

Spanish-Language Ministry Report for 2023

This year, the Spanish-Language Commission worked to support the church with essential liturgical resources and improved biblical translations available on Latinedec.org. Many efforts were focused on the revival, which did not come to fruition but did advance the facility that serves the farmworkers, a significant Spanish-language contingent in our Diocese.

The year 2023 saw the launch of L.A.T.I.N.O. in January, an online resource designed to help congregations begin or continue the process of engaging the Latino community in their geographic area and building community together.

Educational videos about various aspects of Latino culture were also produced and shared in the online Diocesan publication News and Notes, including "Life in Vibrant Colors."

Numerous joint bi-lingual services were held at St John's Fayetteville which allowed for the sharing of liturgies. These liturgies included the Day of the Dead (Oct.30-Nov.1) and the "Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (Dec.12)

This year also saw the beginning of the construction of the church building for the Diocese's only free-standing Spanish-language congregation, La Sagrada Familia. This was made possible with the very generous support of many individuals and foundations as well as the Diocese, making a twenty-year dream a reality for the youngest church in our Diocese.

St James', Belhaven continued its presence in the Belhaven Hispanic community with baptisms and its annual VBS. St. Peter's, Washington continues to offer a weekly Sunday service in Spanish, as it has done for the past 14 years.

With the ongoing excitement surrounding Latino community in light of our mission priorities we encourage interested members of the diocese to join us in this work by contacting Janet Rodman.