

TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

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Proclaiming the Good News to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

MILESTONES



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Father Albert Zanatta, center front, pastor of Assumption Catholic Church, hosted leadership training for Hispanic parishioners from 25 congregations in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Interfaith Education Fund, and The Metropolitan Organization (TMO).

Catholic Campaign, TMO offers leadership training for Hispanic parishioners

HOUSTON — More than 110 parish leaders from 25 congregations within the Archdiocese came together at Assumption Catholic Church April 26 to 28 for “Recognizing the Stranger” leadership training in Houston.

The leadership training was sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Interfaith Education Fund, and organized by The Metropolitan Organization (TMO).

The training is being offered in both English and Spanish in 17 dioceses across the West/Southwest including Dallas, the Rio Grande Valley and Houston in Texas, as well as Des Moines, Iowa and Portland, Oregon. It focuses on leadership development in the Latino community so that the Church can respond to the growing immigrant community.

Using a scriptural foundation for leadership, participants learned about the mission of the Church and their role within the Church, the challenge of leadership, and how to identify new leaders. These participants have committed to go back to their parishes to hold listening sessions in their parish to identify issues of common concern to their community.

Father Albert Zanatta, CRS, pastor of Assumption Catholic Church, welcomed and

praised the leaders in attendance for having accepted God’s call.

“I’m grateful for your disposition to learn and to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,” Father Zanatta told those attending. “It is important that we understand ourselves as leaders and citizens who take steps to contribute to greater justice and peace for the people in our community and Church.”

Bettys R. Arenas de Ruiz, parishioner at All Saints Catholic Church, commended the collaborative effort the training encouraged.

“It was undoubtedly, a very positive and stimulating experience for our formation as leaders within the Church,” she said. “We will work to gather a group of committed leaders from our parish to work and put our faith into action.”

Deacon Gilbert Rodriguez from St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sugar Land said, “understanding what the Catholic faith teaches plays a role in how the faithful can aid with the nation’s immigrant community.”

“Catholic teachings become important in public life, particularly on immigration because we have so much tension around that. We need to form relationships of solidarity and advocate for a more welcoming and receptive environment,” the deacon said. †