Latinos in Catholic Schools

Presented by:
Mayra Alza Wilson
Rhonda Mercs
The New American Reality
The Changing Faces of a Classroom

Our schools and its new demographic school shift
“Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic segment expected to grow 167 percent from 2010 to 2050”
Latinos in Ohio

- 354,674 people – 3.1 percent of Ohio’s total population (63.4% increase since 2000 Census)
- 50 percent are of Mexican ancestry
- Median age of 25.2 years compared to 38.5 years for Ohioans as a whole
Since 1960, Hispanics have contributed 75% of the growth of the Catholic Church in the United States.

One out of every four children is Latino. The fastest growing school-age population.

Only 3% of Latino children attend Catholic Schools nationally.

It is a demographic imperative to increase our capacity to serve Latino families.
One out of every four children is Latino... the fastest growing school-age population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>2013-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AoC Latino Enrollment</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AoC Total Enrollment</td>
<td>29,992</td>
<td>29,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Latino Enrollment</td>
<td>1.96%</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targeted Schools</th>
<th>2011-2012 (Year 1)</th>
<th>2012-2013 (Year 2)</th>
<th>2013-2014 (Year 3)</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family (CIN)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>141%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Rosary (DAY)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>119%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Cecilia (CIN)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>767%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence (CIN)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>118%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding the Gaps

The Financial Gap
- Cost is definitely a barrier
- Vouchers, tax credit programs, and private scholarships expand access for Latino families. Assist families through the process

The Information Gap
- People need more information on schools, academic benefits, financial aid opportunities, etc.
- Work with pastors and principals developing marketing and communications efforts

The Culture Gap
- Many schools are not well-equipped to serve Latino families
- Share practices for teachers and staff to effectively serve students from different cultural backgrounds, including ESL best practices

The Leadership Gap
- Leaders need to understand and respond to this demographic shift
- Work together with Pastors, and Principals to respond to the changing face of the Church

Only 3% of Latino children attend Catholic schools nationally.
Strategies and Opportunities

- Personalize recruitment: word of mouth + relationships
- Work to strengthen a welcoming school culture
- Engage Spanish speakers + seek bilingual volunteers
- Connect resources + build relationships
- Family participation + engagement in school community
- Professional development for teachers + staff
You start small ---- get to know the students and their families and gain a deeper understanding of the Latino culture. The opportunities are endless.
Urban Child Development Resource Center

Clinical Counselors
- Violence Prevention Program
- Clinical Counseling
- Group Counseling

Family Advocate
- Meet basic needs of families
Partnerships with UCDRC

- Translating flyers and forms into Spanish
- Interpreting for client/social work interventions
- Interpreting Latino events held in Spanish, hosted by UCDRC schools and Dayton Children's
- Interpreting at the schools for parent/teacher conferences, also assisting a parent with completing Mental Health assessment.
EVENTS

Health and Safety Fairs:
- Health and Safety issues (bike safety, booster seats)
- Medication and Poisoning Safety

Catholic Education Summit - 2013
- Taping a video regarding the Latino Community
Questions?

Mayra Alza Wilson
Coordinator of Latino Outreach for Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
(513) 421-3131 x. 2718
malza@catholiccincinnati.org

Rhonda Mercs
Director
Urban Child Development Resource Center
University of Dayton
(937) 238-7030
rmercs1@udayton.edu