



**LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**
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Leadership Roundtable to launch initiative supporting Catholic Latino pastoral leaders; Receives \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Leadership Roundtable has received a grant of \$1 million over three years to help establish the *Latino Pastoral Leaders Initiative*. It is part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Thriving in Ministry, an initiative that supports a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they create or strengthen programs to help pastoral leaders build relationships with experienced colleagues and guide them through key leadership challenges in parish ministry. The Endowment is making nearly \$70 million in grants through the [Thriving in Ministry](#) initiative.

Leadership Roundtable's *Latino Pastoral Leaders Initiative* will increase access to critical leadership development and pastoral management trainings, coaching, peer support, and pastoral mentors for Latino Catholic pastoral leaders—ordained and lay—as they transition to a new pastoral leadership role.

“Studies show that Latino/a pastoral leaders face unique burdens in ministry, including more often serving in parishes with fewer financial resources, less trained staff, and additional social challenges,” noted Leadership Roundtable CEO, Kim Smolik, Ed.D. “Leadership Roundtable believes it is critical that Catholic institutions assist Latino/a pastoral leaders to thrive in their vocations and, thus, support the well-being of the parishioners among whom they minister.”

“Leadership Roundtable’s nearly 15 years of experience helping Catholic pastoral leaders succeed has revealed the profound impact of providing coaching and mentoring. Additionally, our work has shown that offering early educational interventions in a ministerial career, focused on management and leadership best practices, better equips pastors for ministry over their lifetime,” notes Smolik. “When pastoral leaders get the leadership and management skills to succeed, faith communities flourish.”

As part of the initiative, Leadership Roundtable has formed a national Advisory Committee of subject matter experts who will partner with Leadership Roundtable to guide the initiative. Advisory Committee members currently include Dr. Arturo Chávez, President of the Mexican American Catholic College; Mar Muñoz-Visoso, M.T.S., Executive Director, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Javier Bustamante, Director of the Center for Cultural Engagement at Catholic University of America; Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, SJ, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Latino Studies at Loyola Marymount University; Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; Darius A. Villalobos, Director of Multicultural Ministry,

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Leadership Roundtable has launched a [nationwide search](#) for a program manager to oversee and coordinate the initiative.

Leadership Roundtable is one of 78 organizations located in 29 states that is taking part in the Thriving in Ministry initiative. The organizations reflect diverse Christian traditions: mainline and evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox.

Thriving in Ministry is part of Lilly Endowment's grantmaking to strengthen pastoral leadership in Christian congregations in the United States. This has been a grantmaking priority at Lilly Endowment for nearly 25 years.

"Leading a congregation today is multi-faceted and exceptionally demanding," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "When pastoral leaders have opportunities to build meaningful relationships with experienced colleagues, they are able to negotiate the challenges of ministry and their leadership thrives. These promising programs, including Leadership Roundtable's *Latino Pastoral Leaders Initiative*, will help pastors develop these kinds of relationships, especially when they are in the midst of significant professional transitions."

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Leadership Roundtable promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family - J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. - through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and its home state Indiana. Its grantmaking in religion focuses on supporting efforts to strengthen the leadership and vitality of Christian congregations throughout the country and to increase the public's understanding of the role of religion in public life.

For more information about Leadership Roundtable, visit www.leadershiproundtable.org