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The Advocate



Celebrating Faith, Heritage and Unity

Volume 1, Issue 1

September/October 2016

Celebrating Cultural Diversity in our Catholic Schools

Welcome...Bienvenido... Bem vinda...Akeyi ...Witamy...Benvenuti

We are beyond thrilled to be bringing you our first ever newsletter where our main focus is celebrating the beautiful diversity which we are so blessed to have on Long Island and in our Catholic Schools, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

In this bi-monthly newsletter you will have the opportunity to read articles that will teach you a little bit more each time about

different cultures and customs that we are surrounded by each day!

The cultural landscape of America continues to evolve and we are lucky enough to be a part of it. With this newsletter, we hope to celebrate our rich diversity that we have right here on Long Island. Our hope is that you, as pastors, principals, teachers, and staff will take the information you read here



and share it with your students and families. After all, we've raised our children to love and accept all and we would like to think that this newsletter supports our beliefs.

We hope you will join us during this very exciting time! Throughout the school year, if you have events or stories that you would like to share about cultural celebrations (big or small!) in your school, please email Nora Aufiero, Advocate for Hispanic Initiative at naufiero@drvc.org.

A Message from the Superintendent



These are exciting times for our schools and our church! The word "advocate" comes from the Latin, *advocare* to "add" a "voice" and it is the goal of this newsletter to share information and celebrate the voices of all people in our diocese.

The Advocate is our attempt to broaden the scope of understanding among all families in our schools. Our goal is to build bridges and strengthen our faith through understanding. We have been given the gift of working with a community of believers who bring many and varied cultures and customs together to praise our God as one family.

It is my hope that this newsletter provide all who read it an opportunity to expand their understanding of different cultures and celebrate the fact that we are all part of God's family.

Thank you for your dedication and support of our Catholic schools on Long Island. May we continue to bring honor and glory to God who has given us the gifts of life, faith, and love.

Gratefully,

Dr. Kathleen Walsh

Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Rockville Centre



**“This is important:
to get to know
people, to listen,
expand the circle of
ideas. The world is
crisscrossed by
worlds that come
closer together and
move apart, but the
important thing is
that they lead
towards the Good.”
Pope Francis**

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th to October 15th. During this time, we recognize the contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

By bringing their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work and service, Hispanics have influenced our country in a very positive way.

Why does it start on September 15th?

We officially started celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in 1968. The reason it begins each year on September 15th is because this is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. During this month, Mexico (because we all know it isn't Cinco de Mayo!) and Chile celebrate their

independence as well. The month ends with Columbus Day which is also known as El Día de la Raza (Day of the Race).

This year, we hope you will have some time to celebrate the many cultures that make up your school.

¡Celebra el Mes de la Herencia Hispana!

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is a wonderful opportunity to discover and celebrate the beautiful and diverse representations in our schools. Take the time to find out who has Latino Heritage in your school and pick a few days to celebrate. Here are just a few ideas:

Have children create a brief presentation to tell you about their country and how their family arrived to the United States.



Make it a dress up day and have children wear costumes or clothing that represent their culture.



Many countries have a particular Saint or group of Saints they worship. Pick a Saint a Day to discuss and teach the children. (You'll find a few in this newsletter!)



Have students pick a Hispanic person who has influenced them! They will be amazed at the famous people they admire: from athletes of the past such as Roberto Clemente to some of today's influences such as



Mariano Rivera or Lin Manuel Miranda!



FOOD! What better way for children (and parents) to show pride in their country than by bringing typical foods—it will be a delicious experience!



The possibilities are endless!

Tell us how you celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by emailing Nora Aufiero at naufiero@drvc.org. We may feature you in our next issue of *The Advocate*!

You Say Hispanic, I Say Latino...

You've always heard the term "Hispanic" but lately you're hearing the term "Latino". So which is it?

While both terms are often used interchangeably, both terms are essentially labels. The proper term is to call someone based on where they are from whether they are Cuban, Colombian, Ecuadorian, etc. However, this is sometimes difficult to know unless you ask.

Here are some quick facts:

Hispanic refers to language.

Typically, you are Hispanic if you come from a country which speaks Spanish.

Latino refers to geography – specifically, Latin America which includes the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Dominican Republic), South America (Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, etc.) and Central America (Honduras, Costa Rica).

Typically, people who live in the U.S. who are of Latin American nationality are referred to as Latinos. It is important to note that

Brazilians, because they are from South American can be considered Latinos but are NOT Hispanic as they do not speak Spanish!

Essentially, "Latino", "Hispanic" and even "Spanish" are all non-derogatory, but just remember that people are so much more than their racial or ethnic identities. We will always encounter issues when using terms that are meant to categorize humans into groups. Why not take that extra step just to find out where they are from?

Saints around the World

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



India & Macedonia

Canonization: September 4, 2016

Feast Day: Sept. 5th

Patron Saint of World Youth Day and for those who are most in need of God's mercy, Mother

Teresa's canonization became a major event of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

- Established the Missionaries of Charity which helped the poor on the streets of the city now known as Kolkata
- Was beatified in 2003 as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta for healing an Indian woman's tumor through divine intervention.
- Second miracle needed for canonization involved the curing of a man in Santos, Brazil with a serious brain infection

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them" — Saint Teresa of Calcutta



St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saint Peter Claver

(Pedro Clave Corberó)



Colombia

Feast Day: Sept. 9th

Patron Saint for slaves, seafarers, missionary work among all African people, and the Republic of Colombia.

- Ministered physically and spiritually to slaves when they arrived in Cartagena, Colombia converting a reported 300,000 people
- Worked for humane treatment of slaves
- Organized charitable societies among the Spanish in America to help the poor

"To love God as He ought to be loved, we must be detached from all temporal love. We must love nothing but Him, or if we love anything else, we must love it only for His sake." — Saint Peter Claver



St. Peter Claver

Saint Thérèse of Lisieu



France

Feast Day: Oct. 1st

Patron Saint of aviators, florists, illness and missions and is known as the "Sacred Keeper of the Gardens"

- Co-patron of France, she is one of the most popular saints of the world.
- Also known as The Little Flower of Jesus or The Little Flower
- In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church.

"Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them." — Saint Thérèse of Lisieu



St. Thérèse of Lisieu

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A Note from the Editor...

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter as much as I have had putting it together. I welcome comments and suggestions or if you have an article or event you would like featured in our November/December issue of *The Advocate*, please contact me at (516) 678-5000 x 811 or at naufiero@drvc.org.

Blessings,
Nora

Nora Ferreira-Aufiero
Editor, Advocate for
the Hispanic Initiative

The Advocate

What is The Hispanic Initiative?

The Diocese of Rockville Centre, through its Department of Education, has established an outreach program for Hispanic Families to assist them in enrolling their children in Catholic schools and making a Catholic education a part of the fabric of their success.

This program is meant to recruit and retain Hispanic families in our Catholic schools to increase enrollment by fostering a connection between Hispanic families and the school and parish.

Nora Aufiero has accepted the role of the advocate to oversee and help coordinate efforts taking place in each of our schools pertaining to Hispanic recruitment.

While the focus begins on Long Island's Spanish speaking population, the goal is to ultimately build out the program to encompass all of the many cultures which contribute to the diversity of our area.

Diocesan Day of Celebration Intertwines Culture and Faith

On Labor Day, September 5th, The Office of Hispanic Ministry sponsored The 10th Annual Diocesan Day of Celebration (Encuentro Diocesano) at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception. Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, Most Reverend Robert Brennan, and Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski were present, along with 12 priests representing various parishes from the Diocese of Rockville Centre to celebrate a beautiful day.

It all began with the Eucharistic Celebration in the chapel where Bishop Perez presided and reflected on Pope Francis' address during World Youth Day regarding "Sofa-Happiness". In the words of Our Holy Father, Bishop Perez went on to emphasize that we are on this earth to "leave a mark."

As all who attended left the



Michael and Nicholas Hernandez and Diocesan Day of Celebration attendees bring up the gifts to Bishop Perez.

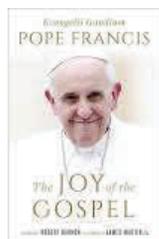
chapel enlightened and rejuvenated in faith, the picnic on the seminary grounds began. Despite earlier forecasts that Tropical Storm Hermine would dampen the day, the almost 300 people in attendance were able to enjoy lively music, delicious food, fun games, and a spirit of heritage, unity and faith.

Deacon Francisco Cales, Director for the Office of New Evangelization described the

event as "the perfect depiction of breaking bread, as people from different parishes went from table to table, sharing food with one another."

Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Walsh, along with Assistant Superintendents Mr. Biagio Arpino, Mrs. Kathleen Razzetti, Mr. Anthony Biscione, Ms. Marian Hernandez, in addition to Director of Marketing, Mr. Gary Layton and Advocate for the Hispanic Initiative, Mrs. Nora Aufiero, were all present to share in the spirit of the day. Mr. Paul Clagnaz, principal of St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School in Westbury and Mrs. Pam Sanders, principal of Holy Name of Mary School in Valley Stream, as well as the advocates for Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip helped provide information on the opportunities offered by Long Island Catholic Elementary Schools.

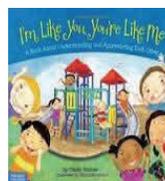
Recommended Resources



The Joy of the Gospel

(Evangelii Gaudium)

The long awaited teaching of Pope Francis on the Proclamation of the Gospel. Pope Francis is calling upon the Church and the world with encouragement to begin a new chapter in evangelization.



I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Book About Understanding and Appreciating Each Other

By: Cindy Gainer

"It's fun to find ways I'm like you and you're like me. It's fun to find ways we're different." Kids from preschool to lower elementary learn about diversity in terms they can understand.