

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A National Intercultural Encounter for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults

Thursday to Sunday | July 23-26, 2020

John Carroll University | Cleveland, Ohio

“Ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a *journeying together*...

In this way, by learning from one another, we can better reflect that wonderful multifaceted reality that Christ’s Church is meant to be.”

| Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 206-207 |

CONVENERS

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church in partnership with the USCCB Secretariats of Catholic Education (higher education office) and Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth (youth and young adult ministry office), in collaboration with National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and the National Dialogue on Catholic Pastoral Ministry with Youth and Young Adults.

GOAL

Inspired by Pope Francis’ *Christus Vivit*, this gathering will give bishops, young people, and ministry leaders from all cultural communities an opportunity to learn from, share, and work collaboratively with one another in actively advancing the Church’s engagement with youth and young adults.

OBJECTIVES

- To meet, listen to, engage, collaborate with, and celebrate young people of all cultures
- To assess the intercultural fruitfulness of the Church’s approach to youth and young adults
- To discern adequate and actionable responses to identified pastoral needs of young people
- To be inspired to act after prayerful reflection on Pope Francis’ *Christus Vivit*

AUDIENCE

Bishops, pastoral leaders, and young adults* exhibiting peer leadership skills; from all cultural families including the African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, European-American, Hispanic-Latino, and Native American communities, as well as migrants, refugees, and people on the move. Particular attention will be given to pastoral leaders working in *youth, campus, and young adult ministries*.

(* *young adults* are defined as those “in their late teens, twenties, and thirties” (USCCB, 1996), over age 18

Prior to the 2020 gathering, to ensure all voices of young people are integrated into the process, the USCCB will conduct a special one-day **consultation with youth** (that is, adolescents who are in high school, ages 13 to 18) during the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in November 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

PROCESS AND CONTENT

In the spirit of its name, *Journeying Together* will be a process – a **journey that goes beyond one event**. There will be preparatory work and follow-up work that will be part of the entire experience. It's about listening and empowering young voices in the Church.

November 2019	Special consultation with 100+ high school youth National Catholic Youth Conference (Indianapolis)
Winter 2020	Gathering/recording input from youth and young adults Local and online consultations (nationwide)
Spring 2020	Preparatory reading materials sent out to event participants
July 2020	<i>Journeying Together</i> National Encounter for 350-400 Catholic young adult leaders John Carroll University (Cleveland) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer and liturgical experiences• Keynote speakers, panels, breakouts, and cultural presentations• Encounters and dialogue with bishops, young adults, and ministers• Social and community-building moments and events
August 2020-Onward	Post-Encounter assessment and reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of key insights and recommendations from July 2020 event• Reporting to USCCB committees and national organizations• Action plans for young people and Church leadership

BACKGROUND

In 2010 the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church (CDC) convened, for the first time, a gathering of the Catholic Cultural Diversity Network. The 2010 Cultural Diversity Convocation played a crucial role in allowing the bishops and the USCCB Secretariat on Cultural Diversity in the Church (CDC) to chart a pathway toward intercultural communion in the Church. It provided a Catholic theological and ecclesial framework to build unity in diversity and led to the creation of important resources and initiatives such as the *Training Guidelines for Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers* and *Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They All May Be One*. Since then, the CDC Committee has continued to promote intercultural dialogue and awareness, and building a culture of encounter, communion and missionary discipleship among Catholics of all cultural and ethnic families in the United States.

Encouraged by other significant national and international pastoral processes focused on young people (in particular the 2018 Synod of Bishops on *Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*, the Fifth National *Encuentro* on Hispanic/Latino Ministry, the National Study on Catholic Campus Ministry, *Christus Vivit*, the National Dialogue, among other initiatives), Catholic leaders from across the cultural spectrum have also raised the need to identify, empower, form, and integrate more youth and young adults of all cultural communities into ministry and leadership roles within the wider Church.

The USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, in consultation with its various subcommittees, the Secretariats of Catholic Education, and Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, along with the National Dialogue, believe the signs of the times are calling for a new convening. This time, the focus is to empower and integrate youth and young adults of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds into the life and ministry of the Catholic Church. There is a hope that the *Journeying Together* national encounter will facilitate a pastoral process for the Church in the United States to address these needs and take action locally and nationally, informed and inspired by the Holy Spirit and Pope Francis' *Christus Vivit*.

