



Instituto  
**FE Y VIDA**  
Institute for Faith & Life

EMPOWERING  
YOUNG HISPANICS  
FOR LEADERSHIP  
IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

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## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Mission Statement of Instituto Fe y Vida

Instituto Fe y Vida equips ministers, young adult leaders, and parents to promote evangelization and faith formation among young Latinos, particularly in the United States, by fostering their own development and their mission in the church and in the world. Fe y Vida fulfills its mission through professional work in six complementary areas:

- ❖ Leadership Formation System for *Pastoral Juvenil*
- ❖ Biblical ministry for young people
- ❖ Pastoral publications
- ❖ National Research and Resource Center
- ❖ Latino Youth and Parents Project
- ❖ Institutional collaboration and advocacy

## What is Instituto Fe y Vida's Leadership Formation System?

The Leadership Formation System is a series of programs in *Pastoral Juvenil*<sup>1</sup> for ministers, trainers, advisers, and young adult leaders ministering with Hispanic youth and young adults. Through these programs Instituto Fe y Vida provides the human, faith, and pastoral formation necessary for an effective ministry with adolescents and jóvenes. Its goals are:

- To collaborate with dioceses, parishes, universities, and other institutions to offer effective pastoral formation programs for young Hispanics.
- To assist dioceses in establishing a core group of young adult leaders, training those with teaching abilities as instructors for basic level programs.
- To offer young Hispanics a multilevel, continuous, and progressive set of programs that provides a holistic formation process as an alternative or complement to academic education.
- To create understanding and build bridges between professional ministers and Hispanic youth and young adults, in order to facilitate their integration in the church as well as in the culture and society of the U.S.

<sup>1</sup> Pastoral Juvenil encompasses ministry with adolescents and jóvenes (single young adults). Fe y Vida's programs are not appropriate for young adolescents; teen-agers sixteen years and over are welcomed in several programs. Others are only for jóvenes and adults.

## Where and for whom are the programs offered?

- Most of Fe y Vida's programs are offered for participants in the contracting diocese or region; they can also be offered for a deanery or cluster of parishes. The Leadership Symposium is offered at the national level in a different region each year, with an emphasis on participation from the host diocese or region.
- Program presentations are in Spanish. Participants may partake in and fulfill class requirements in English or Spanish. Several resources are offered bilingually; most of them are in Spanish.
- If space allows, adults from related ministries may participate in Fe y Vida's programs.
- Programs include all necessary resources, which have been developed specifically for each course by Fe y Vida's team of pastoral professionals.

The classes have been exceptional and the material is well organized, challenging in a very positive sense, and affirming. The theology is wonderful.

—Sr. Betty Schumacher, OSB  
Dir. Parish Life and Faith Formation, Diocese of Boise

## What pastoral-theological approach is used?



Instituto Fe y Vida's programs and workshops use the **Prophets of Hope** model as a framework to engage adolescents and young adults as leaders in a ministry that is communitarian, evangelizing, and missionary; one that builds the Reign of God, and seeks the integration of young Hispanics in the church at the parish and diocesan levels.

At the heart of the Prophets of Hope 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.

## What are Instituto Fe y Vida's key contributions?

Instituto Fe y Vida was born in 1994 as a formation outreach of a Hispanic publications project in Saint Mary's Press (SMP) that began in 1988. For six years, Fe y Vida offered formation programs for ministers and young adult leaders. In 2000, with financial support from SMP, Fe y Vida became autonomous and broadened its areas of work. The key contributions of Fe y Vida are:

- Over 500,000 copies of *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes* and 35,000 of our Lectionary-based books *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús*
- Over 5,250 graduates from our leadership formation programs
- Close to 450 leaders trained as trainers in pastoral ministry
- Over 16 years of leadership and active participation in national organizations to create awareness about the pastoral needs of young Latinos at the national, diocesan, and parish level

Programs	Goals	Characteristics
<b>Formation and Support Process for an Effective <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i></b>	Analyze local pastoral circumstances and leadership resources, and conduct planning sessions to create a vibrant ministry to, with, and by young Hispanics.	Exploratory visit with four workshops, a “Día de la Juventud” ( <i>Youth/Young Adult Day</i> ), ongoing consultation services, and evaluation & planning workshops <i>Diocesan and parish personnel; advisers; jóvenes and older adolescents</i>  Offered in Spanish and in English, at deanery, diocesan, or regional levels
<b>Formation Course on <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i></b>	Strengthen the catechetical foundations and acquire pastoral skills for ministry with young Latinos in the U.S.	Four weekends: Two classes per weekend [56 hrs]  <i>Older adolescents, jóvenes, advisers, and ministers</i>  It is offered in Spanish and in English, at parish or diocesan levels
<b>Certificate Program for Advisers and Leaders in <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i>, and youth ministry coordinators</b>	Acquire theological and pastoral training at an intermediate level and/or specialized training for ministry with young Latinos in the U.S.  <i>Four levels of certificates:</i> 1. Leader in PJ      3. Paraprofessional Adviser 2. Basic Adviser    4. Professional Adviser	<b>Local:</b> Ten courses in ten weekends [150 hrs, plus pastoral practice and journal] <b>National:</b> Three weeks in three years [138 hrs, plus final paper]  <i>Jóvenes, advisers, and ministers</i>  It is offered in Spanish, at the diocesan, regional, and national levels, with the possibility of certificates in <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i> or <i>Pastoral Hispana</i>
<b>Specialization in Youth Ministry with Latinos</b>	Acquire specialized training for ministry with adolescent Latinos in the U.S.  <i>Certificate for Advisers and Leaders or equivalent is required</i>	<b>Local:</b> Two weekends [28 hrs] <b>National:</b> Two Seminars in one week [46 hrs]  Offered in Spanish and in English at parish, diocesan or national levels
<b>National Leadership Symposium</b>	Acquire a comprehensive vision and leadership skills for an effective <i>pastoral juvenil</i> by participating in a national, multifaceted, and creative experience.	One intensive week [46 hrs]  <i>Jóvenes, advisers, and ministers</i>  Presentations in Spanish; materials and reflections in both languages
<b>Prophets of Hope Leadership Workshops</b>	Acquire an introductory knowledge and pastoral skills for a holistic, communitarian, and missionary leadership with young Latinos.	Two weekends and one coordinating session [32 hrs]  <i>Older adolescents, jóvenes, and advisers</i>  Offered in Spanish and in English at parish, diocesan, or regional levels
<b>Workshops on Biblical Pastoral Ministry Among Young Hispanics</b>	Acquire general knowledge about Sacred Scriptures, learn how to use <i>La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes</i> and/or <i>The Catholic Youth Bible</i> , and work with other biblical resources.	From three hours to one weekend  <i>Older adolescents, jóvenes, and advisers</i>  Offered in Spanish at parish, diocesan, or national levels
<b>Biblical Course “The Bible through the Eyes of Young Latinos”</b>	Acquire sound principles of biblical exegesis in the Catholic Tradition, and knowledge of 22 key moments in salvation history, with pastoral application to the life of young Latinos.	<b>Local:</b> Four weekends [56 hrs] <b>National:</b> One intensive week [46 hrs]  <i>Older adolescents, jóvenes, advisers, and ministers</i>  Offered in Spanish at parish, diocesan, or national levels
<b>Advanced Seminars</b>	Acquire advanced theoretical knowledge and pastoral skills in areas of expertise needed for ministry with young Hispanics. <b>Level 100:</b> <i>Jóvenes and advisers</i> <b>Level 200:</b> <i>Advisers and ministers</i>	<b>Local:</b> Two weekends [28 hrs] <b>National:</b> Two Seminars in one week [23 hrs per seminar]  Offered in Spanish at diocesan, regional, or national levels
<b>Trainer of Trainers for the Formation Course on <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i></b>	Acquire pastoral and didactic skills to serve as trainers in Fe y Vida’s Formation Course on <i>Pastoral Juvenil</i> .  <i>Certificate Program for Advisers and Leaders in PJ. and certain Advanced Seminars or their equivalents are required.</i>	<b>Local:</b> Three weekends [42 hrs, plus teaching practice] <b>National:</b> Two intensive weeks in a two-year period [92 hrs plus teaching practice. (Includes an Advanced Seminar)]  Offered in Spanish at diocesan, regional, or national levels

# Topics for workshops, processes, in-services, consultations, and university courses

Instituto Fe y Vida offers a variety of services geared towards the improvement and enhancement of ministry to Hispanic young people and their parents. The following topics are offered to religious congregations, dioceses, universities, and other ecclesial institutions as half-day presentations, full-day workshops, and two or three-day processes. These services are tailored according to the particular needs of each institution. They are offered in English and/or Spanish, usually geared towards priests, religious, and lay pastoral ministers.

## 1 Who are Latino Catholic Youth and Young Adults?

- Language, culture, immigration status, and generation
- Education, family income, and social capital
- Geographic distribution
- Contributions and challenges for church and society
- Key aspects in the acculturation process
- Sociological groups and their distinct pastoral needs

## 2 A Comparison of Latino and non-Hispanic Caucasian Catholic Adolescents

- Socioeconomic differences
- Religious beliefs and practices
- Parish youth group involvement
- Implications for organizing and coordinating youth ministry

## 3 Complementary Approaches for a Comprehensive Ministry

- *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*
- *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*
- *National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry*
- *Civilización del Amor: Tarea y Esperanza* (Guide for Latin American youth and young adult ministry)
- *Conclusions of the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry*
- The Prophets of Hope model: A new and old synthesis

## 4 The Prophets of Hope Model for Ministry with Adolescents and Jóvenes

- Christocentric spirituality
- Pastoral Circle
- Formation-in-action
- Community of communities
- Dimensions of reality
- Characteristics of a comprehensive ministry
- Communion in mission
- Shared leadership and responsibility
- Resources for ministry using the Prophets of Hope Model

## 5 Pastoral Bíblica Juvenil

- Biblical literacy and biblical ministry
- The Bible in the life of young Latinos
- Pastoral agents and their roles in *pastoral bíblica juvenil*
- Young leaders as key agents in *pastoral bíblica juvenil*
- Strategies to help young Latinos know the Bible, pray with it, and live it from their hearts
- Resources: *La Biblia Católica para Jóvenes*, *The Catholic Youth Bible*, Fe y Vida's *Curso Bíblico*, *Diálogos Semanales con Jesús*, etc.

## 6 The Preferential Options for the poor and for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

- The preferential options of Jesus in the Gospels
- The poor among us and the ethics of youth and young adult ministry
- Advocacy for the participation of the marginalized and formation for leadership
- Priorities, considerations, and approaches in ministry with young Latinos

## 7 “Community of Communities:” A Framework for Ministry in Multicultural Parishes

- The early Christian Church: a community of communities in diverse pastoral settings
- The ecclesial challenge of diversity at the universal, national, diocesan, and parish levels
- The Catholic parish in the United States and Latin America
- Intercultural communication and the models of multicultural parish ministry
- Community of communities: a response to pastoral nearsightedness
- Community of communities: a pathway to mobilizing the laity for their mission
- Community of communities: an approach for building unity in diversity
- Centrality of the Eucharist in a community of communities
- *Pastoral de conjunto* (communion in mission): an essential element in the life of a community of communities

## 8 Enculturation, Acculturation, and Inculturation

- The acquisition of culture in monocultural and multicultural environments
- The process of identity formation in culturally contested environments
- The impact of discrimination, automarginalization, oppression, victimization, assimilation, and subversion on the individual, the church, and society
- Living with another culture: culture shock and the stages in the acquisition of intercultural competence
- The transformation of culture through the incarnation of the Gospel
- Models for ministry with Hispanic youth and young adults in a multicultural church

## 9 Pastoral Juvenil: A Valuable Contribution from Latin America to the Church in the United States

- What is *pastoral juvenil*, why is it so valuable, and why do we need to actively promote its approach?
- The challenges of coordinating youth ministry and *pastoral juvenil* in the U.S.
- Vocation, mission, and the life project among young people
- Characteristics and transitional processes connecting preadolescent, adolescent, and young adult ministry

