

Ver-Juzgar-Actuar See- Judge(Discern)- Act

Process for Hispanic/Latino ministry

First step - See

Elizabeth is my 10 month-old baby. She is right now in a face where if somebody that she has never seen before tries to touch her, she probably will smile, but cuddle back to me or her father until she trusts the other person. When she trusts, she will be happily in the arms of him/her and "talking" to that person.

Trust is an aspect of the Human being that takes time to build between each other. Trust also has been hurt because of personal pain, social injustice and cultural misunderstanding, just to mention few reasons. The fact is if we do not trust each other, that relationship or connection between two persons or two groups won't exist. We will be just a group of people standing up in the same area but not connected, not in communion.

Therefore, when people ask me about what is the process to connect with Hispanic people, I will answer: Trust. They need to trust you and vice versa. So, how can we create that environment to trust and be trusted. Following 3 steps: Ver (See) – Juzgar/Discernir (Discern)- Act/Actuar

See- The old school of missions trained people to go and do things for other. Even though the intention was in the right place, the process was lacking in building trust with people. The consequence is that paternalism was born. The "receivers" will look to the "giver" as a resource but not as a communion. The "giver", in a good heart but wrong process, will impose to the "receivers" what were their needs.

To See is about remembering that each person was created in God's image (Genesis 1) and deserves respect. It is also about enjoying the fact that we are an original creation. In other words, we are different from each other but interdependent from each other. Paul in the Bible uses the example of the Body to explain that fact (Romans 12) Each of us are different, but are connected to each other and support the entire body. Each of us has gifts that bless others and we have areas of growth that are confronted in love by the interaction and staying in communion.

How can I see? How can I see Hispanic people if I do not speak Spanish?

Be in places on regular bases (consistency) so you can get use to see in the same environment.

1. When you go to the restaurant, Who are in the back cooking? Who is the waitress? Who are the people eating in the restaurant? Are there families? Only Men? Only Women? How old do you think they are? What do they do when you smile? Are children around? What language do they speak with the parents? What language do they speak to other children? How do they react to American people? Is the manager from the same culture than the workers in the restaurant? How does the manager interacts with the workers? How does the manager interacts with you? How does he react if you congratulate one of the workers?
2. When you go shopping, how big is the "International food" section? If you stay a little bit around that section, who is shopping? When do you see more people shopping in that area? On Sundays? Mondays? Are families shopping? Again, how do they react if you just smile?
3. When you go around your church (Drive 4 blocks around your church) who do you see? Are there homes of members of the congregation? Is the church reflecting the people in the community? (For example, you see young couples with children, is that group in the congregation?)

I invite you this month to see. Do not act on it yet, just see and I hope that you would share with your pastor, lay people, Sunday school class what did you see. Together we will judge/discern about it in the next article.

Bendiciones de Dios
Lupina

Next article: What does judge/discern is about?