



Empowering Young Hispanics for Leadership in Church and Society



## 2005 HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING YEAR



Instituto Fe y Vida's Board of Directors

For Instituto Fe y Vida, 2005 has been an outstanding year. *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, released in February, is impacting the ministry with young Hispanics in the U.S. and Latin America. Our thanks to the publisher, Editorial Verbo Divino, for an exceptional work and to the Knights of Columbus, for their significant financial support. Our congratulations to Fe y Vida's staff and collaborators for their creative and writing skills. Through their efforts, we as Church have been blessed!

It has been my pleasure to see Fe y Vida's work from the inside. As the Board President, phone conversations with our Executive Director, Dr. Carmen María Cervantes, have been a joy. Her dedication and zeal have been both an invitation and opportunity for others. She works tirelessly to bring together a team of collaborators that not only exposes the gaping needs of our Hispanic youth and works to fill them, but also provides pastoral material and training to assist the Church in responding to the excluded – to those left at the margins.

Recently as a diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry I participated in a seminar facilitated by Ken Johnson-Mondragón, Director of Fe y Vida's Research and Resource Center. We learned of the most recent studies conducted by Fe y Vida based on the National Study of Youth and Religion, from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. No other expert on Hispanic young adults has been more recently quoted or had more studies referred to than Ken.

We are very thankful to Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, who served as Chair of the Fund Development Program for three years, and to Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington D.C., for recently assuming this role. Although they are busy administering and shepherding large dioceses, they find time to encourage us and invite others to assist in our mission.

As the board continues to listen to "the signs of the times" and answer these signs through our strategic plan, we commit ourselves to strengthen this ministry of service to the ever increasing Hispanic young population in the United States. We invite others to share with us in this process that builds Church from the base giving light to the parish and to the larger Church.



Theodore Cardinal McCarrick,  
Archbishop of Washington,  
Chair of Fe y Vida's Fund Development  
Program

Br. Dale Mooney, FSC  
President of the Board





Fe y Vida hired Management Development Group, LLP to conduct an evaluation of its first strategic plan for 2000-2004. The evaluation was very encouraging, here are some comments taken from the surveys responded by various constituencies.

## Statements reflecting Fe y Vida's mission

Fe y Vida is a pioneer in reaching out to help a large segment of young people who are neglected and underserved by the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Fe y Vida works at multiple levels:  
1) Augmenting the Church's response to its young Hispanic population.  
2) Helping in the development of ministry with Hispanic youth and young adults.  
3) Training Hispanic youth and young adult ministers, advisers, and leaders.  
4) Providing resources for leadership development and faith formation.  
5) Conducting applied research to reinforce all the aforementioned.

## Comments highlighting Fe y Vida's successes

Fe y Vida is able to deliver resources for a large agenda as it targets, trains, and does networking with grassroots, paraprofessionals, professional, and institutional people, who are in the position to serve Hispanic young people and empower them.

It has helped me broaden my understanding of Hispanic Young Adult Ministry by: 1) Diversifying leadership roles and empowering young adults and adults to collaborate in this ministry. 2) Expanding my collaboration with other diocesan offices to the national level. 3) Being aware of the importance of the active participation of Latino young adults in the Church of USA. 4) Enabling me to become a better minister, a more efficient person at work, and with a good sense of pastoral planning.

## Ideas that first come to mind when thinking of Fe y Vida

Fe y Vida is a dynamic and flexible professional organization that responds to a very real crisis in the Church today. Successful organization in a difficult ministry which is poorly understood, often unvalued, and underappreciated by the mainstream Church. Funding for this ministry is equally poor, and the capacity of those being served to pay Fe y Vida's services is also meager.

Dedicated professional Latinos who design programs and have facilitated them in numerous dioceses to help young adults in the Hispanic community realize their power and their responsibility in an American Catholic Church, which is in search of its own identity with its diversity of cultures.

*"Fe y Vida is a dynamic and flexible professional organization that responds to a very real crisis in the Church today."*

## Greatest strengths of Fe y Vida

1) Depth of talent and experience in its staff and pastoral team. 2) Reputation for quality programs, services, publications, and research from those who are familiar with organization. Well respected in many spheres of the Church. 3) Effective at bridge and partnership building with a broad array of organizations.

A history and reputation for getting things done and following through. High quality materials and formation programs based on solid content and excellent methodologies appropriate for the target population.

## Greatest challenges of Fe y Vida

Expanding from a small staffed institute to a higher level national institute with full fledged personnel in every office/department.

- 1) Developing a donor base that can sustain the institution economically.
- 2) Clearly communicating its mission and its importance for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

## Statements about the value Fe y Vida adds to the overall community

Leadership development that touches multiple aspects of young people's lives, not just the faith component. Successful at increasing awareness of the needs of Hispanic youth and young adults.

- 1) Its prophetic stance of transforming the Church of USA to a more diverse and collaborative church that includes leadership from the Latino community.
- 2) Their commitment to train the current Latino leaders so they become more competent and better ministers.
- 3) The importance of professionalizing or raising the level of ministry with young Hispanics at the diocesan level.

## What makes Fe y Vida unique

Its integral multidimensional approach to enhancing ministry with young Hispanics —formation programs, publishing of resources, foundational research, and advocacy— and its dedication to empowering young Hispanics for leadership.

Fe y Vida is unique in its target or "focus." It is very specific and clear in what is trying to achieve. The character with which the personnel, materials, and other resources are presented, gives an image of trust and of a well established institute.



## SUMMER PROGRAM SERVES A RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

This summer Instituto Fe y Vida had its largest Summer Program ever. It took place in the beautiful campus of Wheeling Jesuit University. A record 162 participants from 32 dioceses attended the intensive week of training, consisting of four distinct leadership and formation programs.

*We were very impressed with the quality of your materials and methodology, the proficiency and kindness of your faculty and staff, and the variety and creativity involved in the different activities. The 10 young adults who attended from our diocese have come back better prepared and energized to continue their ministry.*

*Elisa Montalvo,  
Dir. Hispanic Ministry,  
Diocese of Richmond*



## Reserve Your Dates!

### Fe y Vida's Summer Program

- Certificate Program
- Course "The Bible through the Eyes of Latino Young People"

**July 15-21, 2006  
Dickinson, TX**

## LA BIBLIA CATÓLICA PARA JÓVENES

*La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* was officially presented to the bishops by Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ, from Yakima, Chair of Fe y Vida's Board of Directors during a special breakfast in conjunction with the June meeting of the USCCB.



*Dr. Carmen M. Cervantes with Bishop William S. Skylstad, of Spokane, President of the USCCB; Mr. Fred Abraham, Supreme Director of the North West, representing the Knights of Columbus, who made a major gift making La Biblia possible.*

## La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes has been enthusiastically received in all of the Americas!

*Incorporating the reader is a strength of La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes. It is precisely up to us to fill in the questions and blank spaces and to make the Word part of our daily life. And I speak of "us," not in terms of "young people," because with such an exquisite text and helpful resources, this is definitely not a Bible for just young people. It is a Bible for all who are enamored!*

*Tarcisio Gaitán, c.p., Medellín, Colombia*

## FE Y VIDA LAUNCHES BIBLICAL PROGRAMS

Fe y Vida's Pastoral Biblical Initiative centers on helping young Catholic Hispanics to "know the Word of God, pray with it, and live it from their hearts." It continues to take form with the launching of two biblical programs: "The Bible through the Eyes of Latino Young People" and a "Training of Trainers Program." Both programs were offered for the first time this summer in West Virginia and Texas. Nearly 150 participants attended these programs.

*The Biblical Course was superb! The way of sharing the Scriptures, the energy and enthusiasm of the professor really invited us to live the Word of God and deepen our knowledge!*

*— Summer Program Basic Scripture Course Participant*

Biblical Programs are planned for Denver, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Stockton.



*Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ  
presenting La Biblia.*

*We are using La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes in all of our activities! It helps us, the leaders, to share the Scriptures with the jóvenes, and helps them to better understand, pray, and live the Word of God.*

*Francisco Javier Méndez de la Cruz,  
Petaluma, CA*

*La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes is a success in the Centro Guadalupe de Pastoral Hispana, of the Archdiocese of Newark. It has become a wonderful resource for us. Thanks for an excellent work! Congratulations!*

*Rev. Juan Luis Calderón, oar, Newark, NJ*



## RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER OFFERS NEW SERVICES

Instituto Fe y Vida's Research and Resource Center is at the forefront of applying solid social-scientific research to improve and expand ministry with Hispanic youth and young adults. In the past four years, the Center has articulated the major challenges and offered hope and direction for diocesan and parish ministers concerned about the pastoral care of their young Hispanics. However, it has not been an easy task to communicate these findings to the people who need them most—the youth ministry leaders in Catholic parishes and schools, and the pastors and principals who support them.

In order to make our research more accessible, Fe y Vida's Research and Resource Center has begun offering presentations, workshops, and facilitating processes for diocesan and regional conferences, convocations, and other in-service learning opportunities around the country. Since March of this year, nine such workshops or presentations have been conducted.

A good example is Fe y Vida's recent facilitation of the Diocese of Boise's convocation, in which Anglo and Hispanic ministry leaders gathered together to build a common vision for integrating Hispanics into the life and work of the parishes in the diocese. Utilizing the Research and Resource Center's wealth of demographic data, Fe y Vida's extensive pastoral experience, and an online survey to assess the

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what you don't know."*

participants' attitudes and abilities, a process was custom designed to meet the needs of the diocese. When asked what he would say to others considering working with Fe y Vida in a similar capacity, Michael Benton summarized the feeling of many of the participants in saying:

"You must come. You don't yet know what you don't know. This experience will open your eyes, ears, mind, heart, and help you discover an authentic desire to work toward the needs and empowerment of our Hispanic brothers and sisters."

Michael is the coordinator of youth ministry at his parish in Caldwell, ID, and his testimony speaks to the value of the Research and Resource Center's work for the whole Catholic Church in the United States.

*Ken Johnson-Mondragón  
Director of Fe y Vida's Research and  
Resource Center*



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