

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**A**t this time of grace, it gives us great joy to welcome you as protagonist in the process of the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry (V Encuentro), under its theme **Missionary Disciples: Witnesses to the God's Love**.

The V Encuentro is an initiative of the Bishops of the United States calling all Catholic leaders to listen with profound attention to the needs, challenges and aspirations that the growing Hispanic/Latino population faces in daily life. It especially prepares us as a Church to better recognize, embrace, and promote the many gifts and talents that the Hispanic community shares in the life and mission of the Church, and in the society.

The V Encuentro process will gather hundreds of thousands of missionary disciples just like you, in Encuentros at the parish, diocesan, and regional levels; and your voice will be heard at the national Encuentro. As bishops, we are eager to hear the ideas and recommendations that will emerge from the process. We are ready to support your leadership in the life and mission of the Church, particularly that of emerging Hispanic/Latino young leaders.

Throughout the process of the V Encuentro, millions of Catholics like you will go forth to encounter our Hispanic/Latino brothers and sisters, in thousands of 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.

The Guide that you hold in your hands is an instrument 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 la *Iglesia en salida* (the Church in Mission). As such, the sessions and missionary actions prepare us to take the first step, to involve ourselves, 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.

Go forth and begin your journey as a joyful missionary disciple, giving witness to the tenderness and nearness God's love.

Your brothers in Christ,

**Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller**  
*Archbishop of San Antonio, MSPS*

**Most Rev. Nelson Pérez**  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre*

