



NCDVD

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Dear Vocation Directors and Vocations Office Personnel,

There is no more important work in our Church today than calling and forming men for the priesthood. The holy bishop, St. Rafael Guízar Valencia once said, “A bishop can do without the miter, the crosier and even without the cathedral. But he cannot do without the seminary, since the future of his diocese depends on it.”

That is why the work you are doing is so vital. The future of the Church depends on your work in calling and raising up the holy priests that our Church needs to carry out her saving mission. So thank you for your generous service. I pray that you remain steadfast in your work.

Priestly vocations are born from a Catholic culture. And our Church in the United States has always been a Church of immigrants, of peoples from every nation. We have always found a way, in every generation to meet the spiritual and sacramental needs of the many peoples who make up the family of God in the United States.

In our time, we are particularly aware of our need to serve our growing Hispanic population. The challenge we face today is that the demand for Hispanic priests in the United States is outpacing their availability. We have to find a way to meet this challenge.

Last year the NCDVD took some important first steps in addressing this issue by establishing the Hispanic Subcommittee and commissioning a survey with the help of The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). This survey investigated vocation directors’ work with Hispanic candidates and seminarians to determine what models offer the most promising results in Hispanic communities.

Thanks to your participation in this survey, we have solid results to learn from.

I hope that the survey’s conclusions will both encourage you and affirm the good work you are doing, as well as inspire you to even more fruitfulness in your work to raise up Hispanic candidates to the priesthood..

May we receive and respond to the results of this survey by re-dedicating ourselves to our beautiful duty of fostering priestly vocations. Let us commit ourselves to pray every day for new men to hear God’s priestly call. And let us increase our efforts to call forth men from our Hispanic communities to serve at the altar.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe guide all of us as we seek to call men from our Hispanic communities to share in the priesthood of her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your generous response to our Lord’s call to service. Please know that you are in my prayers.

In Christ,

+Archbishop Jose H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
Episcopal Advisor to the NCDVD