

# National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers

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## Hispanic Ministry: Challenges and Opportunities

**Lydia  
Pesina**



In addressing challenges and opportunities in ministry to Hispanics, it is important to highlight that currently Hispanics constitute the largest minority group in the U.S. and the population is soaring because of immigration and high birth rates. We talk of Hispanics as a group because there are some strong common traits among the different Spanish speaking cultures ; however there are distinct differences within the Hispanic community which are shaped by family of origin, education, and acculturation.

**Topics to be addressed:**

- Wide spectrum of levels of acculturation and enculturation among Hispanics
- Language diversity with a given family
- Growing number of Hispanic Immigrants in all areas of the country
- Growing need for special programs: ex. Convalidation Preparation
- Need to promote and augment what is currently available in materials and resources
- Need for training and formation of all Pastoral Agents serving the Spanish speaking
- Finding creative ways to assist parishes with few Spanish speaking Pastoral Agents

**Martha  
Pezo-Marin**



**Lydia Pesina** serves as Director of the Family Life Office for the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. She has worked as a Lay Ecclesial Minister full time for 31 years (August 1982- present) including serving in the Diocesan Offices of Family Life and Catechesis and as a parish Director of Religious Education. Lydia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from The University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas; a Certificate in Religious Education from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas; and a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has been married for 39 years and resides in Edinburg, Texas with her husband Mauri. They have one daughter and one grandson. Lydia has served in the past as co-chair of the Education and Formation Commission for the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers which sponsors the Ministry with Family 101& 201 Courses and received the 2011 NACFLM Award.

**Martha Pezo-Marin** is the Coordinator of the Hispanic Family Life Ministry in the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT since 2001.

Martha and her husband Cluber are the Coordinators of NFP (Natural Family Planning) in the Archdiocese de Hartford, and Instructors of the Billings Ovulation Method.

Martha and Cluber have been ministering to couples and families for over twenty-five years beginning in Perú and continuing here in the US since 1995.

Martha was a member of the NACFLM National Board as Region I-II Representative. Martha and Cluber participated in the NACFLM leadership courses "Ministry with Families 101 & 201" Martha and Cluber Marin are married for over 33 years. They have 3 married daughters and four grandchildren.



### Professional Development Conference Call

**Thursday, December 19, 2013**

**1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 Central -11:00 Mountain - 10:00 Pacific)**

**Procedure for Participants:**

Dial in Number **605-475-4000**. Participant access code: **680838#**.

Please do not announce yourself when you enter the call because recording of the call may have already been started.

Please press \*6 on your phone during presentation to reduce background noise.