



Office of the Bishop

June 4, 2019

Dear Pastors, Catholic School Principals, and Directors of Catechetical Ministry,

Blessings to each of you as you continue to advance the mission of Catholic education throughout the Diocese of San Diego.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Hosffman Ospino, one of the nation's foremost experts in Hispanic ministry to headline our Diocesan Leadership Conference titled: **"Time to Re-Imagine Catholic Schools in an Increasingly Diverse Church"** on **Thursday, August 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.**

I personally invite you to attend this co-sponsored event by the Office for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministry and the Office for Schools. This conference is part of a greater diocesan effort to better meet the needs of our Hispanic community, who currently comprise approximately two-thirds of the students enrolled at local Catholic schools, and to promote increased collaboration among Catholic schools and parish faith-formation programs in ministering to this same community in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Dr. Ospino, who served as the principal investigator for 2014's National Study of Catholic Parishes and co-investigator for 2015's National Survey of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families, believes the face of Catholicism in the United States is rapidly changing as the result of significant cultural, demographic and religious dynamics. Because of our diocese's proximity to the U.S.-Mexican border, Dr. Ospino holds that the Diocese of San Diego is "at the epicenter" of these "important transformations," which will require a re-examination of the role of Catholic schools in the 21st-century Church.

This is a critical moment for both parish and school leadership to come together and re-envision best practices. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity to further collaborate with your parish and school leadership.

For more information and/or to RSVP for the conference, please contact the Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry at (858) 490-8230.

On behalf of all those you so faithfully serve, thank you again for your commitment to the ministry of Catholic education.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert McElroy
Bishop of San Diego