Catholic Schools in an Increasingly Hispanic Church

Part I

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
• 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 with 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.

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Parishes with Hispanic Ministry

- 23% of Hispanic parishes
- 24% of Hispanic Parishes
- 38% of Hispanic parishes
- 15% of Hispanic parishes
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
Survey Sample

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

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

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• 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.
I. Leadership and School Culture
Three Key Questions

1. What kind of leadership is necessary to make sure that our Catholic schools are truly welcoming spaces for Hispanic families?

2. Are Hispanic children’s cultural and religious traditions intentionally integrated in the life of the schools?

3. Do our schools provide a welcoming environment for Hispanic families to see these institutions as partners in the academic, religious, and cultural formation of their children?
Percentage of Responding Principals who Identify as Hispanic and non-Hispanic

- Non-Hispanic: 86%
- Hispanic: 14%

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# A Profile of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Principals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic Principals</th>
<th>Hispanic Principals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most Common Age Range</td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>35-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in the U.S.</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluent in Spanish</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education and Training</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic Principals</th>
<th>Hispanic Principals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience Living Internationally</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holds a Graduate-Level Degree</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received Training on Hispanic Ministry and Theology</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received Training on Cultural Competency Related to Hispanic Catholics</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Experience</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic Principals</th>
<th>Hispanic Principals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Years as Principal of Current School</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked in Ministry at Parish Level</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked in Ministry at Arch/Diocesan Level</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Percentages of Teaching Staff Who are Hispanic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Full-Time Teachers</th>
<th>Part-Time Teachers</th>
<th>Instructional Assistants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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School Boards

- **84%** of responding schools governed by a board.
- **9** is Median # board members

![Number of Hispanic Board Members](image)

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Culture & Spiritual Environment

- Liturgies include Spanish language components: 36%
- Prayers are written and shared in Spanish: 35%
- Symbols are culturally diverse and inclusive: 25%
- Signage displayed in Spanish and English: 21%
Culture & Spiritual Environment

- Display Prominent School Signs in Spanish and English
- School Symbols are Intentionally Culturally Diverse and Inclusive
- Share School Prayers in Spanish and English
- School Liturgies Include Spanish Language Components

Percentage of Schools

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• 58% of respondents offer at least one program for students who speak Spanish at home.
Emerging Insights: Leadership and School Culture

• Signs of Vitality

• Catholic school principals who speak Spanish or have participated in cultural competency training programs are more likely to ensure that their schools are welcoming environments for Hispanic families.

• 9 in 10 (93%) principals of Catholic schools serving Hispanic families hold graduate degrees.

• Two-way immersion (TWI) Catholic schools are making a remarkable difference in their engagement of Hispanic families and children.
Emerging Insights: School Leadership and Culture

- **Areas that require immediate attention**

  - A dramatically small number of teachers (12%) and principals (14%) working in responding schools self-identify as Hispanic.

  - Only 17% of responding principals speak Spanish fluently.

  - Less than a quarter of responding principals have received explicit training about Hispanic culture. Only 17% have participated in training related to Hispanic ministry/theology.

  - Half of principals leading Catholic schools serving Hispanic families are 55 or older.
II. Students and their Families
Comparing Hispanic Enrollment in Catholic Schools with the Catholic School-Age Population


Note: Numbers are approximations.
Hispanic Enrollment among all Responding Schools, by Region

- **Northeast**: 16%
- **Midwest**: 11%
- **South**: 10%
- **West**: 33%

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Emerging Insights: Students and their Families

- Signs of Vitality

  - The Catholic school-age population in the United States has never been larger than today: about 14.6 million—of them, 8 million (54% are Hispanic).

  - Most Catholic schools in this study are serving Hispanic families who live in the socioeconomic peripheries of our society.
Emerging Insights: Students and their Families

• **Areas that require immediate attention**

  • Only 4% of school-age Hispanic Catholic children attend Catholic schools in the U.S. That percentage is smaller (2.5%) when all Hispanic school-age children are considered.
Areas that Require Immediate Attention in Catholic Schools

- Less than a quarter (23%) of responding principals have received explicit training about Hispanic culture.

- Only 17% have participated in training related to Hispanic ministry and/or theology.
Areas that Require Immediate Attention in Catholic Schools

- Efforts to reach out to Hispanic families and their children must translate into welcoming environments.
- Only 21% of study schools display prominent school signage in Spanish and English.
- 25% ensure that school symbols are culturally diverse and inclusive.
- 35% share school prayers in Spanish and English.
- 36% incorporate Spanish language in school liturgies.

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“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