



*The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.
An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19).
-The Joy of the Gospel (#24)*

February 7, 2017

At this time of grace, it gives me joy to inform you that the January 28th official Launching process towards the *Fifth National Encounter (V Encuentro)* was a great start. We welcomed all your delegates representative of your parochial community and together we were 18 Parishes and 3 apostolic movements who have heard Pope Francis' call to take the first step, boldly take the initiative, go out to others as **Missionary Disciples: Witnesses to the God's Love**, and Seek those who have fallen, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.

Bishop Conlon's statement to the participants was very assertive and pastoral, "**as Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, [he is] eager to hear the ideas and recommendations that will emerge from the process. [He is] ready to support your leadership in the life and mission of the Church, particularly that of emerging young leaders.**" the goal is that everyone's voice be heard at the *National V Encounter*.

All participants were given the official manual, the instrument guide designed to help live out the missionary process of the *V Encuentro*. The Guide's five sessions are inspired by the call of Pope Francis to be missionary disciples, to be the *Church in Mission* (Joy of The Gospel #24). As such, the sessions and missionary actions prepares the missionary disciples to:

- 1. Take the first step,**
- 2. To involve ourselves,**
- 3. Accompany others,**
- 4. Give abundant fruit, and**
- 5. To celebrate the joyful presence of the Risen Jesus Christ in our families, our faith communities and on the peripheries.**

From our office, we want to make sure you and your parish community have our full support engaging in the *V Encuentro* process. I have attached a practical infographic that explains the steps of organizing and living out each step. Please feel free to call our office for questions or if you need our assistance in your parish William Becerra and/or I, can guide you.

In Christ,

Jorge Rivera

Director

Office of Hispanic Ministry/Ethic Ministries



January 28, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. *1 Jn4:19*).

At this time of grace, it gives me great joy to welcome you as protagonist in the process of the Fifth National Encounter (V Encuentro), under its theme **Missionary Disciples: Witnesses to God's Love**.

The V Encounter is an initiative of the Bishops of the United States calling all Catholic leaders to an intense missionary activity, consultation, leadership development, and identification of best ministerial practices in the spirit of the New Evangelization. It especially prepares us as a Church to better recognize, embrace, and promote the many gifts and talents that the diverse Catholic community shares in the life and mission of the Church, and in the society.

The V Encounter process will gather hundreds of missionary disciples just like you, in Encounters at the parish, diocesan, and regional levels; and your voice will be heard at the national Encounter. As bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, I am eager to hear the ideas and recommendations that will emerge from the process. I am ready to support your leadership in the life and mission of the Church, particularly that of emerging young leaders. Throughout the process of the V Encounter, many Catholics like you will go forth to encounter other brothers and sisters, in parishes, lay ecclesial movements and Catholic organizations. This missionary action seeks to give witness to the Kingdom of love, truth and justice that Christ asks us to proclaim, particularly among young people and families living at the peripheries of the Church and society.

Today you will be given the official manual, the instrument guide designed to help us live out the missionary process of the V Encuentro. The Guide's five sessions are inspired by the call of Pope Francis to be missionary disciples, to be the Church in mission. As such, the sessions and missionary actions prepare us to take the first step, leading us to accompany others, give abundant fruit, and celebrate the joyful presence of the Risen Jesus Christ in our families, our faith communities and on the peripheries.

I invite you to go forth and begin your journey as a joyful missionary disciple, giving witness to the tenderness and nearness God's love. I am grateful for your willingness to accept Christ's invitation to an encounter.

In Christ,

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet



Priests Serving the Hispanic Community | MINUTES

Meeting date | time February 13, 2018 | 10:00 A.M.-12:00P.M. |
Meeting location *Blanchette Catholic Center*

Meeting called by	Bishop Daniel Conlon	Invited
Type of meeting	V Encuentro	Peter Newburn Fr. Burke Masters
Facilitators	Jorge Rivera & William Becerra	
Note taker	Alicia G. Juarez-Garcia	
Attended		
Rev. Sunny Castillo, <i>St. John Paul II, Kankakee</i>		Rev. Don McLaughlin <i>Our Lady of Mercy, Aurora</i>
Rev. Jose Cilia, O. Carm., <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Joliet</i>		Rev. Matthew Nathan <i>St. Alexis, Bensenville</i>
Rev. Franklin Duran, <i>St. Dominic, Bolingbrook</i>		Rev. Jose L. Torres, O. Carm. <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Joliet</i>
Rev. Herbert Essig <i>St. Francis of Assisi, Bolingbrook</i>		Rev. Edward Ward, O. Carm. <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Joliet</i>
Rev. Gregor Gorsic <i>St. Andrew, Romeoville</i>		Seminarians <u>Senavio Sarabia</u> <i>Our Lady of Mercy, Aurora</i>
Re. Jerome Kish <i>St. Matthew, Glendale Heights</i>		James <u>Guarascio</u> <i>St. Dominic, Bolingbrook</i>
Rev. David Lawrence <i>St. Mary, West Chicago</i>		Ramon <u>Sida</u> <i>St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield</i>