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Presidency of the Episcopal Council for Latin America and the Caribbean - CELAM

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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: Red de Lideresas Afrodescendientes Católicas de las Américas.

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 Garífuna Inculturated 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: Red de Comunicades Organizadas de América Latina.

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

Four regional meetings deepen synodality in the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean



Four regional meetings of the Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean were held between February and March, with broad participation from bishops, priests, religious men and women, and laypeople. The venues were: San José, Costa Rica, for the Central America-Mexico Region (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama); Lima, for the Bolivarian Region (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia); Santo Domingo, for the Caribbean Region (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Antilles); and Buenos Aires, for the Southern Cone (Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile).

This initiative, which began to be prepared in mid-2024, replaced this year's traditional March meeting of the Secretaries General of the Episcopal Conferences.

The program, inspired by the biblical passage of Emmaus (cf. Lk. 24:13–35), was structured in four stages: conversation along the way, explanation of the Scriptures, the breaking of bread, and setting out again on the journey.

Biblical scholars and academics from each host country led the *lectio divina* on the Road to Emmaus and offered an analysis of the regional context to frame the discussion at each meeting. These included: Fr. William Segura in San José, Costa Rica; Fr. Guillermo Acero in Lima; Fr. Santo Monción in Santo Domingo; and Leandro Berdini in Buenos Aires. In addition, academics who presented on the socio-ecclesial realities of the respective regions were Fr. Alexis Rodríguez in San José, Costa Rica; Aldo Vásquez in Lima; Fr. Pablo Mella, S.J., in Santo Domingo; and Enrique del Percio in Buenos Aires. It is worth noting that participants received, in advance, a regional report (both social and ecclesial) prepared by the Knowledge Management Center. On the day of the presentation, an infographic summarizing the regional context was also distributed.

The third presentation focused on CELAM's Global Plan 2023–2027, delivered by the Assistant Secretary General, Fr. Pedro Brassesco. The remaining activities consisted of participatory sessions, ranging from “Conversation in the Spirit” to meetings between delegations of the various Conferences, culminating in identifying pastoral priorities that can be jointly implemented in each region. These participatory sessions were coordinated by CELAM's four Pastoral Centers.

Additionally, on the second day of each meeting, the host Episcopal Conference organized a pilgrimage to an ecclesial initiative associated with synodality and the spirit of the Jubilee of Hope.

These gatherings may be repeated on two more occasions. The first, recently concluded, was conducted under the theme of communion, bringing together Secretaries General and their Assistant Secretaries, along with three additional delegates—most of them laypeople. The second will emphasize participation and

will include members of various ecclesial networks active in each region. The third, centered on mission, aims to also involve individuals engaged in broader societal spheres such as the economy, politics, and culture.

These meetings are designed to promote ecclesial co-responsibility among the churches of each region, in coordination with CELAM, which serves as a body for unity and service among the various Episcopal Conferences.

CELAM authorities have positively evaluated this first round of meetings, which will strengthen ecclesial efforts across Latin America and the Caribbean. A systematization of the discussions and outcomes is currently underway, which will enable a more in-depth assessment of this initiative, led by the General Secretariat in collaboration with the four Pastoral Centers.

With a Constitutive Declaration, the Network of Observatories of the Reality of CELAM is formally born.



Representatives from twenty-one observatories, socio-pastoral research centers, and context monitoring services linked to the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean met on March 6th and 7th at CELAM headquarters for the first in-person, constitutive meeting of the Synodal Ne-

twork of Socio-Pastoral Observation, an event that concluded with the signing of a Constitutive Declaration.

Following an opening Eucharist offered for the work ahead, presided over by Bishop Lizardo Estrada, Secretary General of CELAM, he and Guillermo Sandoval, Director of the Center for Knowledge Management (CGC), officially opened the meeting by presenting the context and motivations behind the invitation to form this network, as part of the CELAM Global Plan 2023–2027.

Next, Jeanette Rincón, Coordinator of the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the CGC, and the person tasked with implementing this CELAM initiative, presented the background and general principles of the new Network. Its journey began on October 18th, 2024, with a virtual meeting attended by over 40 participants, marking the start of its mission: “walking together in research at the service of the People of God.”

This was followed by a review of experiences in “networked observation” and the presentation of participating organizations, with the aim of identifying strengths, challenges, and shared areas of interest. From this dialogue emerged a collectively shaped identity, objectives, and organizational structure for the new Network, grounded in the practices of listening and spiritual conversation.

The founding members of the Synodal Network of Socio-Pastoral Observation established a minimum action plan for the 2025–2026 period. This plan includes: the development of a mapping of observatories, identification of common research areas, support for the creation or strengthening of socio-pastoral observatories, and a virtual follow-up meeting scheduled for April 10th.

To ensure continuity of the action plan, a coordinating team was elected, composed of: Jeanette Rincón, Coordinator of OSAP/CGC; Aldo Vásquez, representative of the ODSAL Network; and Abelardo Morales, representative of the Socio-Pastoral Observatory of Human Mobility in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (OSMECA).

Frontiers of Technology Working Group Delivers Report on Artificial Intelligence



After six months of research and drafting, the CELAM Working Group on Technological Frontiers presented its report on Artificial Intelligence during a meeting held on March 6th at CELAM headquarters, where they were received by Bishop Lizardo Estrada, Secretary General of CELAM, and Fr. Pedro Brassesco, Assistant Secretary General.

On this occasion, a relaxed and fruitful dialogue took place regarding the work carried out, its scope, and the challenges faced by this group, which was formed within CELAM's Center for Knowledge Management (CGC). Bishop Estrada expressed his appreciation for the group's effort and dedication and encouraged them to continue offering their valuable contributions to the pastoral mission of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The participants expressed their commitment to continue working in four key areas: robotics, transhumanism, the humanistic development of artificial intelligence, and the societal impacts of AI—including its environmental implications.

The 70-page report delivered includes the following topics or chapters in its table of contents: general notions of Artificial Intelligence (AI); history and evolution; ethical, anthropological, and theological aspects;

the Church's magisterium on AI; the theological challenge of digital development; Christian anthropology and human dignity; the vocation of the human being as a responsible co-creator; applications and impacts of AI (including in economics, political processes, human rights and participatory democracy, health, social communication, education, labor, and ecology); calls to action with pastoral recommendations and proposals; inculturating AI in the Latin American and Caribbean Church; AI and the Church: practical proposals for the continent's bishops; and an annex on current AI regulations.

The drafting team, listed alphabetically, consisted of: Fr. Gonzalo Aemilius (Uruguay), Diego Álvarez Newman (Argentina), José David Amorcho (Colombia), Fr. Heriberto Cabrera (Chile), Francisco Campos Pinochet (Coordinator of Shared Knowledge, CGC–CELAM), María Elizabeth de los Ríos Uriarte (Mexico), Rodrigo Fábrega Lacoa (Chile), Fr. José María Guibert Ucín, S.J. (Spain), Fr. Luis O. Jiménez Rodríguez, S.J. (Puerto Rico), Bishop Edson José Oriolo dos Santos (Brazil), Guillermo Sandoval Vásquez (Director of CGC–CELAM), Moisés Sbardelotto (Brazil), José Sols Lucía (Mexico, group coordinator), and José Lázaro Támez Guerra (Mexico).

The presentation of the report took place in the context of the second in-person meeting of the IA–CELAM Working Group, which was henceforth renamed the CELAM Working Group on Technological Frontiers.

CELAM Presidency greeted the Pope on the anniversary of his election

On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the election of Pope Francis as the 266th successor of Peter, the Presidency of CELAM sent the Holy Father a letter conveying “an affectionate greeting of congratulations,” and giving thanks to God “for his fruitful service and ministry.”

“On this day, we particularly recall the many times he visited his Latin American homeland, and we remain deeply mindful of the challenges he has invited us to take up in responding to the mission of being a synodal Church that goes forth to the peripheries,” wrote the members

of the CELAM Presidency in their message, as they also entrusted themselves to the prayers of the Bishop of Rome: “We ask that you continue to pray for the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, and for the entire CELAM, which in 2025 will celebrate 70 years of service.”



P. /No. 0032 de 2025

Su Santidad
Papa Francisco
Ciudad del Vaticano

Querido Santo Padre:

Al cumplirse este 13 de marzo el 12º aniversario de su elección como Sumo Pontífice, desde el Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano queremos transmitirle un afectuoso saludo de felicitación, dando gracias a Dios por su fecundo servicio y ministerio como sucesor de Pedro.

En este tiempo de prueba por los problemas de salud que le toca atravesar, su testimonio llena de luz a toda la Iglesia, ya que nos edifica que en medio de la fragilidad sigue unido al Pueblo de Dios en la oración y entrega en el servicio pastoral. Gracias por este testimonio y seguimos orando por usted para que pronto pueda sentirse completamente recuperado y con la fuerza del Espíritu para seguir guiándonos como pastor universal.

En esta fecha recordamos de manera particular las numerosas veces que visitó su tierra latinoamericana y tenemos muy presente los desafíos que nos ha animado a trabajar para responder a la misión de ser una Iglesia sinodal en salida a las periferias. Le pedimos que siga orando por los obispos de América Latina y el Caribe y por todo el Celam, que en 2025 cumplirá 70 años de servicio.

Renovando nuestro fraternal saludo y agradecimiento por su vida y ministerio, lo encomendamos a la maternal protección de la Virgen María, Ntra. Sra. de Guadalupe.



Mons. Jaime Spengler
Arzobispo de Porto Alegre, Brasil
Presidente



Mons. José Luis Azuaje Ayala
Arzobispo de Maracaibo, Venezuela
Primer Vicepresidente



Mons. José Domingo Ulloa, O.S.A.
Arzobispo de Panamá, Panamá
Segundo Vicepresidente



Mons. Santiago Rodríguez Rodríguez
Obispo San Pedro de Macoris, Rep. Dom.
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Mons. Lizardo Estrada Herrera, O.S.A.
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Likewise, acknowledging “this time of trial due to the health difficulties he is currently facing,” the CELAM bishops emphasized that “his witness fills the entire Church with light, for it edifies us to see that, even in the midst of fragility, he remains united to the People of God through prayer and dedication to pastoral service.”

“We thank you for this testimony, and we continue to pray for you, that you may soon feel fully recovered and strengthened by the Spirit to continue guiding us as the universal pastor,” the letter concludes, entrusting the Holy Father’s life and ministry “to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe.”

CELAM participated in the 4th Synodal Cooperation Meeting in Germany

From March 11th to 13th, Church aid organizations gathered in Königsstein, Germany, for the 4th Meeting on Synodal Cooperation, aimed at consolidating a common vision of international coordination, defining expected outcomes, and prioritizing the Church’s role as an agent of change in the Latin American region.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) hosted the event, which brought together 22 delegates from the Americas and Europe. Participants identified new opportunities for synergy and collaboration to further strengthen efforts in the areas of migration and climate justice.

Humberto Ortiz, Coordinator of CELAM’s Office of Development and Projects / Planning Directorate, emphasized the desire to “foster internal reflection and strategic alignment among organizations in order to optimize their impact and coordinate actions.”

A panel discussion on cooperation and synodality featured notable Church leaders: Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development; Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President of CELAM; Dr. Emilce Cuda, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America; and Marcela Szymanski, representative of ACN.



Participants then engaged in a participatory dynamic exploring the principles and standards of synodality that should be evident in fraternal international cooperation. They also examined the climate and migration crises with regional specialists, including: Mauricio López, Director of the Amazon University Program (PUAM); Gladys Montesinos (REPAM); Cardinal Fabio Baggio (Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development); and Elvy Monzant, Executive Secretary of the CLAMOR Network.

The group produced a document outlining the principles and standards of synodality and proposed a strategic reformulation of the Populorum Progressio Fund into a Populorum Progressio Program, designed to promote a synodal, strategic, and synergistic articulation of projects.

Key topics identified for the annual action plan include:

- Standards for synodal international cooperation
- Organization of coordination and continuity within the network, with a new coordinating or “motor” team
- Support for the development of the Populorum Progressio Program
- Support for thematic and territorial networks
- Support for work with migrants and refugees

It was agreed that the 5th Meeting will be held in the Dominican Republic in April 2026.

Continental Synod Team prepares materials and programs activities for Synod reception

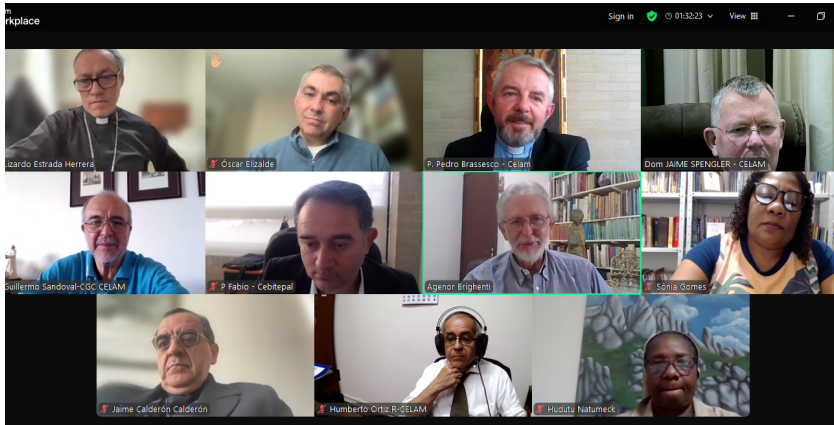
On March 7th, the animation team for the reception of the Synod in Latin America and the Caribbean met to advance the development of the agreed lines of action.

It was emphasized that during the regional meetings of Episcopal Conferences being held by CELAM, the dimensions and orientations of the Ecclesial Assembly and the Synod document are being presented, with the aim of making visible the convergence of both processes and encouraging reflection on the pains and hopes present in each region.

In these meetings, each conference is being consulted on how the reception of the Synod is being implemented and whether countries have established diocesan and national animation teams.

It was also reported that a popular version of the final document, commissioned by the Center for Knowledge Management, has been prepared and will be submitted to CELAM’s Pastoral Theo-

logical Reflection Team (ERT) for evaluation. At the same time, the final stage of collecting articles is underway for a monographic issue of the Medellín journal, scheduled for publication in early April.



Fr. Agenor Brighenti, coordinator of the ERT, also commented on a project to draft a book on the synodalization of ecclesial structures, which will then be followed by formation processes, starting with episcopal conferences and later extending to dioceses and parishes. It was considered important to involve bishops, parish priests, and pastoral vicars in this effort.

A proposal was presented to restructure CELAM's website, which will include several new sections: traces and experiences of synodality (texts and videos), the final Synod document in various languages, materials for the dissemination and deepening of the final document, informative videos, and documents related to the synodal process, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The academic offerings of CELAM for this year were also shared: Pastoral Theological Update for Bishops; Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology; Diploma on Catechesis and Synodality; Course on Discernment and Pastoral Planning for a Synodal Church; Course on Conversation in the Spirit; Course on Urban Insecurity as a Challenge for Synodal Pastoral Ministry; Diploma “The Particular Church Evangelizes”; Training Course for Musicians; Diploma on the Feminine Model of Discipleship; Diploma on Digital Mission; Diploma on the Parish as a Community of Communities; Diploma on the Thought of Pope Francis; Diploma on the Road to Emmaus.

REGCHAG held its II Regional Assembly in Bolivia

The II Regional Assembly of the Ecclesial Network Gran Chaco and Guaraní Aquifer (REGCHAG) was held in Villamontes, Department of Tarija – Bolivia, from March 27th to 29th, 2025. Under the motto “*Heart, weave, and act from reality*”, the gathering brought together representatives of communities, organizations, and institutions from Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay, all committed to the defense of life, territories, and our Common Home.

Over three days marked by spirituality, discernment, and fraternal encounter, participants shared reflections from territorial dialogues, explored the community and missionary identity of the Network, and reached consensus on the priority lines of action for the coming years.

The Assembly was also a space of listening to the peoples. It included a conversation with Indigenous and peasant leaders, messages from sister networks and institutions, and deeply symbolic moments, such as the screening of the documentary “*Whispers of Water*” and an ecumenical prayer.

In a spirit of synodality, an election was held in which Bishop Ángel José Macín, of Reconquista (Argentina), was unanimously reelected as

General Coordinator, and Sister Rosita Sidasmed, rsm (Argentina/Paraguay), was reelected as Executive Secretary.



Néstor Cuéllar (Bolivia) was also elected as Assistant Secretary and joins the Network's animation service with enthusiasm.

With a sending celebration and a joyful cultural evening filled with music, song, and dance, the Assembly concluded, leaving alight the flame of commitment, tenderness, and shared hope.

In doing so, REGCHAG reaffirms its vocation to walk as a network — a community subject that amplifies the cry of the earth, of the waters, and of the peoples, especially the most vulnerable, with the horizon of the Jubilee of Hope that inspires the entire Church.

CPC conducts course on “Planning positioning strategies in digital environments”.

With the purpose of building the capacities of Church communication leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of organic positioning strategies on social media—and in order to strengthen the Church’s prophetic impact across the continent—the CELAM Center for Communication, with the support of the CEBITEPAL Training Center, conducted the course “*Planning Positioning Strategies in Digital Environments*” from March 6th to 31st

The course, led by Dr. Albertina Navas, was carried out through synchronous virtual sessions and tutorial spaces, addressing topics such as content positioning on social media and websites, with a focus on developing organic social media strategies that include performance and impact measurement tools.

Participants in the course were primarily communication officers from episcopal conferences and ecclesial organizations across the continent, with special emphasis on those leading digital communication efforts.

PEG Task Force scheduling meeting

The dynamic team of the CELAM Global Education Pact met in Buenos Aires, Argentina on March 29th and 30th, where the impact of tasks already completed was evaluated and upcoming activities were outlined.

During the meeting, a teleconference was held with Juan Antonio Ojeda, consultant for the Dicastery for Culture and Education, which allowed for sharing global progress on the pact and exchanging experiences to strengthen action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The discernment process before defining immediate and priority steps was carried out using the conversation in the Spirit methodology.



Upcoming tasks include the publication of the full version of a dictionary on the subject, reactivating the viewer based on an interactive survey developed by Javeriana University and the Knowledge Management Center, and engaging pastoral action platforms and networks in the Global Education Pact, including the establishment of knowledge-sharing tables.

Start of the face-to-face module of the Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology 2025

With the participation of 25 students, on April 29th will begin the on-site module of the Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology 2025-2026, an initiative of CELAM-CEBITEPAL, in collaboration with the Pontifical Bolivarian University. This program aims to strengthen theological and pastoral formation with a critical and proactive perspective, promoting dialogue with reality, the culture of encounter, and the synodal spirit.



The on-site module will run until June 20th at the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá, complemented by a virtual modality that offers greater flexibility to the participants. Through an integral approach, this degree articulates theory and practice to respond to the pastoral challenges of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CEPRAP prepares the document “Living in the hope that does not disappoint”.

As a result of the joint work between the platforms and networks that accompany the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks of CELAM (CEPRAP), a document is being prepared: “Living the Hope that Does Not Disappoint,” with theological-pastoral orientations to accompany this time of Jubilee.

It highlights the importance of a Jubilee Year as an opportunity to renew Christian commitment to mercy, justice, and solidarity in a world marked by a “polycrisis” that includes war, the climate crisis, forced migrations, and economic inequalities.

The text, which will be published in April, invites us to listen to the cries of the marginalized and of the earth itself, recognizing in them an urgent call to action. The parable of the Good Samaritan and the Father’s message of mercy in the story of the prodigal

son are presented as models for living a concrete and committed faith that transcends abstract attitudes and translates into gestures of reconciliation, care for the vulnerable, and transformation of unjust structures. This Jubilee time becomes a space to reflect on our responsibility as believers and as a church going out to the existential peripheries.



The synthesis of the document underlines that the Holy Year is a time of grace inspired by the biblical teachings on jubilee, where freedom and restitution are proclaimed for all. Pope Francis, in continuity with his magisterium, calls for the renewal of Christian hope through concrete actions that respond to the cry of the poor and excluded. The faith of the Latin American and Caribbean people, characterized by its pilgrim, festive, and sacrificial dimension, is presented as a reference for this Jubilee time.

Furthermore, the document emphasizes the need to listen to the silent cry of migrants and refugees, promoting a welcome based on human dignity and commitment to solidarity. In this context, the Church is called to be a sign of combative hope, confronting discriminatory narratives and building bridges that foster fraternity. Thus, the Jubilee becomes an invitation to live mercy as an expression of the Kingdom of God and as a transformative historical project.

Forum discusses migration crisis, tightening of policies in the region and the Church's response



Faced with the worrying panorama of migration that worsens with each passing day, CELAM, Red Clamor, and the Socio-Pastoral Observatory of Human Mobility of Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (OSMECA), held on Wednesday, March 26, the First Forum on the Impact of Recent Political Changes on Migration in Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. A space through Zoom with the objective of generating reflection, analysis, and dialogue on the political transformations that affect the migrant population in the region.

The forum was opened by Francisco Campos, coordinator of the Center for Knowledge Management (CGC) of CELAM, who stressed the importance of this space with the purpose of strengthening the joint work of the Church and organizations that work to accompany migrants. The executive emphasized the urgency of sharing the knowledge, strategies, and experiences it already has in order to face this migratory crisis in the face of the current socio-political challenges.

Abelardo Morales, from Costa Rica, also emphasized that the forum was conceived as a space for dialogue and socialization of ideas to confront the flashes that are leaving the United States' migration policies

in the Central American region. This was followed by the presentation of two great panelists who shed light on this difficult migratory reality.

The meeting made it possible to visualize the most urgent needs in the area of migration, as well as to understand the importance of articulating efforts between the Church, other related organizations, and civil society to provide better accompaniment and support to migrants. Assuming the commitment to continue applying the four verbs promoted by Pope Francis: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.

CELAM joined in the celebration of World Day of Hope



March 27th marked the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' historic *Statio Orbis*, an event that marked a milestone in the collective memory and provided some of the most striking images of the century. To commemorate this anniversary, Argentina's Infobae news portal presented a transmission where leading figures from the Church, justice, and acade-

mia shared unpublished fragments of the Pope's message in 2020 and reflected on its impact on the present.

The CELAM joined the commemoration with the presence of the Secretary General of the organization, Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, and the Deputy Secretary General, Fr. Pedro Brassesco, who spoke about the importance of the event and how the Church can continue to strengthen the sense of fraternity in society.

Among the distinguished guests were Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development; Cardinal Pedro Barreto, president of the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon; Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication; and Msgr. Lucio Ruiz, secretary of the same Dicastery.

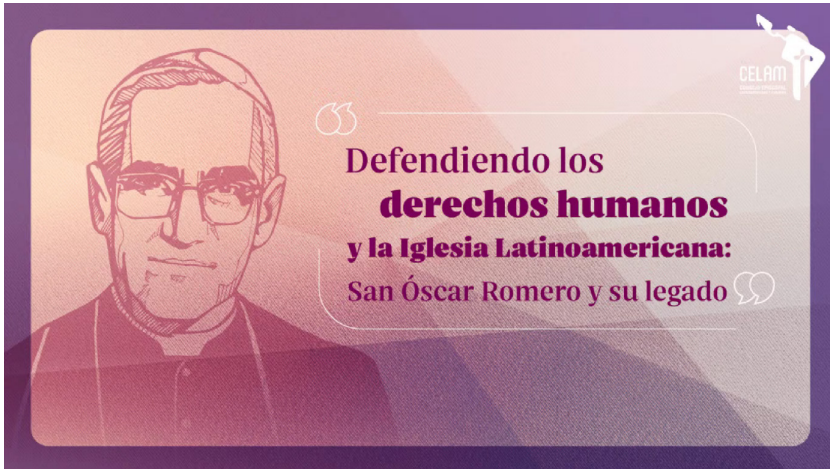
Also participating were Ricardo Lorenzetti, judge of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina; Bishop Raúl Pizarro Travers, secretary general of the Argentine Episcopal Conference; Austen Ivereigh, researcher in Contemporary Church History at Oxford and biographer of Pope Francis; Father Daniel Groody, expert on migration and Vice President of the University of Notre Dame; and Gabriela Sacco, engineer and director of the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Culture of Encounter.

To watch the program again:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4N7UI56TGm8&t=1729s>

Legacy of St. Oscar Romero 45 years after his martyrdom

On March 24th, the Latin American Church commemorated the 45th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, with a symposium titled "Defending Human Rights and the Latin American Church: Saint Oscar Romero and His Legacy." The event, coordinated by CELAM and CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), was moderated by Diana Trimiño, Director of CAFOD.



The first speaker was Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, who presented a reflection on the enduring legacy of Oscar Romero within both the Latin American and universal Church. He emphasized Romero's exemplary role in the defense of human rights and the social justice of the marginalized. The cardinal underscored the importance of passing on Romero's commitment to the vulnerable to younger generations. Furthermore, he discussed Romero's integral theology, describing it as a comprehensive vision that interlinks the social, economic, and environmental crises with the Church's mission.

The Archbishop recalled Saint Oscar Romero's profound reflections on the sanctity of human life, recalling his vocal denunciations of systemic repression and social injustices that continue to persist today. He also highlighted how Romero relentlessly confronted structural violence and defended the dignity of marginalized communities until the very end of his life, when powerful elites silenced his prophetic voice.

Concluding his address, the Cardinal urged the faithful to emulate Saint Romero's example in the ongoing task of building "a Church that is truly a people, not a mere mass," one that seeks justice and reconciliation, and awakens consciences in the pursuit of a more equitable world. He emphasized the critical need to continue defending life in a context

where mining, violence, and social exclusion remain pervasive threats to human dignity. The Cardinal closed his remarks by quoting Romero's words shortly before his martyrdom: "The world has a future if we return to the Gospel, to Christ, and to the option for the poor."

See more at: <https://adn.celam.org/san-oscar-romero-45-anos-de-legado-en-la-defensa-de-la-vida-y-la-justicia-social/>

Watch the video of the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fMkhzgm12AM?si=4aYCoIoe7d4n-Z19o>

Religious leaders raise their voices for climate justice ahead of COP30

From March 18th to 20th, more than 40 religious leaders from various Christian denominations across Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Brasília with the aim of strengthening ecumenical collaboration and articulating common demands ahead of the next Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP30), which will take place in 2025 in Belém do Pará, Brazil.

The meeting was attended by representatives from ecumenical organizations, indigenous communities, social movements, and climate specialists. The primary objective was to create a space for political and technical analysis that would allow for a coordinated influence on the regional agenda for socio-environmental justice. Additionally, it sought to advance in the formation of long-term alliances to promote effective political action by the governments of the region.

CELAM was represented by Bishop Jenry Orlando Ruiz Mora, Bishop of Trujillo (Honduras), and Bishop Vicente de Paula Ferreira, Bishop of Livramento de Nossa Senhora (Bahia, Brazil), both of whom are deeply committed to the cause of integral ecology.

One of the most significant outcomes of the meeting was the presentation of the document “A Call for Action towards COP30”. The text denounces the devastation of key ecosystems, as well as the growing criminalization of those defending the environment, and emphasizes the urgency for countries to reaffirm their climate commitments through ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at COP30.

A document is being prepared for COP 30



The Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP), together with the Commission for Integral Ecology of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEILAC), has been working on a document for the path to COP 30 on climate change, to be held in Brazil in November this year. The document has involved several virtual meetings with team members and subject-matter experts.

The document emphasizes the urgent need to address climate collapse from a holistic perspective that prioritizes socio-environmental justice, ecological conversion, and the rejection of false climate solutions. It highlights that global warming has reached unprecedented levels, exacerbated by governmental inaction and the influence of economic

elites. In this context, it critiques green capitalism and technocratic solutions that perpetuate structural inequalities and exploitative models.

The Church, inspired by the message of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*, is called to assume a prophetic role, denouncing practices such as the commodification of nature, predatory mining, and energy monocultures. These strategies are viewed as palliatives that do not address the root causes of the problem, while proposing a structural shift towards an economic model based on solidarity, responsibility, and care for creation.

The text also offers key principles to guide actions towards COP 30, such as the protection of indigenous territories, the promotion of a just energy transition, and the fight against deforestation. It stresses the centrality of human rights and nature, as well as the importance of building societies based on the concept of “Good Living,” a concept that resonates with Christian values of joyful sobriety and communion with creation.

Furthermore, it advocates for transformative education that fosters sustainable and solidarity-based practices within communities. In summary, the document calls for overcoming extractivist and consumerist logics through profound ecological conversion that recognizes our interdependence with the planet and promotes a sustainable future for all living beings.

CELAM's journey in March

Peace, democracy and human rights platform meeting

On March 17th, 2025, a meeting of the Platform for Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights took place to discuss the reorganization of the “Life Hangs by a Thread” Campaign. It became evident that there was a need to discuss the campaign’s structure in order to make substantial progress before the next platform assembly, highlighting the necessity of making decisions regarding other potential emblematic cases in different countries, and determining how to advance with the current case: *Juan López and the Common Goods Committee of Tocoa*. The campaign’s objectives were discussed, including visibility, protection, advocacy, and training, as well as the importance of involving the platform and designating a leader or representative to contribute to the coordination from their leadership. Finally, it was agreed to share the proposal with the absent members of the subcommittee, schedule a follow-up meeting, and notify the communications team, led by the Center for Communication, about the decisions made regarding the podcasts to promote the campaign and its pedagogical elements.

CEBITEPAL strengthens pastoral formation in Latin America during regional meetings

With the aim of consolidating pastoral formation on the continent and strengthening cooperation with the Episcopal Conferences, CEBITEPAL has actively participated in the Regional Meetings of CELAM in the Southern Cone, the Bolivarian region, and the Caribbean. These spaces

have been key for dialogue on the formative needs of each reality and for promoting new training strategies adapted to local contexts.



The dialogues focused on the creation of personalized formation processes that respond to the pastoral challenges of each conference, promoting a more contextualized and effective formation. Through these initiatives, CEBITEPAL reaffirms its commitment to the development of integral formation, aligned with the ecclesial and social realities of the region, contributing to a Church on the move, at the service of the Latin American and Caribbean reality.

Reconfiguration of the work for Human Rights and Peace based on the new scenarios in the United States.

The Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Platform held a meeting on March 5th, where they discussed how the Trump administration has highlighted the importance of the state in social policies, particularly in addressing migration causes such as climate change and labor issues. The need for international agreements and aid chains to protect migrants, guarantee their dignified work, and continue their educational

processes was emphasized. The hyper-concentration of wealth and the disarticulation of states require new alliances and the construction of a work paradigm that incorporates human rights and peace in society.

In the face of the new global order, it is proposed to analyze the Empire/multitude relationship, consider the state model, and examine China-USA relations, as well as define a new social model. The importance of meetings between workers and businesspeople, the articulation of the social movement on peace issues, and the attention to migrant returns, creating community conditions of welcome with psychosocial support, are emphasized.

Continuation of the process towards COP 30

CEILAC and Caritas Latin America advanced in the process towards COP 30 in a meeting held on March 5th, where they reaffirmed the need to address the defense of territories, the rejection of the commodification of nature, the transformation of the economic system, vulnerable populations, and the protection of the common home. These aspects form the basis for the organizations and Episcopal Conferences to influence their states. To this end, a document is being developed, which will also incorporate a biblical and magisterial foundation, as well as the cries and hopes of the communities and territories. It is also crucial to consider that the central themes are reparation as justice, loss and damage, rehabilitation and advocacy, and climate change. A clear position from the Church is necessary to encourage resistance.

Visit to the Xaverian Historical Archive Juan Manuel Pacheco S.J.

In order to continue strengthening ties and networks of institutions involved in the care of the Church's documentary heritage, the CELAM Archives and Library team visited the Juan Manuel Pacheco Xaverian

Historical Archive on March 6th. The delegation was received by Alma Nohra Miranda Leal, deputy director of the Archive.



During the tour, the archival intervention processes were detailed, focusing on the conservation and organization of historical documents, with an emphasis on the use of advanced technologies for digitization.

A highlight was the presentation of the only known copy of José Eustasio Rivera's *La Vorágine* in Catalan, showcasing the university's efforts to preserve its heritage.

Additionally, a discussion took place regarding outreach strategies to publicize the importance of the archive within the academic community. The visit provided an opportunity to learn about the challenges and achievements in archive management and the preservation of cultural and ecclesiastical heritage.

Assembly of the Integral Ecology Commission (CEILAC)

On March 6th, an assembly of the Commission for Integral Ecology of Latin America and the Caribbean was held, where it was decided to continue animating the Celebration of the Day of Creation, which will be held on September 1st. Additionally, the schedule for sub-commis-

sion meetings was reviewed, and it was decided that they would transition into working groups with specific topics. A bimonthly meeting of the platform was also established to improve coordination, articulation, and organization. The Dynamizing Team will function as an executive secretariat with more defined tasks.

Two work options were maintained (Campaign “Life Hangs by a Thread” and the process towards COP 30), along with three lines of work, recalling that CEILAC’s goal is to group and support the training processes of organizations already educating their members in different territories.

The progress of the Church’s advocacy process at COP 30 was also discussed, along with the importance of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the promulgation of the Encyclical *Laudato Si*.

Human Rights, Peace and Democracy Platform Assembly

On March 7th, the Assembly of the Platform for Human Rights, Peace, and Democracy was held, with the participation of twenty-four representatives from fifteen member organizations.

The participants expressed that what they expected from CEPRAP was to encourage the overcoming of disconnections; to serve as a bridge with the Episcopal Conferences and other ecclesiastical bodies; to collaborate in making visible the realities that are not immediately evident; to facilitate spaces for sharing programs, projects, processes, and materials among the networks; and to encourage the creation, strengthening, and integration of the various options for articulations.

The Work Plan was reviewed, and it was decided to form a Pro Tempore Dynamizing Commission to encourage the progress of the actions established therein.

Prison Pastoral Care and Marriage Annulment



During the regional meetings of the Southern Cone, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), CEBITEPAL held a meeting with the Prison Pastoral to advance in the continuity of the diploma program, which will enter its second year of execution and is scheduled to begin on June 2nd.

Also in Argentina, an agreement was signed for the second edition of the course on Marriage Nullity, which will be taught in asynchronous mode through CEBITEPAL's virtual platform, in collaboration with the Diocese of San Isidro.

Educational Pastoral Meeting

During the meeting held on March 7th, the work of CELAM regarding the Global Education Pact was presented. For his part, Fr. Eduardo Coral, Executive Secretary of the Educational Pastoral of Mexico, provided a historical overview of the area from Aparecida to the present, as well as its connections with the Dicastery for Education and Culture. He pointed out that we are in a changing era marked by synodality, from which new challenges arise. He explained CELAM's accompaniment, the contribution to strengthening the CIEC and the departments of the

Episcopal Conferences, the importance of various ecclesial efforts and cultural centers, the need for formation, and the possibility of holding an in-person meeting during the current year.

Campaign: Commemoration of International Women's Human Rights Day

The Campaign was promoted by the Animating Commission of the Women in the Church and Society Axis, within the framework of the Jubilee of Hope, and was held on March 8th. The motto of the campaign was “Hope does not disappoint us” (Romans 5:5), and its objective was to celebrate the prominence of women despite ecclesial, social, and cultural conditioning, and to recognize their struggle, testimony, and strength in transforming realities. As a way to amplify the voices of women and make their legacies and hopes visible, several reels were created featuring the voices of women from different backgrounds, united by the certainty that hope is still alive and continues to pave the way for justice, respect, and inclusion. Within the framework of the commemoration, the Assembly of the Animating Commission of the Women in the Church and Society Axis was held. It was an opportunity to review and assess progress and projections in the work plan: the Regional Meetings of Women in Synodality scheduled for 2025 in the Mesoamerica region and the Southern Cone, the mapping of women, and the publication of the reports from the 2021-2023 process.

The virtual forum “Women Pilgrims of Peace” was also held, organized by Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean in partnership with the Women in the Church and Society Axis. The forum provided an opportunity to share inspiring stories and discuss the challenges and opportunities for empowering women.

Start of the Reman Diploma Course on human rights and care for the common home in light of *Laudato*

With a participation of approximately 500 people, this cycle of formation began on March 8. CELAM emphasized what was pointed out in the Final Document of the Synod: “The themes of the social doctrine of the Church, the commitment to peace and justice, the care of the common home and intercultural and interreligious dialogue must also be more widespread among the People of God, so that the action of the missionary disciples may have an impact on the construction of a more just and fraternal world. The commitment to the defense of life and the rights of the person, to the just order of society, to the dignity of work, to a just economy in solidarity, to an integral ecology, are part of the evangelizing mission that the Church is called to live and incarnate in history” (FD 151).

Meeting of Caritas Internationalis, CELAM, and Bishops International Commission for Ecumenism COP 30

On March 12th, this meeting took place to analyze the path towards COP 30, taking into account that in 2025 countries will present their Action Plans to halt climate change. These reports outline the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. They are an expression of the commitments made to address climate change and the implementation of funds, which, so far, has been very deficient. The Global North produces the highest percentage of pollution. That is why the Pope calls for debt cancellation and for assuming the responsibilities of ecological debt.

Meeting with Caritas Latin America strengthens training collaboration



Within the framework of the CELAM - Southern Cone Regional Meeting, a key meeting also took place in Argentina between CEBITEPAL and Caritas Latin America, with the objective of reviewing the formative processes and strengthening collaboration in the region.

The meeting was attended by Nicolás Meyer, regional coordinator of Caritas Latin America; Agustina Langwagen, head of formation at Caritas Latin America and director of Caritas Uruguay; as well as Fr. Fabio Antunes and Janaina Santos, representing CEBITEPAL.

During the meeting, strategies were discussed to consolidate the provision of joint formation in order to respond to the pastoral and social needs of the different countries on the continent.

Conversation “Pilgrims of Hope: Bakhita and Anas-tacia, Synodal Path towards the Kingdom of God”.

The Network of Afrodescendant Catholic Women Leaders of the Americas held this conversation on March 25th, within the framework of the International Day of Remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. The event provided reflections from speakers Isabel Padilla and Tamara Barbará on the life and legacy of these two significant figures in the history of faith and resistance of Afrodescendant peoples.

The meeting contributed to strengthening the identity and spirituality of Afrodescendant women; it created a space for dialogue and prayer to give thanks for the legacy of these stories and the contributions of Afrodescendant women to the Church and society. They will be highlighted in the framework of the next Latin American Afrodescendant Pastoral Meeting in November 2025.

Meeting of the Platform of Latin American and Caribbean Economies

The meeting held on March 26th highlighted the calendar of key events for the year and proposed the convergence between the Latin American Congress on the Economy of Francisco and Clara and the Assembly of the Platform in Brasília in July.

The central themes of the Congress include debt as a perpetuator of inequalities, economic challenges in light of COP30, and alternatives to capitalism. Additionally, a symbolic pilgrimage connecting the territories with the Brazilian Bishops' Conference is being proposed. Within this framework, the transition of the Platform's dynamic team and the strengthening of the educational project known as “the School”, which requires its own funding and a dedicated team for its development, were also discussed.

In operational terms, progress was reported on initiatives such as the virtual course on debt in collaboration with CEBITEPAL, the Aldeas project, and the graphic design of the Platform. The creation of the CEPRAP website to consolidate information on the platforms was also discussed.

Regarding international alliances, the formal affiliation with The Economy of Francesco Foundation was highlighted, which has responded positively and will appoint a representative to the Platform. The challenge of coordinating two important events in Brazil without creating confusion among participants, while promoting a narrative that integrates both as part of a broader Latin American process, was also emphasized.

Diploma in Justice and Peace organized by the Ecclesial Network Justice and Peace in the Patria Grande

The Justice and Peace Network, together with CEBITEPAL and partner universities, offers a Diploma with an integral formation based on the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church and the thought of Pope Francis. Its main contribution lies in enabling participants to understand the current situation of nature and humanity through documents such as *Laudato Si'*, *Querida Amazonia*, and *Fratelli Tutti*. In addition, it seeks to foster the unity of the Latin American people, promote the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, deepen democracy, and form leaders capable of contributing to social development through access to work, land, housing, education, and health. This approach is complemented by the strengthening of spaces for political and social dialogue in the communities, as well as initiatives to restore and protect the environment.

Among its benefits, it is free of charge, accessible to people without prior academic requirements, and designed to facilitate virtual learning through four thematic modules. Participants have the opportunity to acquire practical skills to lead transformative social and economic projects, inspired by models such as the Economy of Francesco. Upon

completion, those who meet the requirements will receive a diploma issued by CEBITEPAL or free certificates awarded by the participating universities. Additionally, an optional face-to-face experience in Bogotá is offered to foster community integration. This diploma not only promotes the personal and professional development of its students but also strengthens their capacity to contribute to the collective well-being of their respective communities.

The contribution of Faith Traditions to the Sustainable Development Goals

The event, held on March 31st in Chile, highlighted the importance of transforming religious beliefs into concrete actions to address the most urgent challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean. The need to protect migrant children, ensure gender equality, and tackle the environmental crisis was emphasized, recognizing that these issues are interconnected and require comprehensive solutions. Furthermore, a call was made to overcome welfare dependency through the full recognition of social rights and to reform the global financial system to ensure a more just and equitable development. This approach seeks to build a society where no one is left behind, promoting justice, peace, and dignity for all.

Documents

Constitutive Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Synodal Network of Socio-Pastoral Observation

Our Identity

This Network is an interdisciplinary Catholic community, characterized by the diversity of geographical and institutional origins, consisting of observatories, organizations, research groups, and other services for observing the social, political, economic, anthropological, and pastoral realities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We collaborate to offer valid scientific evidence in an accessible, open, pluralistic manner, and in continuous dialogue with diverse actors on complex contemporary realities, serving as support and accompaniment to the processes of discernment of the signs of the times carried out by the Church, particularly by bishops and pastoral agents. We also collaborate to sensitize decision-makers in order to promote transformation outside and renewal within the Church.

Objectives

1. To generate collaborative knowledge management processes and integrate different perspectives of thematic analysis, geographical locations, and knowledge production environments, serving the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopate and pastoral networks.
2. To accompany the creation, growth, and consolidation of observatories through the exchange of experiences, expanding capacities for reading the signs of the times.

3. To contribute to the prophetic mission of the Church by denouncing situations that violate human dignity and announcing ways to build alternatives for good practices that promote integral, solidarity-based, and sustainable human development.
4. To provide an updated communication platform for knowledge on topics prioritized by synodality, with the aim of sharing good practices and tools that help understand social realities and inspire strategies to respond to contemporary social and ecological needs.

Governance

Our governance is based on synodality and is conceived from three pillars:

1. Communion: This involves broad, active listening and co-responsibility in decision-making within the Network.
2. Participation: This entails an active approach to discernment while also maintaining openness to interaction with other sectors of society. Those who join are willing to participate in the activities and commissions.
3. Mission: This involves committing to and contributing to the mission of the Church and its pastoral priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We specify it as follows:

- A plenary session in which all entities that are members of this Network participate.
- A network coordination team, composed of three individuals chosen by the plenary, who will distribute tasks required for the proper functioning and achievement of the Network's objectives.

- Ad hoc commissions, responsible for organizing and promoting the progress of the Network's actions as determined by the plenary.
- An Advisory Council.

Bogotá, March 7th, 2025.

Signed:

- Socioanthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Center for Knowledge Management, CELAM. OSAPCGC.
- Mexican Institute of Christian Social Doctrine, IMDOSOC.
- Council of the Knowledge Management Center. College of Arts and Humanities, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico.
- Center for Advanced Social Research, CISAV.
- Sociopastoral Observatory of Human Mobility in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. OSMECA.
- Institute of Christian Social Studies, IESC.
- Justice and Peace Observatory Network, Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission. National Conference of Bishops of Brazil.
- World Observatory of Women. WUCWO
- Latin American Social Debt Observatory Network, ODSAUODUCAL.
- Archdiocesan Observatory of Evangelization. Archdiocese of Bogota
- Venezuelan Migration Observatory, OVM. Andrés Bello Catholic University
- Laudato si' Observatory. Catholic University of Costa Rica.
- Socioeconomic Observatory of the Catholic University of La Plata, UCALP.
- Observatory of Nutrition and Development in Early Childhood, ONDEPI. Caritas Guatemala.

- Justice and Peace Commission. Episcopal Conference of Panama.
- Sociopastoral Observatory of the Diocese of Pasto.
- Laboratory of Economics of Education, LEE. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.
- Latin American Observatory of Synodality, OLS. Amerindia Continental.
- Archive and Library Coordinator of CELAM. Secretary of the Network of Libraries of ODUICAL.

Publications

***Medellin Magazine* addresses the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in issue 189**



Issue 189 of *Revista Medellín*, a bi-monthly publication of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), is now available

through its CEBITEPAL Formation Center. In this issue, specialists and researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean reflect on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its various aspects: health, ethics, work, education, and theology.

Additionally, you will find all the documents from Pope Francis that address these topics: Message for the 57th World Day of Peace, *Artificial Intelligence and Peace*, Message for the 58th World Day of Social Communications, Address to the G7 Intergovernmental Forum, and *Antiqua et Nova*.

Julio Monroy, coordinator of CELAM's Library and Archival Area, explained that AI is a matter of global concern, as it impacts social, economic, political structures, and cultural spaces.

"Of course, it is also relevant for the Church as a community of faith, because each person is affected both individually and communally. As *Gaudium et Spes* points out, everything that affects human beings touches the heart of the Church."

"This issue of *Revista Medellín* offers a serious and profound reflection on several key elements regarding the potential contributions or effects of AI on society, and the ways to address it through the Church's evangelizing action," he added.

The magazine can be downloaded free of charge at this link:

<https://revistas.CELAM.org/index.php/medellin/issue/view/461>

Forthcoming publications

"Final Document of the Synod "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission". Fundamental Contents for Community Use". CELAM.

Revista Medellín 190. Monographic issue on the Final Document of the Synod.

Itinerary of preparation for the Jubilee of Catechists 2025. Author: Marcial Riveros.

Practical Theology and Synodality Practices. Authors: Antonio Ernesto Palafox, Geraldo Luiz De Mori, Marcela Mazzini, Olvani Sánchez.

Decolonial Thought: Blacks in Catholicism. Author: Fr. Venanzio

Contributions of school religious education to the culture of peace. Co-published with USTA

Truth and reparation: discerning about the abuse of adults in the Church. Author: Commission for the protection of minors of CLAR. Co-ord. Sister María Rosaura Gonzáles.

Episcopal appointments

- March 6th: Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Ángel Francisco Caraballo Fermín, until now bishop of Cabimas, as metropolitan archbishop of Cumaná (Venezuela).
- March 7th: Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Júlio Endi Akamine, S.A.C., until now Metropolitan Archbishop of Sorocaba, as coadjutor archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Belém do Pará (Brazil).
- March 17th: Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Oscar Efraín Tamez Villarreal, bishop of Ciudad Victoria, as apostolic administrator of Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico.
- March 22nd: Pope Francis has erected the new diocese of Caazapá (Paraguay), dismembered from the territory of the diocese of Villarrica del Espíritu Santo, and has appointed as its first bishop Father Marcelo Benítez Martínez, O.F.M., until now vicar for Paraguay of the Province of the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin of the River Plate.
- March 31st: Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Vartan Waldir Boghossian, SDB, Bishop Emeritus of the said Eparchy, as Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* of the Eparchy “St. Gregory of Narek in Buenos Aires” of the Armenians and of the Apostolic Esarchate for the faithful of the Armenian rite residing in Latin America and Mexico.

Deaths

- March 10th: Bishop Jesús Antonio Lerma Nolasco, bishop emeritus of Iztapalapa, Mexico.
- March 26th: Bishop Manuel Hilario de Céspedes y García Menocal, bishop emeritus of Matanzas, Cuba

Upcoming courses and diplomas

Rethinking Theology Diploma

The virtual diploma course “Rethinking Theology” offers an updated theological formation from a Latin American perspective and in dialogue with contemporary theology. Throughout the program, participants will explore the great systematic treatises of faith, deepening the foundations of theology, as well as the mysteries of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, under the guidance of renowned theologians from Latin America.

Date: April 21st to May 16th

Registration: <https://bit.ly/42Yhu7b>

Resource Management for a Church in Action

The intensive course “Resource Management for a Church in Action”, with Gisella Rivera Reyes, provides practical tools to optimize resources and develop projects with community impact. Take advantage of a **20% discount** by using the code **CEBITEPAL20** when you register.

Date: April 21st to 25th

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

Laudato Si’ and urban spaces diploma course with new date

This diploma course connects sustainability, social justice and the Church’s commitment to the environment, inspired by Laudato Si’. De-

signed for pastoral agents, architects, engineers and construction professionals, it offers a comprehensive look at ecology and sustainable development.

New date: April 23rd - May 14th

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

Virtual Diploma in Reputation Management and Crisis Management in the Catholic Church

CEBITEPAL and PUCE Ibarra, in collaboration with Caritas Latin America, CLAR, CEAMA, Signis Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oslam, present this diploma course designed to strengthen ecclesial communication in crisis contexts. With a strategic approach, it provides tools for reputation management and decision making in challenging scenarios. Limited places available!

Dates: May 3rd through July 12th

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4i6fw9w>

Virtual and on-site course: The particular Church evangelizes and evangelizes

This course is aimed at agents of evangelization and seeks to encourage, review and strengthen the evangelizing process of the particular Churches. Inspired by the Second Vatican Council, the spirituality of synodality and the prospective pastoral methodology, it offers tools to renew the mission of the Church in a synodal and participative key.

Date: May 5th to 27th

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3QWX5Ik>

Safe environment in catechesis

The prevention of abuse in catechesis is a priority in the Church. This course offers tools and strategies to ensure safe environments in wor-

king with children, adolescents and young people, in line with the apostolic letter *Vos estis lux mundi*.

Date: May 6th to June 18th

Registration: <https://bit.ly/44azwDF>

Asynchronous courses “Interreligious Dialogue” and “Evangelization in Digital Environments”.

In collaboration with the North Carolina Foundation, the Cebiteñal opens registrations for the asynchronous courses “Interreligious Dialogue” and “Evangelization in Digital Environments”, with a 60 % discount.

Registrations available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3E3RrBs>

Upcoming meetings

- April 21st-26th: Regional Meeting of Mesoamerican Women.
- May 1st to 4th: Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious - CLAR (Ecuador).
- May 19th to 23rd: Meeting of the Network for the Protection of Life in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- May 20th-23rd: Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Catholic Television Broadcasters (Brazil).
- May 26th-30th: 40th Ordinary General Assembly of CELAM.
- June 4th to 6th: ODU CAL Assembly (Dominican Republic).
- July 1st to 3rd: Ecumenical Encounter Nicea 1700 (Guatemala).
- July 17th and 18th: Meeting of the Presidency in person at CELAM.
- July 22nd-24th: Meeting of the CELAM Coordination Committee.
- July 31st and August 1st: Libraries Network Meeting (CELAM Headquarters).
- August 26th-28th: Latin American and Caribbean meeting of Catholic radio stations (Peru).
- September 1st to 6th: REMAM Assembly (El Salvador).
- September 2nd to 4th: Latin American and Caribbean meeting on the culture of care - prevention commissions (Dominican Republic).
- September 7th to 14th: Red Clamor Assembly.
- September 15th-19th: Assembly of the Justice and Peace Network of the Patria Grande (CELAM).

- September 17th-19th: Meeting “Hopeful Jubilee Discernment on the Future of the Family in Latin America and the Caribbean. And launching of the School of Social Thought (Rome).
- September 24th to 26th: II Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of the Centralidad de la Niñez Program - PCN (El Salvador).
- October 26th to November 1st: Meeting of catechetical commissions (Mexico).
- November 1st to 7th: XVI EPA - Pastoral Afro (Argentina).
- November 10th to 21st: COP 30 (Brazil).
- November 18th to 20th: Face-to-face meeting of the Coordination Committee.
- November 21st-23rd: Meeting of the Latin American Ecclesial Communication Network (RECLAC).

Agreements signed

Institution	Object
Juan Diego & Co LLC (JUAN DIEGO NETWORK) - USA.	Design and production of the Podcast “La Vida Pende de un Hilo” (Life Hangs by a Thread), as part of the communication advocacy campaign on the defense of human rights and environmental defenders.
Albertina Navas Leoro - Ecuador	To train church communication leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean in the planning and implementation of organic positioning strategies in digital platforms, in order to strengthen the prophetic impact of the Church in the continent.
Aníbal Pastor Núñez - Chile	To produce synthetic, accessible and pedagogical versions of the Final Document of the XVI Synod of Bishops and of the apostolic constitution <i>Prædicate Evangelium</i> , in order to allow their understanding and application in the pastoral and community life of the Church.
Instituto de Misioneros Seglares - IMIS - Mexico	The integral formation of pastoral agents in the missionary field, promoting their identity as missionary disciples according to the guidelines of the Aparecida Document, in order to strengthen the new evangelization, intercultural dialogue and the encounter with diverse cultures.
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) - United Kingdom (England and Wales).	CAFOD’s financial commitment to the project - CELAM - Integral development for a just, fraternal, inclusive and caring Latin America for our common home.

To see and participate again

CELAM, through the Center for Communication, makes available the RECORDings of the events and material produced during the month of February:

Videos on Youtube

- March 3rd - CELAM DNA News, Bishops in formation, Caritas assembly and a new Saint for Venezuela <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc9ROs7MHu8>
- March 10th - CELAM launches two big bets: “Artificial Intelligence and observatory network” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHULcp1Rx4w>
- March 13th - Secretary General of CELAM congratulates Francis on his 12 Years of Pontificate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBxKQ9I5vo4>
- March 14th - Jubilee Hymn 2025 Latin American and Caribbean version for Karaoke (smartphone) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2CqD2NmQrY>
- March 14th - Jubilee Hymn 2025 Latin American and Caribbean version for Karaoke <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJDirY-JCXVI>
- March 14th - Jubilee Hymn 2025 Karaoke Challenge <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4F1kA4DV50>
- March 15th - Synodality and Reciprocity: Paths of encounter and communion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pyhm6nXS3Wg>

- March 21st - Mission Cana accepts #RetoKaraokeJubilee2025 challenge <https://youtu.be/p5s3Ss62mL4>
- March 28th - The Jubilee 2025 Hymn Karaoke Challenge continues <https://youtu.be/LJF9iVCr6xk>
- March 20th - Regional meeting of Caribbean countries (capsule 1) <https://youtu.be/Xi4-cPEW9qQ>
- March 22nd - Caribbean Regional Meeting (capsule 2) <https://youtu.be/S2EEHyF7lkg>
- March 25th - CELAM DNA Newsletter San José, 70 years of Fe y Alegría and 1700 years of the Council of Nicaea <https://youtu.be/HBETDs547WY>
- March 26th - Ana Bolívar challenges you to Jubilee 2025 karaoke <https://youtu.be/diDxMYIEkPw>
- March 27th - Caribbean Regional Meeting (capsule 2) <https://youtu.be/kn6Fv1oADMQ>

Reflections for the road

- Ash Wednesday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhG6E-kKUz-U>

DNA 60"

- March 1st - DNA 60" <https://youtube.com/shorts/YyiCpw9Y-saU?feature=share>
- March 7th - ADN 60" <https://youtube.com/shorts/CHMxhPBV-JI8?feature=share>
- March 15th - DNA 60" <https://youtube.com/shorts/RZ23jrP3Xs?feature=share>

- March 21st - DNA 60" <https://youtube.com/shorts/9rQdvfsLIDE>
- March 28th - DNA 60" <https://youtube.com/shorts/ydM9SyMlhZ0>

Special coverings

During the month of March, the Center for Communication of CELAM carried out several special coverage: Conversation "Synodality and Reciprocity: Paths of Encounter and Communion", Network of CELAM Observatories, regional meetings of the Bolivarian, Caribbean and Southern Cone countries.

Transmissions

- March 9th - Join the Rosary Prayer for the Health of Pope Francis <https://www.youtube.com/live/1sfwIPRNDao>
- March 18th - Eucharist CELAM Regional Meeting: Caribbean countries <https://www.youtube.com/live/EuPzFYZbtzo>
- March 20th - Caribbean Regional Meeting: Balance <https://youtube.com/live/rI90GYs75iY>
- March 27th - Day of Hope: 5 years after Pope Francis' Statio Orbis <https://web.facebook.com/CELAM.oficial/videos/1128451815636142>
- March 24th - Defending human rights and the Latin American Church: St. Oscar Romero and his legacy <https://youtube.com/live/fMkhzgm12AM>
- March 27th - Day of Hope: 5 years after Pope Francis' Statio Orbis <https://youtube.com/live/4N7UI56TGm8>

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