

A report from the Hispanic Ministries of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina  
May 2025

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:33-34:

The most recent census data (2023) indicates that 7.08% of South Carolina's population is Hispanic, representing approximately 369,000 people. The Hispanic population in South Carolina grew by 56,180 people (16.3%) from 2022 to 2023. Since 2018, the Hispanic population has increased by 105,461 people (35.8%).

This is why almost every town and certainly every city in South Carolina has a community of mostly Spanish speakers in their midst. Many times they are networked tightly and help each other usually by nationality but sometimes just Spanish speaker to Spanish speaker. In many of these families the children who have been taught English in schools are the major translator for the families when speaking to doctors and lawyers and anyone else.

There are easy ways to engage with and minister to Spanish speaking communities within your own town city or county.

1. If there is a migrant camp near you or an apartment complex with many Spanish speakers, bring a Spanish speaker with you and start conversations. That is probably the hardest one for Anglicans but if you call us we will help you.
2. Begin an English as a second language course at your church for little or no cost to those who need it. Include food and childcare. You can use standard ESOL and find a teacher who may need to be funded, or you can gather a few people and use the Spanish to English curriculum published by the Southern Baptist Convention. It uses the Gospel of Mark.
3. The Alpha Course in Spanish is well received by the Spanish speakers in our state. If you are going to put on Alpha, then offer a Spanish track. All the videos are free and both the Canon for Hispanic Ministries and Chaplin Rodrigo Haddad de Sousa are trained facilitators in Alpha in both English and Spanish; we can train your team.
4. A fourth way is to simply invite them to church. Use your Google translator on your phone and invite them to Sunday morning's service. Upon request I have a bilingual side by side liturgy and can point you to the Spanish readings and collects.

What we are talking about is cross cultural ministries. Most of our churches have no trouble preparing for cross cultural ministries if we are leaving this country and heading to another. However, it can happen right here with the effort of your parish to bring the Gospel to a community of people who don't speak very much English. And shop at the same store as you do and go to the same schools that your children attend.

Currently there is one weekly Eucharist in Spanish being celebrated in our diocese. It's in Charleston at the Anglican Church of Saint John - Holy Trinity also known as St. John's Chapel. It is at 5:00 PM every Sunday and you are welcome to attend and observe.

On May 31st the team will be going to a migrant camp on Johns Island to take breakfast and prayer and fellowship to a group of Mexicans from the state of Chiappas. Again, you are

welcome to attend and observe to see if you might be able to take this back to your own communities.

In the coming months two churches in Summerville will be ministering to the Spanish speaking populations of their own communities, probably with English classes and outreach. Could the same not happen in your own church? This ministry is not expensive it's just as time consuming as any other ministry and it may mean that when people start coming to your church who speak Spanish it'll look a little bit more like heaven, won't it?

If you have any questions or comments please call the Canon for Hispanic ministries, David Michael Dubay at 843 801-5856 or contact me by e-mail at [Fr.dubay@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.dubay@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon David Dubay  
Hispanic Ministries