, Spain*

In May of 2000, at the beginning of spring, we were able to share with Dr. Carmen Cervantes, Executive Director of Instituto Fe y Vida, the exciting project of preparing a Bible for youth and young adult Latinos in the United States and Latin America. That dream became a reality in yet another spring, in 2005, when *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* [The Catholic Bible for Young People], was presented to the Episcopal Conference of the United States, and to the young people who now have a way to find, in God's Word, the light that illuminates their journey.

For more than 12 years, a fruitful collaboration has marked the relationship between Instituto Fe y Vida and Editorial Verbo Divino. Two words sum up this journey: THANK YOU! Thanks to the good God who directed our steps to work together. Thanks to Fe y Vida for their excellent work. And thanks to all the young people who have found in the Bible a new enthusiasm for living their life in the same style as the Lord Jesus.

Congratulations to Instituto Fe y Vida for these 20 years of service for the Reign of God. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. We pray to God that this adventure may continue for many more years.



A Bible for Those Who Are in Love

Tarcisio Gaitán, CP
Professor of Sacred Scriptures
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellín, Colombia



Why another Bible? What makes it so different from the others? And what is so youthful about this one called *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes (BCJ)* [The Catholic Bible for Young People]?

The good news is that it presents from its very cover the embrace of Jesus, full of vitality, colorfulness and joyfulness. Jesus, the Word that summons, the fountain of life, the slain and victorious Lamb, Sacramental Bread and Wine, Sun of humanity. Jesus, salt and pepper in the life of every human being.

Yes. Good News, because much thought and preparation has gone into the creation of this Bible and each one of its commentaries. With its honest and simple language, it invites us to leap over the mountains and hills of what sometimes could be overwhelming scholarly language like the text of the fawn in Song of Songs. It is well worth entering into prayer with the suggestions for the Our Father, or the reflection about Mercy in Luke 15. It is very timely to ponder the relationship that might exist between the silent, yet decisive action of the midwives who refused to kill the innocent children in Exodus 1, and article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

How could we not be grateful to the Fe y Vida for bringing clarity to such difficult issues as Catholic veneration of images or the importance of liturgical and home altars? And how not to be grateful for having a Bible version in our language that has the honesty to reflect about the patriarchal society in which the Sacred Scriptures were written, supplemented with another reflection about sexism during biblical times as well as in our own, along with another reflection about quiet women in the Scriptures?

It is an incomplete Bible, however. The commentaries generally leave us in suspense or with unanswered questions. Yet that is precisely a successful way for engaging the reader, yet another of one of the many positive attributes of the *BCJ*. Our task as readers is to fill in those gaps and by filling them, make the Word a part of our daily lives. And I say *our* as opposed to *the youth* or *the young adults* because with such exquisite text and appropriate tools, this is definitely not just a Bible for youth. It is a Bible for lovers, people who love God, others, and the Word!

I really like *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* and how it explains God's Word: It is like going deep into something of which you want more and more . . . I am studying it and I do not want to stop. It is wonderful nourishment because it feeds my sight, my mind, my heart, and my soul. It is also helping me a lot in the catechism classes I teach to small children, because it is easier to find the words I should use, so they can understand me better.

—Martín, Young Adult Catechist, Argentina

After the training in San Luis Potosí, we started using *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* and *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús* [Weekly Dialogues with Jesus], in our youth and young adult groups. Young people are thrilled about being educated directly by God's Word and Jesus' teachings, and are integrating his messages in their life. . . . Using the Dialogues books has been very enriching, because of its participative and active approach, as well as the focus of their reflections. Thanks for these wonderful resources to be closer to Jesus, the Great Teacher. Continue your good work; young people are receiving it extraordinarily well.

—Alejandra Alvarado, Mexico

ENTRA EN ORACIÓN

La fuerza del Siervo de Dios

En el tercer poema del Siervo, el Señor está totalmente consciente de su misión y su destino. Continúa su ministerios sin desfallecer cuando lo enfrentan sus enemigos. Lee Isaías 50 4-9 y piensa en cómo refleja el Servidor la relación de Jesús con su Padre celestial. Después medita los versos que te inspiran y ora con ellos; pide a Dios que te fortalezca para ser profeta entre los jóvenes. Si estas en un grupo, aprovecha para hacer una oración comunitaria. Puedes seguir el esquema de la sección «Reflexión y oración en comunidad», pp. 41-42.

Is 50 4-9

¿SABÍAS QUÉ...?

El «Cristo Cósmico»

El inicio de este evangelios es como un pórtico de gloria en honor de Jesús, Dios hecho hombre para vivir con nosotros. Proclama a Jesús como la *palabra* o *logos*, la manera hebrea de expresar que «el decir y el hacer» de Dios van siempre de la mano y un termino de la sabiduría griega para designar a dios. Jesús existe desde toda la eternidad, en unidad con el Padre, y es Dios como él; por él, por Jesús, fue creado el universo entero. Después se hizo uno de nosotros para poder nos decir quién es Dios. Solo el nos puede revelar cómo es Dios, puesto que es su Hijo único, la Palabra hecha carne. La inigualable proeza de Dios es ser adorado por todo el mundo a pesar de que nadie lo ha visto jamás. Juan conoce a Dios porque su Hijo único nos lo ha revelado. Lo que es muy triste y así lo expresa Juan, es que la palabra «vino a los suyos, y los suyos no la recibieron» (Jn 1 11). Tú eres de Dios. ¿Lo conoces bien? ¿Lo has recibido en tu corazón? ¿Tiene un lugar importante en tu vida? ¿Has hecho algo para que tus amigos lo reciban? La iglesia tiene como misión llevar a Jesús a toda la humanidad. Como miembro de la iglesia, ¿qué parte tomas tú en esta misión?

Jn 1 1-18



It Was a Privilege to Compose the Theme Song of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*

Martín Valverde
Catholic Musician and Composer, Mexico-Costa Rica

My colleagues at Dynamis and this humble servant, are convinced that it was a privilege to be invited to contribute to the biblical project of Instituto Fe y Vida by composing the theme song and producing a video based on it. It surely was a true gift from God.

When I came across *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, I was very surprised because, at first glance, you can see two things that differentiate it. First, its audience is young people. The Word of God is for everyone, but this presentation risked taking it to very special people, for whom the Word is vital to their survival: the young, with whom I work with all the time, and who need to be presented with the Word of God, as a friend for life.

Second, it caught my attention that no matter the page the Bible is opened to, the concepts, words, thoughts and design will serve as traffic signs would

on a new road. The result is that you do not close it the first time you do not understand what it means, but you keep drinking the life-giving message that God has for you.

So it was easy to think of a song. The motto of the *BCJ* is very clear and I devoted myself and the song to it: "Live it, know it, and make it part of your prayer." This is not an advertisement, but my personal experience with the Scriptures, so it was very easy to express it through music.

I have adolescent children and regularly work with young people. I am convinced that, in a world where more and more darkness has so much publicity, the *BCJ* serves as a light for all young people who are waiting to hear the Word of God.

We thank God for allowing us, in a small way, to participate musically in this beautiful project.



I came to Instituto Fe y Vida Leadership Program because of a relationship I had established with Carmen Cervantes in Colombia, when we were looking for a Bible to give to our students, and discovered La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes. Then, I participated in the training for Animación Bíblica de la Pastoral Juvenil [Biblical Animation of Pastoral Juvenil], which Carmen offered in Bogota.

This has been a wonderful tool for the development of our formation processes at Central de Juventudes.

Then, I proposed to offer the same training to all the diocesan leaders in Pastoral Juvenil in Colombia. With the support of Fe y Vida, we conducted a course at the Episcopal Conference for 100 delegates from the different dioceses in our country. Later, the same program was offered for the pastoral leaders of the Andean region, which includes Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. At Central de Juventudes, we continue to offer the training on a yearly basis.

Héctor Hugo Tabares
Managing Director, Projects and Formation
Central de Juventudes, Bogota, Colombia

Weekly Dialogues with Jesus

Enrich the Life and the Eucharist of Young People

Julia Vázquez de Sánchez
 Adviser and Trainer in Pastoral Juvenil, Saratoga, FL
 Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

It has been a great joy to implement the Prophets of Hope model and foster Fe y Vida's Biblical Pastoral Ministry in my own work. Being a member of the Pastoral Team has helped me to grow as a person, mother, and trainer.

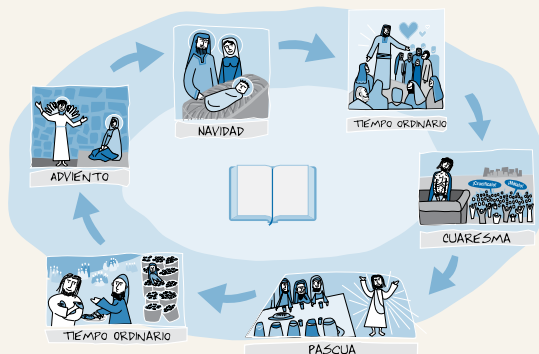
On this occasion, I am highlighting the impact of *lectio divina* in the lives of young people through the series Diálogos Semanales con Jesús [Weekly Dialogues with Jesus] because of its countless fruits. I used it as a base for Confirmation formation in my *Pastoral Juvenil* in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. It filled my own spirit to see how the youth would drink in the Word of God and make it theirs during the *lectio divina* exercises centered on the Sunday readings. The Eucharist acquired such a deep meaning for them with the liturgical commentaries and reflections in the books.

This is why I was thrilled by the vision of Leonardo Jaramillo, Director of Religious Education at Nuestra Señora de las Américas Catholic Mission in Atlanta, to base Confirmation preparation on the *Diálogos*. When I arrived to conduct the third training session, a group of over ninety catechists had already been working with them in small communities where they were hungry to learn more about didactic aspects, as the first two trainings were focused on pastoral theological aspects.

Those catechists were having the same experience as I did: seeing new horizons opening up for the youth as they facilitated the *lectio divina*. They began to see how, each week, they would bring the Gospels to life and celebrate Mass well prepared. They realized that, by dialoging with Jesus, they were falling in love with him, and—as they grew in their understanding of God's Word—they were being evangelized in addition to being catechized. These youths would no longer be celebrating Confirmation to leave the Church; they were acquiring a true sense of the Sacrament as a rite of passage to a more mature faith as young people nurtured by the Word of God and the Eucharist.

In addition, the catechists began to see that these books were helping them learn how to reflect on and make the Gospel part of their daily living, as well as live the Mass with greater meaning and depth. Thus, it wasn't long before the adults in the Misión de las Américas also began to take advantage of the *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús* to grow in their own faith and spirituality.

May God touch minds and hearts in other parishes to offer the opportunity to learn this new language for an evangelizing catechesis in our adolescents, their parents and catechists, just as it happened at Misión de Nuestra Señora de las América in Atlanta!



CICLO A



CICLO B



CICLO C

Encountering Christ in Young People through Fe y Vida's Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults

*Nadia Jara-Rosales
Executive Assistant to Clergy
Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, Spring, TX, and Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*



Being a young adult member of the Fe y Vida Pastoral Team, has helped me to grow in my faith. But what has been more precious is the encounter with Jesus in the young people that live the Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults that I helped facilitate first in Costa Rica and then in Mexico.

In the Biblical Mission, young people are the evangelizers of their peers, as they present Jesus' words based on John's Gospel where Jesus introduces himself as "I am the way," "I am the Good Shepherd," "I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Vine. . ." In teams of four: two evangelizers and two hosts, they assume the leadership of the Mission, transmit to their peers what they learned, and become witnesses of Jesus teachings.

In Latin America, I was part of a team. In Houston, at first, I was frightened by the magnitude of the endeavor. With the support of the Diocesan Director of Young Adult Ministry and the Associate Director of *Pastoral Juvenil*, I trained a team of 12 young evangelizers and 12 young hosts to implement the Mission in six parishes.

We celebrated the Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults in 2011. It was such a great experience that young people continue talking about it to this present day, and they have facilitated many more Missions in their own parishes. I wish and I pray that the formation work of young Hispanics through the programs of Instituto Fe y Vida will continue for many years to come, both here in the USA and in Central and South America as well.



Welcome Home!

*Juan Escarfuller, MA, MDiv
Coordinator, Salud con la Familia Research Project,
Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

At breakfast on the morning when I arrived to facilitate the final classes of the four-weekend-long course: "La Biblia desde la perspectiva de los jóvenes" [*The Bible through the eyes of young latinos*], participants from across the diocese, were talking about how good it felt to come back. One said, "It just feels like home." All smiled and nodded in agreement.

"Home?" I thought to myself. What a strange place to call home!

They come together one weekend a month for four months. Some travel for three hours for every class. Most speak only to the handful of students who are in their randomly assigned small faith community. A large part of the time is spent in moments of personal prayer and reflection on Scriptures. On Sunday evening, everyone will go back to diverse places and life experiences as students, migrant workers, professional young adults . . .

Sunday 5:15 PM. After erasing the blackboard and packing *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, I went for one last walk in the parking lot, feeling moved to let this experience sink in. Why did the young people called this place "home"?

There and then it hit me: the many to whom we have ministered through this Biblical Course, are placing us in

the flesh-and-blood realities of young eyes looking for direction in their lives. I see the eyes of those who had just left me, committed to continue the weekend's work, to live, know and pray the Scriptures as young people who are hungry for the Word of Life.

I have witnessed hundreds of young people having *aha! moments*, making real-life connections with the Word. There were moments when I stood in silence, moments when I danced, and moments when I prayed in heartbreak . . . burning bush moments on the ground of their lives, witnessing how God abides unconditionally and graces each of us to keep on keeping on, finding Christ *aquí y ahora*, (here and now) and bringing others to live with purpose through the Word.

I stopped at the gate before I left the parking lot, and looked back. The home they mentioned was not this meeting place, which lasts but a short time. Home is deep inside each of these young people, as it is in myself. As we grow closer to Christ, we find our home, and what a beautiful way to get there, in the Holy Bible with young people reflecting on the signs of their times.

Thanks, Fe y Vida. For the young person who is entering the gates to Scripture for the first time or is returning, God has a message: Welcome home!



Our diocese has been able to always have good leaders in Pastoral Juvenil, thanks in great part to Fe y Vida's programs. Some of us have participated in its Leadership Symposium; we have offered its Certificate Program twice; and Fe y Vida's staff have facilitated several pastoral and biblical trainings for our leaders.

But what young adults love more is Fe y Vida's Biblical Course: "The Bible Through the Eyes of Young Latinos." So welcome is the course that is has been offered six times since 2007.

Six features make this course unique: (1) La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes is the main textbook; (2) the professors are biblical experts; (3) the classes are conducted through an active methodology and hands on exercises for the interpretation of key texts; (4) there is a workbook that supports what people learn; (5) the Course fosters personal and pastoral reflections, that lead to the application of God's Word to the daily life and the prayer life of the participants; (6) young people really learn to read the Bible and end up motivated to a more profound reading of the Scriptures.



José López
Director of Pastoral Juvenil
Diocese of Stockton



Twenty Plus Years as Instructor and Linguist with Instituto Fe y Vida

*Antonio Medina- Rivera, PhD
Professor of Spanish and Linguistics, Cleveland State University
Senior Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team*

I started to work with the Hispanic team at Saint Mary's Press in 1993, and was one of the founders of Instituto Fe y Vida in 1994. I was most active beginning in 1998, when I completed my doctorate in linguistics, got married and participated in the Summer Program in Chicago. I since have collaborated with Fe y Vida as an instructor, writer, editor, reader, and translator.

The immense enthusiasm and commitment of the Institute in offering workshops and producing carefully edited materials in Spanish was the inspiration for me to begin my research about the role of the Catholic Church in maintaining the Spanish language in the U.S. Because a Hispanic multidialectal community was their principal audience, Fe y Vida was one of the first organizations in the United States to develop standards for writing in Spanish. My collaboration in this effort sparked my interest in incorporating the written records of the language in my professional work as a sociolinguist, plus oral records, which were my primary interest.

My relationship with Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes has opened doors for me to acquire data and primary sources for my sociolinguistic research. My collaboration with the Institute remains strong after 20 years. I hope to remain

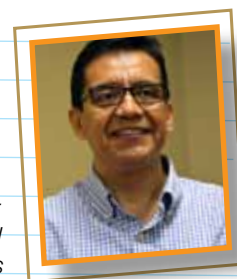
active as an instructor and a writer as well as continue my work as an academic researcher on the subject of the Spanish language and the Catholic Church in the United States.

Today Latinos account for more than 50% of the young Catholic Church in the United States. The Spanish language is an official language for the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, together with English, Latin and some indigenous languages. For its impact on church history and today, it is vital that the Church maintain the integrity, depth, and beauty of the Spanish language, which unites more than 300 million Spanish speakers in the world, the vast majority of them being Catholic.

I pray that Fe y Vida may continue to publish in Spanish to serve the people of God who speak in that language. I am also enthusiastic and committed to assist in the publication of bilingual resources, for the new generations of young people, who are more proficient in English than in Spanish, although they continue to live their faith and pray in their first language at home—Spanish. Publishing bilingually for young people is a skill that Fe y Vida has mastered; I pray for the financial and personnel resources needed for this very important aspect of ministry with young Latinos, from now on.



My participation in Fe y Vida's National Leadership Programs, as a student or as an adviser, has been a meaningful learning experience. But my greatest joy is to collaborate as Editorial Assistant in its Publications Department, because of the research, care, and dedication with which all the resources are created. At its beginning, Fe y Vida did not have a pastoral team and the resources for its programs were scarce. Today, every program has qualified and experienced instructors, and excellent supporting materials; participants go home with tools to develop their pastoral work. In addition, all of Fe y Vida's publications are very helpful to leaders and coordinators in Pastoral Juvenil, making them essential guides for their ministry. The staff and pastoral team are constantly creating new programs, updating the resources, and developing new publications to ensure relevance and usefulness to users, which is no small task! This is truly an invaluable task, and inspires me to continue giving my best.



Javier Castillo
Pastoral Adviser and Editorial Assistant
Member of Fe y Vida Pastoral Team

My Professional Development Has Been Marked by Instituto Fe y Vida

*Alicia María Sánchez, MVD
Creative Director, OCUS Classic Brand Design
Guadalajara, México*

I have worked with Instituto Fe y Vida on graphic design for its publications since the team worked for Saint Mary's Press. I really enjoy designing its varied, interesting and motivating publications, and conveying with images the joy and vitality of the Institute.

Designing *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, along with my sister Martha Elena and the OCUS team, was a wonderful project that helped me grow as a person, a designer, and in my organizational skills. I'm still learning from the great team at Fe y Vida, the way they work, their creativity, their congruence in who they are and what they promote, and from the content of their projects, which makes my days more enjoyable.

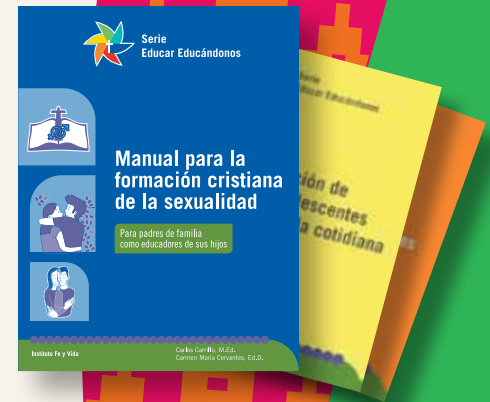
Planning each of the projects with Carmen is always an artistic experience for me. Together, we envision how the format and illustrations will better express the content of the publication and facilitate the creation of graphics that will help communicate the message. The back and forth of drafts and feedbacks has been a learning experience for our personnel at OCUS as well as for Fe y Vida's editorial team.

Creating these *Memorias* has been an exciting project, as they portray the many projects that have been

developed with a close collaboration and harmonious spirit. But even more exciting is designing the projects that will be the backbone of Fe y Vida's future:

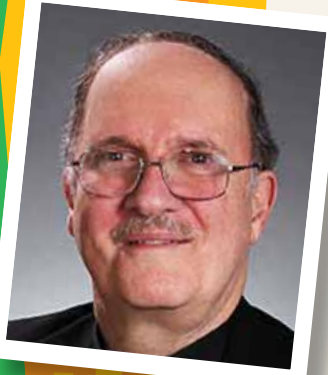
- **The series, *Educar educándonos***, to train parents as educators of their children, with a particular focus on their adolescent years, when parents need all the help they can get.
- **The series *Young Missionary Disciples: Trainings for Youth and Young Adult Leaders***, a bilingual project to help develop young Latino leaders today, when the great majority are U.S.-born or educated.
- ***La Biblia Católica para la Fe y la Vida***, with the commentaries written for adults, with a double lens: their own understanding, prayer, and living of God's Word, and the transmission of their faith to the younger generations.
- **The new Website of Fe y Vida**, capable of describing its vibrant ministry and of opening new opportunities for digital communication as its programs and publications continue to increase and become more widely available.

May God continue to bless Fe y Vida's ministry and all the people who make it possible!



The Journey of Fe y Vida Continues with Broader Horizons

*Fr. Paul Frechette, SM
Provincial, Marist Fathers and Brothers, USA
President of Fe y Vida Board of Directors*



The journey of Instituto Fe y Vida continues to be filled with God's grace. The 27 anecdotes or remembrances articulated so well in Part 3 of this *Memorias*, are a testimony of its solid foundations and visionary ministry reaching into the future, with broader horizons.

and *dinámicas in pastoral juvenil*); the second bilingual program on Spirituality, Life Project, and Self-Improvement; the first seminar focused on Formation for a Christian Living of Human Sexuality; and an advanced training for Pastoral Leadership at the Institutional Level.

The last two National Leadership Programs, held at Lewis University, have been exciting, life-giving, and a sample of the program's relevancy for Latino youth and young adult ministry in the U.S. In 2015, the affiliation of Fe y Vida with Lewis University was marked by three signs of the new era: a beautiful opening ceremony at its new office space with a very special welcome by Br. James Gaffney, FSC, the President of the University; the privilege of using for the first time its recently remodeled classrooms at the Charles Borromeo Center; and a warm welcome by Bishop R. Daniel Conlon to the Diocese of Joliet as he presided and preached at the closing liturgy with 200 strong singing and participating.

Periodically, Fe y Vida has augmented the offerings in its summer program to respond to the increasing and more diverse pastoral needs of young Catholic Hispanics. It offered one program from 1994 to 1997; two programs from 1998 to 2000; three programs from 2001 to 2004; four programs, from 2005 to 2015. In 2016, it was deemed necessary to offer five programs. Seeing all of them full to capacity is a sign of their responsiveness to today's pastoral needs of the young Latino community!

The person who embodies the vitality, creativity, and depth of Instituto Fe y Vida is Carmen Cervantes, co-founder along with Br. Damian Steger, former President of Saint Mary's Press! She loves to write, but it is obvious that she also loves to teach, and one will find her in the classroom with the young adults, as one will find her at the annual Bishops Advisory Committee meeting. We are blessed to have her as the Co-founder, with all of her experience, her warmth, her intelligence, and her enthusiasm for her Catholic faith.

The 2016 Program was even more impressive, with five programs being offered at the same time. All one has to do is review their titles to capture the vibrancy, creativity and depth of Instituto Fe y Vida: Symposium on Leadership for a Comprehensive *Pastoral Juvenil*; Seminar on the Church Reaching Out to Youth (Liturgy, music,



Fe y Vida Board and Staff Meeting, Napa, CA, 2015

Back Row: Mario Serrano, OFM Conv; Joe Matty; Br. Larry Schatz, FSC; Fr. Thomas P. Henehan, MM

Middle Row: Sr. Barbara Thiela, SND de Namur; Br. Francis A. Carr, FSC; Andrew Rivas, JD; William Sadlier Dinger; Fr. Paul Frechette, SM; Walter F. Mena, MA; Deacon Justin Green, PhD; Br. Michael Fehrenbach, FSC

Front Row: Carmen M. Cervantes, EdD; Soraya Garcia; Adriana Visoso-Valverde; Aurora Macias-Dewhirst; Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ



Br. James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University and Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes, Executive Director of Fe y Vida, Opening Ceremony of Fe y Vida office on campus.



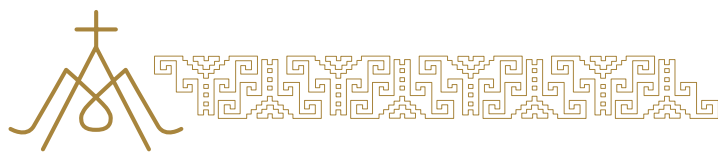
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**Leadership Formation System
&
Biblical Pastoral Ministry**



From this day all generations
will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done
great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

—Luke 1:48b-49



LEADERSHIP FORMATION SYSTEM

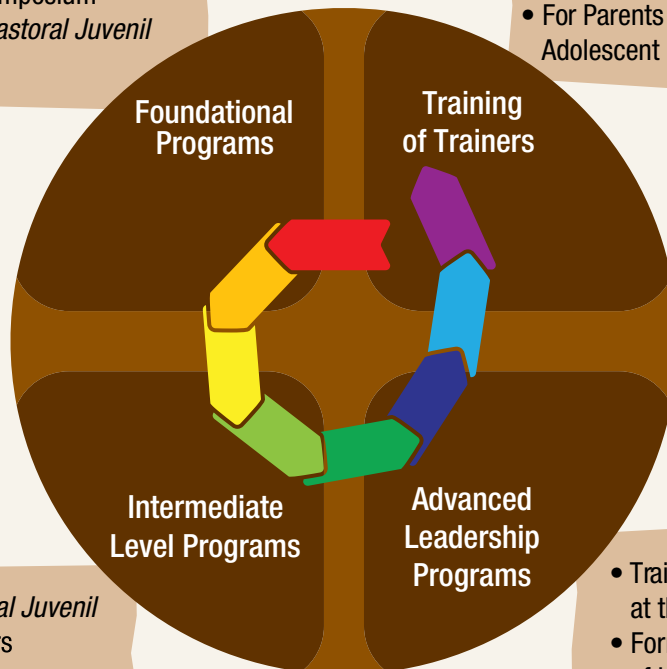


Fe y Vida Pastoral Leadership Formation System (LFS) is a series of programs for ministers, trainers, advisers, and young adult leaders, ministering to Latino youth and young adults.

It includes over 20 programs, from foundational pastoral formation to training of trainers. All of them are offered at the local level and some also at Fe y Vida's Annual National Leadership Program.

- Introductory Workshops
- Trainings for Youth and Young Adult Peer Ministry Leaders
- National Leadership Symposium
- Formation Course on *Pastoral Juvenil*

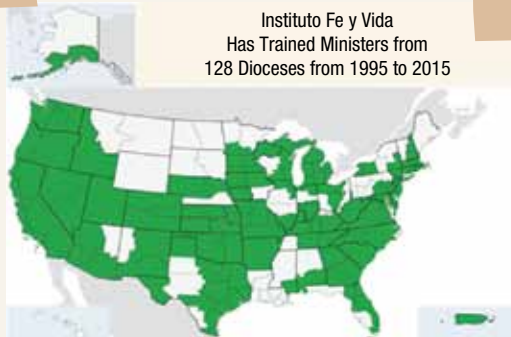
- For the Formation Course in *Pastoral Juvenil*
- For a Christian Formation of Human Sexuality
- For Leadership Formation Among Adolescents and Young Adults
- For Parents Formation Focused on their Adolescent Children



- Certificate Program in *Pastoral Juvenil*
- Pastoral-Theological Seminars

- Training for Leadership at the Institutional Level
- Formation for a Christian Living of Human Sexuality

Instituto Fe y Vida
Has Trained Ministers from
128 Dioceses from 1995 to 2015





Foundational Programs

Annual National Symposium on Leadership for a Comprehensive *Pastoral Juvenil*. Fosters a holistic vision, hands-on pastoral processes, profound prayer, and skills to establish a shared leadership for an effective *Pastoral Juvenil* through a multifaceted and creative one-week experience.

• 23 symposia • 128 dioceses • 2,061 participants



Formation Course in *Pastoral Juvenil*. Supports human development, strengthens catechetical foundations, creates a common pastoral vision, and promotes leadership skills in eight areas of ministry with young Latinos.

• 60 courses • 58 dioceses • 2,372 participants





Intermediate Level Programs

Certificate Program in *Pastoral Juvenil*, for Pastoral Advisers and Young Adult Leaders. Provides intellectual formation, in-depth reflection, and practical exercises in the human, spiritual, theological, and pastoral dimensions.

•40 programs •26 dioceses •1,600 graduates



Pastoral-Theological Seminars. Offer formation in various human, spiritual, theological, and pastoral topics, supplemental to the Certificate Program.

•75 seminars •89 dioceses •2,153 participants





Training of Trainers and Advanced Leadership Programs

Leadership Training for Hispanic Ministry and Leaders in *Pastoral Juvenil* at the Institutional Level. *Module 1:* Spirituality, theory, and praxis of ministry, within the Church structures; *Module 2:* Administration, and management of financial and human resources for an effective organization of ecclesial ministry.

• 5 programs • 26 dioceses • 187 participants



Formation for Christian Living of Human Sexuality. Provides a comprehensive vision and practical tools for a Christian education in sexuality, with an emphasis on parents as educators of their adolescent children at home.

• 1 program • 12 dioceses • 44 participants



Training of Trainers Program for the Formation Course in *Pastoral Juvenil*. Prepares diocesan teams of young adults and adults who already have advanced pastoral-theological formation to teach the Formation Course on *Pastoral Juvenil* at the local level under the leadership of diocesan personnel.

• 6 programs • 7 dioceses • 52 graduates





Biblical Pastoral Ministry





Leadership Trainings for Biblical Ministry among Young People

Biblical Course: "The Bible Through the Eyes of Young Latinos." Provides sound principles in Scriptural exegesis in light of Catholic Tradition, and knowledge of 22 crucial events in salvation history, with practical exegetical exercises, and application of the message to the life of the participants. Only in the United States.

• 40 programs in the U.S. • 38 dioceses • 2,090 participants



Training for Biblical Ministry among Young People. Intensive three to five days, hands-on formation using all of the biblical resources published by Fe y Vida. In the U.S. and Latin America.

• 14 trainings • 7 countries • 492 participants





Training for *lectio divina* supported by the series *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús [Weekly Dialogues with Jesus]*. Personal experience of *lectio divina*, based on the Sunday readings, and how to facilitate it in weekly meetings of young people and in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

•15 trainings •28 dioceses •2 countries •582 participants



Training for a Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults. Conducted by teams of four young leaders. It is supported by bilingual publications to train the young missionaries and to facilitate the sessions, which foster an encounter with Jesus based on his "I am" statements in the Gospels. All the resources can be downloaded from Fe y Vida's biblical website, free of charge. In the U.S. and Latin America.

•14 trainings •5 countries •782 participants





Training of Trainers

The training of trainers are intensive courses from three to six days in length for instructors, diocesan personnel, priests, religious, and others who then replicate the training in their own constituencies. They obtain most of the publications and receive a DVD with all the resources on Fe y Vida's biblical website and the training manual. In the U.S. and Latin America.

• 8 trainings • 6 countries • 276 participants



Digital Biblical Ministry among Young People

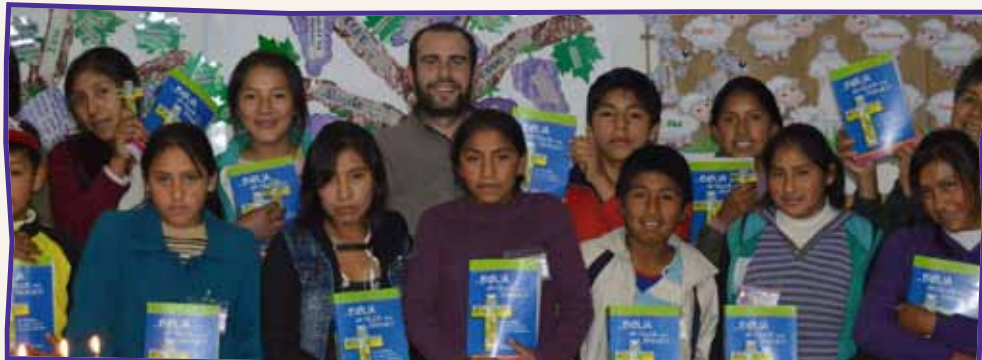
Millions of young people touched on a weekly basis through our Facebook biblical social media ministry, biblical website portal, and biblical bulletin: www.BibliaParaJovenes.org

 [BibliaCatolicaParaJovenes](https://www.facebook.com/BibliaCatolicaParaJovenes)





Biblical Ministry by Local Pastoral Leaders in the Americas





Far-Reaching Biblical Ministry



More than 1,000,000 copies of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* nurturing the heart and mind of young people in 37 countries!

Millions of young people reach out and constantly interact through an evangelizing biblical Facebook page

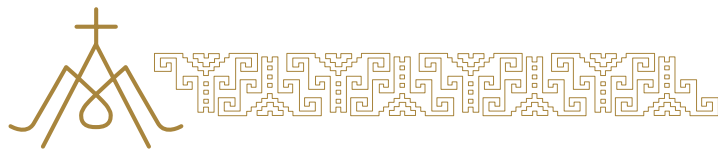
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Building the Future with Sound Foundations



He has mercy on those
who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength
of his arm,
he has scattered the proud
in their conceit.

—Luke 1:50-51



Beginnings with Faith and Commitment



*Carmen María Cervantes Ed.D
Co-founder and Executive Director
Instituto Fe y Vida*

It was a pleasure to receive each and every one of the testimonies included in the first part of this *Memorias*; they reflect a wonderful journey filled by abundant fruits from the collaboration of so many people in different aspects of Fe y Vida's ministry. It also was wonderful to receive the support of many friends in the congratulations part. This section complements the picture by offering a few memorable anecdotes about people who, by their work and their advice, have determined how Fe y Vida's journey would unfold. They helped to set a strong foundation for the next stage in our ministry.

Setting the Foundations

The "Yeses!" that allowed the whole adventure to start

When I was offered the job as the head of the Hispanic Publications Project at Saint Mary's Press (SMP) in Winona, MN, by **Brother Damian Steger, FSC**, its President at the time, I was Associate Director for Catechesis with Hispanics in the Diocese of Stockton, California. **Aurora Macías-Dewhirst** was the secretary in the Catechetical Department.

Writing and teaching have been my passion since I was young. However, in my academic experience in universities, it was expected that secretaries would type for me. If I was to accept Brother Damian's invitation, it was necessary to hire Aurora too. He said "Yes!" and the "Yes!" of Aurora put the project on a roll. Her contributions became more sophisticated with the passage of time, and she has a vital role in our publications today.



Writing in Spanish, receiving feedback in English

Working, first, at half-time for SMP and years later at full-time, Aurora and I started to write and rewrite, correct, and revise what the writers produced for each publication. When we felt that our books were ready, they were translated into English and submitted to SMP for review.

As no one at SMP could read Spanish, they commented on the English version of our manuscripts. The books then were rewritten in Spanish and translated again. We did this for the first books in the three series that were underway. Success was possible thanks to the excellent on-the-job training from **Steve Nagel**, editor in chief, accompanied by Br. Damian's frequent advice: "Carmen, patience and excellence"! Striving for excellence was easier than having patience, as we needed the publications right away, . . . and that is still true in our ministry.



The Divine Providence acted through our very first grant

The first sign that God wanted Instituto Fe y Vida to exist, came from the Lasallian Education Fund (LEF). Young Hispanic leaders in parish groups and apostolic movements were committed to the Gospel and had a profound apostolic zeal, but lacked catechetical and pastoral formation. Our team wanted to offer formation workshops across the nation, and I asked SMP for funding.

Weeks later, on a Friday night, **Br. Damian** left on my dining room table a paper, upside down. He said, "This may be the solution to your dreams." I wanted to read it, but he told me to do it after dinner and we left for a restaurant.

Br. Damian had given me guidelines from the LEF. The deadline was on Monday! My team and I spent the weekend writing the proposal, and faxed it to Br. Damian on Monday. Later we learned that the LEF had just been created and that the proposals were expected for the second deadline, six months later. Our eagerness to respond produced two fruits: the proposal was funded and the idea to create an institute that could obtain funds from other sources was born in Br. Damian's mind.

Prophets of Hope, Yesterday, Today, and Always

Dedication, commitment, and great blessings

Our first encounter with **Justin Green** was as a grant writer to obtain a subsidy for the Hispanic series on behalf of SMP. He consulted with me and it was clear that he did not understand the project. I could not identify the source of the conflict; he wrote a fundable proposal, and obtained the grant. I never thought again of this struggle, until our first books were ready, and our team faced turmoil every time we spoke in English about our project.

Justin—a Permanent Deacon with a PhD in Political Science—has been a loyal friend and collaborator for the long haul. He served on the Board in most capacities and remained as a consultant afterwards. Some years ago, providentially, he stepped in as Director of Institutional Development, and his wisdom and experience were great blessings in the creation of Fe y Vida's affiliation with Lewis University. Now he is serving as Treasurer of the Board. Thanks, Justin, Latino young people are indebted to you!



Identification with the Lasallian prophetic mission

Nobody in ministry with young Latinos had realized that the concept of *jóvenes* (single people ages 16-30) was not equivalent with *youth*. We learned it the hard way and became aware that, although ministry to young people in the U.S. and in Latin America, have a lot in common, significant differences between also exist.

SMP's editorial team helped us to articulate the differences of *pastoral juvenil*, youth, and young adult ministry, so that our Church could minister to young Latinos, based on their culture, spirituality, and pastoral tradition. A deep identification with **Jean Baptiste de La Salle** spirituality and prophetic mission was born. Fe y Vida's ministry is similar to his work to educate the needy in France in their own language, according to their sociocultural reality, and preparing teachers to do so.

A priest with a prophetic spirit accompanied our journey

The principal writer of our first books was **Fr. Juan Díaz Vilar, SJ**, a Spanish priest with a gift to bring the Gospel to the people, great love for the Church, and a tireless missionary spirit. He served as chaplain and instructor in Fe y Vida's Annual National Leadership Program for many years.

Aware of our ambitious goals and the challenge of obtaining funds for our ministry, he once said: "We have bought a piece of cotton for a short-sleeve shirt, and we are trying to create a long-cashmere coat! May God help us!" The need to stretch and super stretch our finances has been a constant in Fe y Vida's history. Divine Providence has provided along the way, and we have faith that God will continue to support our ministry with opportune gifts. In the end, Fe y Vida is God's ministry for young Catholic Latinos.



God provided a prophet for Fe y Vida

Recently arrived from Chile, seeking a safe haven for his family, **Pedro Castex** imbedded Fe y Vida with his strong faith, deep spirituality, and conviction that small faith communities were the answer for Hispanic Catholics in the U.S. He was our team's first theologian and a great mentor. Pedro helped define the pastoral theological framework for SMP's publications and Fe y Vida's formation programs. His love for Jesus, his preferential option for the poor, his missionary experience, and his rich experience accompanying people at the grassroots level, marked the Prophets of Hope model—the pastoral theological framework that has supported and provided direction to Fe y Vida's ministry since its inception.

Abundant gifts from the Spirit for our ministry

The Holy Spirit filled **Dolores Díez-de-Sollano, SH**, with gifts and she bestowed them on Fe y Vida. A Mexican cross-border missionary sister who catechized the poor and marginalized in Mexico and the U.S. was God sent at a time when we were laying the foundations of our ministry. Her catechetical creativity and artistic skills, her love for our people and her know-how to reach their hearts and minds through prayer, reflection, images, songs, and dance, left an indelible mark in our Leadership Symposium, the *Pastoral Juvenil* Course, and the Certificate Program. She also was a spiritual companion for several members of the pastoral team.



An umbilical cord transforms into a seed to be cultivated

For five years (1988-1993), the Hispanic Editorial Team that gave life to Instituto Fe y Vida worked in SMP's Hispanic Project. During the next seven years (1994-2000), several books were published while the Team also created the first leadership formation programs.

In 2000, **Saint Mary's Press**, cut the umbilical cord and pledged a gift of \$1,000,000 over five years to support our programs, with no strings attached. With this generous gift, **SMP** was the hand of Divine Providence providing the seed money for Fe y Vida's development as an autonomous institution.



With an excellent adviser, the seed gave bountiful fruits

Soon, God blessed Fe y Vida again, now through **Tom Jordan**, a retired Irish development professional. Tom traveled by BART from San Francisco halfway to Stockton for lunch and conversation. After carefully listening to us talking about Fe y Vida's history and mission, he became aware of the challenges we faced. He offered three crucial recommendations to use the generous gift from SMP to create the infrastructure for a new and independent Fe y Vida and provided step-by-step mentoring to Joe and me. Thanks, Tom, it was because of your advice that the SMP seed flourished in Fe y Vida, and made the funding of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* and the launch of the National Research Center possible.

A wise bishop accompanies Fe y Vida throughout the years

Tom's first advice was to strengthen our Board of Directors. He encouraged me to invite **Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ**, who had served as board member, to become episcopal Chairman of the Board. Concerned for young Hispanics and with first-hand experience of the impact of Fe y Vida's programs in his diocese of Yakima, Bishop Sevilla accepted this role. With wisdom and perseverance, he served for twelve years as a companion to the Board, an adviser to me, and a national advocate for the Institute.



Right support + hard work = a miracle

Tom's second advice was to center Fe y Vida's development on a project that could generate a powerful ministry and would be easily understood by potential funders. After careful discernment, a Bible for young Latinos in the Americas stood out as the project that would move Fe y Vida forward. With the assistance of **Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI**, from Chicago, a major gift from the **Knights of Columbus** was obtained. We complemented it with countless smaller gifts and in-kind work. A team of 40 people from 14 countries, created *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* [**BCJ**] [*The Catholic Bible for Young People*], which is at the core of a vibrant biblical ministry, not only of Fe y Vida, but of many other ministries in the Americas. Now in the hands of over a million people and translated into two languages, it is being translated into English.

Fe y Vida's research, a gift to our Catholic Church

Tom's third advice was to solve the dearth of statistics about young Catholic Latinos in the U.S. by creating a National Research Center focused on them. He was echoing **Cardinal George**, who had told me: "Carmen, we need statistics about their reality and pastoral needs; anecdotal evidence is not enough." And so, in 2002, we created the **Fe y Vida National Research and Resource Center**—the first one that published data and analysis describing trends among the young Hispanic population in the U.S.

Ken Johnson-Mondragón, its Director, conducted several studies and created the series *Perspectivas* to disseminate his findings. Ken analyzed the Latino data of the National Study on Youth and Religion and published a book about how young Latinos see and practice their faith. He offered customized research to dioceses and collaborated in studies of other institutions. After 13 years of intensive labor, the Center was closed; larger institutions with considerable more resources, seeing the value of our work, are now focusing on the young Latino population.



Growing through Perseverance and Collaboration

Guiding the ministry with a Lasallian spirit

Fe y Vida's first Board of Directors was composed of four **Christian Brothers** and me: **Br. Damian Steger, Br. Miguel Campos, Br. Robert Smith, and Br. Mark Murphy**. It set the foundation for Fe y Vida's institutional development.

Four Brothers served as President throughout the years: **Br. Damian, Br. Robert, Br. Dale Mooney, and Br. Larry Schatz**. Three others have been strong collaborators and members of the Board: **Br. Charles F. Kitson, Br. Frank Carr, and Br. Michael Fehrenbach**.

Five Lasallian institutions have played a significant role in Fe y Vida's journey: **Saint Mary's Press, the Midwest District (Province), the Lasallian Education Fund, the California-New Orleans Provincial District**, and since 2015, **Lewis University**, with **Br. James Gaffney** at the helm. Without you Fe y Vida, and its mission would neither have existed nor flourished. *May God bless you with abundant religious and lay vocations to continue your caring, prophetic, and effective ministry!*



Br. Robert J. Smith, FSC



Br. Dale Mooney, FSC

Supporting Fe y Vida's mission with diverse charismas

Several religious congregations have joined Fe y Vida as partners in mission. The first to join was the **Conventual Franciscans**, who have supported several projects through their foundations and has, since that time, had a delegate on the Board. **Fr. Tom Smith, OFM Conv.** served as Treasurer during his term.

The **Society of Mary (Marists)** has provided invaluable leadership to Fe y Vida. **Fr. Ted Keating, SM** and **Fr. Paul Frechette, SM** served as Presidents of the Board, even after having assumed the role of provincials. The **Sisters of Providence, Saint Joseph Province**, and the **Missionary Catechists of the Divine Providence** also have been partners in our mission. The collaboration of the **Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers** has been dual: as Board members and programmatically. Led by **Fr. Tom Henehan, MM**, Fe y Vida and Maryknoll designed a **joint Mission Formation Program**, that now is offered independently by both institutions.

Writing, teaching, and advising for a long time

Several members of the editorial team of SMP's Hispanic Project were cofounders of Fe y Vida. They truly were Fe y Vida's first Pastoral Team, who planned its first formation programs, piloted them in their dioceses, and served as instructors. While some members have passed to eternal life and others have moved into other endeavors, **Carlos Carrillo**, and **Antonio Medina Rivera (Tony)**, continue to write, create programs, and teach for Fe y Vida. **Eduardo Arnouil, María Teresa Macías**, and **Alicia (Marili) Sánchez**, are still part of our editorial team; Eduardo's research and critical reading, María Teresa's knowledge and love for syntax and detail, and Marili's talent with shapes and colors, bring depth, clarity, beauty and expression to our projects and help to maintain high quality in our publications. *It has been a blessing, a pleasure, and a relief to depend on them in the wide variety of programs and editorial projects that Fe y Vida has embraced throughout the years!*



Maintaining high standards and a pleasant environment

Aurora Macías-Dewhirst and I were hired together by SMP, in 1988, and she continues to work with Fe y Vida until today. What a marvelous team member she has been; always supportive and ready to embrace minor tasks and large interminable projects. Her proficiency in both Spanish and English and her gentle and accountable personality, are priceless in Fe y Vida's staff.

Aurora is an excellent bilingual copy editor, with the eye of an eagle for finding mistakes in manuscripts, grant proposals, budgets, . . . and the patience to discover how best to correct them. She also is trustworthy administrative assistant, a tenacious woman striving for excellence, and a caring person who unites the staff with her thoughtfulness and care. *Thanks, Aurora, for your 27 years of service behind the scenes; without you, Fe y Vida would not be the institution it is today!*

Conducting a strategic and careful administration

I never imagined working with my son for more than 20 years! However, it has happened and Fe y Vida would not exist without his financial acumen and administrative skills. **José María (Joe) Matty-Cervantes** has had a strong business and commercial mind since he was a child. His discernment about where to work after he finished his studies in Business Administration, led him to choose Fe y Vida, because its programs, services, and products give life to many young Latinos who otherwise will not have the type of opportunities that Fe y Vida offers.

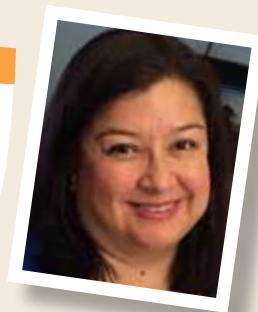
Joe has been instrumental in keeping Fe y Vida alive and positioning it for a strong future. In his role as Administrative Director, he makes sure that our resources are used wisely, creates financial strategies, assists with marketing plans, manages the sale of our publications, and helps to fundraise and “talent-raise,” which comes more easily to us. *Thanks, Joe, for the joy and gifts you bring to Fe y Vida and to me; it is not easy to be the main financial mind among passionate pastoral people!*



Promoting prophets of hope everywhere

A member of a faith-filled Mexican family, always ready to serve, **Adriana Visoso-Valverde** was a successful young adult in a business managerial position and one of the pioneers in applying the Prophets of Hope model to parish ministry. When God called her to dedicate her life to pastoral ministry, she accepted an assistantship with Fe y Vida.

With the hope and joy that characterizes her, Adriana was a passionate motivator for the publication of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, which she loves, uses, and teaches how to use. Her excellent organizational skills, her charming personality, and her sound pastoral formation are invaluable assets in her position as Associate Director of Formation Programs. *Thanks, Adriana, for your faith, love and commitment to Fe y Vida's ministry, and for the 16 years of being a prophet of hope among us and the people we serve!*



Offering powerful programs for young Latinos leaders

When I met **Walter Francisco Mena** in 1998, I soon began to appreciate his inner strength, honesty, pastoral vision, and dedication to evangelization, formation and ministry with young people. It wasn't long before I invited him to serve in Fe y Vida. He has been with us for 15 years, first as member of the Pastoral Team, then as Director of Formation Programs.

Walter calls himself *caminante*—a person always on a journey. Filled with faith, hope, and zeal for the mission God entrusted to him, he travels the country, makes missionary trips to Latin America and works with our Pastoral Team to enhance the Christian leadership of young Latinos. With his broad life experience, strong spirit of service and social justice, and thoughtful way of dealing with people, he enriches the lives of the people he touches. *Thanks, Walter, for your deep spirituality, your passionate commitment, and your courageous spirit to manage the challenges that come your way!*



Nurturing the mind, heart, and praxis with God's Word

The first biblical scholar on the staff, **Leonardo (Leo) Monguí-Casas**, also started his journey at Fe y Vida through an assistantship, which he began when he finished his biblical studies in 2011. A young, consecrated lay missionary to ministry with young people, he has been working from Colombia, his native country, as Associate Director of Biblical Ministry.

Leo's love for and knowledge of Scriptures are great gifts for the fulfillment of Fe y Vida's mission to bring God's Word to young Latinos through programs and publications. His pastoral experiences since a young boy and the gifts of teaching, music and digital technology, enhance our staff and team meetings as well as the programs he conducts. *May God bless our plans to have you as a member of the team at Lewis University very soon!*



Enhancing and broadening Fe y Vida's development

Recently, a great person joined the staff as Director of Communications and Development. **Soraya García-Machado** is enriching Fe y Vida's institutional development with the knowledge, skills, and experience that she acquired through leadership roles in the corporate world.

Soraya felt in love with Fe y Vida's mission while serving on its Board of Directors. Her pastoral experience as a young person, her commitment to the Gospel and the Church, her wisdom as a mother of two young adults, and her love for the Latino people moved her to offer her talents to help Fe y Vida expand its public relations reach and its fundraising capacity. *Praying for abundant blessings and fruits from your work and your abilities, which are very much welcomed and appreciated!*



Expanding the Ministry with Broader Horizons

Forging leaders in a new generation of young Latinos

Instituto Fe y Vida was created in the midst of a strong wave of Hispanic immigration. Some had experienced *pastoral juvenil* (ministry with youth and young adults) in their countries of origin, as young people or as ministers, and they created a vibrant *pastoral juvenil* in the U.S. Fe y Vida played a substantial role in the formation of its leaders.

In today's reality of the U.S. Catholic Church, people of Latino origin account for 71% of its growth since 1960. The median age of U.S. Latinos is 27 versus 37.6 in the general population; about 40% Latinos are under age 21, and 93% of those under 18 are U.S.-born (*The Treasure of Hispanic Catholicism*, C21 Resources Spring 2016, Boston College).

Training a new generation of young Latino leaders is a priority for Fe y Vida. Many of our alumni are now serving this population bilingually. With significant assistance from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., Fe y Vida has launched an initiative, with multiple publications and programs, with the first bilingual program offered in 2015.

Helping parents as educators of their adolescent children

For Christian parents, raising their adolescent children is a wonderful opportunity for providing the Church and society with mature men and women that live and promote Jesus values in their own environment and the larger society. At the same time, parents face significant challenges in their role as educators at home. In the Hispanic community, these challenges are multiplied due to the cultural gap, with parents speaking Spanish and their children, English, and with many parents having a limited understanding of the U.S. culture and institutions to guide their children in their development. The second priority for Fe y Vida is training diocesan teams able to offer formation to Hispanic parents, at the grassroots level. Support from the **Lilly Endowment, Inc.**, also helped to set up the foundations for this initiative, also consisting of multiple programs and publications.

Preparing ministers to serve the young Latino Church

In the several last years, Fe y Vida began to offer advanced leadership programs for Hispanic lay ministers with three goals: (1) increase their knowledge of U.S. culture and the Catholic Church in the U.S.; (2) prepare them to serve the U.S.-born Latino population; and (3) acquire pastoral and administrative skills to improve their ministry. Many of Fe y Vida's alumni are attending these programs.

As the U.S.-born Young Latino Catholics and Parents Formation Initiatives develop, new training of trainers programs will be offered. These programs will increase the capacity of dioceses and parishes to serve the young Latino population of today and help to develop Latino leaders for the future.

Expanding biblical ministry to animate the new initiatives

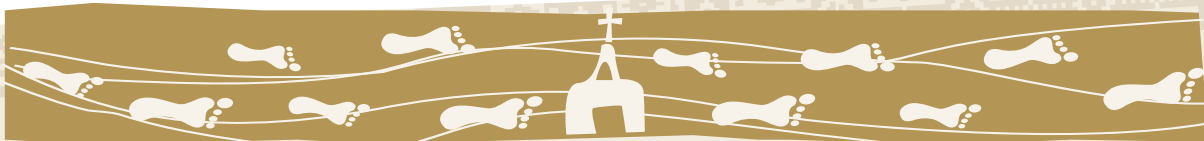
The Word of God is at the core of Fe y Vida's leadership formation ministry, based on *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* [*The Catholic Bible for Young People*]. Its translation into English, now in process, will help English-reading Latinos to incarnate God's message in their lives, and facilitate ministry to young people in bilingual-bicultural parishes. **Saint Mary's Press** is our partner in this endeavor.

Also in progress are a study Bible for adults, with a special focus on the transmission of their faith to the next generations, a biblical course and a training of trainers programs to teach how to use them.

Affiliating to Lewis University for a stronger ministry

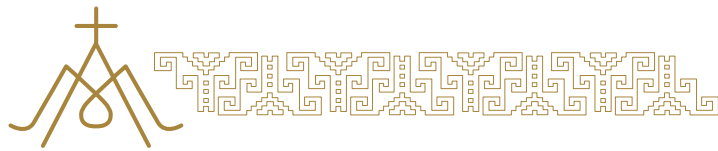
In May 2015, Instituto Fe y Vida affiliated with **Lewis University** in Romeoville, IL and opened an office on campus. Our relationship is grounded on a common mission to engage young people in Christian formation programs that develop their leadership potential in holistic, ethical, and socially responsible ways.

In addition to having National Leadership Programs at Lewis, Fe y Vida is a partner in the "Youth Theology Institute" to be offered annually, starting in 2017. This is a Lewis University program that will bring junior and senior high school youth to a 10-day residential program to explore theology as an academic study and a lived practice. Students are encouraged to cultivate their personal sense of vocation and mission. Fe y Vida will secure meaningful representation of Latino youth in the Institute and will collaborate in the design of sound pastoral theological processes.



He has cast down the
mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry
with good things,
and the rich he has sent
away empty.

—Luke 1:52-53





May you continue to
succeed “**Enkindling**
the love of **Jesus** in
the **hearts** of the **young**”

Med.102.2.Saint. John Baptist de La Salle



Congratulations and best wishes to Instituto Fe y Vida

on this 20th Anniversary and for its affiliation with Lewis University!

The ministry of Fe y Vida is a great support to the Church and to the bishops in our mission to care for the young Catholic Latino community.

Fe y Vida has been a beacon of hope, creating leadership formation programs in collaboration with other institutions, and for the last ten years, through its passionate biblical ministry based on *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*.

It is our hope that they will continue to build upon this foundation to expand its ministry to young Latinos in the United States and through its missionary work in Latin America.

May the Holy Spirit continue to bless and guide Fe y Vida for many years to come!



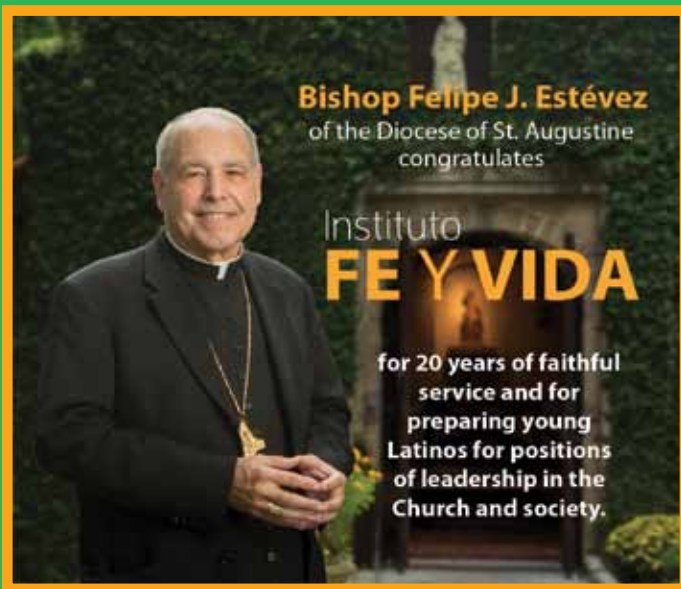
Most Reverend José Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Founder and Chairman, Bishops Advisory
Council (BAC) of Instituto Fe y Vida
Episcopal Moderator, National Catholic
Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (La RED)



Congratulations from the Christian Brothers on the Fe y Vida Board!

Brother Francis Carr - Brother Michael Fehrenbach - Brother Jesús Lara - Brother Larry Schatz

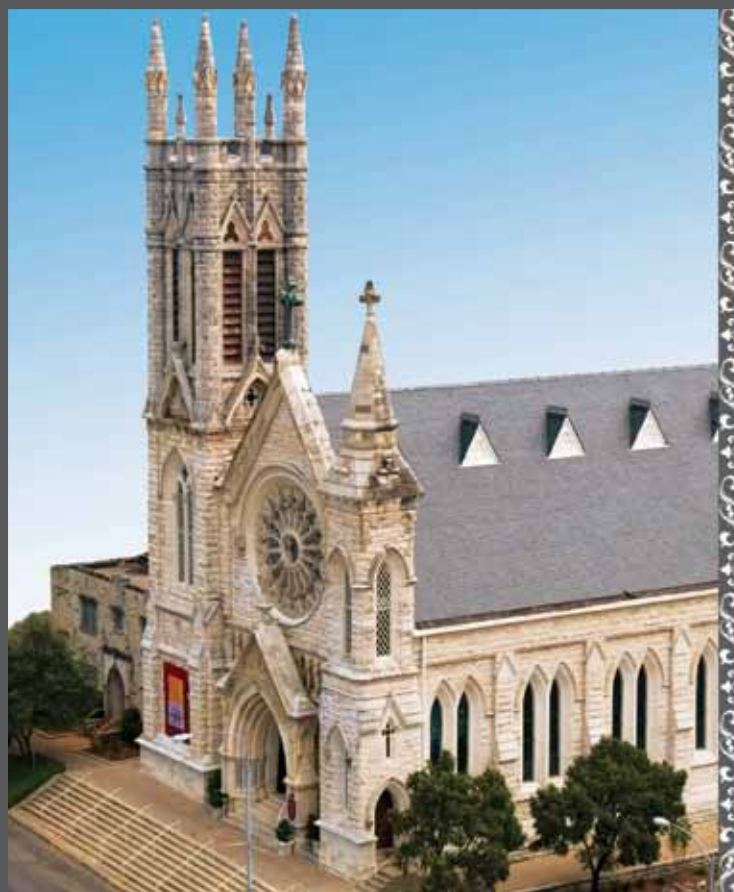


*Les ofrezco mis felicitaciones y mejores deseos al
Instituto Fe y Vida
por motivo de su 20 Aniversario*



El pueblo y clero de la Diócesis de Sacramento se unen a mí en felicitarlos en esta ocasión tan alegre.

Mons. Jaime Soto, Obispo de Sacramento



*Bishop Joe S. Vásquez,
and
all the faithful
of the
Diocese of Austin,
congratulate
Fe y Vida
on
20 years of ministry.*



*Los Misioneros
Claretianos, el Centro
de Recursos para el
Ministerio Hispano y
el Instituto Fe y Vida,
hermanados en el
servicio a la Iglesia
y la juventud hispana
para forjar una mejor
sociedad.*

Felicitamos al Instituto Fe y Vida por sus 20 años de servicio a la Iglesia y la juventud hispana.

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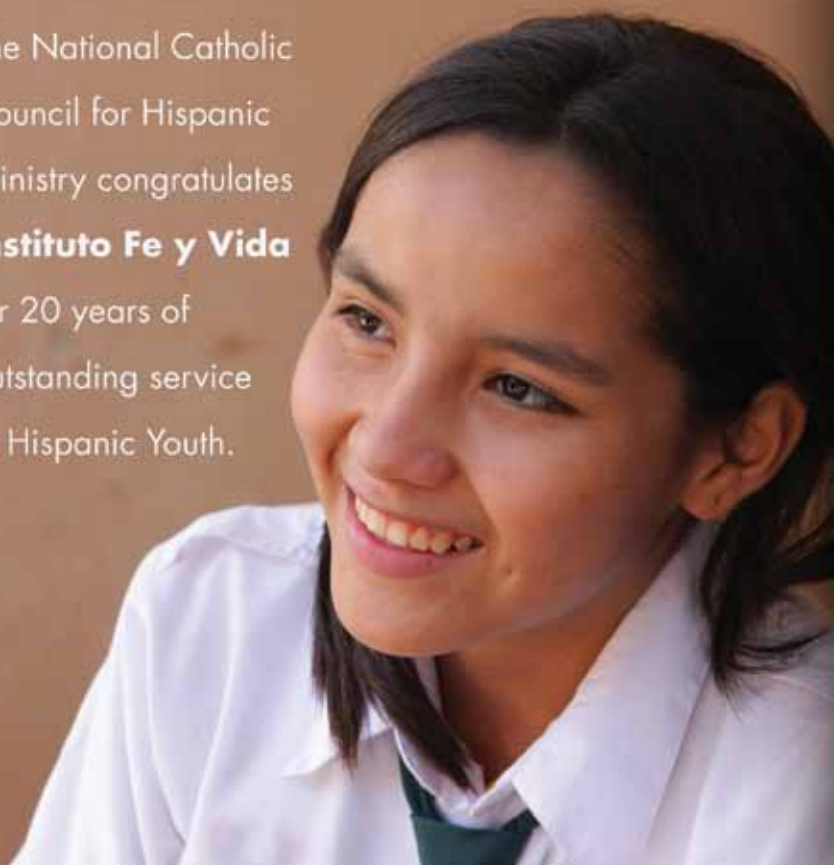
editorial verbo divino

Gracias al Instituto Fe y Vida por sus 20 años de trabajo
y compromiso en la difusión de la Palabra de Dios
entre la juventud de habla española
de todo el Continente Americano.

evd



The National Catholic
Council for Hispanic
Ministry congratulates
Instituto Fe y Vida
for 20 years of
outstanding service
to Hispanic Youth.



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR EFFORTS**

to empower Hispanic youth to
serve and lead in the Catholic
Church and our community.



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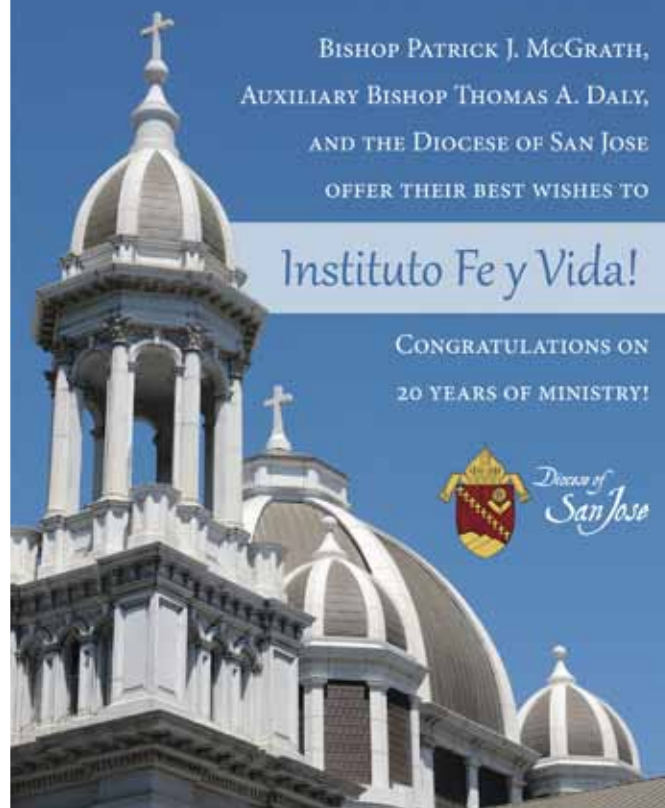


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BISHOP PATRICK J. McGRATH,
AUXILIARY BISHOP THOMAS A. DALY,
AND THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE
OFFER THEIR BEST WISHES TO

Instituto Fe y Vida!

CONGRATULATIONS ON
20 YEARS OF MINISTRY!





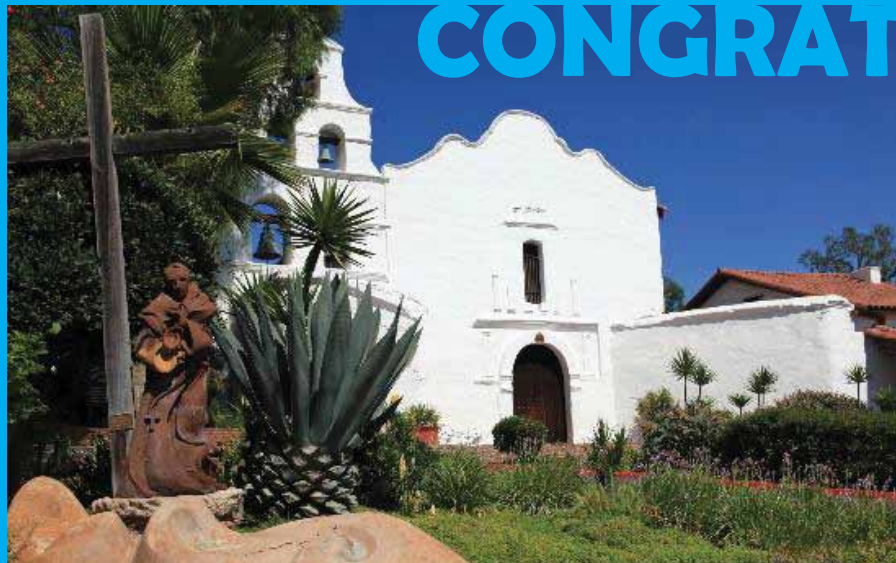
Congratulations !

to Instituto Fe y Vida
for 20 Years of Service
to Pastoral Juvenil Hispana



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CONGRATULATIONS



for 20 years of faithful
service to the
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Congratulations on 20 years
in your powerfully transformative
and fruitful ministry



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on Your 20th Anniversary
and Supports Your Efforts as You
Empower Young Hispanics for Leadership
in Church and Society
Ad multos annos



Frank Sadlier Dinger
Chairman of the Board

William Sadlier Dinger
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AND BISHOP ROBERT C. EVANS
WITH THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS
AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE

Send Congratulations & Prayerful Best Wishes to



on their 20th Anniversary
of Ministering to Young Latinos



Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted
and
Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares
of the Diocese of Phoenix

Congratulate

Instituto Fe y Vida

for 20 years of leadership and evangelization.





What a
difference
you have made
in just 20 years,

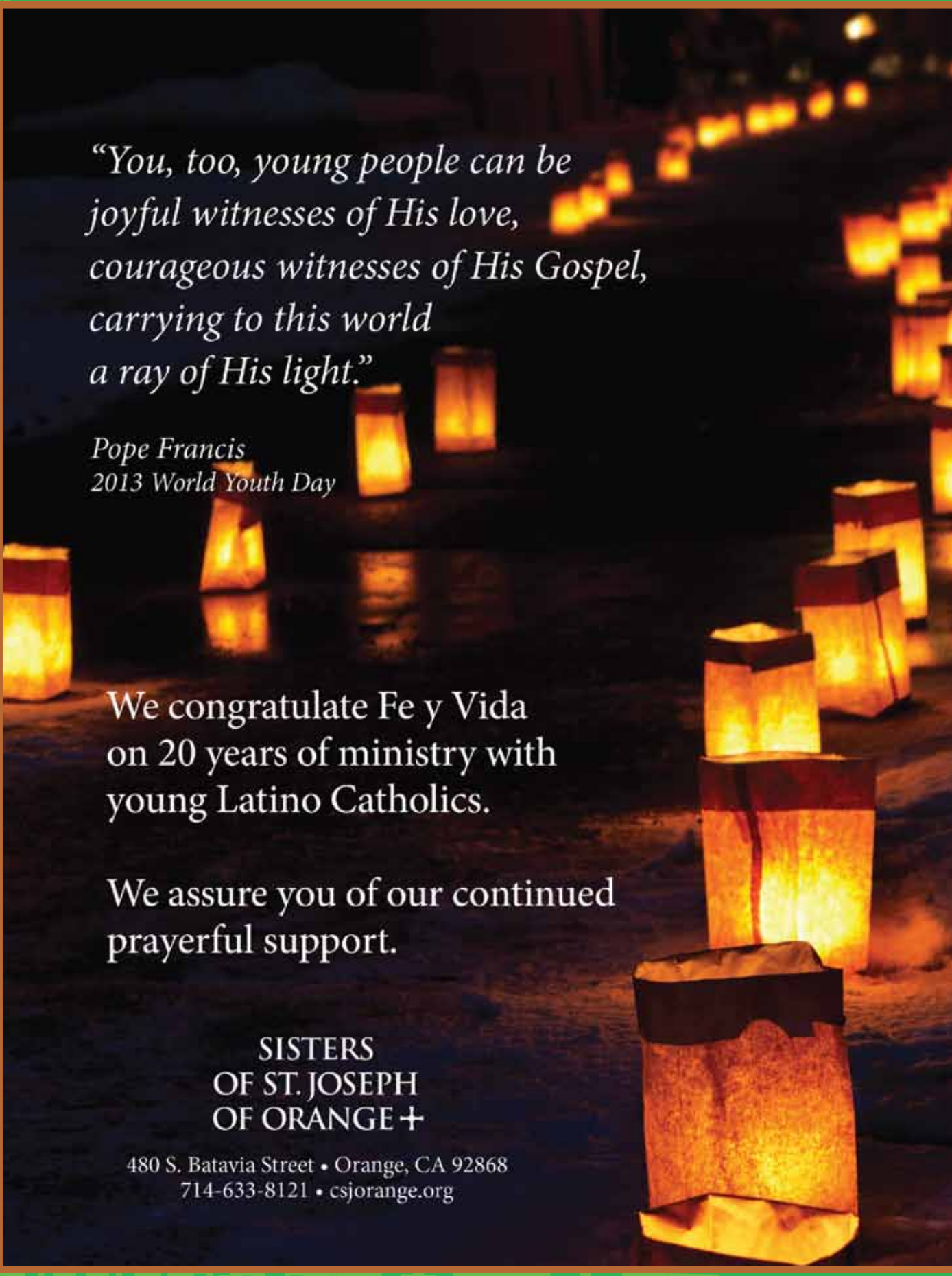
Instituto Fe y Vida!

You have helped young Latinos
develop as Christians, empowered
them to serve and to lead in
the Church, and created a cadre
of powerful advocates.

*We are proud to be among
your many supporters and allies.*



Sisters of Providence
Mother Joseph Province



“You, too, young people can be joyful witnesses of His love, courageous witnesses of His Gospel, carrying to this world a ray of His light.”

*Pope Francis
2013 World Youth Day*

We congratulate Fe y Vida
on 20 years of ministry with
young Latino Catholics.

We assure you of our continued
prayerful support.

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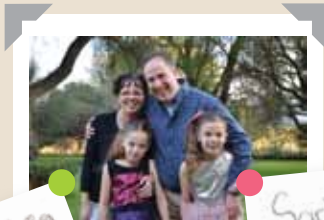


THE MATTY CERVANTES FAMILY

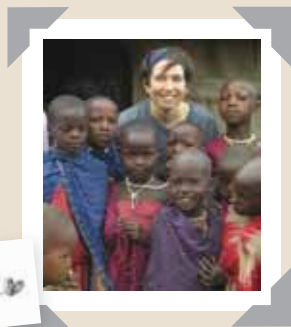
IS GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS GOD HAS PROVIDED US THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND THE TESTIMONY OF INSTITUTO FE Y VIDA'S STAFF, PASTORAL TEAM, AND STUDENTS SINCE ITS INCEPTION TO TODAY.



Sophia



Sarita



Amilia

ANDY



FE Y VIDA HAS INSPIRED AND ENCOURAGED THREE GENERATIONS OF OUR FAMILY TO BE PROPHETS OF HOPE, CONTRIBUTING OUR SMALL GRAIN OF SALT TO HELP BUILD A WORLD OF SOLIDARITY, UNITED BY GOD'S LOVE.

WE PRAY TO GOD FOR THE NEW PHASE FE Y VIDA HAS ENTERED BY AFFILIATING WITH LEWIS UNIVERSITY!



Lewis University Salutes Instituto Fe y Vida Institute for Faith & Life

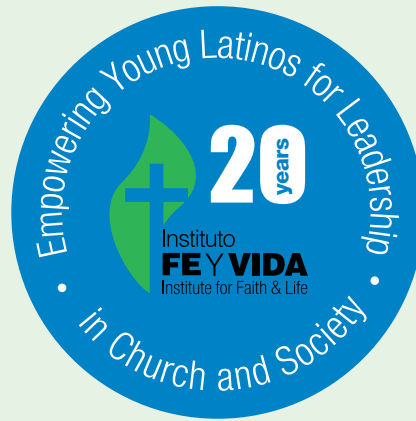


A Catholic university in the Lasallian tradition of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of teachers, **Lewis University is proud to partner with Instituto Fe y Vida as you celebrate your 20th Anniversary in ministry for the benefit of young Catholic Hispanics.** Lewis is pleased that Fe y Vida will hold its 2015 Annual Summer Program on our beautiful campus in Romeoville, Illinois, southwest of Chicago. We look forward to greeting the participants in that Fe y Vida summer conference.

The seventh largest private not-for-profit university in Illinois, Lewis offers distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs to nearly 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Lewis offers a values-based curriculum with more than 85 undergraduate programs and nearly 30 graduate programs. Lewis University prepares its students to be intellectually engaged, ethically grounded, globally connected and socially responsible.



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FE Y VIDA STAFF AND THE PASTORAL AND EDITORIAL TEAMS

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Instituto Fe y Vida and give thanks to God for having blessed it as an ecclesial community where we have been able to serve Catholic Latino young people in the U.S. and Latin America by offering them and their ministers a variety of pastoral and leadership formation opportunities.

As prophets of hope,
along with the young people and adults we serve,
we place Fe y Vida's future in the hands
of the Divine Providence.

*The new evangelization calls for a personal involvement
on the part of each of the baptized.*

—Pope Francis, Evangelii gaudium





The Cervantes Gutiérrez Family

is pleased to congratulate Instituto Fe y Vida
on its 20th anniversary and its affiliation with Lewis University

We appreciate the opportunity eight family members
had to collaborate in such a meaningful project
as *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*,
assisting in its coordination, design, writing, and promotion

*¡Qué nuestra Madre de Guadalupe
acompañe siempre a Fe y Vida!*





¡Felicidades!

La RED, National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana agradece con corazón juvenil:

- el constante apoyo, soporte y acompañamiento de **Fe y Vida** a nuestra Mesa Directiva desde la creación de La RED,
- su decidido aporte a la planificación, ejecución y publicación del **PENPJH** y sus **Conclusiones**,
- que nuestro reconocimiento para honrar el liderazgo de nuestros jóvenes adultos hispanos lleve el nombre de la **Dra. Carmen María Cervantes**,
- por su compromiso y su decidida participación en la planificación y ejecución del **Coloquio Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana**
- por seguir sembrado entre los jóvenes el anhelo y la propuesta de ser Profetas de Esperanza...



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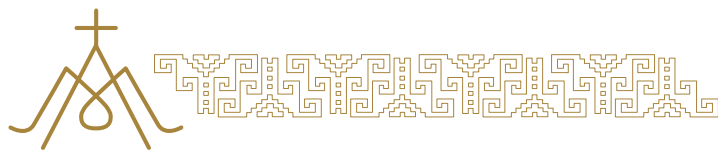
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**Expressions of Appreciation
to Supporters and Benefactors**



He has come to the help
of his servant Israel
for he remembered his
promise of mercy,
the promise he made
to our fathers,
to Abraham and his
children forever.

—Luke 1:54-55



Remembering with gratitude the commitment of Fe y Vida Board of Directors

Great people have served on Fe y Vida Board of Directors. Those serving one or more terms are mentioned below:

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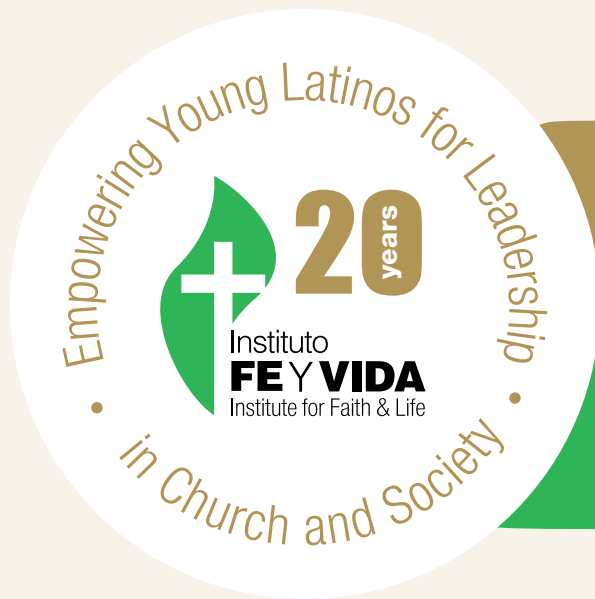
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