



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

February 22, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It gives me great joy to announce that the Culture Project International, a ministry of the Church that is near to my heart, is coming back to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia! The Culture Project, founded by Ms. Cristina Barba Whalen, a graduate of Archbishop John Carroll High School, is an initiative of young people seeking to restore culture through the experience of virtue. It fills a critical role by proclaiming the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity. In doing so, they invite our culture to become fully alive!

While serving as Bishop of Cleveland, I had the honor of welcoming the Culture Project and working with them closely on behalf of God's people in Ohio. During that time, I witnessed five incredible missionaries on fire with their faith and love for the Lord, educate our young people on the importance of self-respect and living chaste lives.

This fall, young adult missionaries from the Culture Project will be coming to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These young men and women will educate the youth and young adults of our local Church about the dignity of every human life and the freedom and beauty of living virtue and authentic love. Their work will be rooted in Catholic social teaching and Saint John Paul II's legendary work, *Theology of the Body*.

We are blessed to have the Culture Project headquarters here in Philadelphia, and to welcome a full time team of missionaries dedicated to serving our Archdiocese. Without reservation, I give my wholehearted support to these courageous men and women who will embark on a one year journey to help our young people make well-formed and informed life decisions that reflect their faith and conscience.

I encourage you to invite these missionaries to visit your school, parish, or youth and young adult program. For more information, please visit <https://thecultureproject.org/>. In addition, I ask you to prayerfully join me in welcoming the Culture Project missionaries to the Church in Philadelphia.

May God Bless you abundantly with peace and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia