



SANTA CRUZ

Noticias

News of Hispanic Ministry in Holy Cross

Autumn 2006

Holy Cross Priests, Brothers, and Sisters to have Summit on Hispanic Ministry

At their last meeting in the spring of 2006, the sisters, brothers, priests, and lay collaborators of the **Intercongregational Hispanic Ministry Committee** decided to have a Summit at Notre Dame in March 2007.

Why a Summit?

There are several reasons why it is important for Holy Cross to develop a serious, strategic pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry.

1. The Hispanic population in the United States is growing at a very fast rate. Immigration, especially from Mexico, is at a very high rate. There are some places where there were very few Hispanics just a few years ago, and now they are the large majority of the Catholic population. Besides immigration, the Hispanic birth rate is much higher than other groups, whose birth rates have dropped off.
2. Our own Congregations of Holy Cross are changing in North America. The men presently have 21 temporarily professed in North America. The Sisters of the Holy Cross presently have 3 temporarily professed in North America; of these 2 are Latinas.
3. Our Congregational priorities and mission statements challenge us to work with and for the poor. Not all Hispanics are poor, but many, especially immigrants, are. As their numbers grow, we are called to respond with our own Holy Cross charisms and ideals.
4. As the demographics change, the Church will have a difficult challenge. Not everyone will welcome the people who seem new in our local churches and parishes. We

need to help the Church at all levels respond to this change.

5. We are all challenged to work to increase vocations. If Holy Cross is to continue in the future as a vibrant religious community in the United States, we need to seek vocations and formation programs that will respond to the opportunities and need of the Church in the U.S. Vocation directors and superiors have frequently asked for help in seeking vocations. We are coming together to make plans to attract them.

We are witnessing how the Congregation is growing in many, many places: Bangladesh, India, Haiti to mention a few. We are glad to see such growth, and we are challenged to work for vocations in the U.S.

The Holy Cross men are in the process of restructuring because our own demographics are changing. We are diminishing in some places and growing in others.

But this is not just about numbers. We are also interested in greater zeal and energy for religious life. Changing structures will not do this for us. Planning for our future in Hispanic ministry is one way in which some of us can renew ourselves and prepare for the future. Other ministries will need to do similar planning to confront the future and help us all renew ourselves.

The Summit will take place at Moreau Seminary, Tuesday, March 20–Thursday, March 22, 2007. We hope that people can arrive on Monday, March 19 for Mass and dinner as part of the celebration of St. Joseph's Feast Day at Moreau Seminary (please let us know if you plan to come

for the celebration, so we can let the people at Moreau Seminary know ahead of time).

For more information about the Summit, look at <http://hispaniccsc.org>. You can also contact:

John S Korcsmar CSC
2111 Brackenridge St.
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 443-3886
john.korcsmar@southernccsc.org

or
Beth Mahoney
Mission Director
Holy Cross Family Ministries
1-800-299-7729 ext. 2012
1-508-982-1059 cell
bmahoney@hcfm.org

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As you have heard in the news, there is a lot of discussion about immigration reform. For a good source of information, check on the web at <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org>. This is the website for the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform by the U.S.C.C.B.

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The Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame will be offering a conference on Guadalupe, Madre de América, November 9–11, 2006. For more information, please see <http://www.nd.edu/~latino/>.

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The Woodrow Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute recently released a study, “Invisible No More: Mexican Migrant Civic Participation in the United States.”

Churches help migrants keep ties with their homeland because many churches are international. However, they also help migrants develop the skills necessary for participation in public life.

The study cites the Catholic Church’s work in immigration reform as an issue of interest to immigrants, and also as an opportunity for their participation in political life.

For more information, please see <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/> or www.catholicnews.com

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A New Opportunity for Holy Cross

In their pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey to Hope*, the U.S. and Mexican Catholic bishops invite religious communities to accompany migrants.

Sr. Lili Martínez, CSC has been working as a community organizer with Austin Interfaith. In doing individual meetings and house meetings with immigrants, she has discovered that the largest, single source of immigrants from Mexico to Austin is Rio Verde, S.L.P. This town is not far from Ahuacatlan, S.L.P., where Fr. Fred Schmidt spent so many years. It is also close to the homes of **Fr. Marin Hernández, CSC** and **Deacon Paulino Antonio, CSC**.

With that in mind, **Sr. Carlota LeBeouf, MSC**, working out of Dolores Parish in Austin, will work to link Rio Verde, S.L.P., Monterrey, Nuevo León (through La Luz Parish, where **Fr. Pete Logsdon, CSC** and other Holy Cross priests, sisters, temporarily professed and candidates live and work) and Austin.

Fr. Dan Panchot, CSC is working on an “immigrant’s kit,” which would include information of practical use for immigrants, a rosary, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and other things. We would disseminate that through Family Rosary in Mexico.

The first step will be to visit the parishes in Rio Verde in late October. We will then see what opportunities there are in Rio Verde, Monterrey, and Austin.

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Planning for the Future

We are trying to have a list of places and people where Holy Cross religious are working in some form of ministry with Hispanics. It might be social work, parish work, organizing, education—the needs and opportunities are many.

Being Educators in the Faith	Concern for Justice	Option for the poor
Zeal	Collaboration	Family
Trust in Providence	Missionary	Hospitality

Bro. Donald Blauvelt pointed out that these qualities of our apostolic and community life are very important, but the special gift that Holy Cross brings to the Church is the gift of being a family or community composed of priests, brothers, and sisters. This vision is unique to Holy Cross.

Ms. Minerva Camarena Skeith did an excellent job in leading a discussion of areas in which we might want to collaborate together on in Austin. Most of the discussion centered on how parishes might collaborate with San Juan Diego Prep with campus ministry and with recruiting students. It was pointed out that there already is a great deal of collaboration between St. Edward's University and San Juan Diego Prep. San Juan Diego Prep has the highest ratio of religious to students in any Catholic high school in the United States. **Sr. Lili Martínez** did the evaluation and the closing. People thought that it was worthwhile to get together and thought that we should do this again.

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