

Taizé Prayer Service
Sept. 1, 2022

National Hispanic Heritage Month



Introduction

Every year from September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by appreciating the history, heritage, and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America.

Hispanic Heritage Month originally started with one week of commemoration when it was first introduced by Congressman George E. Brown in June 1968. With the civil rights movement, the need to recognize the contributions of the Latino community gained traction in the 1960s. Awareness of the multicultural groups living in the United States was also gradually growing.

Americans of Hispanic heritage have been integral to the prosperity of the United States. Their contributions to the nation are immeasurable, and they embody the best of American values. The Hispanic American community has left an indelible mark on the United States culture and economy.

Chant refrain, Cantors chant verses

*Pande Vida, cuerpo del Señor,
cup of blessing, blood of Christ the Lord.
At this table the last shall be first,
poder es servir; porque Dios es amor.*

Reading #1

Jesus' ministry on earth modeled his heart for diversity. At the start of his ministry, he reads the scroll containing the call in Isaiah to minister to the poor and free the captive and the oppressed. He claims that "this scripture is fulfilled" in him.

In Luke 4:14-21 we read:

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,

and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Silence 1 minute

Chant 5x

*Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Solo Dios basta.*

*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.*

Reading #2

Although Jesus' original 12 disciples were all of the same ethnicity, his ministry was multicultural. He traveled far beyond the scope of Israel into Samaria,

Decapolis, Tyre and Sidon. He made heroes of a Roman centurion, a Sidonian, a Syrian, an Ethiopian and several Samaritans.

He ministered to all people, regardless of background. His ministry of presence demonstrated engagement, compassion, love, acceptance and forgiveness of people of all backgrounds and walks of life.

The culmination of the work of the Holy Spirit and the church is found in Revelation 7:9 "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

The gospel unifies the people of God, relationally and missionally. There is not a Democratic gospel and a Republican gospel, a gospel for the rich and another for the poor, a gospel for Americans, and another for the rest of the world, nor is there a gospel for one culture, ethnicity, race or class above another. There is one gospel for all people because all are called to be one.

It is obvious from these verses and others that it has been God's design from the beginning for the church to find ways to bring people from all cultures, colors and classes together.

Today we acknowledge some impressive personages that come from Latino American Heritage. Some names that come to mind are:

Dr. Ellen Ochoa -- first Hispanic-American woman to go into space

Carlos Santana -- Mexican guitarist who helped shape the concept of "world music"

Rita Moreno -- first Oscar to an Hispanic-American for "West Side Story"

Eva Peron -- Argentina's greatest first lady. Decades after her death, citizens of Buenos Aires, still leave flowers at her tomb.

Cesar Chavez -- activist who worked for rights of migrant workers.

Sonia Sotomayor -- first Latina on our Supreme Court bench.

Take a few minutes of silence and think of other Latin American Heritage persons who have enriched your life; and thank God for them.

Silence 5 minutes

Petitions

Let us present our prayers as we sing:

Chant 2x, then 1x after each petition

Lord, hear our prayer; Deus, exaudi nos; Senor, escucha nos.

- That the rich contributions of Latin Americans will continue to enrich our American way of life and always be appreciated and valued in our country, we pray.
- That young Latinos will find the resources to find their full potential, we pray.
- That as we prepare to celebrate Labor Day weekend we appreciate the value of work, we pray.
- That prejudice and discrimination in our country will cease, we pray.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, pray together

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Closing Prayer

Chant 5x

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.

Donde hay amor y caridad, donde hay amor Dios alli esta.

Closing Song

Let's stand and sing along if you can, or else just let the words sink into your heart. The closing song is Open The Eyes Of My Heart by Paul Baloche from Integrity Music and can be found at <https://youtu.be/ViBNqNukgzE>.

Thank you for coming. Please join us on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. for our next Taizé prayer service.



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