

ST THERESE PARISH/ SANTA TERESITA



*Congregation of St. Therese
Parroquia de Sta. Teresita
Appleton, WI.*

HISPANIC VISION AND CHALLENGES.

VISION IN ACTION TO STRENGTH COMMUNITY.

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HISPANIC VISION AND CHALLENGES.

INTRODUCTION

I would like to present a dialogue in regards to the future vision we have of the Hispanic community at St. Therese parish; a good start would be with some of the data taken from the recent 2010 USA Census.

According to the Census Bureau (please refer to attached tables and websites), in Outagamie County 2.77% of the population are Hispanics.

In the age category for Hispanics: 5 to 14 = 664; 15 to 44 = 2019; 60 + = 760.

In Winnebago County 2.44% of the population are Hispanic.

Age category: 5 to 14 = 502; 15 to 44 = 1872; 60+ = 736.

Total both Counties: 5-14 = 1167, 15-44 = 3891, 60 + = 1496.

In regard to the poverty level for Hispanic in Outagamie, are 16.1% below poverty level and 83.9% at or above.

For Hispanic in the area of level of education: in the population of 25 yrs and over we have 26.8% less than high school, 28.7% high school graduate, 22.4% some college or associate's degree and 22.1% bachelor's degree or higher.

PASTORAL CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES.

SEVERAL POINTS THAT ARE NOT VERY CLEAR:

1.- We do not know the number of Catholics within the Hispanic community; I would say that it is around 90%.

2.- In addition, not all Hispanics come to church, whether due to lack of time or lack of knowledge about our sacraments and activities.

3.- We have a Hispanic community whose sacramental involvement is much greater than their stewardship commitment.

4.- We are a relatively new community in the area; an ESTHER survey shows that the average Hispanic has been in this area about 10 years.

OPPORTUNITIES:

The Hispanic children present an opportunity to work with, helping them become a strength for the parish. We see that we have in the category of 5-14 years, for both counties, a total of 1167 children. We should invest in stewardship formation programs focused on children. If we have already programs such as “Learning to Live” from the Boys Scouts and YMCA activities within our parish REP, wouldn’t it be great to have our own programs to motivate our children to be part of this parish as leaders?

We will have the Hispanic community at St. Therese for a long time.

The age category of 15- 44 yrs in both counties is 3891. If we focus just on the 44+ age people, I can assume that this age category would prefer to have the Mass in Spanish. If we continue having a bilingual priest and a great area for working and worshipping, the Hispanic community will continue to come to this parish for the next 20 years.

The Hispanic children and youth would continue accompanying their parents in the Spanish masses even when they are adopting English as their first language.

If we look at the poverty level numbers, it will be interesting to see the percentage of the members of the parish that are at, or under, this level. It helps us to see that 2 out of 10 Hispanics are below poverty level.

PROPOSALS- STRATEGIES

1. To continue efforts to integrate our membership as an American and Hispanic parish.
2. To increase participation in the organization of parish events.
3. To improve information and participation in issues of Justice and Peace.
4. To create more events for worship, and that they reflect our values.
5. To offer retreats or workshops for marriages.

6. To work with the children and youth with stewardship awareness programs.
7. To create more fundraising events for the parish.
8. To offer more workshops and meetings with liturgical ministers.
9. Many in the Hispanic community desire to create and increase their spiritual life; they want to discover their personal and spiritual gifts; that their cultural values as Hispanics be conserved and lived in their families. There are many activities in other parishes and the Diocese in the area of formation, we need to do a better job in inviting the community that they attend.
10. To create a culture of tithing (pamphlet, homilies, etc.)

CONCLUSIONS:

- 1.- The numbers show that the Hispanic Community will be worshipping in the parish for the next 20 years.
- 2.- The REP with the children is a special area where we can implement stewardship programs. We must help them come to a feeling and consciousness that this is their church and parish.
- 3.- The community of 25 yrs and older has a high rate of less than a high school education; it is related with low skill jobs and low income wage. We should continue supporting programs to increase formation, education, English classes, and advocate for driver licenses and comprehensive immigration reform.
- 4.- I hope that this will help in order to have a clear vision about the future in stewardship with the Hispanic community.

Carlos Herrera.

CENSUS WEBSITES

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=16000US5502375&-qr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_S1603&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00

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					PERCENT JUST FOR OUTAGAMIE COUNTY			
HISPANIC			OUTAGAMIE	WINNEBAGO		HISPANIC %	ANGLO %	
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL		→	751	398		16.10	7.1	BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
AT OR ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL		→	3,912	3,094		83.9	92.9	AT OR ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT								EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
POPULATION 25YRS. AND OVER:								POPULATION 25YRS. AND OVER:
Less than high school graduate.		→	704	801		26.8	7.4	Less than high school graduate.
High school graduate (includes								High school graduate (includes
equivalence).		→	753	434		28.7	37.3	equivalence).
Some college or associate's								Some college or associate's
degree.		→	588	443		22.4	30.2	degree.
Bachelor's degree or higher.		→	580	495		22.1	25.1	Bachelor's degree or higher.

DIVERSITY IN APPLETON

Census Race/Ethnic Classification	1980		1990		2000		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population	59,224		65,995		70,499		72,623	
White	58,217	98%	63,510	96%	64,368	91%	61,856	85.2%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)	269	.5%	519	.8%	1,738	2.5%	3,643	5%
African or African American, Black	31	.05%	215	.3%	678	1%	1,178	1.6%
American Indian & Alaskan Native	184	.3%	267	.4%	479	.7%	434	.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Hawaiian	523	.9%	1,484	2.25%	3,236	4.5%	4,283	5.9%
Some identified other race							65	0.1%
Two or More Races	----	----	-----	----	----	-----	1,164	1.6%
Total Minority Population	1001	1.75%	2,485	3.78%	6,131	8.7%	10,767	14.8%

Note, The Census Bureau defines "Hispanic/Latino" as an origin; thus individuals can be Latino and any other race (white, black, etc): "Race" data only includes individuals who identified themselves as that race alone.

Information compiled from US Census by Kathy Flores, City of Appleton Diversity Coordinator

FAITH BELIEFS USA 2011

SOURCES: PEW FORUM ON RELIGIOUS LIFE, USCCB, INSTITUTO FE Y VIDA, AP, UNIVISION
POLL.

CATHOLICS	35%	HISPANIC
MAINLINE PROTESTANTS	3%	HISPANIC
EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS	7%	HISPANIC
CATHOLICS	18-29 YRS	18%
CATHOLICS	20-29 YRS	48%
CATHOLICS HISPANICS	18-25 YRS	55%
CATHOLICS HISPANICS	65+ YRS	80%
OF ALL US HISPANICS	CATHOLICS	68%