

Parish Engagement Program of Santa Clara: Innovation Challenge Finalist

Webinar



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

October 7, 2020



Parish Social Ministry

Parish Engagement Program in
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara
County

Presenters

Bridget Balajadia

Fr. Jon Pedigo



Catholic Charities
of Santa Clara County

Encuentro

- “We ask only one thing: that you reach out! And that you go and seek out and encounter the most needy!”
- “...When you meet those most in need, your heart will begin to grow bigger, bigger and bigger! Because reaching out multiplies our capacity to love. An encounter with others makes our heart bigger. Take courage!”



“...If I do not look, if I do not touch, if I do not speak, I cannot create an encounter and I cannot help to create a culture of encounter”.

DESIGN QUESTION

What might we as Catholic Charities and parishes do to address the challenges extremely low-income people (ELI) living in the *poorest neighborhoods* in Silicon Valley ?

- Massive poverty created and sustained by a system that has marginalized
- The “othering” of those living in poverty and “othering” from race.
- Overcoming the “divide” in the Diocese
- Overcoming paralysis from helplessness and hopelessness

Encuentro: Seeing the Divine in the Other and being mutually transformed

The theology of Encuentro is at the heart of our program. We believe that when we walk with an Other, both parties are transformed. The model of "helping others" creates a power dynamic that not only maintains distance between those helping and those being helped, it sustains the inequities. Mutual transformation opens the possibility for systemic change.

Encuentro has implications that are also systemic. When social support systems and policies are informed by those who are directly impacted, root causes are exposed and addressed

- Accompaniment driven
- Experiential
- Holistic approach
- Rooted in a Discipleship Commitment
- Solution is in the Community (in the hands of those who are directly affected).



Integral Human Development and the Impact of Trauma

What might we do to provide support for those who are impacted by trauma using the resources of the community?

What might we do to “capacitar” (build knowledge and skill capacity through training and critical analysis) in the community?

RIGHT: ACCOMPANIMENT TEAM TRAINING SESSION






Three Branches of Service



Accompaniment

Referrals

Community Market



Scalability and Expandability

1 Site – Year One and COVID emergency response

4 Sites – Year Two: COVID response and recovery, multiple service lines

Multiple sites – Year Three: COVID recovery, multiple service lines, diocesan-wide

Thank you for your participation!

Questions and Answers

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