



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing today to introduce and support a program that is very much needed in today's Church for today's parents - *Forming Ministers of God's Love: Catholic Parenting in the Domestic Church*.

Developed by Loyola Press in direct response to the outcomes of the V Encuentro, *Forming Ministers of God's Love: Catholic Parenting in the Domestic Church* is designed to empower parents to be the loving leaders in their homes as they seek to guide their children through today's complicated and unprecedented culture. *Forming Ministers of God's Love* is a two-year program consisting of weekly small group sessions wherein parents engage in open-ended discussion, reflection opportunities, Scripture, and prayer. Within this context, parents are supported by one another and learn ways to bring the faith home as ministers of God's love to their children.

Created by Dr. Dora E. Tobar, Director of Family Life and Hispanic Ministry Office at the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, *Forming Ministers of God's Love* is based upon the pastoral circle's methodology and asks parents to walk weekly through three simple steps:

- **SEE** their present situation – Parents reflect upon and share their present family situation in order to welcome change through an encounter with Jesus.
  - **ENLIGHTEN** their lives—Parents are guided to view their reality through the lens of salvation history.
  - **LIVE** according to the Word—Parents discuss how they can apply the session concepts within their own home.
- Following the last session in each unit, participants
- **CELEBRATE** their new or renewed understanding of how God is with them.

*Forming Ministers of God's Love* is available in English and Spanish and offers a unique opportunity for parishes to strengthen the commitment of parents to raise a generation more involved in their parishes and more rooted as Catholics.

Please share this letter and the program with those in your parish who are responsible for adult faith formation, family ministry, parish ministry, and anyone you think will benefit from this program. It is my prayer that parents and their faith communities will find this program invaluable as they, as the V Encuentro Prayer states, "seek to share the joy of the Gospel with people of all generations."

May God, through the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization in the Americas, continue to bless you in your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia