

The Call to Communion in a Diverse Church

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Our faith communities are called to witness unity in diversity to a fractured world. We know that in the Eucharist we are united as one, but how can we live out this gift in parishes where racial, ethnic, theological, and other differences cause conflict and division? This workshop examines the call to communion within the Body of Christ, as well as practical ways to make the gift of communion more manifest in everyday parish life.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How is the spirit of “homecoming” present in your parish and how could it be further nurtured?
2. What have you learned from immigrants and/or other marginalized persons and communities about resilience in the face of adversity?
3. What practical suggestions can you offer your fellow pastors about fostering communion amidst the diverse members of your parish?



SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATION

Acts 6:1-7

“At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.”



RESOURCES

- [BOOKLET] [Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They May All Be One](#)
from the USCCB
- [BOOK] [Building Bridges, Not Walls](#) by John Burke, Ph.D.
- [BOOK] [The Shared Parish](#) by Brett Hoover, Ph.D.
- [ARTICLE] [10 Things to Know about Hispanic Catholics](#) by Timothy Matovina, Ph.D.
- [ARTICLE] [Whiteness as an Ecclesiological Heresy](#) by Joseph Flipper, Ph.D.
- [EXCERPT] [Integration. From “Latino Catholicism Transformation in America's Largest Church”](#) by Timothy Matovina, Ph.D.
- [COURSE] [The Intercultural Church: Theological Foundations and Pastoral Practices](#)
taught by María del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, M.T.S.
- [COURSE] [Ministerio Hispano: Actualidades y Posibilidades](#)
taught by Timothy Matovina, Ph.D.



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Katherine Angulo is the Program Director of the Thriving in Ministry Initiative, supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., in the McGrath Institute for Church Life. In this role, she works to prepare lay pastoral leaders for long-term ministry in the Church and directs the Bishop John M. D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal. Angulo received a B.A. in Modern Languages from King College and an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from St. Thomas University. She has more than twenty years of experience in youth ministry. Angulo was the Creator and Editor of [The Mark](#), a Catholic teen magazine, and the Executive Producer of the volunteer training program, [Called to Accompany/Llamados a Acompañar](#). She also is the Executive Producer of the Bishop D'Arcy Program for Priestly Renewal Video Series.



Timothy Matovina, Ph.D.

Dr. Timothy Matovina works in the area of faith and culture, with specialization in U.S. Catholic and U.S. Latino theology and religion. Professor Matovina has authored over 100 essays and reviews in scholarly and opinion journals. He also has written or edited 19 books, most recently Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church, which won five book awards, including selection as a CHOICE "Outstanding Academic Title," as well as Theologies of Guadalupe: From the Era of Conquest to Pope Francis. Among his various scholarly awards, Matovina also received the Virgilio Elizondo Award "for distinguished achievement in theology, in keeping with the mission of the Academy" from the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS), as well as several teaching awards. In addition to his scholarly work, Matovina offers presentations and workshops on U.S. Catholicism and Latino ministry and theology throughout the United States.