



**ATFE**

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**LA ESQUINA / THE CORNER**

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## **La Esquina/ The Corner**

I want to share with you three things, which I hope can help us to continuing our personal reflections.

The first one is la **esquina** / the corner, la esquina is a single space were people with particular characteristics come together to listen the same kind of music (for example salsa, requeton ), also la esquina is a place of freedom. In la esquina, you meet with your "panas" o buddies, they know who you are and they let you be your truth self. La esquina is an informal place, with no formal rules, except for one "el vacilon" in other words all ways is "party time". When you visit la plaza, you visit la esquina /the corner you visit the four corners that together create a micro-cosmos of friendship, freedom, celebration and community.

During the last four days, you came to Puerto Rico and visit my plaza. At the same time, each of you meets each other in your own esquina. Just to mention a few, some meet in the esquina of the Methodist, the esquina of the Hispanics, the esquina of learning new ideas a new culture... After four days together, each esquina had become a bigger space, a space of celebration, challenges and friendship!

### **See, judging and(doing) Acting**

The second idea that I want to share, is a methodological one, the method of the Iberia American Pastoral Theology, Seeing, Judging and acting (Doing.)The first question is, **what did you see?**, the purpose of the

question is to inquire about the nature of the problems at the plaza... The second question is an invitation to focus, in new and creative ways to read and in some case to reinterpret the theologies, ideas and misconceptions. What you need to do to face the problems at the plaza, in the peripheries and how you face the people in the esquinas of the plaza? The third question is an invitation to make plans, to engage has a community of faith, of intellectuals, a community that cares and proclaims the Kingdom of God in the construction of hope, life and liberation. The question is: Where is your prophetic voice?

### **Strangers and visitors, now prophets to a global village**

The third and final idea that I want to share with you is how a group of strangers and visitors to the plaza, a place for encounters, after four days changes to an unique chorus of voices, a chorus of prophets to a global village. A village were people like those who get together in la esquina , is challenging us to be one voice, one body under the flag of love, faith and compassion. Finally mi plaza es su plaza, mi esquina es to esquina.... The challenge of the plaza a symbol of fiesta, freedom and at the same time a symbol of colonialism is to move to a postcolonial theology, to a transdisciplinary method of study and investigation and to a macro ecumenism. Instead of oppressing, let learn from each other, instead of imposing a world view, a method, let combine different methods as partners in search of solutions.... And let sit down together each esquina as one in a sincere and open(conversation) dialogue between traditions of faith. The encounters at the plaza, is an invitation to bring each of the four esquinas de la plaza has an example of respect, unity, and has a mirror of the possibilities in the global village. Acting in creative ways. . .