

PASTORAL PROJECT: Accompaniment and Leadership Development for Hispanic Young Adults in Rural Areas of Mississippi

Context

Rural communities in Mississippi face unique pastoral challenges, including geographic isolation, limited parish resources, and a growing Hispanic population with few structured opportunities for young adult formation. Many Hispanic young adults desire community, faith formation, and leadership opportunities but lack consistent pastoral accompaniment adapted to their reality. Through my work with Hispanic young adults at **SEPI**, this project seeks to test how existing pastoral formation resources can be adapted and applied effectively in a rural context.

Purpose

This project proposes a pastoral initiative designed to form, accompany, and empower Hispanic young adults in rural Mississippi while intentionally testing a model that can later be refined, scaled, and replicated in other rural dioceses. The project is both pastoral and exploratory. It prioritizes real world implementation, evaluation, and documentation of outcomes.

Objectives

- Form one or two pilot youth or young adult groups in rural communities
- Develop local leadership capacity through accompaniment and formation
- Test a simple and sustainable methodology for group formation
- Evaluate what works and what does not in a rural pastoral context
- Document findings as applied pastoral research

Methodology

The project follows a pastoral cycle of listening, discernment, action, and evaluation.

- Listening to the lived reality of young adults
- Discernment in light of Scripture and Church teaching
- Action through pilot group formation and leadership training
- Evaluation through feedback, participation, and reflection

Sustainability and Impact

Sustainability is achieved by forming local leaders and maintaining simple, adaptable structures. Scalability is ensured through clear documentation and the development of a replicable methodology. The long term impact includes strengthened faith communities, empowered young adult leaders, and a tested pastoral model for rural Hispanic ministry.