

Bilingual Ministry Formation Certification

Specialization Day

John Jelinek & Julieta Jacobo

March 7, 2026

The Mission of Evangelization

Universal mission of the church

- Jesus said to them, “To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent.” **Luke 4:43**
- “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” **Matthew 28:19-20**
- “...woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.” **1 Corinthians 9:16**
- “the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the church. The church exists to evangelize...” **Evangelii Nuntiandi 14**

Bilingual/bicultural ministry during Jesus’ time.

- Jesus never told us to evangelize only to the people who speak Spanish.
- Evangelization within our culture is easiest but Christ rarely calls us to do easy things.
- The Apostles were multilingual.
- The Apostles did not have to give up their Jewish identity.
- “...I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.” **1 Corinthians 9:26-28**

Our call to evangelization

- Contribution to the larger parish through:
 - Lived witness of faith
 - Cultural expressions of faith
 - Serving in ministries
 - Minister to English speaking Hispanics
- Receive from the larger parish
 - Belonging to the community
 - Faith formation opportunities
 - Opportunities for youth

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Bilingual Ministry Formation Requirements

- **Coursework in a Second Language** Complete a minimum of 40% of the Ministry Formation Program in the language other than the one in which the participant's primary formation sessions are conducted. This is equivalent to eight formation events each year: these include regular weekday/weekend sessions, retreats, Specialization Day topics, and Theological Workshop topics.
- **Elective sessions** Participate in elective sessions that focus on bilingual ministry at this year's *Specialization Day* and next year's *Theological Workshop*.
- **Pastoral Engagement** Provide support for a bilingual event at a parish or diocesan event.