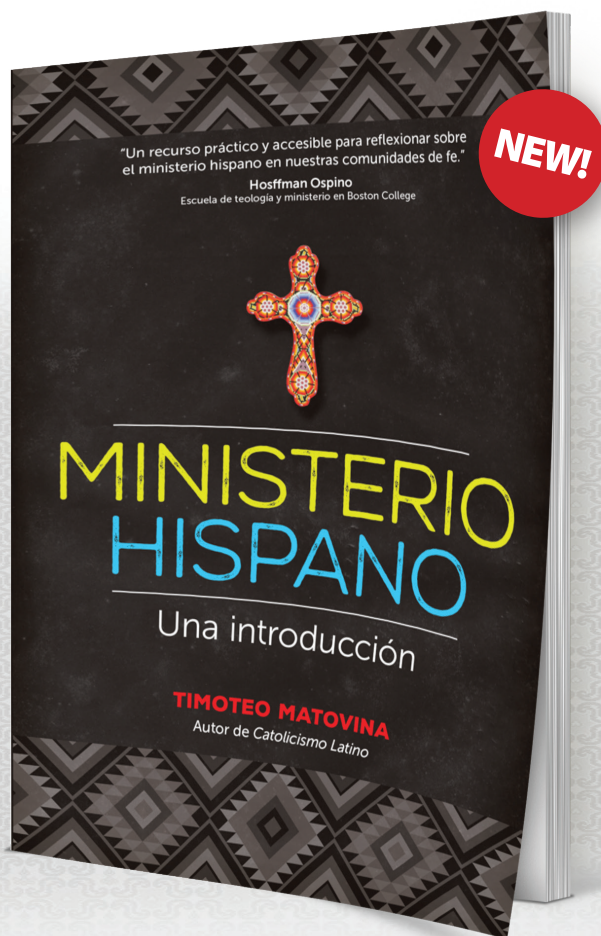




8 Ways to Cultivate Hispanic Ministry in Your Parish



1. Renewal of Faith

The thirst many Hispanics have to know the Bible and the teachings of our faith is an immense gift that God has placed in their hearts. Apostolic movements (Cursillo, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Marriage Encounter, etc.) are schools of faith for many Catholics, and we need to and improve these schools.

2. Draw People to the Sacraments

The Sacraments are possibly the treasure of our Church that people least appreciate. Thanks to the fervent reception of the Sacraments in apostolic movements, Sunday Mass, Reconciliation, and parish life are enriched.

3. Counter the Pentecostal and the Evangelicals

How many of our brothers and sisters go to other religions because they do not know how to answer questions or critiques from the Protestants? There is a great necessity—and opportunity—to face the challenge of proselytization with initiatives of evangelization in parishes and movements.

4. Abandonment of Drugs and Alcohol; Solution of Personal and Family Problems

Apostolic movements and prayer groups are fertile places to allow the Holy Spirit to work among the parish members and even those who do not frequent the parish. These ministries help heal not only individuals, but also entire families.

5. Create a Sense of Belonging

A fundamental need of immigrants, those who are away from their families, the divorced, abandoned, rejected—indeed every human being—is to feel part of a community whose members support and love each other. We need to create these communities within our apostolic groups and parishes.

6. Train People to Become Apostles in Their Own Environments

We must not accept that members of our parishes be passive Catholics. In this regard, we as Catholics fail a lot. But the apostolic movements raise courageous evangelizers who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed: at home, at work, in the streets, wherever they are in their daily lives.

7. Form New Leaders for the Parish

The movements should always urge their members to participate in parish ministries with devotion and humility. Thus the parish becomes a community of communities where the movements are training schools that, like leaven, help the whole community to rise.

8. Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life

Thanks to God, the number of Hispanics who embrace these vocations is increasing, especially the number of Hispanic deacons and their wives serving in various ministries. But the need for vocations continues to grow with the growth of the Hispanic population in our Church. The challenge and the opportunity to promote vocations remains a priority in all our apostolic groups.

These 8 strategies are drawn from Timothy Matovina's book, *Ministerio hispano*.

For a more in-depth look at how to cultivate Hispanic ministry in your parish visit avemariapress.com/ministeriohispano.

*Only available in Spanish.