Catholic Schools in an Increasingly Hispanic Church

Part II

A Summary Report of Findings from the National Survey of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families

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INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SERVING HISPANIC FAMILIES

SECTION I: LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL CULTURE

SECTION II: STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SECTION III: STEWARDSHIP DYNAMICS

SECTION IV: RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARISHES AND ARCH/DIOCESES

EMERGING INSIGHTS: TOWARD A CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION
Introduction
The New American Catholic Experience in the 21st Century

• 43% of all Catholics in the country are Hispanic.

• About 60% of all Catholics under 18 are Hispanic.

• How are our Catholic schools and Catholic structures in the U.S. adjusting to these demographic changes?
National Study of Catholic Parishes with Hispanic Ministry (2011-2014)

- 4,300+ Catholic parishes

- 61% of parishes w/Hispanic ministry located in the South and the West. HOWEVER, only 39% of all parishes are in these two regions.

- Most of the growth of U.S. Catholicism is taking place in the South and the West, largely thanks to the Hispanic presence.

- Most of the Catholic structures are located in the Northeast and Midwest.

- Catholic schools were identified by pastoral leaders serving Hispanic Catholics as key partners in the evangelization of the new generation of Catholics.
Methodology

• **Survey Construction**: Frame of Reference
  - National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools (NSBECS)
  - Hispanic Ministry in Catholic Parishes Study

• **Target Population**: Schools identified as serving Hispanic families

• **Purposive Sampling**: Selected participants based on high level of confidence with those who recommended...
Sampled Schools by Region

- 31% of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families
- 20% of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families
- 17% of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families
- 32% of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families
Survey Sample

- Sampled Principals: 1,488
- Responding Principals: 656
- Response Rate: 44%
Response Rate by Region

- Northeast: 44%
- Midwest: 44%
- South: 49%
- West: 39%
Emerging Insights

• **Signs of Vitality**

  • 22% of all Catholic schools in the U.S. have been identified by Catholic education and ministry leaders as schools intentionally serving Hispanic children and their families.
III. Stewardship Dynamics
## General Operating Costs for Responding Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average School Cost per Pupil</th>
<th>Average Total School Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>$6,196</td>
<td>$1.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>$5,638</td>
<td>$1.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>$6,628</td>
<td>$1.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>$5,836</td>
<td>$1.3M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Average Tuition and Costs per Student among Responding Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average Tuition Cost per Pupil</th>
<th>Average Total School Costs</th>
<th>$ “Gap” per Student</th>
<th>% of Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>$4,213</td>
<td>$6,196</td>
<td>$1,973</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>$3,440</td>
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<td>$2,198</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>$5,101</td>
<td>$6,628</td>
<td>$1,527</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>$4,652</td>
<td>$5,836</td>
<td>$1,184</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Finances & Tuition Assistance

- Average Annual Tuition per Student: $4,525
- Average Annual Cost per Student: $6,125
- 88% of responding schools independently provide need-based tuition assistance.
- 21% say that Hispanic students receive scholarships or tuition assistance that are not based on need.
Tuition Assistance

• 73% provide support for Hispanic families who chose to apply for financial aid.
  • 65% assist with completing required forms.
  • 20% offer financial assistance workshops.
  • 15% offer “other” assistance (e.g. translating application information into English/Spanish).
Median Percentage of Students Receiving Tuition Assistance,

- Asian: 10%
- Caucasian: 17%
- Multiracial: 33%
- African-American: 40%
- Hispanic: 50%
Percentage of Hispanic Families Receiving Need-Based Tuition Assistance by Region

- Northeast: 70%
- Midwest: 50%
- South: 49%
- West: 46%

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Median % of Hispanic Students Receiving Tuition Assistance for 50%/ More of Tuition Costs, by Region

Northeast: 5%
Midwest: 40%
South: 17%
West: 20%

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Does your school have an enrollment plan? (n=524)

- Yes: 62%
- No: 38%

Is this a targeted enrollment plan, with specific strategies for different populations? (n=320)

- Yes: 23%
- No: 78%
Among those who have a targeted enrollment plan:

Does the plan include strategies to recruit Hispanic families/students? (n=70)
- Yes: 84%
- No: 16%

Does the plan include strategies to retain Hispanic families/students? (n=320)
- Yes: 74%
- No: 26%

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• **29%** of responding principals said that at least one their affiliated **parishes** provides initiatives to target the recruitment of Hispanic families and students.

• **33%** said that their **(arch)diocese** provides support for the development of marketing strategies to welcome Hispanic families to Catholic schools.
School Choice State: Florida

- Tax Credit Scholarship Program: “Step Up for Students”
- 81.7% of program participants chose to attend a religious school (2014-15)
- 38% of program participants are Hispanic
- Average household income: $24,135
School Choice State: Indiana

- Voucher Program: “Choice Scholarships”

- Participation growth:
  - 2011-2012 school year: 3,911 students
  - 2014-2015 school year: 29,148 students

- “Enrollment isn’t an issue since Indiana has…school choice scholarships. Families flock to Catholic schools under these conditions.” —Responding principal

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Emerging Insights: Stewardship Dynamics

• **Signs of Vitality**

  • Catholic schools serving Hispanic families are consistent in their efforts to develop and use targeted materials to reach out to Hispanic families.

  • **Over 50% of schools participating in the study are able to provide need-based assistance to about 50% of Hispanic students.**

  • Participating schools in the South and the West, where most Hispanic families live, are more likely to implement financial practices that are closer to covering the total cost of education per student.

  • 24 States, plus D.C., have implemented school-choice policies (tax credits and vouchers).

  • Local, arch/diocesan, and national foundations investing in Hispanic-specific initiatives to support access and retention of Hispanics in Catholic schools are a true sign of hope.
Emerging Insights: Stewardship Dynamics

- **Areas that require immediate attention**
  - 38% of responding schools do no have enrollment plans. Of those that do have enrollment plans, only 23% report that those plans include specific strategies for different demographic groups.
IV. Relationship with Parishes and Arch/Dioceses
Parishes and Schools

• Symbiotic relationship

• Relationship has been evolving in response to urgent needs (i.e., financial), challenges (e.g., declining number of vowed religious and clergy), emerging models of governance

• Need a national conversation about the future of the relationship between parishes and schools, particularly as the Catholic population continues to change in the United States
94% of responding schools are affiliated with one or more parishes.
Parish Activities

Percentage of Respondents Reporting that at Least One Affiliated Parish does the following:

- Serves Spanish-speaking families in religious ed programs: 92%
- Provides pastoral care and presence at school: 85%
- Ministers to Spanish speaking families: 57%
Parish Office of Hispanic Ministry

Does at least one affiliated Parish have an Office of Hispanic Ministry? (n=599)

- Yes: 53%
- No: 47%

For those who said yes

Does the Parish have a Director of Hispanic Ministry? (n=312)

- Yes: 71%
- No: 29%
34% of schools with a Director of Hispanic Ministry report that the Director is involved in their school.

Directors are most often involved by:

- Serving on planning team/committee
- Acting as a member of the school board
- Interpreting or translating Spanish/English
- Teaching
Within the past two years, has anyone from the Office of Hispanic Ministry reached out to your school regarding Hispanic families/Students?

- Yes: 28%
- No: 63%
- Uncertain: 9%

Have you worked with the Office of Hispanic Ministry on a project involving your school and Hispanic families/students?

- Yes: 17%
- No: 83%
- Uncertain: 9%
Do we know who we are and work with each other?

- Only 38% of school leaders are aware that their parishes with Hispanic ministry have a person who oversees this ministry (cf. Survey of Schools).

- 97% of all Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry are aware of the existence of a Catholic Schools Office.

- YET....

- Only 51% have intentionally worked with a Catholic School office to promote access and support to Hispanic families interested in Catholic schools (cf. National Study of Parishes).
Within the past two years, has anyone from the Office of Catholic Education reached out to your school regarding Hispanic families/students? (n=626)

- Yes: 50%
- No: 43%
- Uncertain: 7%

Have you worked with the Office of Catholic Education on a project involving your school and Hispanic families/students? (n=624)

- Yes: 29%
- No: 71%
Emerging Insights: Relationship with Parishes and Arch/dioceses

- **Signs of Vitality**

  - The majority of participating schools (57%) have explicitly discussed strategies with arch/diocesan offices to increase the presence of Hispanic students/families.
Emerging Insights: Relationship with Parishes and Arch/dioceses

- Areas that require immediate attention

  - Half of responding principals (54%) reported that at least one of the parishes affiliated with their school has an office of Hispanic ministry. Only 38% have worked directly with the person in charge of Hispanic ministry to reach out to Hispanic families.

  - A silo mentality permeates the work of Church offices and officials advocating for Catholic education and Hispanic ministry.
Areas that Require Immediate Attention in Catholic Schools

• About two-thirds (62%) of responding schools have enrollment plans while 38% do not. Of those that have enrollment plans, only 23% report that those plans addressed specific strategies for different demographic groups (half mentioned Hispanics as a target).
Areas that Require Immediate Attention in Catholic Schools

• A silo mentality still permeates the work of Church offices and officials advocating for Catholic education and Hispanic ministry. Important connections among these ministries are regularly missed. They aim at achieving similar goals but often fail to work collaboratively. Supporters of one fail to see the importance of supporting the other.
“How nice it is to feel that our school, or the places where we gather, are a second home. This is not only important for you, but also for your families.” Pope Francis 2016