



NCADDHM

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF DIOCESAN DIRECTORS FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY

July 17, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Ministry,

Greetings in Christ!

Last year in 2022, our NCADDHM Board together with the Executive Committee unfolded a valuable initiative to engage young adults or *jóvenes* as leaders and advocates in the life of NCADDHM as a Catholic organization.

Due to various circumstances, the Election and Nominations Committee (NEC), with the support of NCADDHM's Board, decided to put it on hold and relaunch this initiative later at a more appropriate time. We believe that now is the time relaunch this initiative to nominate young adult members from your dioceses, catholic organizations, and parish communities who meet the requirements to serve and advocate for all Hispanic/Latino young adults within the structure of NCADDHM by being Ex-officio board members.

Recently, our US Bishops voted and approved the Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. That is a historical milestone for Hispanic Ministry in the USA. Within the 10 priorities of the pastoral plan and of our Bishops, Youth and Young Adult Ministries (*Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*) remains as one of the priorities of greater importance.

Today more than ever, we as leaders in the Church need to invite to our structures and decision-making processes, our current and future generations of young men and women serving our local communities. Therefore, we invite you to support the relaunching of this initiative by nominating or encouraging young people to participate as candidates.

Attached you will find the documents explaining the process and the form that would need to be completed. The deadline to submit nominations will be **October, 1, 2023**. The Executive Committee will discern and vote on the nominations at their Biannual meeting on Oct. 10, 2023.

The National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry recently approved encourages in "providing young people with relevant and transformational opportunities to utilize their gifts in the Catholic community as well as to live out their faith as active members of their civic societies and builders of a society cemented in gospel values of justice, peace, and fraternal love" (32). Join us in making true this vision for young people in your Church today!

Sincerely in Christ,

Lázaro Contreras

Lázaro A. Contreras

Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)

NCADDHM Board-Region 10 Representative (TX, OK, AR)

Director-Office of Hispanic Ministry, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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CALL FOR YOUNG ADULT BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATIONS

The Proceedings and Conclusions of the V Encuentro gave our Church as a top recommendation to “engage young adults in the leadership and decision-making structures of the church at all levels” (134). Echoing this call, assured by our trust and hope in the protagonism and leadership of Latino young adult ministers, the **National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry** will be adding two young adult leaders as ex-officio Board Members with all the rights and responsibilities granted by our Bylaws. Additionally, it is imperative for these two young adult Board Members to advocate for the realities, potential, and engagement of their fellow young people in the life of this organization.

This transformative decision was the recommendation of an ad-hoc consultation group made up of young diocesan directors of Hispanic Ministry and Pastoral Juvenil Hispana created two years ago by NCADDHM’s Executive Committee to discern concrete paths to hear their voices, foster and amplify their leadership, and accompany young adults as an organization. This initiative is part of other four initiatives that were recommended. The Executive Committee wholeheartedly embraced all their recommendations, including this proposal. The ad-hoc consultation group developed guidelines for the profile, nomination and election processes; now, a Nominations and Elections Committee is leading this initiative with minimal intervention from the Executive Committee.

From **July 17, 2023 to Oct. 1, 2023**, nominations and self-nominations can be sent to the Nominations and Elections Committee who will prayerfully discern a small pool of top candidates for this position. On **Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023** during NCADDHM’s Spring Board Membership meeting, the Board Members will vote for two young adults from among this pool of candidates who will take on this role effective immediately.

Profile of Young Adult Candidates

- They must be Latino young adults between the ages of 21-35; they must be of this age by the time the nomination process starts.
- They must currently be employed by an arch/diocese, a parish, or a national Catholic organization in a position where he or she has served the Hispanic community, directly or indirectly, for at least one year.
- Preferably, they will have experience serving Latino young adults.
- Preferably, they will already be members of NCADDHM.

Duties of Young Adult Board Members

In addition to the regular duties of Board Members, these two young adult leaders will help the Executive Committee to discern, plan and implement recommendations to actively engage young adults in the life of



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the organization.

Term of Service

Unlike other Board Members who serve for a period of three years, these two young adults will serve for a period of two years. We are mindful of the rapid-pace and quick-to-change life of young adults today; we also hope to provide this national leadership opportunity to as many young people as possible, equipping them to serve at national-level positions. Just like other Board Members, these young adults may accept a nomination or self-nominate for a second term of two years if by the end of their first term they still meet the criteria stated above. Additionally, they may be selected as officers of the Executive Committee to serve a full term in that role as stated in our Bylaws.

Nomination Process

From **July 17, 2023 to Oct. 1, 2023**, nominations and self-nominations of young adults who meet the candidate criteria can be submitted to the Nominations and Elections Committee by filling out the Candidate Form. In all cases, the nominee must accept their nomination prior to submitting a nomination, and their immediate supervisor or bishop must assent to this nomination—see Candidate Form for details.

Election Process

From among all submitted nominations, the Nominations and Elections Committee will prayerfully discern up to six nominees (“final candidates”); the Executive Board will release the names of the final candidates to our members prior to the election date, along with exact details for the elections procedures. Board Members will vote on **Tuesday, Oct. 10th, 2023** during NCADDHM’s Spring Board Membership Meeting.

Finally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all of you for your support in this historical initiative. We humbly trust that through the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, moved by the V Encuentro, by the desire of our own members, and by Pope Francis’ call to live in synodality, the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry will be a resource that fosters and promotes the full potential of the young leaders of the Church of today and tomorrow. If you have any questions regarding the nomination and election processes, please contact the members of this committee.

Nominations and Elections Committee Members

Lázaro Contreras, Director of Hispanic Ministry, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston,

Lcontreras@archgh.org

Benito Medrano, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, Diocese of Orange, Bmedrano@rcbo.org

Cristina Contreras, Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Tulsa,

cristina.contreras@dioceseoftulsa.org

Accompanying Executive Committee Members:

Edwin Ferrera, Director of Hispanic Ministry, Archdiocese of Seattle, edwin.ferrera@seattlearch.org



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Candidate Form for Young Adult Board Member

Submit this form by the end of the day on **Oct. 1, 2023** by emailing it to Lcontreras@archgh.org. Any questions can be addressed to any member of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

PART I: CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of nominee: _____

Job Title: _____

Arch/Diocese/Parish/Organization: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

PART II: MINISTRY QUESTIONS

On a separate attachment, please respond to these questions. While you will not be constrained in the length of your responses, we encourage you to be concise.

- 1) Provide a short biography. Please include any ministry formation and trainings you have received.
- 2) Describe your service to Hispanic/Latino young adults and/or the Hispanic/Latino community in general. Describe how you currently serve this community in your job, and how you have served them in previous volunteering or paid positions and roles.
- 3) Describe your biggest hope for Hispanic/Latino young adults in the United States, and how you would like to advocate for this as a Board Member of the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry.

PART III: IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR/BISHOP SUPPORT

Please attach a written endorsement of your immediate supervisor or Bishop assenting to this nomination and expressing their desire to support you as a NCADDHM Board Member if you were elected. Alternatively, have them sign below.

By signing, I acknowledge that this candidate may be elected to serve for two years as a young adult Board Member for NCADDHM to advocate for and discern ways of engaging Latino young adults in the life of this organization. _____

Name of supervisor/Bishop

Signature of supervisor/Bishop

Date