

September 2025

Beloved Participants in the Bilingual Catholic Social Teaching Certificate Program,

Grace and peace to you in this Jubilee of Hope—a time when the Church calls us to prayer, to mission, and to a renewed spirit of evangelization. Your presence in this certificate program is itself a sign of hope, a response to the Lord who continually invites us to live as missionary disciples and responsible citizens of both Church and society.

This initiative arises from the fruitful communion between the Secretariat of Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM). For more than three decades, NCADDHM has sought to accompany pastoral leaders across the country, fostering formation, reflection, and collaboration so that Hispanic/Latino Catholics may live out fully their vocation in the heart of the Church. Together, in *pastoral de conjunto*, we continue the mission entrusted to us by Christ: to proclaim the Gospel and to serve the world in love.

The Church's Social Doctrine is not simply a body of teaching but a living tradition, born of the Gospel and nourished by centuries of reflection on human dignity, solidarity, the option for the poor, and care for creation. These are not abstract ideas but the very paths by which we make faith concrete in our communities. The cry of the poor, the plight of the immigrant, the wounds of creation—all of these are places where Christ himself meets us, and where we are called to respond as the Good Samaritan responded on the road (cf. Lk 10:25–37).

Your participation in this program is a vital act of formation and mission. The certificate is designed not only to equip you with knowledge but to empower you as leaven in your dioceses, parishes, organizations, and communities. It is our prayer that you will take what you learn here, multiply it, and accompany others in building a society more just, more fraternal, and more attuned to the Kingdom of God.

In offering this program at a just and accessible cost, NCADDHM renews its commitment to the principles of economic justice we ourselves proclaim. With the guidance of experts and in partnership with the USCCB, you will find here a space for dialogue, discernment, and action. I encourage you: ask questions, immerse yourself in the wisdom of the Church, and allow this formation to strengthen both mind and heart.

Finally, I give thanks for those who laid the foundations for this moment, and I entrust you all to the Lord who calls us to “act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God” (Mic 6:8). May this time of learning be for you a moment of grace, renewal, and commitment to the mission of Christ in the world.

With fraternal blessings in Christ,



Ignacio Rodriguez
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