

EXPLORATIONS



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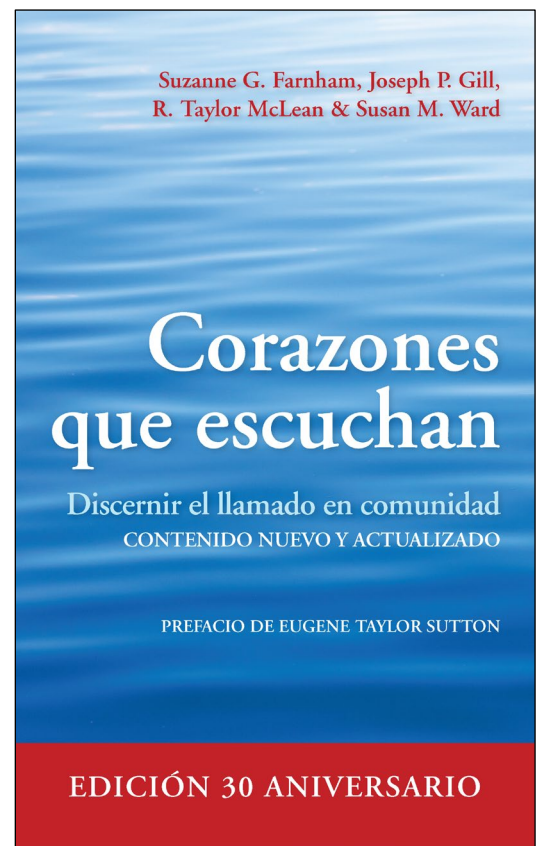
On Translating *Listening Hearts* into Spanish

**Joe Gill, Trustee
 Severna Park, MD**

After Church Publishing (CP) agreed to release a Spanish translation of the 30th Anniversary Edition of *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, the next step was to identify and retain a qualified translator. The Rev. James Snodgrass, a priest in the Diocese of Maryland who has worked in Puerto Rico, recommended Dr. Pura Reyes, a licensed translator who is deeply spiritual and attuned to the nuances in spiritual literature.

I met Dr. Reyes via telephone in June 2020. For the past thirty years she has worked in Puerto Rico as a translator, editor, and interpreter, doing business as *Translations and More*. Before we spoke, she had read parts of *Listening Hearts* online and ordered the book. She observed that the work was “spiritual” and “lyrical” and said she would want to provide a translation reflecting these qualities. I asked for her resume and learned that Dr. Reyes has both a Ph.D. in Language and Literature/Translations and a Ph.D. in Linguistics. Listening Hearts Ministries (LHM) signed a contract with her firm, and she began work on the translation in late 2020, after the authors had updated the text that became the 30th Anniversary Edition.

Over a six-month period, Dr. Reyes and I spoke on the telephone and via Zoom a number of times to discuss word alternatives, concepts, and recommendations. In an e-mail, Dr. Reyes summarized her two-part approach to the work. First, she considers the technical translation itself.



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“Of *Listening Hearts*, she said, “The text in English is amazingly well written. The language is simple, direct, and very readable. This makes the technical translation much more manageable.” Next, she focuses on the deeper meaning of the words: “The text does have levels of meaning and messaging: subtext, intertext, and metatext. The narrative is very rich in these elements, and this is where the translator/interpreter needs to be more selective, and this creates doubts. Is this word more accurate? Does this phraseology best state the intention? Is the messaging on point?”

After Dr. Reyes completed the Spanish translation, she sent it to me via e-mail with a concluding comment: “I feel the translation is both accurate and faithful to intent (saying, meaning, messaging).” I sent it to CP, which sent it to a proofreader, who made various recommendations on word usage. Dr. Reyes was the final arbiter of any changes made to the text. Some recommendations she accepted, others she did not.

Corazones que escuchan: discernir el llamado en comunidad will be available on September 21, 2021, and may be ordered at the following link: <https://amz.run/4rJF>

The back cover of the Spanish edition of *Listening Hearts* features two new endorsements, one by the Canon for Latino/Hispanic Ministries for the Episcopal Church and the other by a Latinx Episcopal priest in New York:

There are almost no Latino congregations in the Episcopal Church where there are members who ask themselves questions like “What is God calling me to do?” *Listening Hearts* will assist both individuals and congregations with practical guides and steps to discern in community. I recommend it.

The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillén, Missioner, Latino/Hispanic Ministries and
Director, Ethnic Ministries, The Episcopal Church

Listening Hearts is a book of spiritual simplicity, of beauty, and of high quality. It uses a universal language of the heart that binds us together. Its depth is perfect for Latinx new communities, existing congregations, lay leaders, and vestry groups.

The Rev. Gladys Diaz, Episcopal priest

Assisting Dr. Reyes in the translation process was a privilege. When the work was done, CP asked LHM to have her translate the front and back covers, including the English endorsements. I passed on the request to Dr. Reyes, who responded, “I will work with it joyfully.” In a final e-mail, she noted that the experience of translating *Listening Hearts* moved her to rethink where she was in the practice of her own faith.

Joe Gill is trustee president of Listening Hearts Ministries and a coauthor of Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community.

What Has a Website Got to Do with the Holy Spirit?

Mike Croghan, Trustee
Herndon, VA

So, what *has* a website got to do with the Holy Spirit, anyway? Well, indulge me for just a moment, if you don't mind. In my opinion (admittedly that of a layperson), the Holy Spirit's "job" within the Trinity is often one of connection. When the Spirit descended as a dove on Jesus at his baptism, Jesus was profoundly connected to both his Father and his own mission. When she descended as tongues of fire on the disciples on the day of Pentecost, they were deeply connected to their risen Lord and simultaneously empowered to share the gospel with listeners of many languages. And when any of us practices spiritual discernment, we pray for the Spirit to connect us with the calling of God in our lives.

And, well, what is a website but a medium of connection between the person or organization that created it and the many people the creators hope will respond to their message, whatever that might be?

Perhaps I'm stretching that analogy a bit. But let's be more specific: what has the new website for Listening Hearts Ministries (www.listeninghearts.org), in particular, got to do with the Holy Spirit? Listening Hearts launched the new website in June of this year, timed to coincide with the brand new 30th Anniversary Edition of our flagship book, *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, and the website is overflowing with resources to connect readers with the ministry, programs, and practices of Listening Hearts ... which are all about the Holy Spirit!

All of these offerings, as different as they are, have one thing in common: they enable participants to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and her calling in their lives.

First and foremost, the home page of the website introduces visitors to Listening Hearts Ministries: who we are, what people say about our programs, and a taste of those programs, using evocative videos and quotes from participants. Readers can explore further in the "About" menu and find out about our ministry's history, staff, and leadership.

Next, a visitor can go to the "Programs" menu to delve into our wide variety of offerings, including programs for personal discernment, programs for discernment around a group issue, and training programs for leaders and facilitators—each of which can be customized for the particular needs of the requesting organization. All of these offerings, as different as they are, have one thing in common: they enable participants to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and her calling in their lives.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Listening Hearts Ministries provides a range of programs, publications, and services that teach people the practice of spiritual discernment through prayerful listening in supportive communities.

*Discovering the path forward is a lifelong adventure of walking in uncertainty, looking for signs, trusting that God will lead me rightly, even if, as in the Merton prayer, "I may know nothing about it."
— Listening Hearts, Discerning Call in Community, 30th Anniversary Edition, pp. 78-79*

The “Publications” menu introduces readers to the ministry’s three published books: *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, *Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations*, and *Keeping in Tune with God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Clergy*. But that’s just the beginning, because it also offers up a treasure trove of free, online resources, including “A Primer on Spiritual Discernment,” “Heartlinks: A Library of Meditations for Individuals or Groups,” our “Discernment Listening Guidelines,” the “Do-It-Yourself Discernment” blog, our “Songbook,” our “Manual for Listening Hearts Ministry Teams,” and “How to Listen in Everyday Life.”

There’s even a glossary of terms and a list of helpful links for further information—and an archive of past issues of this newsletter, *Explorations!* All of these resources can enable individuals and groups to learn practices of spiritual discernment and prayer to facilitate listening for the Spirit.

And there’s more! Our “Bulletin Board” blog keeps you up to date with the latest happenings in our ministry, our “Give” menu enables you to easily donate to the ministry or find ways to help as a volunteer, and our “Connect” page (which is under the “About” menu) allows you to ...well... connect with us. Drop us a line anytime, and we will do our very best to help connect *you* with our programs, our publications, our people, and the calling of the Spirit, speaking to your listening heart!

Mike Croghan is a software engineer and poet and a trustee of Listening Hearts Ministries. He is a cradle Episcopalian who crawled out of the cradle early, went on some adventures (including three years as a practicing Tibetan Buddhist and a long sojourn with the “Emerging Church”) and is now once again active in his Episcopal church, the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, VA.