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Acronym

CEAMA: Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.

CEBITEPAL: Center for Biblical, Theological and Pastoral Formation of CELAM.

CGC: CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

CEILAC: Commission for Integral Ecology of Latin America and the Caribbean.

CELAM: Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council.

CPC: Center for Communication of CELAM.

CEPRAP: Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks of CELAM.

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

LACAM: Network of Afro-descendant Catholic Women Leaders of the Americas.

ODUCAL: Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean

OSMECA: Socio-pastoral Observatory of Human Mobility in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

PAGAICEYNA: Pastoral Garifuna Enculturated Central America and the Caribbean.

PCAL: Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

PCN: Child Centrality Program.

PEG: Global Education Pact

PLAPA: Pastoral Latinoamericana de Acompañamiento y Prevención de las Adicciones.

RECLAC: Ecclesial Network of Communicators of Latin America and the Caribbean.

RECOR: Latin American Organized Communities Network.

REGCHAG: Ecclesial Network Gran Chaco Guarani Aquifer.

Remam: Ecclesial and Ecological Network of Mesoamerica.

REPAM: Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network.

RETEIS: Territorial Ecclesial Networks

UNIAPAC: International Union of Christian Business Leaders.

News

The Theology Congress was held in a Synodal Key



“Theology in a Synodal Key for a Synodal Church” was the theme of the Congress held at the CELAM headquarters in Bogota on August 9th to 11th, with the participation of more than 200 theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States and Europe.

The objective of the academic event was to promote greater communion in the path of Latin American and Caribbean Catholic Theological Reflection, at the service of a Synodal Church and a creative way of practicing theology.

Jaime Spengler, president of CELAM, thanked those present for “this journey of reflection, dialogue, debate of ideas, prayer, in a living exercise of believing intelligence in service to the faith of our church”.

“Synod is the construction of a close link between Gospel, faith and life. Walking together is not easy. On that path, it is necessary to always learn in a new way to listen to the Gospel, to listen to tradition, to listen in daily life to the voices of our people,” he said.

Luis Marín de San Martín, the undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod, expressed his gratitude for the meeting: “Theology advances if we connect if we confront each other. This requires humility, listening, and availability. All this is present in Latin America,” he said.

Carlos Galli, coordinator of the Theological Reflection Team of CELAM, recalled the need to strengthen the bonds between those who do theology in Latin America and the Caribbean. He stressed that “we have been walking together for a long time, we want to intensify the synodal communion to live the joy of our theological vocation. As Latin Americans and Caribbeans, we live in the global south, we know how to read what is happening in the geo-cultural composition of Catholicism. One hundred years ago, three out of ten baptized Catholics lived in the south of the world and seven in the north. Today, seven out of ten live in the global south. Hence our responsibility is to carry forward the synodal life of the Church, and specifically to offer our contribution, both from the experience of synodal praxis and from our theological reflection”.

A total of 235 people participated in the Congress in person, of whom 29 were parents who were synod members. There were 571 who participated virtually, through seven diffusion channels. Forty-two faculties, institutes or centers of theology were represented; 32 experiences or innovative projects of universities were shared and 23 universities presented books or advances in their respective faculties.

Continental Bishops' Conferences of the Global South met in Luxembourg



The presidencies of the Continental Bishops' Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM), Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and Asia (FABC) met in Luxembourg on August 27th-29th during the first Symposium of the Continental Associations of the Bishops' Conferences of the "Global South".

In the first phase of the meeting, the activities were oriented to the synodal process as a field of learning for intercontinental cooperation, particularly in those issues that affect the Church internally. An updated summary of the synodal journey was presented, sharing the key points of the responses from Africa, Asia and Latin America that were sent to the Synod Secretariat during May.

The participants addressed the reception and assimilation of the *Instrumentum Laboris* in the three continents, given the second session of the synod. The participants contributed during the plenary session and worked in four groups to define points in common, differences and sources of mutual enrichment in the light of the moment the universal Church is living.

The first day closed with the presentation of proposals that can help strengthen cooperation between associations. The activities of August 28th concluded with an analysis of the possibility of celebrating the Time of Creation within the framework of the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of NICAIA in 2025.

On August 29th, there was a focus on the analysis of how climate change affects the territories and the activities that respond to this concern. There was a dialogue on the COP 30 to be held in Brazil and the opportunities for the involvement of the Church in these discussions together with civil society agents.

The participants exchanged ideas on possible lines of action and the way forward, with agreements on the preparatory steps for COP 30. The day ended up with a discussion on how to strengthen this meeting venue and expand it to other continental episcopal locations.

New Pastoral Theological Reflection Team of CELAM



The CELAM presidency has appointed Brazilian theologian and priest Agenor Brighenti as the new coordinator of the Pastoral Theological Team for the four years 2024-2028, succeeding Father Carlos Maria Galli.

Brighenti, who holds a doctorate in theology, will have the mission of encouraging a synodal exercise of theological work in Latin America. His missions also include serving the needs that the CELAM, the Episcopal Conferences and the theological community of Latin America and the Caribbean entrust to him according to his field.

By a resolution dated August 27th, the presidency has also completed the composition of the team with the following experts:

- Carlos María Galli (Argentina)
- Sister Birgit Weiler, MMS (Peru)
- Rafael Luciani Rivero (Venezuela)
- Jaime Mancera Casas (Colombia)
- Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, ODN (Colombia)
- Carolina Bacher Martínez (Argentina)
- Fr. Carlos Federico Schikendantz (Chile)
- Sister Nancy Raquel Fretes, ODN (Paraguay)
- Francisco de Aquino Junior (Brazil)
- Antonio Ernesto Palafox Cruz (Mexico)
- P. Fidel Oñoro Consuegra, CJM (Colombia)
- P. Samuel Fernández Eyzaguirre (Chile)
- Sr. Altigracia González Ventura, FI (Dominican Republic)
- Abimar Oliveira de Moraes (Brazil)
- José Carlos Caamaño (Argentina)
- Iván Ariel Fresia, sdb (Argentina)
- Bernardeth Caero Bustillos (Bolivia)

This area of CELAM was created in 1969 since then, it has had different configurations or conformations and tasks: it promoted an enculturated theological reflection, rooted in the Word of God and with a defined pastoral orientation; it shed light on the doctrinal problems of each moment; it promoted a fruitful exchange between the pontifical Magisterium and Latin American theology; it accompanied the preparation, celebration and reception of the orientations of the General Conferences of our Episcopate; it collaborated with the contribution of CELAM to

the Synodal Assemblies in the process of restructuring our organism, as well as the society by drafting the conclusions of the Ecclesial Assembly.

According to the CELAM Statutes, “the mission of the Pastoral Theological Reflection Team is to encourage a synodal exercise of theological work in Latin America and to serve the needs of CELAM, the Episcopal Conferences and the theological community of Latin America and the Caribbean. In the exercise of its functions, in communion with the pastoral priorities of CELAM, it studies and prepares themes proposed by the Presidency, by the different Pastoral Centers, Organisms or its members”.

The Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Delegates at the Synod Assembly



From August 12th to 14th, the Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean participants in the second session of the XVI Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place next October, was held at the CELAM headquarters.

The 42 synod fathers, synod mothers, theologians and facilitators, during the three-day meeting, worked on the *Instrumentum laboris*, which will be the basic material for the Assembly's deliberations. Luis Marin de San Martin, undersecretary of the Synod Secretariat, and Fr. Giacomo Costa participated virtually.

Monsignor Jaime Spengler, president of CELAM, pointed out that in this second session of the Synod 2021-2024 "the mere fact of meeting men and women from different continents to share our convictions" is very positive.

Above all, "together we must build possible and viable paths for the Church's action in today's world" so that "she can carry out more intensely the mission that is proper to her, to be salt of the earth, light of the world, leaven of the masses".

Father Pedro Brassesco, coordinator of the continental group for the Synod, explained that "the same dynamics as last year" were used, although "a series of adaptations have been made to the conversation in the Spirit to encourage the identification of concrete proposals on how to be a synodal church.

He also highlighted the participation of Monsignor Luis Marín de San Martín, who "made it possible to engage in a dialogue on how the process has been developing in recent times and the prospects for the Assembly and the implementation phase that would begin immediately afterwards".

He considered that "whether the development of the methodology should be the most adequate will be necessary to evaluate in more detail".

In addition, he added that during the last day, they were able to identify "a series of themes that in the opinion of the participants are of relevance for the ecclesial experience of Latin America and the Caribbean.

CELAM participated in CEAMA's second assembly in person



Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa, Archbishop of Panama and second vice-president of CELAM, participated, on behalf of the organization, in the II Assembly of the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA), which took place in Manaus (Brazil) from August 23rd to 26th.

In his words, addressed to the members of the Assembly, he thanked “all the effort that, together with REPAM (Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network), has been and will continue to support everyone on this pilgrimage”.

He stressed that achieving communion has never been an easy task; yet, “I pray that God will enlighten you to continue building synodality as reflected in the *Instrumentum Laboris* of the next session of the synod, in paragraph 42”.

In this regard, he cited: “Synodality is implemented through networks of humans, communities, organizations and a set of processes that allow for an effective exchange of gifts among the Churches and an evangelizing dialogue with the world”.

Monsignor Ulloa emphasized that for the whole Church, “in CEAMA we have a real, living and concrete testimony that it is possible to live, and act based on listening to the Word in community”.

“Go forward, do not lose heart in continuing to consolidate a culture of encounter through your ability to dialogue, discern, heart and decide as a home and school of communion, offering the good news of the Gospel to all people, communities and creatures in this kaleidoscope of territories and cultures,” he said.

He announced that “next October, we will have a meeting with bishops from all Latin America, sponsored by CELAM, to analyze the reality of mining, so that together we can seek strategies in this pastoral accompaniment”.

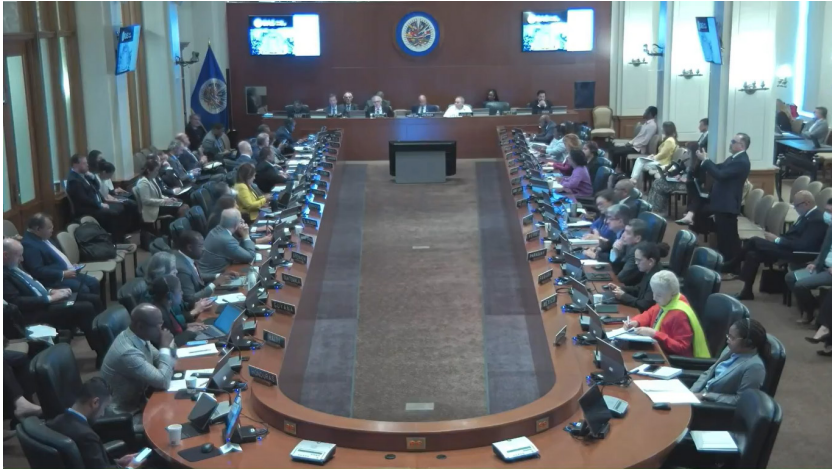
It is a phenomenon that affects all biomes. The Panamanian Church has championed processes against mining as happened at the end of 2023. Therefore, Monsignor Ulloa insisted that we must support these people affected by mining, support them from the pastoral reality so that their voice, their complaints can be heard”.

CELAM presented contributions to the OAS on the “Manifesto against poverty in the Americas”.

Regarding the meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), held on August 22nd to consider the “Manifesto against Poverty in the Americas”, the CELAM offered a profound contribution to the consideration of this international organization.

The OAS Permanent Council met in the Simón Bolívar Room at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. to reflect on and commemorate the Day against Human Trafficking; the International Day for the Remembrance

of the Slave Trade and its Abolition; and the International Day for People of African Descent, among other issues.



In its message, CELAM expressed its concern for the growing reality of poverty and inequality experienced by the people of Latin America and the Caribbean, encouraging this international body not only to adopt the “Manifesto against Poverty and Inequality in the Americas”, but also that this instrument “trigger a forceful process that acts with the urgency and courage necessary to achieve a transcendent step towards social justice in our continent”.

In demonstrating the Church’s willingness to continue working on behalf of the most vulnerable population, some aspects were highlighted considering taking them into account by OAS when reflecting on the work they are carrying out.

You can access the text of the contribution in the Messages section.

The Organization of Regional Meetings of Episcopal Conferences has been initiated

A cycle of four regional meetings in which the General Secretaries of the Bishops' Conferences will participate, together with their work teams. It will be held between February and March 2025. The initiative will be led by the General Secretariat of CELAM with the participation of the four pastoral centers: Center for Knowledge Management, CEBITEPAL, CEPRAP and Center for Communication.

The meetings will be held in San José, Costa Rica, from February 24th to 28th for the Central America and Mexico region; in Lima, Peru, from March 10th to 14th for the Bolivarian countries; in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from March 17th to 21st for the Caribbean region; and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from March 24th to 28th for the Southern Cone countries.

These are ecclesial meetings that give continuity to the process of renewal and restructuring of CELAM and are therefore aligned with the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Assembly and the Synod of Synodality.

The cycle of regional meetings will focus on "communion", and it is expected that two other cycles of meetings on "participation" and "mission" will be held in the future, allowing for a strengthening of the Synod's content on synodality.

The biblical inspiration for the meetings will be the pedagogy of Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus.

First face-to-face meeting of the working group on Artificial Intelligence



Between August 23rd and 25th, the working group convened by CELAM to begin a profound reflection on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its implications for the Church as the people of God and for society as a whole met at the Emmaus House in Mexico City. The meeting, which brought together high-level experts in technology, ethics, anthropology, communication and theology, marked the beginning of a process that seeks to culminate in a document that will be submitted to the presidency of CELAM and the Episcopal Conferences.'

During the three-day meeting, the members of the group shared their experiences and areas of work and delved into the complexity of the subject, analyzing its history, the different types of AI, its limitations and its potential impacts on areas such as health, the economy and society.

The health discussion focused on the potential benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, but also explored the risks associated with the dehumanization of the doctor-patient relationship, the possible emergence of biases in algorithms, and the growing influence of commercial interests in medical research.

In the economic sphere, the impact of AI on the labor market, the possibility of technology generating social inequalities and the need to rethink economic development models were analyzed. The importance of the dignity of the person and how AI can affect human labor was discussed, as well as the need for policies to ensure a just transition to a society where AI is at the service of the common good.

On the last day, reflection focused on ethics and Christian thought. The challenges that AI poses for communication, the construction of meaning, the transparency of information and the preservation of pluralism were discussed. Also on the impact of AI on the worldview and the way in which the meaning of the world is constructed.

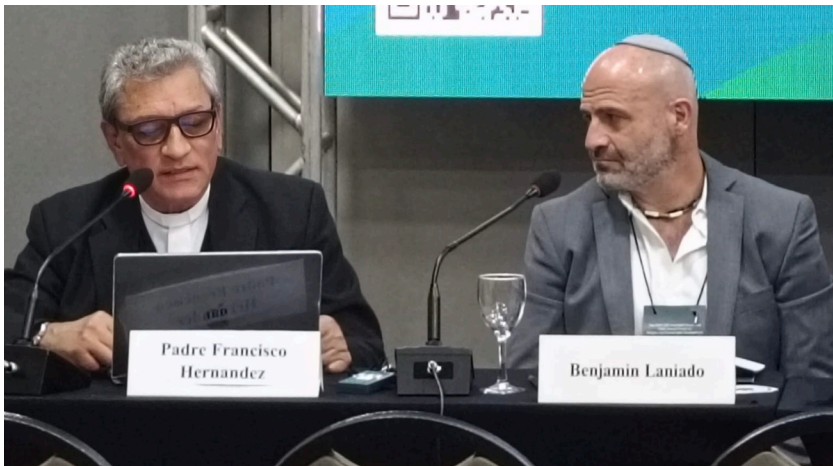
In the field of ethics, the group delved into the implications of AI for human activity, exploring the possibility of the loss of grounding of human tasks, moral responsibility in automated decision making, the eventual intensification of social inequality, and the challenge of information manipulation.

Finally, the reflection moved to the pastoral space, where it was analyzed how AI is transforming the way of understanding religion and spirituality. The need for the Church to respond to this new context by adapting its pastoral action and evangelization strategies was raised. The challenges that AI presents for affectivity, spirituality, the nature of the sacraments and the role of the priest in the digital age were discussed.

The meeting culminated with a profound exchange on the need to reevaluate aspects that define the human experience and open us to transcendence. The transhumanist vision that seeks to overcome human biological limits was questioned.

The group is composed of Dr. Moisés Sbardelotto, Dr. José María Guibert sj., Dr. José Sols, Dr. Luis Jiménez s.j., Ing. Lázaro Tamez; Dr. Marieli de los Río, Mg. José David Amorochó, Mg. Guillermo Sandoval, Dr. Diego Álvarez, Mg. Francisco Campos and Mons.

CELAM at G20 Interfaith Forum in Brasilia



Fr. Francisco Hernández, director of Ceprap, represented CELAM at the Interfaith G20 Forum held in Brasilia (Brazil) from August 20-22, a space that annually brings together organizations and religious leaders around the theme of sustainable development.

Fr. Hernandez was part of the panel on poverty and inequity in which he made a call to “strengthen ties between nations, diverse faith experiences, cultures and peoples, and commit ourselves to unity for a world based on the principles of justice, solidarity, fraternity and sustainability that leaves no one behind”.

In his speech he recalled that “we have a key foundation, we have fraternity and social friendship at all levels, inviting us all to the recognition of human dignity and the importance of saving the planet. This implies

another logic: the great principle of the rights that spring from the sole fact of possessing the inalienable human dignity to ensure land, housing, work and technology for all. This is the true path to peace,” he said.

“Our entire region of the Great Patria Grande is a place for social dialogue, especially among the native peoples, Afro-descendants and the poor, to find forms of communion and joint struggle, seeking ways of meeting, especially with the last ones in history. They are the main interlocutors, from whom we have to learn, to whom we have to listen and to whom we must ask permission to present our proposals, because they must be the most powerful voice at every dialogue table”, assured the director of Ceparap.

“This yearning for a model of integral human development, we can make it possible if we achieve: a new global governance, a more effective approach to the structural causes of poverty and inequality, building inclusive societies and promoting food sovereignty,” he added.

This edition of the Interfaith G20 Forum has had as its central focus urgent calls for action to support the world’s most vulnerable communities, who face challenges including poverty, inequality, discrimination, armed conflict, forced migration and displacement, the continuing impact of Covid-19 global emergencies, and climate change-related disruptions. The goal is to advance practical action paths toward just and realistic hope and action for a better future by addressing the pressing challenges of the present times.

Venezuela is in our hearts

On August 2, the CELAM presidency issued a communiqué in which it expressed its solidarity with the Venezuelan people and Church after the events that have taken place since the July 28 presidential elections.

“From the Latin American Episcopal Council we send our closeness and solidarity to the Venezuelan people in these moments of difficult political and social situation. We are moved by the anguish and anxiety experienced by so many of our sisters and brothers who long for a better future for themselves, their families and communities,” the text reads.

The CELAM expressed its decision to accompany the expressions of fraternity with the Venezuelan people while encouraging “to continue asking God, the Lord of history, to illuminate the path of Venezuela towards peace, justice and the common good”.

“We join the Venezuelan bishops who as pastors have expressed: ‘It is Christ himself who sustains our country! May discouragement and despair find no place in the life of the Christian’”.

“May God’s wisdom fill the minds and hearts of all those who have the responsibility of making decisions in favor of the people and may Mary, our mother in heaven, make us feel more like brothers and sisters,” the communiqué concludes.

5th Meeting of the Pastoral Care of Addictions: “Caring for those who care”.

On August 2, the 5th Virtual Meeting of the Latin American Pastoral Seminar on Accompaniment and Addiction Prevention (Plapa) 2024 “Caring for those who care” was held by the Paraguayan psychologist Graciela Barreto.

Bishop Lizardo Estrada, Secretary General of CELAM, welcomed the participants and said, “It is a joy to hear from you. It is a pleasure to greet you and thank you on behalf of the CELAM presidency for the work you

are doing on this issue of ‘caring for the caregiver’. I ask you for a special prayer for the brotherly people of Venezuela, let us pray for hope, dialogue, solutions, for the strength of each one of them. I also ask you to pray for the upcoming Synod of Synodality in October, it will be an important moment for our Church today and in the future. And we pray also for your intentions”.



Graciela Barreto’s presentation began by defining basic concepts in order to unify understandings:

- Define what care is and who requires care.
- We are social beings and we need other people to live.
- Care is a right and a social function.
- We neglect care.
- Embrace life as it comes.

Barreto also pointed out the risks to which caregivers are exposed, the limitations they face, summarizing in one sentence their development: “taking care in order to care is ethical” and “stopping in order to continue”:

- Assume an excessive set of tasks and responsibilities, beyond their capabilities.
- Failure to take advantage of all available assistance.
- Taking actions and making decisions that work against your state of health and well-being.
- Failure to take actions in favor of their health and well-being, especially those related to disease prevention.
- Subtracting time off for attending to needs.

“Managing time, understanding that it is necessary to ‘take care of yourself to take care’, training, meeting with your teams and talking, safeguarding your own physical, mental and spiritual health, making room for daily surprises,” were some of the aspects Barreto emphasized for caregivers to be attentive to.

To see the complete video: https://youtu.be/uhcRm6icg9o?si=Cbz_TXx-AeumZ1kVS

Latin American Day for the Struggles of the Homeless was commemorated

To make visible the people who are in street situations, their sufferings, their joys, and their struggles, and to raise awareness of our Church so that we recognize them as our true brothers and sisters, the Latin American Street Pastoral of CELAM organized on August 19th a remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the Sé Massacre.

During the event, they heard from those who live in this condition and from those who come to them, reflecting the effect of love, the

embrace, the pleasure and gratitude for overcoming the loneliness and violence of which they are victims in the streets.



They were moments of light and hope because they gathered beautiful experiences of ecclesial work with “povo da rua” from several countries of our continent: Panama, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Colombia, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Paraguay.

The Argentine priest Carlos ‘Charly’ Olivero, promoter of this Latin American Street Pastoral, expressed his feelings at the end of the testimonies: “In this transmission, we saw so many important things. People in street situations, men and women are our brothers and sisters, they live, think, feel, and suffer, just as we do. The Church must be always the family of the people who are most broken, of those who are suffering the most. Let us open our doors, we need them to be seated at our tables”.

What was the Sé Massacre?

Between August 19th and 22nd, 2004, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the most violent and terrible acts against homeless people known to date took place, the so-called “Sé Massacre”. During those four days, at night, while they slept, fifteen homeless people were brutally and savagely

beaten on their heads. Seven of these people died because of the blows and eight were seriously injured. Violence against homeless people is frequent in our region. For this reason, it is important to call for awareness and reflection on this day.

To see the full commemorative event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTaj3SRLn_s

More than one thousand participants in the Virtual Diploma Course “Prevention from catechesis, measures and strategies for a safe environment”.



On August 13th, the Virtual Diploma Course “Prevention from catechesis, measures and strategies for a safe environment”, organized by CEBITEPAL and the Catechesis Laboratory, began with more than one thousand participants.

Fabio Antunes do Nascimento, director of CEBITEPAL, inaugurated the course, expressing that it is an honor to initiate this formative proposal. Fabio Antunes do Nascimento, director of CEBITEPAL, inaugurated the

course, expressing that it was an honor to initiate this training proposal: “From CELAM we assume the commitment for Latin America and the Caribbean to train on the prevention of abuse in the Church, relying especially on catechists. Our goal is to promote a culture of good treatment, gradually forming ‘missionaries of care and protection’. All our team is available, and I want to emphasize that this diploma course is free, and certificates are awarded to validate the implementation of protection protocols, with high level teachers”.

The first class was led by Deacon Antonio César Henríquez Leiva from El Salvador, who posed the initial question: “Is the Church a safe place?” He insisted on the importance of concretely grounding our actions and not starting from assumptions about universal goodness.

Listening Center for Basic Ecclesial Communities

On Wednesday, August 21st, the 4th Virtual Listening Center organized by the Basic Ecclesial Communities (CEB) and CEBITEPAL was held under the title “The Road is Collective: the Footprint of the Martyrs”.

“The mark of the martyrs, of the witnesses, the collective commitment of the communities, has today the name of synodality. We want to listen to the martyr stories of Our America, to continue deepening our ‘journey together’. The way, and the way out, is collective, as the martyrs remind us”, the organizers said.

Three voices from the continent testified to the martyrdoms of these lands, coordinated by Ana Belén Molina and Francisco Bosch.

The first voice was that of Ramona Romero, of the Base Communities of La Rioja (Argentina), who expressed that the question of listening has been utterly strong in the Riojan Martyrs, and especially in Bishop Angelelli, “and it is part of the theology of synodality. From it, we value the word of Jesus. Those who left us their legacy embraced the Second Vatican Council, and Angelelli was a son of that Council. To say Angelelli is to say a whole community, and four who cost them their

lives, who established that project of active participation, communion, and commitment with those who have less: Fr. Carlos de Dios Murias, Fr. Gabriel Longueville, Wenceslao Pedernera (father and husband) and Bishop Enrique Angelelli.”

The second voice was that of Mercedes, an 80 years old woman, who lived most of her life with Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga in São Félix do Araguaia.

“I lived with martyrs and witnessed martyrdoms, I prayed with them and for them along the way. Our work in San Felix was to make the indigenous people aware of their right to land ownership by law. But the greed of the large landowners was stronger: they only wanted (and they still want) to gain more land. The atmosphere of violence was an apprenticeship for me in the middle of the beauty of the jungle until the martyrdom got there. Thousands of square kilometers of the jungle were destroyed to plant soy, corn, and cotton. All irrigated with agro-toxics. Today’s commitment to the poor is called synodality,” Mercedes stated.

Finally, the voice of Father Melo from Honduras, who was a friend of Berta Cáceres, was heard: “We argued a lot and she always defeated me,” he said. He expressed that “Berta Cáceres was killed by the local *elites* together with the transnational corporations, they killed her essentially for being a woman and she was killed by men. She was a bold leader rooted in her people, a universal woman who broke paradigms, she was not bent. Her murder was femicide. Berta challenged the power of extractivism in Honduras, she contributed to unveiling the situation of the extractive model and proposed another model of respect for human rights and the rights of nature”.

CELAM participates in the Network of Catholic University Libraries



Julio César Monroy, director of the CELAM library and archives, participated on behalf of CELAM in the 5th Continental Meeting of the Catholic University Libraries Network held from August 7th – 9th in Lima, Peru.

In the end, a declaration of principles was presented to strengthen “collaborative work” and a proposal was made to “promote critical, reflective and supportive thinking, to implement responsible and inclusive methodologies and technologies that promote the formation of social poets to transform our society”.

Directors of Catholic university libraries participated, who “in a spirit of fraternity developed activities to deepen the commitment of the Catholic University to the promotion of the person, the attentive listening to the new generations and the care of the common home”.

At the end of the event, a commitment was also made to the Global Education Pact, so that all Catholic university libraries will assume “the responsibility of applying the lessons learned and agreements reached in our libraries, with the firm conviction that together we can contribute to a more fair, supportive and sustainable future.

Julio César Monroy, who also serves as secretary of the network, commented that the establishment of the city of Bogotá as the venue for the sixth meeting was agreed. The meeting will be held at the CELAM headquarters, with the support of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, because “CELAM is an institution that has somehow united the ODU-CAL network and now the network of libraries”.

“We are going to develop a summit methodology that will allow us to better project the work being done in the network. We insist on making our work more collaborative, more participatory and carrying forward processes within the network. This is the fundamental objective of the work planned for the following year,” Monroy explained.

University Presentation of a Study on Migration



The recent study *New Migratory Contexts Since the Pandemic: A Statistical Overview of Latin America and The Caribbean*, prepared by the Vives Center of the Alberto Hurtado University, commissioned by the Socio-pastoral Observatory of the CELAM Knowledge Management

Center, offers a detailed post-pandemic x-ray of the migratory situation in the region.

The report, which analyzes the transformation of migratory flows during health and economic crises, was presented at the Alberto Hurtado University Library in Chile, in an academic activity with the participation of the University's rector, Fr. Cristián del Campo s.j. and, remotely, Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzini, president of the Clamor network.

The director of the Knowledge Management Center, Guillermo Sandoval, also took part in the event, highlighting the importance of having created the Migration Risk Index, which is relevant for migrants with respect to their destination points and for the adoption of policies by the States.

The study was led by Dr. Nicolás Pedemonte and reveals that “three of the countries in this axis are in a high socioeconomic risk group for the migrant population: Ecuador, Peru and Chile”, the latter being the most critical case.

It also provides revealing background information on this phenomenon of international impact and addresses different dimensions of this complex contingency, including the increase in xenophobia. It is also pointed out that “the routes were not modified, but rather the points of entry to the different territories diversified. With the restrictive measures, borders became more porous and dangerous, proliferating criminal opportunism and abuses against migrants,” the report states.

To see the video presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ickSQz1N2E&t=2925s>

CELAM's journey in August

Meeting of the Community of Practice Caminando Hacia la Paz (Walking Towards Peace)

The Community of Practice in Peacebuilding met in Bogotá from July 30th to August 2nd to reinforce their collaborative work. The meeting allowed them to strengthen ties, rethink strategies and create new commissions focused on environmental care, strategic alliances and research.

At the meeting, the internal commissions were restructured to strengthen the work of the community. New areas focused on environmental care, strategic collaboration and research which also were created. These initiatives will allow us to broaden our scope, rescue good practices and generate new knowledge.

Reflection on the complex reality of Latin America and the Caribbean identified common challenges such as authoritarian governance, violence against vulnerable groups and socio-environmental conflicts.

Against this backdrop, a call was made to strengthen the articulation between the actions of the Church in the region and to make these actions visible to counteract polarization. The participating organizations reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together in the definition and prioritization of their actions, to achieve a significant impact in the construction of peace and social justice.

CEILAC Assembly

On August 2nd, the Commission for Integral Ecology of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEILAC) held an assembly in the context of the “Laudate Deum Route”, which aims to build a process of meetings or “stations” where the church encourages active listening, promotes consensus and leads advocacy actions to address the climate crisis. In this sense, it seeks to accompany, with special interest in influencing, the Conferences of the Parties (COP), especially the COP16 on biodiversity to be held in Cali (Colombia), the COP29 in Azerbaijan and the COP30 in 2025 in Brazil, the last two on climate action and in which the reduction of greenhouse gases will be discussed.

It was recalled that CEILAC’s work towards the COPs is not the goal, but the means to build and strengthen synodality in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting brotherhood among organizations.

It was reported that the CEILAC archive has been organized to facilitate access to all member organizations and that progress has been made in the formulation and registration of a side event within the framework of COP16.

Apostolic Nuncio in Colombia received CEILAC

On August 5th, the Apostolic Nuncio to Colombia, Monsignor Paolo Rudelli, received the members of CEILAC to coordinate the steps for the Church to be present at COP16 next October in Cali (Colombia). The prelate explained his role as representative of the Holy See and anticipated that some 60 environment ministers from different countries are expected to attend. Colombia will have three priorities: financing the Convention’s mechanism; the care of Afro-descendant communities and the creation of a greater coordination. He explained that, as a Church, it is important to show that we are committed to biodiversity, to strengthen ties with social and popular movements, and to coordinate and articulate ourselves internally.

Monsignor Lozano presented the Latin American and Caribbean Balance Sheet in Spain



Jorge Lozano, Archbishop of San Juan de Cuyo (Argentina) and former Secretary General of CELAM, delivered a conference entitled “Advances and setbacks in human, social and environmental development in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The presentation was based on the Balance Document sent last July by the Socio-pastoral Observatory of the CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

This year’s meeting took place in Pamplona from August 6th to 11th, under the theme “Let us tear down the walls of injustice and indifference”. The Christian Cultural Movement organizes training courses in the summer of the northern hemisphere, within the framework of promoting the participation of the laity in social and public life, and disseminating the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The Pastoral of Health together with the Disability Network

On August 9th, a meeting was held with the Latin American Network for Interreligious Cooperation on Disability (RELACID), with the support of CELAM, sharing an event committed to the promotion of interreligious cooperation to create policies and programs that promote equal opportunities and full participation of people with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

First meeting of the new Latin American Youth Pastoral Coordinating Commission

On August 12th, the first meeting of the new Coordinating Commission of the Latin American Youth Pastoral, elected last July at the meeting in Paraguay, was held. Possible dates and logistical options for the next face-to-face meeting were analyzed, the creation of a Whatsapp group was agreed upon and the tasks of the communications team were discussed.

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Women in Church and Society Axis

During the meeting held on August 12th, a follow-up of the Work Plan 2024 was made, and the completion of the virtual formation cycle was confirmed. Regarding the First Regional Meeting of Women in Synodality, Andean/Bolivarian Region, participants reported that work is being done with the Ecuadorian team on its organization and methodological design.

Concerning the Mapping “Disruptive Women” we intend to collect a diversity of testimonies of women (services, ministries and charisms) to show the diaconate they have performed, trying to include women from urban and rural bases processes, leaders, managers, middle managers, lay and religious women. In the expanded Assembly of the Axis to be held on September 23rd. The initiative will be presented and the proposal for the design, the implementation of the mapping and the campaign for a life free of violence against women will be built collectively.

Coordination of the Red Justicia y Paz en la Patria Grande (Justice and Peace Network in the greater country)

During the August 14th meeting, preparations were made for the face-to-face planning meeting “Building paths of hope, unity, justice and peace for the Patria Grande in Latin America and the Caribbean”, to be held in Bogota on September 17-19. The topics to be addressed will be the challenges of integral ecology, how to give voice to communities, and democracy and Latin American integration. We will also work on the initiation of dialogues with other social organizations of the Patria Grande (trade unions, SMEs and cooperatives, etc.), popular movements, projections and future in their accompaniment and integration into a network of organized communities.

Peace, Democracies and Human Rights Facilitation Commission

In a meeting held on August 14th, progress was made in mapping with the integration of the work team, the toolbox for defenders and a campaign to present emblematic cases. In addition, the process of active nonviolence was reviewed, and the foundations were laid for the

observatories for faith, on democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the training and dissemination protocols were finalized.

On-site workshop “Growing Older Together in Community”, at CELAM Headquarters



On August 13th -16th, the CELAM headquarters in Bogota hosted an on-site workshop entitled “Aging Together in Community”. This course was aimed at religious communities, both male and female, as well as caregivers of the elderly and the public interested in the subject.

The workshop addressed key issues such as the psychology of the consecrated, life cycles, personal and community aging, interaction with new generations, affective maturity, and authentic community relationships among brothers and sisters. There was also a discussion on

houses for the elderly and the challenges in intercongregational, intercultural, international and interconnected contexts.

Mesoamerican Native Youth Team

In meetings held on August 14th and 21st, the preparatory process for the Virtual Meeting of Native Youth of Mesoamerica continued. The need for an event of promotion and articulation that has as priorities the conservation of cultures and the care of the common home was ratified, strengthening the processes of the youth pastoral and the pastoral of native peoples. The date of the meeting was set for October 19th from 9:00 to 11:00 am (Bogotá time). The event seeks to share identities, to know the realities of the youth and their peoples, the pastoral processes, their achievements and challenges from the heart, to weave and act prophetically together.

Meeting with Cardinal Prefect of Education and Culture

On August 16th, Fr. Francisco Hernandez, director of CEPRAP, and his counterpart from CEBITEPAL, Fr. Fabio Antunes, met at the headquarters of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota with the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça. They discussed the activities of the CELAM Formation Center, the functioning of the networks, especially those linked to theology, and the actions carried out in the continent concerning the Global Education Pact. In this sense, it is necessary to deepen it and give it more vivacity, strengthening the dialogue between education and culture, and to think of a joint initiative in the Jubilee of Education that will be on October 1st and 2nd, 2025.

National meeting of Catholic communicators in Peru



The director of the Center for Communication, Oscar Elizalde, participated as a keynote speaker in the National Meeting-Workshop of Communicators organized by the Episcopal Commission for Communication of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. It was held in Lima from August 16th to 18th, with the attendance of 50 communication delegates from all over the country, and addressed topics such as “communication for synodality”, “communication and Artificial Intelligence” and “from influencers to digital missionaries”.

More information: <https://adn.CELAM.org/taller-de-comunicacion-en-peru-analiza-mitos-y-realidades-de-la-inteligencia-artificial/>

SELACC Gender Team Meeting

In the effort to integrate women in the church and society axis and the gender team of the Latin American and Caribbean Secretariat of

Caritas (SELACC), on August 19th, progress was made in the development of cooperative actions to make visible, recognize and strengthen the work of women in the region. The first of these actions is the realization of a webinar within the framework of the World Rural and Food Women's Day, as a tribute to the contribution to the food sovereignty of peoples, and communities and the care and defense of the common home. It will be held on October 16th at 9.00 am, Bogotá time.

Native Women of Latin America and the Caribbean Team

The objective of the process that began on August 19th is to strengthen alliances between native women of the different peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, to favor the encounter of cultures, the defense of rights and the care of our Mother Earth. Among the strategies prioritized is the strengthening of the culture of encounter and synodality, from the opening of moments for listening and dialogue among native women to valuing their charisms, ecclesial and cultural ministries. A dynamic team made up of representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Mexico and other participating organizations was created to prepare the way for a first virtual meeting on November 15 and 16, from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

The free course “The World of the Sensitive” offers a profound and catholic perspective on love, ethics and sexuality.

In Brazil, the course “The World of the Sensitive” offers fundamental tools for educating human sensitivity and responding to Pope Francis' call to foster a culture of care. It is composed of short and dynamic modules. This free training course, which began on August 20th, addresses topics such as sensitivity, sexuality in the contemporary world, as well as the culture of care and prevention.



The course is organized by the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Sul and the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR), in collaboration with important ecclesial entities: CELAM, CEBITEPAL, the Conference of Religious of Brazil (CRB Nacional), the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB), the Nucleus Lux Mundi and the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious (CLAR).

Episcopal Commissions for Catechesis in Latin America and the Caribbean

At the August 20th meeting, commissions were formed to articulate a strategic development plan to promote catechesis as one of the transversal axes of the Church's pastoral ministry. The commissions are the Commission Observatory of Reality; the Road Map Commission and the Preparatory Commission for the II Week of Initiation to Christian Life.

Assembly of the Economies Platform

On August 21st, progress was made in the participation in the 4th International Congress on the Economics of Francis in Latin America and the Caribbean and the realization of the Assembly in Mexico, from October 26th to 29th, at the IMDOSOC facilities. In addition, a project was discussed that aims to promote, systematize and disseminate the organizations and economic actions carried out in the territories through a process of listening, systematization and publication called 'Villages: rethinking the economy from the Community'.

Advances in the youth ministry communication team

On August 21st, the Youth Pastoral Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean met to define the formation of a communications team coordinated by Steven Mogo of Peru. The progress in the restructuring of the web page was presented and the following objectives were assumed: to increase visibility and knowledge about youth ministry, encourage the participation and recognition of young people in the activities and programs, promote the message of the civilization of love and the values of the Kingdom, develop a committed and participative on-line community, and promote the Latin American and Caribbean team, using different platforms and digital marketing strategies.

Diploma in the care and protection of children, adolescents and vulnerable persons

At the CELAM headquarters, the activities of the Diploma in Care and Protection of Children, Adolescents and Vulnerable Persons have been continued. This on-site training program is a collaboration between CELAM-CEBITEPAL and CLAR, aimed at forming ecclesial lead-

ers committed to the prevention of all types of abuse within ecclesial communities and religious congregations. It seeks to develop pastoral care programs for victims of abuse, with a close, professional and community approach.



A total of 28 people from 12 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Spain, are participating in these face-to-face experiences, which will last until September 20.

Coordinating Commission for the Pastoral Care of Indigenous Peoples

The meeting held on August 22nd focused on the preparation of the meeting with those responsible for pastoral work in the Episcopal Conferences. The objective is to know the reality in the different countries and promote articulation processes. The meeting will take place on Friday, September 20 at 5.00 pm (Bogotá time).

In addition, as a follow-up to the work plan, a commission was organized to represent the Pastoral de Pueblos Originarios at the COP16 to be held in Cali (Colombia) in October.

VIII Inter-American Meeting of Educational Pastoral Ministry



Oscar Elizalde, director of the Center for Communication of CELAM, participated in the VIII Inter-American Meeting of Pastoral Education in Buenos Aires on August 23 and 24. The meeting, organized by the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education (CIEC), brought together more than 800 educators from the continent to reflect on two very important aspects. The objective was to understand the Bible as a source of God's expression to the human being and to reflect on the capacity of the Catholic school to assume its meaning.

The meeting was motivated by the awareness of a pastoral ministry that bases its actions on discernment of what God desires for the world and history.

More information: <https://adn.CELAM.org/biblia-y-escuela-es-el-tema-del-8-o-encuentro-interamericano-de-pastoral-educativa/> and <https://adn.CELAM.org/oscar-perez-secretario-general-de-la-ciec-a-vec-es-sentimos-que-la-biblia-es-la-gran-olvidada-de-la-escuela/>

First regional meeting “Women in Synodality” is being prepared

On August 23rd, a meeting was held with the core team of the first regional meeting “Women in Synodality” to be held in Ecuador next November. The methodological preparation began and the agreements regarding logistics were reviewed, especially the call for participants. The proposal proposed by CEPRAP was approved as the basis of the methodology: “to heart, weave and act prophetically”.

Meeting with the Socio-Transformative Commission of the CNBB and the road to COP30

During the meeting held on August 23rd, the process towards COP16, the structure created and the contacts between the work teams were shared. Also, the quality of the participation of international, ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical bodies, which already exist to establish dynamics and concrete actions.

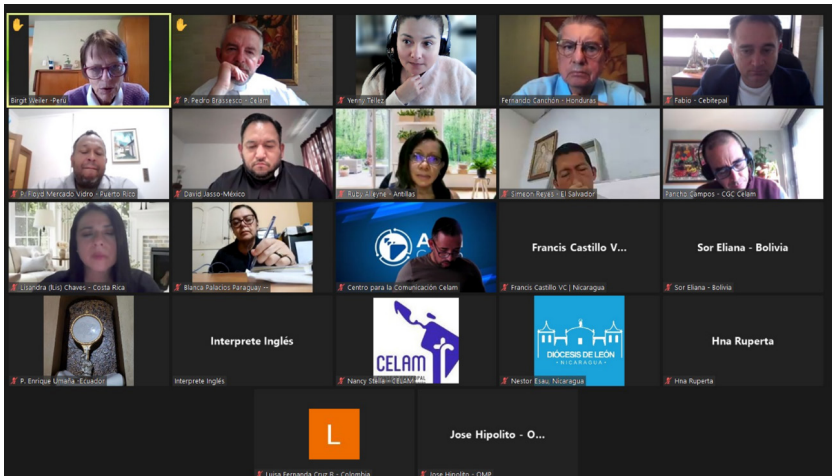
It was concluded that it is very important to create a minimum continental articulation movement to be able to participate in COP30. It would be good to think of the documents in terms of biocentrism, beyond anthropocentrism, and to hold a virtual meeting with the Secretariat of State.

IV Women’s Pastoral Meeting of Cusco

During the August 26th meeting, a workshop was held to continue the process of formation and strengthening of the work plan of the Pastoral of the woman, in the light of theological, pastoral, social, political and cultural elements. On this occasion, the first part was worked on: the heart, where the aim was for the women participants to reaffirm and base their identity and spirituality as a dynamic commission and as a pastoral ministry. The pastoral work axes were prioritized: empow-

erment and spiritual strengthening, fostering critical thinking, and advocating for women’s rights, especially around the promotion of a life free of violence in different contexts and cultures.

Church Assembly Appropriation Commission Meeting



On Friday, August 27th, a meeting of the Commission for the Appropriation of the text of the Ecclesial Assembly, made up of delegates from the Episcopal Conferences, was held. Progress was made on how to promote the implementation and consolidation of the formative and pastoral processes proposed in the Ecclesial Assembly, through the creation of conversations that connect and strengthen existing initiatives in the Episcopal Conferences, dioceses and territories, with a special focus on the ecological dream and synodality, to promote a more integrated Church committed to the care of the common home.

Colloquium on intergenerational synodal dialogue at UCSH-Chile



On August 28th and 29th, the “Intergenerational Synodal Colloquium: the Church and the Youth, Do They Walk Together?” was held in a hybrid way, organized by the Egidio Viganó Theological Institute of the Catholic University Silva Henríquez of Chile. The Center for Knowledge Management of CELAM supported the development of this Colloquium through the presence of its director, Guillermo Sandoval.

During the two days, dialogues were held on “culture and intergenerational synodality”, “wounds, disaffection and reparation”, “youth and the Church on the road to the Synodal Assembly 2024”, “recognizing and promoting youth leadership”, “pedagogy of encounter and intergenerational dialogue”, “youth in Latin America”, “Global Educational Pact in an intergenerational key” and “challenges for an intergenerational society and church”.

The Knowledge Management Center will soon offer, in digital version, the contents of this colloquium.

Articulation meeting of the Latin American Network of Organized Communities (Recor)

The meeting will be held in the city of Bogota from September 10th to 12th and aims to enable networks (Plapa, Street, Popular Movements) to plan, organize, articulate and understand what unites them. Recor brings together various organized communities related to urban peripheries, to promote and shelter them. Representatives of the Latin American Pastoral for the Accompaniment and Prevention of Addictions (PLAP), created in 2023; representatives of the Latin American Pastoral for Street People, and the Popular Movements will participate in this meeting.

Porticus evaluation of CGC projects

The director of the Knowledge Management Center held two working meetings with project evaluators acting on behalf of Porticus. In the first meeting, with members of the Zigla consulting firm, the Evaluation Rubric was presented, which will be used to continue with the evaluation and learning process. In the second meeting, with Lisa Hanley, qualitative and quantitative aspects of the Congress on the Social Doctrine of the Church held in 2023 were analyzed.

Messages

CELAM's Contributions to the Manifesto Against Poverty and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean

P. / No. 0104 of 2024

Your Excellencies, Members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States,

On behalf of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), an ecclesial body that integrates the Catholic Episcopates of our countries, we extend our greetings in close communion with the openness and teaching of Pope Francis. We express our deep concern regarding the harsh realities of poverty and inequality that afflict the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We call upon the Organization of American States (OAS) not only to adopt the **Manifesto against Poverty and Inequality in the Americas** but also to initiate an urgent and courageous process to address the historical and pressing issues it raises. A decisive effort is needed to advance towards social justice on our continent.

We wish to underscore some key points that reinforce our call and our commitment to participating in these processes:

1. Great Inequality in the Americas

Latin America and the Caribbean endure the highest levels of income concentration and inequality in the world, as confirmed by reports from the United Nations Development Program and ECLAC in 2023. This situation has been consistently identified and denounced by the Church, particularly during the V Latin American Episcopal Assembly in Apareci-

da (2007) and in Pope Francis' Encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. The latter urges us to “fight against the structural causes of poverty, inequality, lack of work, land and housing, denial of social and labor rights” (FT 116).

Inequality is not only economic, affecting income and resource distribution, but also social and political. It perpetuates injustice, weakens democracy, undermines the intrinsic dignity of the person, and erodes the common good.

2. Poverty and Inequality as Effects of Structural Violence

Poverty constitutes a form of violence, as it denies human beings the ability to realize their full potential by limiting equitable access to opportunities. Inequality, in turn, undermines human rights, breeds distrust among citizens and toward state institutions, and ultimately erodes democratic ideals. Social, economic, gender and political inequalities generate conflicts that can lead to violence and polarization.

As a result, the social and community fabric is weakened, further increasing the vulnerability of entire populations who are often criminalized, even though they are victims. It is written in the memory and dignity of humanity that peace is the fruit of justice. Therefore, we must address with clarity and conviction the structural roots of these violations and injustices from a perspective of equity and inclusion.

Furthermore, poverty and inequality are closely linked to the exploitation and destruction of nature. This leads to further suffering and inequity, as Pope Francis reminds us. Only a new and integral paradigm of civilization, centered on the care of our common home and family, offers viable perspectives for a dignified life for current and future generations.

3. Despair and Political Polarization

The severe inequalities in our nations have polarized politics, with various social actors blaming one another rather than finding consensus and taking action against these social ills. This creates fertile ground for criminal interests to proliferate, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and inequality, deepening despair, and stifling constructive discussions and effective solutions.

At best, public policies and social programs that alleviate daily hardships are promoted, but these fail to address the structural roots of the problem or to empower the poor, the excluded, and the marginalized as active agents in their own transformation.

Hope walks the path of peace—of dialogue, bridge-building, and working towards a culture of encounter, rooted in the social fabric of our communities.

4. Forced Migration Driven by Desperation

“Migrants often flee situations of oppression, abuse, insecurity, and discrimination, as well as a lack of development projects,” notes Pope Francis in his message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024. It is the absence of viable responses to poverty and inequality that forces millions to migrate in search of better opportunities for their families.

Migration, whether within nations or across borders, is clear evidence of the failure of public policies and regional agreements in addressing social and economic challenges. As Pope Francis emphasizes in *Fratelli Tutti*, it is of utmost urgency to create dignified living conditions in every country, so that migration becomes a free choice, not a desperate necessity.

5. The Urgency of Adopting the Manifesto Against Poverty and Inequality

We believe it is an ethical imperative for the Permanent Council of the OAS to adopt the **Manifesto against Poverty and Inequality in the Americas**. This challenge demands new approaches, starting by affirming the dignity of the impoverished as active subjects rather than passive recipients of emergency measures.

The Manifesto, and its subsequent implementation, could mark a historic milestone, redefining the OAS's mission to jointly tackle the hemisphere's structural challenges with concrete responses that can bring about change in the shortest possible time.

We recognize that the legitimacy of international institutions derives from their ability to effectively represent and address the rights, needs, and aspirations of the populations they serve. The Manifesto provides a crucial opportunity for the OAS to strengthen its efforts in promoting social justice across the hemisphere.

The OAS has a vital role to play in fostering regional and sub-regional dialogue on social cohesion, inequality, and democratic governance, as well as in the fight against impunity and the defense of human rights. This includes promoting transparency, accountability, and effective migration policies while combating transnational crime and human trafficking, all grounded in the rule of law.

6. Call to Action

Considering the above, we urge the Permanent Council of the OAS to move forward decisively in adopting this proposal, which is urgently needed and demanded by our population. Now is the time to exercise moral and political leadership and to heed the voices of justice that resonate across our continent. This will be the Americas' significant contribution to addressing the global crisis.

We are filled with hope that the outcry of our people, together with our call and commitment, will inspire you to make the best decisions and take the necessary actions. May God's blessing be upon you and all the people of the American continent.

Sincerely yours,

Signatures

Archbishop Jaime Spengler,

Archbishop of Porto Alegre, Brazil, President CELAM

Archbishop José Luis Azuaje Ayala,

Archbishop of Maracaibo, Venezuela, First Vice President CELAM

Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta,

Archbishop of Panama, Panama, Second Vice President CELAM

Santiago Rodríguez Rodríguez,

Bishop of San Pedro de Macorís, Dom. Rep., CAE President

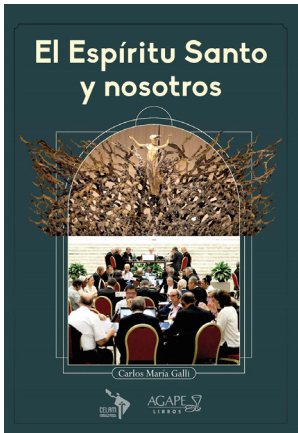
Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera O.S.A.,

Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco, Peru, Secretary General CELAM

Publications

The Holy Spirit and Us

Why is a book on the synodal Church entitled *The Holy Spirit and Us*? The Spirit of God is the main protagonist of the Church in history, of synodal communion, of the evangelizing mission, and our Christian experience. Synodal life is at the heart of the renewing work of the Second Vatican Council. One fruit of this process of conversion and reform, driven by the Breath of the living God, is the recognition of missionary synodality as a constitutive dimension of the pilgrim Church on its way to eschatological fullness.



Author: Carlos María Galli

1st Edition: 2024

Pages: 556

Area: Theology

Colección: Autores

Weight: 905 gr.

Price: U\$S 21

To purchase the book: <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/el-espiritu-santo-y-nosotros/>

On the Way to a Constitutively Synodal Church

When we think of synodality, we refer to a property—a characteristic inherent to the ecclesial body—that defines its historical form. The Council [Vatican II] once again placed at the center of the Church’s self-definition the People of God, who live their communitarian nature in and through multidirectional communicative relationships, where all the baptized are subjects.



Authors: Rafael Luciani and Serena Noceti

1st Edition: 2024

Pages: 96

Area: Theology

Colección: Autores

Weight: 160 gr.

Price: U\$S 11

Episcopal Appointments

- August 17th: The Holy Father appointed Bishop Faustino Burgos Brisman, C.M., as Bishop of the Diocese of Baní (Dominican Republic), transferring him from the titular see of Bararo and the office of auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo.
- August 22nd: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Edmilson Tadeu Canavarros dos Santos, S.D.B., as Prelate of the Territorial Prelature of Itacoatiara (Brazil), transferring him from the titular see of Feradi minore and the office of auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Manaus.
- August 28th: The Holy Father appointed Father Matías Vecino, parish priest of San Cayetano and episcopal vicar for Social Pastoral, as auxiliary bishop of the metropolitan archdiocese of Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz (Argentina), assigning him the titular see of Idicra.

Deaths

- August 1st: Bishop Dilmo Franco de Campos, Auxiliary Bishop of Anápolis, Goiás, Brazil.
- August 8th: Msgr. Mário Clemente Neto, C.S.Sp., Bishop Emeritus Prelate of Tefé, Amazonas, Brazil.
- - August 20th: Bishop Rafael Eleuterio Rey, Bishop Emeritus of Zarate-Campana, Argentina.

Invitations and Announcements

PreCOP16 Ecclesial

We are all invited to participate in the Ecclesial PreCOP16 on Biodiversity and Care for Our Common Home, to be held on September 23 and 24 in the city of Bogotá.

PreCOP16 is a space for joint discernment by the Catholic Church at various levels (local/territorial, regional, and international) to identify good practices from integral ecology communities promoted by the Church and civil society in favor of biodiversity and the care of our common home, as a key element in promoting “peace with nature.”

Event highlights:

Academic Sessions: Experts and researchers from Catholic universities will discuss how building and promoting integral ecology communities contributes to peace with nature, using a territorial approach and in coherence with Pope Francis’ dreams (social, ecclesial, cultural, and ecological).

Territorial Experiences: Three simultaneous panels will exchange insights from territorial initiatives that promote integral ecology communities.

Cultural Celebration: A celebration, Mandala, for biodiversity and the care of the common home. Participants are invited to bring seeds, flags, or other symbolic objects.

Political Advocacy: The advocacy document prepared by the Catholic Church for COP16 will be read and formally presented to the Colombian government.

Registration for in-person participation: <https://acortar.link/InvitacionparticipacionPreCOP16Eclesial>

Upcoming Courses and Diplomas

Current Issues in Systematic Theology

Dates: September 2nd to 27th, Virtual Diploma.

CEBITEPAL will hold the virtual diploma course “Current Issues in Systematic Theology” for bishops, laypeople, priests, nuns and religious.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3SHckGB>

Participatory Pastoral Planning in a Synodal Perspective

Dates: September 2nd to November 22nd (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays), Virtual Diploma.

Priests, religious men and women, lay men and women, pastoral agents, youth leaders, youth leaders, youth leaders or youth groups, and youth teams or leaders responsible for youth ministry are invited to enroll in the virtual diploma course “Participatory Pastoral Planning in a Synodal Key”.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3AhteW4>

Custodians on the move: Implementing Integral Ecology communities

Registration is now open for the virtual diploma course “Custodians on the Move: Implementing Communities of Integral Ecology”, aimed at leaders and animators of ecclesial communities, committed lay people from civil society, popular, youth, indigenous, women and peasant movements and/or organizations. This diploma course is a collaboration between CEBITEPAL, the JPIC-Human Rights Commission of the Confer of Peru, the CAAAP, REPAM Peru and the Laudato Sí Movement, Peru chapter.

Dates: September 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, and October 3rd and 10th.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3z2DIbl>

Free course “The vocation to holiness in the diocese”.

In virtual modality, the course “The Vocation to holiness in the Diocese”, a collaboration between the Pius XI School of Holiness Foundation and Cebitepal seeks to highlight the human, social and popular value of holiness (EG 119), towards a popular mysticism (EG 237) and a mystical fraternity (EG 92).

Dates: September 16th, 23rd and 30th (Mondays)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4dKhMRi> - Certification available upon request: 20 USD.

Course for those in charge of the intellectual dimension of seminaries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Modality: On-site

Date: From September 30th to October 4th.

Place: Bogota (Colombia) at the former Celam headquarters in Usaquen, Cra. 5 # 118-31.

It is important to note that participants will have to pay for their air tickets and ground transportation, in addition, a contribution of USD 265 is requested to cover the costs of stay.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/Y3cjbic2SYNjy9Ds8>.

Social Doctrine of the Church and the Laity

The virtual diploma course “Social Doctrine of the Church and the Laity”, aimed at pastoral agents and people with the desire to build a synodal Church, seeks to respond, from the Gospel to the challenges of commitment and social justice in contemporary society.

Date: October 1st to 31st

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3WWyG9L>

Ethics, a near horizon

If you are interested in understanding the importance of justice and transparency and wish to deepen your understanding of ethics and values in the light of the Gospel, we invite you to enroll in the virtual diploma course “Ethics, a near horizon”.

Date: October 1st to 31st

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4de9263>

From Francis of Assisi to Francis of Rome: returning to the Gospel of Care

This course is aimed at people interested in deepening their spiritual life along the lines of Francis of Assisi, taken up again today by Pope Francis, and will include the participation of Friar Michael Moore OFM.

Dates: October 8th, 11th, 15th and 18th.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3Z4ATBx>

Pastoral Theological Update for Bishops



Objective: To offer the bishops of the continent a pastoral theological update in the key of synodality.

Methodology: A journey around current themes of the Magisterium of Pope Francis, with the presentation of the horizons that challenge the pastoral work from synodality.

Themes:

- The Church and the Second Vatican Council.
- The ecclesiology of the People of God in the Second Vatican Council.
- The ecclesiology of the local Churches concerning the identity and mission of the bishop.
- The ecclesial subjects in the life and mission of a diocese: laity, presbyterate, religious life.

- The ecclesial structuring of a diocese. Pastoral councils, assemblies, parishes, seminaries.
- Latin American and Caribbean reception. The Latin American theological-pastoral method and the reading of the signs of the present times.
- Theological-pastoral lines of the General Conferences of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopate.
- The restructuring and renewal of Ceama, and the creation of Ceama.
- The theological-pastoral lines of the first Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Assembly.
- A new reception of the Second Vatican Council. The magisterium of Pope Francis, a constitutively synodal Church.
- The theology and practice of the *sensus fidei* in ecclesial life. The dynamics of listening, discernment, elaboration and decision-making.

Date and place: November 4th to 8th at the CELAM headquarters in Bogota (Colombia).

Limited vacancies and free of charge: <https://bit.ly/3W6kxGY>

Signed agreements

Institution	Object
Venezuelan Episcopal Conference	Establish an alliance between CELAM, through Cebitepal, and the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference, through Inpas, of collaboration between the parties to promote training and cooperation in the development of research and programs that can be replicated in the local Churches and other ecclesial instances. This alliance will strengthen our capacities and resources, allowing us to achieve a greater impact in our communities.
Worldview International - Costa Rica	Establish a strategic alliance between World Vision, Lacro and CELAM, through Cebitepal, to promote unity and ecumenism in the continent, through joint actions that foster cooperation and interfaith dialogue.

To see and participate again

CELAM, through the Center for Communication, makes available the recordings of the events and material produced during August:

- Latin American Day for the Struggles of the Homeless. https://youtu.be/kTqj3SRLn_s
- Theological Congress of Synodal Theology (Transmissions)
 - 1st Block: Church, synodality and Theology in Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtu.be/odPizs0Dyf8>
 - 2nd Block: The Synod on the Synodal Church (afternoon session) <https://youtu.be/zbckdyXUhk>
 - 3rd Block: Communion and participation in a synodal Church <https://youtu.be/Y-8FYuzWQgk>
 - 4th Block: Synodal missionary Church <https://youtu.be/N4u3f4Iqy-o>
 - 5th Block: Synodal co-responsibility in the local and regional churches <https://youtu.be/mV360FzeOEE>
 - 6th Block: Towards a theology in a synodal and missionary key from the Ibero-American churches <https://youtu.be/nWyZVNxp4bI>
 - Closing of the Synodal Theological Congress https://youtu.be/5qc_YzuQWrE
 - Panel 3: Synodal Life in Dioceses and Parishes <https://youtu.be/edrnhxJWDlw>

- New Launch: On the road to a constitutively synodal Church https://youtu.be/Axy1-BKh_08
- New migration contexts since the pandemic: a statistical overview of Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtu.be/QBb-ZwLrUsQA>
- Dialogue on the world of the sensitive <https://youtu.be/LGQGF-P2IGhw>
- Analysis of the reality of the Amazonian territories in the light of the mission <https://youtu.be/VMn4-j8I1o4>

CELAM DNA emissions:

- Ed. August 3: Reclac, Ecclesial Network of Communicators of Latin America and the Caribbean, is born. <https://youtu.be/kVfnPPjiFMI>
- Ed. 18 August: CELAM welcomes theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtu.be/SGSxbIMje4>
- Ed. August 20: Synod mothers and fathers are ready for the second session in Rome. <https://youtu.be/LEGRVOBmd8>

Special covers:

- Amazonian Ecclesial Conference from August 23rd to 26th
 - Delivery 1 <https://youtu.be/UKdVakaHtrw>
 - Delivery 2 <https://youtu.be/LGYyzWS8fSc>
 - Delivery 3 https://youtu.be/MNtVh0X_tvM
- Press releases 2nd Ecclesia Assembly of the Amazon (Ceama): <https://adn.CELAM.org/tag/ii-asamblea-ceama/page/2/>

Visit our ADN CELAM news portal with an updated interface at www.adn.CELAM.org.

Receive ADN CELAM newsletters on WhatsApp or Telegram at: <https://bit.ly/3HcXLDU>

