

TO: Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators and Parish Leaders
FROM: Office of Hispanic Ministry
RE: Hispanic Youth Day

Dear Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators:

Would you please consider supporting our work of encouraging Latino youth in their faith? Here are two special ways to help. Perhaps you will consider both.

1. Put the following announcement in your parish bulletin during the month of May:

The annual diocesan Hispanic Youth Day will be held on June 11 at the Pastoral Center, Building 6 from 9:30 to 4:30 for Latino youth-- ages 11 to 21. The theme is "Transformers..." For more info or to register, please call 618- 235-9601, ext. 1292.

2. Consider contributing an attendance prize such as a basket or bag of youth-preferred items, a gift-card (\$10, \$15, \$20), snack food basket, or any age-appropriate gift. If you are able to honor this request, please call the Office of Hispanic Ministry (235-9601 ext. 1292) before June 3rd or send a response by mail. Prizes may be delivered to Building 6 of the Pastoral Center or, if we are notified, we can arrange for pick-up.

Note: Last year a good number of parishes did put a notice of this youth event in their parish bulletins. Of the 110 listed parishes of the diocese, the following sent an attendance prize: St. Joseph, Marion; St. Andrew, Murphysboro; St. Cecilia, Bartelso; St. Stephen, Caseyville; St. Dominic, Breese, and the youth group from Breese. We hope more parishes will consider responding to **both of the invitations above**. We publish a list of those parishes, individuals, or businesses who contribute attendance prizes, and ask the youth to take this list to their parents. It is a way of showing to Hispanics that they and their children are welcomed and supported by a larger Catholic family within the diocese.

Thank you for doing what you can to further our outreach in whatever way possible.

S. Cecilia Hellmann, ASC
Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry