**FAQs Regional Summer Seminar on Formation for Hispanic Ministry**

Robert Hurteau

Los Angeles, July, 2021

**Vision of the Seminario**

As the Hispanic population in California, Hawaii, and Nevada continues to grow, the Regional Summer Seminar on Formation for Hispanic Ministry seeks to be a space of encounter, enrichment, study, prayer, consultation, and networking that gathers the directors and representatives of the formation programs of three ecclesial groups:

* Archdioceses and dioceses
* Catholic universities
* Independent ministry institutions

**What does the Seminario do for its members?**

As a regional grouping, the Seminario regularly asks its members: **what can we do better together than apart?** All participants have an active voice and everyone can make contributions so that a true dialogue among us grows and opportunities for mutual enrichment can develop.

In all the Seminarios we have been accompanied by theologians and specialists (sociologists, educators, demographers) who have helped facilitate our reflection: Prof. Hosffman Ospino, Dr. Ken Johnson-Mondragón, Professors David and María Teodocia Hayes -Bautista, Dr. Arturo Chavez, Prof. Paul Jiménez, Prof. Brett Hoover, Sister Rosalía Meza, Fr. Allan Deck and others.

**Organization of the Seminario**

The Seminario is an initiative of Loyola Marymount University which is coordinated by a Steering Committee. This initiative has the support of the Bishops of California, Hawaii, and Nevada. The Steering Committee members are volunteers. For 2021, the Seminario is supported by a generous donation from an anonymous foundation; in other years, publishers and foundations have supported the Seminario.

**How did the Seminario start?**

In 2007, the present writer was looking for a grant to create a forum to assess the progress of Hispanic ministry formation programs, in order to improve the quality of those programs. At the suggestion of Fr. Allan Deck, S.J., the forum was designed at the regional level. After the foundation agreed to fund the seminar, three people with extensive experience in Hispanic ministry formation were invited to join the present writer to form the first Steering Committee:

Carmen Cervantes  
Executive Director  
Instituto Fe y VidaPaulina Espinosa

Director, Office of Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation, Diocese of San BernardinoHumberto Ramos  
Parish Life Director  
St. Marcellinus Parish

The first Seminario was held July 28-30, 2008 with the participation of nearly 40 people who are responsible for Hispanic ministry formation programs in 13 of the 14 (arch)dioceses of California and Nevada. In the beginning, it was not thought that the Seminario would continue year after year, but at that first meeting the group decided to meet again the next year. Two other volunteers were credited to the Steering Committee, and so in 2021 we are celebrating thirteen years of the Regional Summer Seminar on Formation for Hispanic Ministry.

**Where have the Seminarios been held?**

* 2008 – Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
* 2009 – Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, California
* 2010 – Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Las Vegas
* 2011 – St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota
* 2012 – Vallombrosa Retreat Center, Menlo Park, California
* 2013 – Mission San Antonio de Padua, Jolon, California
* 2014 – Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Zephyr Cove, Nevada
* 2015 – Saint Anthony Retreat, Three Rivers, California
* 2016 – Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, Citrus Heights, California
* 2017 – Maryknoll, Los Altos, California
* 2018 – El Carmelo Retreat Center, Redlands, California
* 2019 – St. Paul Newman Center, Fresno, California
* 2020 – Online, via Zoom

**Who are invited to the Seminario?**

Those responsible for Hispanic ministry formation programs in Region XI (California, Hawaii, and Nevada).

**How do participants receive their invitations?**

The Steering Committee sends invitations to diocesan bishops, to the directors of pastoral formation programs at universities and to the directors of independent pastoral institutes so that they (the bishops and directors) can select who will represent an (arch)diocese, pastoral institute, college or university in the Seminario.

[*During the pandemic, the Steering Committee sent letters to bishops informing them of the names of those invited to the Seminario, and then invitations were sent to those individuals.*]

**What sorts of people are on the Steering Committee?**

On the Steering Committee there are members who serve a three-year term and one permanent member (from Loyola Marymount University, the institutional organizer of the Seminario). In recent years, there have also been Adjuncts to the Steering Committee. These are people whose presence is useful to the Steering Committee either because of an expertise or because of holding a regional office. Adjuncts are not required to attend all Steering Committee meetings.

**Are the Steering Committee members volunteers?**

Yes, all the members (those serving a three-year term of service, the permanent member, and the adjuncts) are volunteers.

**Other than the permanent member, how are the members of the Steering Committee appointed?**

When there is a vacancy on the Steering Committee, a request is made to the assembly at the Seminario for recommendations of new members. Subsequently the Steering Committee makes a decision on the recommendations and invites the new member to join the Committee.

**What is the decision-making process for selecting the topics that will be taken up at a Seminario?**

Each year at the conclusion of the Seminario the assembly proposes topics for the next year. Suggestions from Bishops are also received. During the year, the Steering Committee is in charge of coordinating the development of the selected topics.

***Steering Committee***  
Graciela Garza-Ayala; Bob Hurteau; Lauralyn Solano; Douglas Zuniga |*Adjunct for Higher Education Affairs:* Robert Lassalle-Klein |*Adjunct for the California Catholic Conference:* José Antonio Medina |*Coordinator of Worship and Music:* Carlo Argoti

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