

# Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers

## A Four-part Series

Oct. 23-24 and Nov. 6-7

The Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers initiative was designed to introduce ministry and pastoral leaders to a basic awareness, knowledge, and understanding in the area of cultural diversity and intercultural skills for carrying out all ministries. *This four-part series will equip ministers in light of the call to missionary discipleship with the requisite skills for proper integration of faith and culture for all ages, national, and cultural backgrounds.*

As requested by USSCB, this series is “aimed at anyone involved in ecclesial ministry. This includes, of course pastors, priests and deacons, religious men and women, lay ecclesial ministers who serve in parishes, schools and Catholic organizations.”

The four-part series will cover five learning modules:

- *Frame issues of diversity* theologically in terms of the Church’s identity and mission to evangelize.
- *Seek an understanding* of culture and how it works.
- *Develop intercultural communication* skills in pastoral settings.
- *Expand one’s knowledge* of the obstacles that impede effective intercultural relations.
- *Foster ecclesial integration* rather than assimilation in Church settings, with a spirituality of hospitality, reconciliation, and mission.



### Sessions will be held

6-9 pm on F 10/23 and

9-5 pm on S 10/24

6-9 pm on F 11/6 and

9-5 pm on S 11/7

*Certificate available upon completion of all four sessions.*



### Presenters

**Fr. James Okafor** is a priest of the Diocese of San Jose and the Chaplain and Religion teacher at Archbishop Mitty High School, San José. He received Doctorate Degree in Catholic Education from the University of San Francisco. He is an Adjunct Quarterly Lecturer in Catechetical Courses and Courses on Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Competencies in the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM) at Santa Clara University.

**Jennifer Merritt** serves as the Director of Community-based Learning at the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and as an adjunct quarterly lecturer in the Child Studies Program at Santa Clara University, where she has taught courses in Urban Education and Multiculturalism and Cultural Competence and Humility. She earned her B.A. from Vanderbilt University, her M.B.A. from Northwestern University, her Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education from the University of Virginia and expects to complete a Masters degree in Pastoral Ministries at SCU this year.



**Roselynn Pucan-Meagor** is the Director of Family Faith Formation at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in Morgan Hill. She recently earned an MA in Pastoral Ministries from Santa Clara University. Her interest in intercultural competency began when she was a high school exchange student to Uruguay and continued in her work toward a BA in International Relations and an MPA in International Public Administration.

**Jose Vicente Gonzalez** is the Director of Personnel at Mount Pleasant School District in San José and has served as a principal and also in the classroom at the elementary through university levels. With a Doctorate in Education from USF, his area of focus is Organization and Leadership, Human Resources, Negotiations, Critical Race Theory, Second Language Acquisition, English Language Development, Spanish Language and Latino Culture. He has also been serving as a Catechist for the last five years.

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