

N.º 360 n.e.

# Celam Bulletin



January - February  
March - April 2026

# Presidency of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council – CELAM

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[https://revistas.celam.org/index.php/boletin\\_celam\\_ne](https://revistas.celam.org/index.php/boletin_celam_ne)





## Abbreviations

**ALMA:** Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of Catholic Audiovisual Media.

**Ceama:** Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.

**Cebitepal:** CELAM Center for Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Formation.

**CGC:** CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

**Ceilac:** Latin American and Caribbean Commission for Integral Ecology.

**Celam:** Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council.

**CLAR:** Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women.

**CLACSO:** Latin American and Caribbean Council of Social Sciences.

**CNBB:** National Conference of Bishops of Brazil.

**Ceprap:** CELAM Center for Pastoral Programs and Networks.

**CIEC:** Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education.

**COP:** Conference of the Parties.

**CPC:** CELAM Communication Center.

**Ecosoc:** United Nations Economic and Social Council.

**FABC:** Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

**FIUC:** International Federation of Catholic Universities.

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

**Oducal:** Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Oslam:** Latin American Seminary Organization.

**Osmecca:** Socio-Pastoral Observatory on Human Mobility in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

**Pagaiceyyna:** Inculturated Garifuna Pastoral Ministry of Central America and the Caribbean.

**PCAL:** Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

**PCN:** Childhood Centrality Program.

**PEG:** Global Educational Pact.

**Plapa:** Latin American Pastoral Ministry for Addiction Prevention and Accompaniment.

**REC:** Network of Catholic Broadcasters of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Reclac:** Ecclesial Network of Communicators of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Recor:** Network of Organized Communities of Latin America.

**Redlapsi:** Latin American Network on the Church's Social Thought.

**Regchag:** Ecclesial Network of the Gran Chaco Guaraní Aquifer Region.

**Remam:** Mesoamerican Ecclesial and Ecological Network.

**Repam:** Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network.

**Reteis:** Territorial Ecclesial Networks.

**SCALA:** Sociedad Latin American Catechists Society.

**Secam:** Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

**Uniapac:** International Christian Business Leaders Union.

**UMOFC:** World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.



## News

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### JANUARY

## CELAM Releases a Popular Edition of *Rerum Novarum*



The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) has launched a popular edition of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. Originally published by Pope Leo XIII in 1891, this document is the cornerstone of Catholic Social Teaching. The purpose of this new edition is to translate complex theological and economic concepts into simple, accessible language so that the principles of labor justice, the right to association, and human dignity may reach pastoral agents and base communities throughout the continent.

This edition seeks to ensure that the Church's social teaching is not reserved for specialists alone, but becomes a tool of empowerment for the people. Its release underscores that the injustices denounced over a century ago, such as exploitation and inequality, remain deeply present in Latin America today. Through this resource, CELAM reaffirms its commitment to faith formation that engages with real-life contexts and promotes an economy that places the human person at its center. It is hoped that this material will serve as a catalyst for communal discernment, strengthening the identity of a Church that proposes social justice as the path to peace.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-lanza-version-popular-de-rerum-novarum-la-enciclica-primer-enciclica-que-marco-la-historia-social-de-la-iglesia/>

## Solidarity with the People and the Church in Venezuela

In a message of fraternal solidarity, CELAM has expressed its full support and closeness to the Venezuelan people and their pastors. Recognizing the country's prolonged and severe humanitarian and sociopolitical crisis, CELAM highlights the steadfast work of the Venezuelan Bishops' Conference in defending democracy and fundamental human rights. The Council emphasizes that the Church in Latin America is one body and cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of millions of brothers and sisters enduring scarcity and restrictions on their freedoms.

Issued in response to the U.S. military operation on January 3, this statement calls upon the international community to seek peaceful, transparent solutions centered on the common good.

CELAM also expresses gratitude to the Churches in neighboring countries that have welcomed Venezuelan migrants. This gesture of solidarity aims to offer moral encouragement to Venezuela's bishops, urging them to persevere in their mission as voices for those who have none. CELAM invites the faithful to maintain constant prayer and to foster a concrete solidarity that translates into tangible acts of assistance and political advocacy in favor of justice and national reconciliation.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-expresa-su-cercania-al-pueblo-y-a-la-iglesia-venezolana/>

## Cardinal Spengler at Pope Leo XIV's Extraordinary Consistory



Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President of CELAM, participated in the Extraordinary Consistory convened by Pope Leo XIV.

Cardinal Spengler emphasized that fraternal dialogue must serve as the backbone of the Church's priorities. He argued that the Church must move toward more horizontal and synodal structures, enabling a swifter response to the crises of the modern world and avoiding bureaucratic rigidity that distances the institution from its mission.

He stressed that Latin American priorities such as peace, integral ecology, and a preferential option for the peripheries; must become global concerns. He underscored that synodality is the method for discerning the signs of the times, calling for deep listening to all sectors of the People of God. His presence reaffirmed the leadership of the regional Church, offering a vision grounded in the lived experience of vulnerable communities. His appeal was for unity and courage to undertake reforms that restore the joy of proclaiming the Gospel in today's society.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/cardenal-spengler-destaca-dialogo-fraterno-y-prioridades-eclesiales-en-consistorio-extraordinario-convocado-por-leon-xiv/>

## Mining Divestment Platform launch

CELAM and the Churches and Mining Network have launched a new platform calling on Catholic organizations to divest their financial assets from destructive mining corporations. This initiative provides practical tools to ensure that the management of ecclesial funds aligns with the principles of integral ecology outlined in *Laudato si'*. Its aim is to pressure corporations toward responsible practices and to foster an "Economy of Francis" that places life above capital. With this step, the Church is leading a

continental economic mobilization to protect the lands and social fabric of the most vulnerable communities.



For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/lanzamiento-de-plataforma-de-desinversion-en-mineria-una-repuesta-continental-al-clamor-de-la-tierra-y-de-los-pueblos/>

## CEPRAP: Pastoral Review and Projections from the dreams

The Center for Pastoral Programs and Networks (CEPRAP) presented its annual review, highlighting its role as a coordinator of solidarity networks grounded in Pope Francis’s “four dreams”: social, cultural, ecological, and ecclesial. The report emphasized progress in migrant pastoral care, human rights advocacy, and the strengthening of base communities, achieving greater cohesion among local episcopal conferences. Through the reinforcement of regional networks, CEPRAP has fostered increased autonomy and influence, with future projections focused on urban pastoral ministry and outreach to existential peripheries.



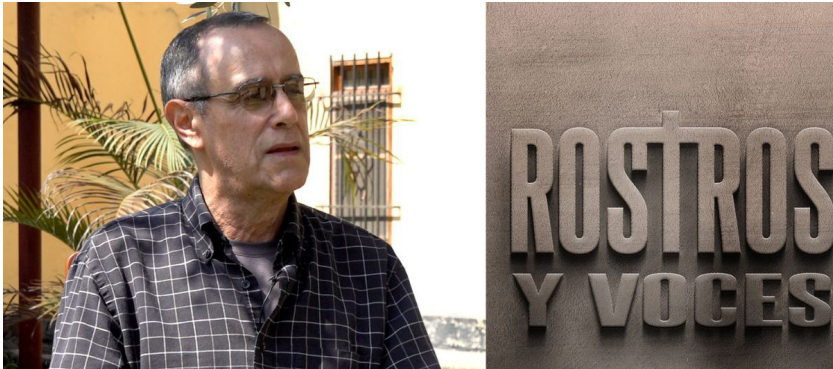
For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/ceprap-presenta-balance-pastoral-y-traza-proyecciones-desde-los-suenos-del-continente/>

## Faces and Voices: Analysis by Rafael Villalobos

In the program “Rostros y Voces” (“Faces and Voices”), specialist Rafael Villalobos offered a profound analysis of economics, migration, and the Church’s role. Villalobos argued that current economic models in the region are designed for exclusion, generating forced migration flows of people fleeing precarious living conditions. In response, he asserted that the Church cannot limit itself to humanitarian assistance but must critically challenge the very structures which generate poverty.

His analysis underscores that migration is a sign of the times demanding a prophetic pastoral response. The Church must

act as a defender of human rights and as a mediator in spaces where public policies are shaped. Villalobos highlighted the need for a solidarity-based economy and a pastoral approach of welcome that recognizes migrants as bearers of dignity and rights. This theological and technical contribution seeks to illuminate CELAM's mission, promoting an integrated vision in which faith commits itself to social justice and the transformation of the conditions forcing thousands of Latin Americans to leave their homes looking for a dignified future.



For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/rostros-y-voces-presenta-analisis-de-rafael-villalobos-sobre-economia-migracion-y-rol-de-la-iglesia/>

## Knowledge Management Center: Achievements and New Pathways

The Knowledge Management Center (CGC) of CELAM has consolidated its strategic role in analyzing regional realities. It highlighted the importance of its social observatories, which

enable rigorous scientific monitoring of changes in religiosity and social dynamics. This ensures that CELAM's actions are grounded in verified data and theological analyses that respond to the continent's constant changing reality.

It is now projecting "new regional pastoral pathways" through the digitization of archives and the development of university collaboration networks. The goal is to centralize knowledge for the practical benefit of each diocese. The CGC focuses on serving as a bridge between academic research and parish life, translating diagnoses into effective pastoral guides. Knowledge management is understood as a service to missionary unity and effectiveness, enabling the Church to speak with authority and relevance in today's public debates, grounding its prophetic voice in an intellectually solid reading of the signs of the times and the needs of Latin American peoples.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/el-centro-de-gestion-del-conocimiento-consolida-lo-gros-y-proyecta-nuevas-rutas-pastorales-regionales/>

## 2026 Call: Regional Ecclesial Research

In January, CELAM launched its 2026 Call for Regional Ecclesial Research, addressed to scholars and challenging them to reflect on faith-related challenges such as secularization, artificial intelligence, and contemporary family issues. The purpose was to generate locally rooted knowledge that strengthens pastoral discernment and lay formation in a context of accelerated cultural change. It underscored that the Church must remain at the intellectual forefront in order to dialogue effectively with the contemporary world. Selected research

projects will foster a “situated” thinking that emerges from Latin American identity and proposes innovative solutions to social problems. This initiative represents a commitment to the intelligence of faith in service of the common good and of a culturally relevant evangelization capable of transforming realities of exclusion across the continent, promoting fruitful dialogue between the social sciences and pastoral theology to respond to emerging peripheries.



For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/convocatoria-2026-celam-impulsa-investigaciones-ecclesiales-regionales-para-fortalecer-discernimiento-pastoral-y-politicas-publicas/>

## XXIX CIEC Congress in Lima: An Opportunity to Project the Mission of Catholic Schools

The Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education (CIEC) held its XXIX Congress in Lima, Peru, an event that has become the continent’s most significant educational gathering.



Under the theme of projecting the mission of Catholic schools in times of change, the congress brought together school leaders, teachers, and pastors to strengthen the identity of educational institutions. Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, CELAM's Secretary General, played a prominent role. He stated that this event offered a unique opportunity to rethink education through the lens of synodality. The prelate emphasized that schools are not merely academic institutions but communities of evangelization called to walk together and form individuals committed to social transformation and the common good. He urged educators to rediscover their missionary vocation in every classroom, understanding education as a fundamental pillar for implementing Pope Francis's Global Educational Pact.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/lizardo-estrada-xxix-congreso-de-la-ciec-es-una-oportunidad-para-proyectar-la-mision-de-la-escuela-catolica/>

## “Life hangs by a thread” Campaign: Regional Review and 2026 Challenges

CELAM presented the review of the campaign “Life hangs by a thread” an initiative that linked the defense of human rights with the protection of territories threatened by extractivist violence. At the close of 2025, the organization brought visibility to the vulnerability of social and Indigenous leaders across Latin America, denouncing the ongoing precariousness of life protection in many regions. The report highlighted that the campaign not only denounced abuses but also strengthened networks offering legal and spiritual accompaniment to those defending our “Common Home.” Looking ahead to 2026, the review outlined new challenges focused on ensuring legal security for communities and protecting strategic ecosystems, while strengthening regional decision-making structures to transform realities marked by exclusion and violence.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/campana-la-vida-pende-de-un-hilo-balance-regional-y-de-safios-2026-en-la-defensa-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

## CEBITEPAL: New Website and 2026 Formation Offerings

The Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEBITEPAL) began 2026 by launching its new website, designed to facilitate access to cutting-edge theological formation across the entire continent, removing geographical barriers. It is not merely an informational portal

but an interactive tool to consolidate a synodal Church through shared knowledge and profound communal reflection.



It presented its 2026 formation offerings, including diplomas in Sacred Scripture, Pastoral Theology, and Catholic Social Teaching. CEBITEPAL positions itself as a regional formation hub, with programs tailored to new evangelization challenges, emphasizing lay leadership and synodal-oriented clerical formation.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-arranca-2026-con-nueva-pagina-web-y-lanza-su-oferta-formativa-para-consolidar-una-iglesia-sinodal/>

## CEBITEPAL: Cutting-Edge Theological Formation 2026

CEBITEPAL announced its cutting-edge theological formation program for the first quarter of 2026, imbued with the spirit

of synodality. The learning process aims to be an experience of community and discernment, inviting students to engage with the complex challenges of their local contexts from a fresh, proactive, and deeply rooted theological perspective grounded in Latin American and Caribbean realities.

The curriculum includes crucial topics such as spirituality in the digital age and a theology of tenderness. With high-level faculty educators, it guarantees academic excellence united to pastoral passion. Designed for bishops, priests, and lay people, it fosters circular learning that values each participant's lived experience.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-lanza-formacion-teologica-de-vanguardia-marcada-por-la-sinodalidad-en-el-primer-trimestre-de-2026/>

## CEBITEPAL: Course “From Theory to Synodal Practice”

The course “How to Move from Theory to Practice” was designed to teach participants how to inhabit a synodal Church through its participatory bodies. It focuses on the effective functioning of parish and diocesan councils, aiming to transform them from mere bureaucratic spaces into authentic centers of communal discernment and missionary co-responsibility under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It includes practical tools for conflict resolution, active listening, and participatory decision-making. The course seeks to overcome clericalism by empowering the laity and reaffirming their protagonistic role in guiding the Church. It offers exam-

ples of successful communities so participants can implement real changes in their local contexts. Upon completion, students receive an actionable framework to transform their parish organizations into spaces of encounter and shared mission—where “walking together” becomes the ordinary norm of ecclesial action, not just a distant theoretical concept.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/como-pasar-de-la-teoria-a-la-practica-un-curso-para-habitar-la-iglesia-sinodal-desde-sus-organismos-de-participacion/>

## CEBITEPAL: Course on Communication in a Synodal Church



CEBITEPAL launched the course “Communication in a Synodal Church” to build narratives in which the People of God is the protagonist. It started from the idea that communicating was not merely disseminating information, but generating communion that reflected the daily life of communities. It taught how

to use digital tools as channels for the faith testimony of ordinary people, moving away from cold institutional models.

It addressed the ethical use of artificial intelligence and the art of telling stories of hope. It sought to move communication away from pyramidal models toward a circular form in which listening was prioritized. It trained participants to give visibility to the poor, youth, and marginalized, constructing a narrative faithful to the synodal process. This formation was vital so that the voice of the Church might be credible and relevant in the digital environment, breaking down walls of indifference and building bridges of understanding among all social sectors, promoting an authentic and transformative culture of encounter.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/la-comunicacion-en-una-iglesia-sinodal-un-curso-de-cebitepal-para-construir-narrativas-donde-el-pueblo-de-dios-es-protagonista/>

## CEBITEPAL: From Vatican II to *Dilexit Nos* and the Option for the Poor



The course "From the Second Vatican Council to *Dilexit Nos*" was offered, deepening the preferential option for the poor as a cross-cutting axis of magisterial teaching in recent decades. It connected the renewing spirit of the Council with the recent encyclical on the Sacred Heart, demonstrating that social commitment to the marginalized arises from a profound spiritual encounter with Christ's love, which beats for suffering humanity. It analyzed how this option was embodied in conferences from Medellín to Aparecida. It invited participants to rediscover that political and social charity is a consequence of mysticism.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/del-concilio-vaticano-ii-a-dilexit-te-un-curso-del-cebitepal-para-profundizar-en-la-opcion-preferencial-por-los-pobres/>

## CEBITEPAL: Diploma Program on Latin American Episcopal Magisterium

This diploma program proposed a deep journey through the great conferences that shaped the regional face of the Church: Rio, Medellín, Puebla, Santo Domingo, and Aparecida. Students studied how bishops discerned the signs of the times to offer evangelizing responses rooted in the cultural and social reality of Latin America, valuing the rich theological production proper to our continent. It highlighted a theology born from attentive listening to the people's sufferings. It examined themes such as communion, participation, and popular religiosity as theological place.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/conoce-los-origenes-del-pensamiento-ecclesial-del-continente-en-el-diplomado-sobre-el-magisterio-episcopal-latinoamericano/>

## CELAM Calls for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (2026)

**Encuentro por la celebración de la Semana de Oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos**

**“Uno solo es el cuerpo y uno solo el Espíritu, como una es la esperanza a la que han sido llamados”**  
(Ef. 4,4)





**Jueves**  
**22 de enero**  
**de 2026**

**Horarios**

17:30	Centroamérica y México
18:30	Panamá, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Cuba, Haití
19:30	Rep. Dominicana, Venezuela, Bolivia
20:30	Brasil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay

**Organiza: Comité de Ecumenismo. Transmisión por las redes del Celam**

 [celam.official](https://www.facebook.com/celam.official)  [Celam TV](https://www.youtube.com/CelamTV) [www.celam.org](https://www.celam.org)

CELAM called for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity within the framework of ecumenical and synodal continuity. This initiative underscored that walking together as Church requires deep dialogue with other Christian confessions, recognizing that division is a counter-witness in the face of the continent’s challenges. The aim was to strengthen fraternity through prayer born of humility and mutual listening.

The message emphasized that prayer must be the engine of an “expanded synodality,” where discernment about the common good includes diverse voices. It invited joint celebrations and gestures of charity demonstrating that Christ’s love transcends historical differences. This week was a response to Jesus’ mandate “that all may be one,” seeking to generate a new culture of encounter in which diversity is a richness and unity

an urgent task for the spiritual and social transformation of our peoples, strengthening the shared mission for justice and peace.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-convoca-a-jornada-de-oracion-por-la-unidad-de-los-cristianos-bajo-el-camino-de-la-continuidad-ecumenica-y-sinodal/>

## Vigil and Virtual Assembly for Life and Peace

Faith communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean convened a vigil and virtual assembly for the defense of life and peace. This event sought to unite voices from diverse territories to denounce structures of violence affecting the region and to pray for an end to conflicts that drain the most humble communities, using technology as a bridge to real communion.

The assembly was a digital space to share testimonies of resistance and hope amid adversity. It aimed to strengthen the continental network for the defense of life, reaffirming that faith demands active commitment to peace.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/comunidades-de-fe-convocan-a-una-vigilia-asamblea-virtual-por-la-defensa-de-la-vida-y-la-paz-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

## Podcast “life as it comes”: Pastoral Ministry on Addictions



CELAM relaunched the podcast “La vida como viene,” dedicated to pastoral accompaniment in the reality of addictions. The program seeks to offer a perspective of faith, hope, and practical tools for families and communities facing this scourge, promoting a culture of welcome and mercy that moves away from social judgment and the systematic exclusion of those suffering from dependencies.

The podcast presents testimonies of recovery and expert analyses to understand the complexity of addictions in the current regional context. It emphasizes that the Church must act as a “field hospital,” offering spiritual and human support to those striving to recover their dignity. This digital initiative is a bridge of closeness that uses new narratives to reach homes, reminding listeners that no one is alone in their pain and that the

Christian community is a sacred space of healing, accompaniment, and freedom for all who seek to leave addiction behind.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-relanza-el-podcast-la-vida-como-viene-para-acompanar-pastoralmente-la-realidad-de-las-adicciones-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

## XVII Andean Youth Pastoral Meeting in Lima



Andean youth are preparing enthusiastically for the XVII Andean Youth Pastoral Meeting in Lima, Peru. This event is a milestone for the region's youth, gathering delegates from various countries to reflect on their role as protagonists of evangelization and social transformation in the spirit of synodality, reaffirming that youth are the active present of the Church.

The meeting seeks to strengthen the identity of Andean Catholic youth in the face of challenges such as unemployment, exclusion, and the ecological crisis. It aims for young people to rediscover their missionary vocation and feel accompanied by the ecclesial structure in their aspirations to build a more just world. This fraternal space will allow the voices of youth to be heard strongly in decision-making processes, reaffirming that their energy, creativity, and joy are essential to renewing the continent's social structures and proclaiming the Gospel with new languages and missionary fervor.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/jovenes-andinos-se-preparan-para-el-xvii-encuentro-de-pastoral-juvenil-en-lima-peru/>

## International Formation for Catholic Musicians in Panama

Panama will host an International Formation for Catholic Musicians, with regional endorsement from CELAM. This program seeks to professionalize and spiritualize the service of musicians, recognizing that art is a privileged path to encounter God and transmit the faith in contemporary culture, promoting liturgy as a true living communal encounter.

The formation will address topics of liturgy, technique, and the spirituality of the Christian musician. It seeks to help participants understand that their work is a sacred ministry at the service of the People of God. The goal is for music in celebrations to reflect the joy of the Gospel and serve as a catalyst helping communities to pray and commit themselves to the Church's

mission, integrating artistic beauty with social commitment in their local contexts.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/panama-acogera-formacion-internacional-para-musicos-catolicos-con-aval-regional-del-celam/>

## In-Person Meeting of CLAMOR Network in Bogotá: 2026 Strategies



From January 26 to 30, 2026, the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network on Migration, Displacement, Refugees, and Human Trafficking (CLAMOR Network) held its in-person meeting at CELAM headquarters in Bogotá. During these days of intensive work, delegates and representatives from the continent's various regions assessed the worsening humanitarian crisis along migration corridors. The main objective of the meeting was to systematize responses to mass deportations and

the growing legal vulnerability of migrants in transit, consolidating a hospitality strategy that enabled coordination of shelters from the Darién to the Southern Cone borders.

During technical working sessions, the network analyzed with particular concern the impact of financial cuts affecting Church works, as well as the emergence of climate migration as a determining factor in forced displacement. It was established that synodality demands greater inter-institutional cooperation to optimize resources and strengthen advocacy before international bodies. The meeting defined a clear roadmap for the 2026 cycle, prioritizing the protection of human rights and comprehensive accompaniment of trafficking victims. The CLAMOR Network reaffirmed its identity as a communion structure seeking to offer an organized and prophetic response to the cry of migrant and refugee brothers and sisters throughout Latin America.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/red-clamor-prioriza-respuesta-regional-ante-deportaciones-masivas-migracion-climatica-creciente-y-recortes-criticos-de-financiamiento/>

## FEBRUARY

### Results of CELAM's 2026 Social Research Call

The Knowledge Management Center (CGC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) officially announced the results of its 2026 social research call. Following a process that received a total of 69 proposals from the continent's four regions, the organization selected eight strategic projects aimed at analyzing pressing pastoral and social realities. The selection was distributed equitably, assigning two projects to each region (Andean, CAMEX, Caribbean, and Southern Cone), ensuring territorial representativeness for an integral diagnosis of Latin American reality.



This academic effort sought to connect academia with the evangelizing mission, offering scientific responses to problems affecting human dignity. The Knowledge Management Cen-

ter projected that the transfer of these results would begin in December 2026, facilitating access to data through virtual seminars and publications for all Episcopal Conferences, Universities, and Institutes on the continent.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-anuncia-los-resultados-de-las-investigaciones-sociales-seleccionadas-en-su-convocatoria-2026/>

## CELAM Greets Religious Men and Women on World Day of Consecrated Life



On the occasion of the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council issued a message of gratitude to religious men and women of the region. The institutional message highlighted their work as “light in the midst of darkness,” valuing their capacity to incarnate the Gospel in Latin America’s most critical realities.

Special emphasis was placed on their service to the most vulnerable sectors and their constant commitment to defending life and caring for our “common home.”

The official communication underscored the need for hope and peace in the current context, noting that consecrated life acts as a living witness of reconciliation and unity. It recognized that, in the transition toward a more synodal Church, consecrated persons position themselves as experts in bridge-building and fostering a culture of encounter grounded in dialogue and respect for differences. The message highlighted that their service represents an exercise of prophecy and fidelity to their calling, embracing the role of servants of the People of God.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-a-la-vida-consagrada-del-continente-gracias-por-encarnar-el-evangelio-en-la-realidad-de-hoy/>

## Online Course on Preaching in a Synodal Church

In February, CELAM’s Theological Center (CEBITEPAL) presented the synchronous course “Preaching in a Synodal Church: Proclaiming the Gospel Today.” This formative proposal was designed to renew the ministry of the Word in light of the Final Document of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod. The academic program began from the conviction that the entire People of God shares responsibility for proclamation, analyzing preaching as an ecclesial act that integrates communal listening and spiritual discernment in harmony with the community.



The itinerary addressed biblical and theological foundations, deepening the link between liturgy and synodality. It explored the spirituality of the preacher and the contemporary challenges of proclamation amid current cultural shifts. The teaching team was led by theologians Félix Palazzi and Marco Enrique Salas Laure, who accompanied participants in the search for incarnated languages and symbols. The formation sought to foster preaching that springs from the heart and generates hope, promoting active participation in the global evangelizing mission from a Latin American perspective.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-ofrece-curso-online-para-comprender-la-predicacion-desde-la-perspectiva-sinodal/>

## Start of the 2026 Academic Term with Tuition Benefits

In February, CEBITEPAL announced the start of its first 2026 term with a formative proposal centered on implementing synodality in the life and mission of the Church. The cycle, running through May, offered critical theological reflection incarnated in the continental reality. To facilitate access to formation, the institution granted a special 30% discount on selected courses and allowed free access to the first class session, enabling students to experience the methodology before formal enrollment.

Center authorities emphasized that this cycle represented the institution's commitment to a more participatory and co-responsible Church. The offering included topics on the People of God as a historical subject, synodal communication, and the diaconate. The center's over 50-year trajectory in producing Latin American theological thought was highlighted. The virtual modality enabled interaction among students from various countries, strengthening the exchange of gifts among local Churches through solid and updated pastoral tools.

For more information, visit ADN CELAM: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-inicia-trimestre-2026-con-una-propuesta-formativa-sinodal-y-30-de-descuento/>

## Opening of Registrations for Diplomas and Specialized Courses



In the second half of February, CELAM's Theological Center (CEBITEPAL) formally opened registrations for its diverse offering of diplomas and courses for the first academic quarter. The institution launched a partial scholarship campaign through a discount coupon and offered open-class sessions for laypeople, religious, and ordained ministers. The academic program included diplomas on *Synodality in Sacred Scripture* and *Latin American Magisterium*, designed to deepen understanding of the historical milestones and the social and ecclesial challenges faced by the continent in the recent cycle.

The offering also featured specialized courses on Latin American Christology, conflict management, and ecclesial participation structures. Authorities emphasized that these programs integrated academic excellence with social commitment. The faculty, composed of international specialists, provided an in-

terdisciplinary perspective to accompany missionary conversion processes in dioceses. CEBITEPAL's administrative team also incorporated installment payment options, reaffirming its mission to democratize access to high-quality theological formation across the region.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-abre-inscripciones-a-cursos-y-diplomados-con-30-de-descuento-y-clases-gratuitas/>

## Launch of the Popular Edition of the Encyclical *Laudato si'*



With the purpose of democratizing access to teachings on integral ecology, CELAM officially launched in February the popular edition of the encyclical *Laudato si'*. This editorial initiative

sought to translate Pope Francis’s thought into simpler, more pedagogical language, facilitating its study in parishes, base communities, and social movements. The document includes illustrations, reflection guides, and practical applications adapted to the Latin American context, highlighting the inseparable link between the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

The presentation of this material underscored that care for our “common home” is a pastoral priority requiring urgent ecological conversion. It was reported that distribution was planned in both print and digital formats to reach the most remote areas of the continent. This publishing project represented an effort by the Knowledge Management Center to bring major theoretical lines down to the everyday reality of families. With this launch, CELAM intended for the faithful to assume a leading role in environmental protection, inspired by a spirituality that recognizes the interconnection of all creatures and the ethical responsibility to preserve resources for future generations.

For more information, ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-lanza-la-version-popular-de-la-enciclica-laudato-si/>

## Chiclayo as Host City of the World Day of the Sick

From February 9 to 11, 2026, the city of Chiclayo, Peru, became the continental capital of the World Day of the Sick. This highly significant ecclesial event received special coverage by the Communication Center of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), which deployed a journalistic team to document the most meaningful moments of the celebration. Under the theme of compassion and care, the

gathering brought together delegations from across the region, along with ecclesial authorities and experts in health pastoral ministry, to reflect on the dignity of persons facing physical and mental fragility.



Throughout the activities, emphasis was placed on the Church's role as a "field hospital" going out to meet the most vulnerable. The Communication Center documented various prayer stations, bioethics dialogues, and visits to local hospitals, underscoring the need for holistic accompaniment that goes beyond basic medical assistance. The special report stressed that caring for the sick is not an isolated task but a communal responsibility demanding a conversion of heart toward tenderness and solidarity. Through this coverage, CELAM sought to highlight the quiet work of thousands of pastoral agents and healthcare professionals who, inspired by the Good Samaritan, daily re-

store hope to those who suffer, affirming that human fragility is a theological place where God's mercy is especially manifest.

For more information, ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/cuenta-regresiva-para-que-chiclayo-sea-la-capital-de-la-jornada-mundial-del-enfermo/>

Access to the whole journalistic coverage <https://adn.celam.org/tag/jornada-mundial-del-enfermo-2026/>

## Presidents of North American Episcopal Conferences and CELAM Project Joint Actions in Tampa

From February 13 to 15, 2026, the Meeting of the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of North America (United States and Canada) together with the Presidency of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) took place in Tampa, Florida. This high-level gathering had as its principal objective the consolidation of a common ecclesial vision for the entire continent, overcoming geographic divisions between north and south. During the sessions, the prelates deepened their reflection on the implementation of synodality, employing the methodology of spiritual conversation to address the pastoral challenges shared by local churches from Alaska to Patagonia.

Critical issues examined included the regional migration crisis, the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, and growing social polarization affecting ecclesial communion. The bishops analyzed how human mobility demands a coordinated response that transcends national borders, recognizing that the migratory phenomenon has indissolubly united the realities of

the three countries. Likewise, they discussed the importance of lay formation and the need for a prophetic presence of the Church in the public sphere. The event concluded with a commitment to maintain these spaces of mutual listening in order to strengthen the identity of a Church which, though diverse in its cultures, recognizes itself as one continental family journeying toward the 2026 Jubilee.



For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/presidentes-episcopales-proyectan-acciones-comunes-desde-la-escucha-y-el-discernimiento-sinodal/>

## Continental Meeting of Ecclesial Networks and Platforms for a Synodal Horizon

From February 5 to 7, 2026, CELAM convened representatives of the main ecclesial networks, platforms, and pastoral

bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean at its headquarters in Bogotá. This in-person meeting brought together organizations such as REPAM, REMAM, CLAMOR Network, and the Education Network, with the purpose of harmonizing their action plans under the framework of missionary synodality. The gathering enabled each structure to present its territorial advances and, for the first time, jointly map out a coordinated impact strategy to avoid duplication of efforts on sensitive issues such as human rights defense and care for the Amazon.



During technical working sessions, participants evaluated mechanisms for advocacy before international bodies and strengthened ties with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Attendees emphasized that synodality requires a transition toward more flexible, less hierarchical network structures, where the exchange of gifts becomes the norm rather than the exception. They agreed to establish a more robust internal communication system to respond swiftly to humanitarian emergencies across the continent. The closing session produced a shared roadmap prioritizing integral ecology and attention to displaced populations, reaffirming that the

synodal horizon is key to a Church that serves in a coordinated and prophetic manner throughout Latin America.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-reune-a-redes-eclesiales-plataformas-y-pastorales-de-todo-el-continente-para-trazar-juntos-un-horizonte-sinodal/>

Access all journalistic coverage <https://adn.celam.org/tag/iii-en-cuentro-ceprap-2026/>

## Podcast “La Vida como viene”: Accompaniment and Pastoral Care on Addictions

During February, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) released two new episodes of its podcast “*La Vida como viene*”, an initiative produced by the Latin American Pastoral Ministry for Accompaniment in Addictions (PLAPA). This series aimed to reflect on the most complex human realities from a perspective of faith and community. The first episode of the month focused on offering a communal and familial view of addictions, emphasizing that substance use is not merely an individual problem but a symptom of crises in social relationships. The second February episode deepened the theology of accompaniment under the premise that “no one descends into their own hells unless led by the hand of love.” Both episodes sought to raise awareness among the People of God about the urgency of strengthening communities of care and providing spiritual and practical tools to confront the scourge of addictions across the continent.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-presenta-en-su-podcast-la-vida-como-viene-una-mirada-comunitaria-y-familiar-sobre-las-adicciones/>  
<https://adn.celam.org/nadie-desciende-a-sus-propios-infiernos-si-no-es-de-la-mano-del-amor-el-poder-del-acompanamiento-en-el-podcast-la-vida-como-viene/>

## Articulated Participation of the Church in ICARRD+20 and the Role of CEPRAP



In February, the strategic and articulated participation of the Church in the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20), held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, was announced. The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), through the Center for Pastoral Programs and Networks (CEPRAP), led the coordination of ecclesial networks from three continents to present

a unified stance on the challenges of rural development and food sovereignty. This articulation represented an unprecedented effort to connect the voices of peasant, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities of Latin America with those of Africa and Asia, promoting an integral ecology that places at its center the dignity of those who work the land.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/la-iglesia-anunciara-en-cartagena-su-participacion-articula-da-en-el-icarrd20-junto-a-redes-de-tres-continentes/>

## Call to Catholic Musicians as Artisans of Fraternity

In February, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) officially launched a special call addressed to Catholic musicians throughout the region, under the motto of strengthening their identity as “artisans of fraternity.” This initiative sought to recognize and enhance the fundamental role played by art and musical composition in evangelization processes and in building a synodal Church. The proposal aimed not only to refine artists’ interpretive technique but also to deepen their service as a genuine ecclesial mission, capable of dismantling ideological walls and building bridges of encounter among the diverse cultural realities of the continent.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-convoca-a-musicos-catolicos-a-fortalecer-su-mision-como-artesanos-de-fraternidad/>

## Territorial Defense in Mesoamerica in the “Rostros y Voces” Series

In February, the Communication Center of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) presented a new installment of its interview series “Rostros y Voces,” featuring Honduran leader María Dominga Urquía. This audiovisual production focused on the urgency of articulating robust territorial defense against the growing threats faced by Indigenous and peasant communities in the Mesoamerican region. Urquía, recognized for her work in protecting common goods, issued a strong appeal for unity among social and ecclesial movements to resist the advance of extractive projects that violate the sovereignty of peoples and the integrity of our “common home.”



For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/en-rostros-y-voces-maria-dominga-urquia-llama-a-articular-defensa-territorial-en-mesoamerica/>

## Cooperatives as an Alternative to Social Injustice in the Region

In February, a new installment of the documentary series “*Los excluidos*” (“The Excluded”) was released—a joint project of the Knowledge Management Center (CGC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) and the Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (ODUCAL). This audiovisual production focused on highlighting the cooperative model as a viable and transformative alternative to the deep social injustices affecting various communities across the continent. The documentary report recovered local experiences where solidarity-based economics not only enabled family subsistence but also became an exercise in dignity and sovereignty in the face of exclusionary economic systems.



For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/documental-investigativo-visibility-cooperativas-como-alternativa-frente-a-injusticia-social-en-la-region/>

## MARCH

### Protection of Minors: The Credibility of the Gospel and the V Ceprome Congress



Under the theme “Repairing the Harm: Between the Faith that Sustains, the Care that Accompanies, and the Justice that Restores,” Costa Rica hosted the V Latin American Congress of the Interdisciplinary Research and Formation Center for the Protection of Minors (Ceprome). In this context, Monsignor José Domingo Ulloa, Archbishop of Panama and Second Vice-President of CELAM, emphasized that the integrity of the ecclesial mission depends directly on commitment to the most vulnerable, stating that “the credibility of the Gospel passes through the way we care for the little ones.”

Monsignor Ulloa stressed that the protection of minors is not merely a regulatory compliance issue but a fundamental ethical and spiritual mandate derived from the message of Je-

sus. Pope Leo XIV has reinforced this vision, urging a policy of transparency and zero tolerance toward any form of abuse. During the congress, it was insisted that active listening to victims and ongoing formation are indispensable steps to heal wounds and restore the faithful's trust. The intervention of CELAM's Second Vice-President reaffirmed that restorative justice is an essential pillar for a Church seeking coherence and bearing authentic hope in the continent.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/segundo-vicepresidente-del-celam-la-credibilidad-del-evangelio-pasa-por-la-manera-como-cuidamos-a-los-mas-pequenos/>

## Strengthening Communion and Social Diagnosis: Meeting of General Secretaries in Bogotá

On March 12-13, 2026, CELAM headquarters in Bogotá hosted a key meeting gathering the general secretaries of the episcopal conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cardinal Jaime Spengler, president of the organization, highlighted that this encounter aimed primarily to strengthen communion and pastoral coordination, enabling local churches to share their challenges and hopes in a spirit of synodality.

During the sessions, ecclesial leaders carried out a profound social and ecclesial diagnosis of their regions, analyzing political and economic realities impacting the continent. The dialogue allowed identification of common priorities for evangelization in a changing context, reaffirming the Church's role as servant of the people. Pope Leo XIV has valued this exercise of territorial listening, noting that the unity of pastors is essen-

tial to respond effectively to society's wounds. The assembly concluded with a commitment to articulate joint actions promoting social justice and a more proximate ecclesial presence to the peripheries.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/secretarios-generales-de-los-episcopados-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-hacen-una-radiografia-social-y-ecclesial-a-sus-regiones/>

## Churches of the Global South Launch Manifesto for the End of Fossil Fuels

WEBINAR DE LANZAMIENTO **LIVE** 

# MANIFIESTO DE LAS IGLESIAS DEL SUR GLOBAL POR NUESTRA CASA COMÚN

Hacia la paz con la creación: Un llamamiento urgente por una transición justa más allá de los combustibles fósiles.

**LUNES 16 MARZO**  
9:00 a.m. Bogotá | 11:00 a.m. Brasilia  
3:00 p.m. Roma | 5:00 p.m. Nairobi | 10:00 p.m. Manila

Con la participación de:  
Cardenal Jaime Spengler (CELAM)  
Cardenal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu (SECAM)  
Cardenal Filippo Neri Ferraro (FABC)  
Cardenal Ladislav Nemet (CEEC)  
Mons. Ryan Jimenez (FCCBCO)

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On March 16, 2026, various ecclesial organizations and faith communities of the Global South launched a forceful manifesto demanding a just energy transition and the immediate cessa-

tion of fossil fuel expansion. This document represents a coordinated effort to amplify the voices of regions most vulnerable to climate change, urging governments and international corporations to adopt development models that do not compromise biodiversity or the survival of future generations.

The manifesto underscores that dependence on oil, gas, and coal not only accelerates global warming but also deepens social inequalities and the exploitation of Indigenous territories. Pope Leo XIV has expressed support for this initiative, recalling that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one single plea requiring an urgent and ethical response. Signatory Churches committed to lead by example, promoting divestment from extractive industries and fostering renewable energies that respect the sovereignty of peoples. This call seeks to mobilize the international community toward a treaty on non-proliferation of fossil fuels, placing the protection of life above economic profit.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/iglesias-del-sur-global-lanzan-manifiesto-por-una-transicion-justa-y-el-fin-de-la-expansion-de-combustibles-fosiles/>

## Mujeres del Cono Sur: Hacia una Iglesia de mayor inclusión y corresponsabilidad

Held from March 16 to 20, the First Encounter of Women in Synodality of the Southern Cone consolidated itself as a historic space to promote a more inclusive Church. Representatives from Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Paraguay gathered to deepen synodality as an ecclesial path, emphasizing the need to move from consultative participation

to genuine co-responsibility in decision-making and pastoral leadership within their diverse realities.

During the sessions, it was stressed that this process requires full recognition of feminine charisms and the dismantling of barriers limiting women's influence in community life. Pope Leo XIV has expressed support for these spaces of dialogue and co-construction, recalling that the Church is a family where all the baptized walk together. The conclusions highlight that a Church that listens to and values women's voices is an institution more faithful to the Gospel, capable of responding with greater sensitivity to the challenges of justice, peace, and care for life in the region.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/i-encuentro-de-mujeres-en-sinodalidad-del-cono-sur-impulsa-iglesia-inclusiva-y-corresponsable/>

## CEAMA Consolidates Its Amazonian Face: Walking toward a Synodal and Territorial Church

The Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA) held its recent Assembly, inaugurated on March 17, 2026, by Cardinal Pedro Barreto, with the aim of deepening a synodal Church responsive to territorial realities. The gathering brought together delegates from across the region to advance implementation of the fruits of the Amazon Synod, prioritizing intercultural dialogue and defense of the "common home." During these days, emphasis was placed on the need for an ecclesial structure that

not only represents the Amazon but arises from it, with active participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities.



In this renewal context, CEAMA's new presidency formally began its mission with a firm commitment to service. The leadership team underscored that its work will be "a very great effort to serve well" the network of local churches, coordinating efforts to address the region's socio-environmental challenges. Pope Leo XIV has welcomed this impulse, encouraging CEAMA to be a laboratory of synodality that inspires the universal Church, always maintaining closeness to the territory and fidelity to an evangelizing mission that springs from the heart of the rainforest.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/asamblea-de-la-ceama-reune-a-delegados-amazonicos-para-avanzar-en-una-iglesia-sinodal-y-con-rostro-territorial/>

## Andean Youth Pastoral in Lima: Discerning Paths alongside New Generations

Date: April 23–26, 2026

Location: Lima, Peru

From April 23 to 26, 2026, the city of Lima became the epicenter of the Andean Region Youth Pastoral gathering. Delegates and advisors from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru met to discern current challenges facing young people and to map accompaniment routes responsive to their realities. This space of listening and dialogue sought to strengthen the missionary identity of youth in a context marked by the search for social justice and the need for a more experiential faith.

During the encounter, pastoral guidelines were updated, prioritizing a synodal methodology where youth protagonism becomes the engine of ecclesial change. Pope Leo XIV has encouraged participants to be a “Church with a young face,” unafraid to go to geographical and existential peripheries. Delegates concluded that pastoral ministry must be a welcoming space integrating the hopes of new generations, reaffirming the commitment to walk together in building a more fraternal and solidary society throughout the Andean region.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/pastoral-juvenil-andina-se-encuentra-en-lima-para-discernir-desafios-y-caminos-con-las-nuevas-generaciones/>

## Gospel for All: The Joy of Mission in Simple Language

The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) has launched a new “Popular” version of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*). This document, which originally marked the beginning of Pope Francis’s pontificate, is now presented in clear and accessible language to facilitate its reading in parishes, base communities, schools, and movements throughout the continent.

Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, CELAM’s Secretary General, emphasized that this is not merely a study material but a tool for “pastoral conversion.” The goal is for the Church to become a community “going forth” that listens, accompanies, and serves, moving away from superficial joy toward a real commitment to the social and cultural realities of the region. The resource concludes with a message from Pope Leo XIV reaffirming the missionary nature of the Church in this new time.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-presenta-version-popular-de-evangelii-gaudium-la-exhortacion-que-marco-el-pontificado-de-francisco/>

## Lizardo Estrada Herrera Joins the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

From the Dicastery, Monsignor Estrada will collaborate in promoting justice, peace, and care for creation. His work will focus

on addressing the challenges faced by the most vulnerable, including migrants, the sick, and persons in situations of exclusion. The appointment has been received with joy by CELAM, which sees in this designation an opportunity to strengthen ties between geographical peripheries and the Church's center, working for a development that always places the human person at the heart of all ecclesial actions.



For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/el-papa-leon-xiv-nombra-a-lizardo-estrada-herrera-como-miembro-del-dicasterio-para-el-servicio-del-desarrollo-humano-integral/>

## Socio-Pastoral Observatories: Transforming Reality through Territorial Knowledge

The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) promotes the strengthening of socio-pastoral observatories as key tools to understand and transform the complex realities of Latin America and the Caribbean. These spaces are not limited to collecting statistical data but seek to generate deep territorial knowledge enabling the Church to act more effectively and prophetically in the face of social injustices and pastoral challenges.

During recent meetings organized by CELAM, it was highlighted that these observatories must serve as bridges between academia and pastoral work. By analyzing phenomena such as poverty, migration, and the environmental crisis, they provide a solid foundation for decision-making and the implementation of projects promoting integral human development. Pope Leo XIV has encouraged this effort, underscoring that a Church that knows the wounds of its people can offer closer consolation and more concrete solutions, turning information into a force for Gospel-inspired social change.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/observatorios-sociopastorales-conocimiento-territorio-y-accion-para-transformar-la-realidad-latinoamericana/>

## Faith as a Motor of Hope: Accompaniment in Addiction Recovery

The podcast "*La vida como viene*" highlights the fundamental role of faith and community accompaniment in addiction recovery processes in Latin America. Through testimonies and analysis, it underscores how spirituality becomes a pillar of resilience for those facing problematic substance use, enabling them to rebuild their life projects from a perspective of dignity and hope.

The episode emphasizes that addiction treatment must not be merely clinical but profoundly human and pastoral. Pope Leo XIV has stated that the Church must be a "field hospital" where people find judgment-free welcome. In this sense, ecclesial communities are called to offer spaces of listening and containment that complement professional treatments. This initiative seeks to raise societal awareness about the importance of not stigmatizing those who suffer, reminding us that every healing process is a shared journey requiring patience, faith, and collective commitment to life and integral health.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/podcast-la-vida-como-viene-destaca-la-fe-en-acompanamiento-y-recuperacion-de-adicciones/>

## Climate Justice and Energy Transition: The Strong Call of Cardinal Jaime Spengler



Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President of CELAM, has issued an energetic call to prioritize climate justice and a just energy transition. The cardinal emphasized that the environmental crisis is not merely a technical problem but an ethical challenge disproportionately affecting the poorest, who have contributed least to global warming.

Spengler underscored the importance of moving to action through policies that reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote clean energies respecting community sovereignty. Pope Leo XIV has supported this stance, recalling that care for our “common home” is intrinsic to the evangelizing mission. CELAM reaffirms its commitment to accompany peoples defending their territories, promoting an economy that does not kill and

that places the well-being of creation and the human person above immediate economic profit.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/cardenal-jaime-spengler-impulsa-llamado-eclesial-por-la-justicia-climatica-y-la-transicion-energetica-justa/>

## Community Guide: Integral Human Development from Saint Paul VI to Leo XIV

The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) has presented a new community guide designed to deepen understanding of integral human development, tracing a magisterial journey from Saint Paul VI to the current pontificate of Leo XIV. This resource seeks to ground complex theological and social concepts in pedagogical dynamics for pastoral agents and base communities.

The guide highlights that development is not limited to economic growth but must embrace all dimensions of the person: spiritual, social, and cultural. Integrating the teachings of Leo XIV, the document emphasizes the urgency of integral ecology and the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable. CELAM aspires for this tool to become a driver of transformative action, inspiring communities to become protagonists of their own development and promoting justice and peace in their territories.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-lanza-guia-comunitaria-para-comprender-el-desarrollo-humano-desde-el-pontificado-de-san-pablo-vi-a-leon-xiv/>

## Alliance for Life: The Role of Professionals in Addiction Recovery

The Latin American Pastoral Ministry on Addictions highlighted the importance of integrating professional knowledge into rehabilitation processes. It was stressed that the fight against dependencies requires a multidisciplinary approach where faith and science unite to offer an integral response to the scourge of substance use.

It was emphasized that health professionals contribute technical tools that complement spiritual welcome. Pope Leo XIV has encouraged this joint effort, recalling that human dignity demands quality care. The goal is to professionalize the Church's listening centers, ensuring each person receives dignified treatment oriented toward effective social reintegration, strengthening a network of hope that places integral health at the center of pastoral action.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/la-pastoral-latinoamericana-de-adicciones-resalta-el-rol-de-los-profesionales-en-los-procesos-de-recuperacion/>

## “Faces and Voices”: Andrés Gutiérrez and His Commitment to Migrants and Families of the Disappeared

In the series “*Rostros y Voces*,” the work of Colombian layman Andrés Gutiérrez is highlighted—dedicated to accompanying victims of armed conflict and the migration crisis. His pastoral

commitment focuses on offering consolation to families suffering the disappearance of loved ones and to those seeking security and dignity after leaving their homes.



Through his testimony, it is evident that the Church in Colombia acts as a beacon of hope. Pope Leo XIV has valued such lay initiatives, noting that charity is the full recognition of the other as brother. Gutiérrez’s work underscores the importance of historical memory and restorative justice. This approach seeks to make communities protagonists of their own healing, reaffirming that close accompaniment is the best way to proclaim the Gospel in existential peripheries.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/rostros-y-voces-andres-gutierrez-y-su-apuesta-por-los-migrantes-y-familias-de-desaparecidos-en-colombia/>

## Historic Milestone: CELAM Launches the First Licentiate in Synodal Pastoral Theology

CELAM, through its formation center CEBITEPAL, has launched the Licentiate in Synodal Pastoral Theology—the first academic program of its kind on the continent. It is designed to respond to Pope Leo XIV's call to walk together as a more participatory and inclusive Church, connected to Latin American realities.

This program seeks to equip clergy and laity with tools to implement synodality at all ecclesial levels. It emphasizes communal discernment and pastoral conversion as axes for transforming Church structures. With this initiative, CELAM reaffirms its commitment to being a laboratory of synodality, preparing leaders capable of guiding processes of listening and dialogue that strengthen the evangelizing mission in a constantly changing world.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-la-licenciatura-en-teologia-pastoral-sinodal-la-primera-en-la-historia-de-la-iglesia-latinoamericana/>

## APRIL

### Episcopal Conferences of the Global South Issue Manifesto “Land for Life, Land for Peace”

The Episcopal Conferences of Africa, Asia, and Latin America issued the manifesto “*Land for Life, Land for Peace*” within the framework of CIRADR+20 (International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development + 20 years). The Church denounces territorial dispossession as a structural sin and warns that peace with nature is impossible without social justice. The document demands a shift from an extractivist model to one that recognizes the land as a source of life.

The manifesto rejects “green colonialism” and financial speculation, proposing urgent changes to halt the ecological crisis through food sovereignty. Key demands include the creation of policies designed by peasants and Indigenous peoples, the implementation of territorial audits, and the redistribution of climate funds. The bishops reaffirm that agrarian reform is an indispensable act of restitution to guarantee the future of rural communities and the integral protection of the planet.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/episcopados-de-africa-asia-y-america-latina-lanzan-un-mensaje-global-por-la-tierra-tierra-para-la-vida-tierra-para-la-paz/>

## CELAM Calls for Vigil of Prayer for Peace Promoted by Pope Leo XIV



The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) issued a call to all episcopal conferences, religious communities, and faithful of the region to join the vigil of prayer for peace. This initiative, promoted by Pope Leo XIV, sought to raise a unanimous plea amid the escalation of conflicts in various parts of the world. The CELAM presidency emphasized the importance of prayer as an active commitment to transform the realities of violence shaping the international outlook.

The call invited parishes and ecclesial movements to organize moments of adoration and reflection during the day established by the Pontiff. This gesture of continental unity aimed to be a sign of hope and solidarity with victims of war and exclusion. CELAM encouraged the use of social media to amplify the reach of the event, thus reaffirming the role of the

Church in Latin America as a builder of justice and concord in critical times.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-convoca-a-america-latina-y-el-caribe-a-unirse-a-la-vigilia-de-oracion-por-la-paz-impulsada-por-el-papa-leon-xiv/>

## Monsignor Lizardo Estrada Appointed Member of the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

Pope Leo XIV appointed Monsignor Lizardo Estrada Herrera, Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco and Secretary General of CELAM, as a new member of the Dicastery for Communication. This appointment highlighted the prelate's trajectory in evangelizing mission and his commitment to the renewal of ecclesial structures in Latin America and the Caribbean. The designation represented recognition of the work CELAM has carried out to strengthen the Church's presence in the digital and media environment.

Monsignor Estrada's incorporation into the Vatican body sought to contribute the vision of the Latin American Church to the Holy See's global communication strategy. The appointment was received with joy by ecclesial institutions in the region, which saw in this gesture an opportunity to deepen synodality and active listening. With this decision, the aim was to strengthen institutional narrative and communication processes necessary for the challenges of the contemporary world.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/mons-lizardo-estrada-es-nombrado-miembro-del-dicasterio-para-la-comunicacion-de-la-santa-sede/>

## CELAM Publishes Popular Edition of the Encyclical *Centesimus Annus*



The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) presented a popular edition of the encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, the document by which Saint John Paul II honored the social legacy of Leo XIII. This initiative sought to facilitate understanding of Catholic Social Teaching among pastoral agents, social movements, and base communities throughout the continent. The publication was conceived as a pedagogical tool to update the principles of justice, labor, and solidarity in the current context of the region.

The adapted text highlighted the continued relevance of ecclesial proposals in the face of contemporary economic and political challenges. Through accessible language and didactic resources, CELAM aimed to transform Christian social thought into a practical guide for transformative action. The distribution of this edition formed part of an institutional effort to democratize access to pontifical teaching and strengthen the integral formation of laypersons committed to the common good.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-publica-version-popular-de-la-enciclica-centesimus-annus-con-la-que-san-juan-pablo-ii-honro-el-legado-social-de-leon-xiii/>

## Podcast “La vida pende de un hilo” Denounces Persecution Against Defenders Who Speak Out Against Injustice

CELAM released the fifth episode of the podcast “*La vida pende de un hilo*” as part of the campaign of the same name. On this occasion, it documented the serious risks and persecution faced by human rights defenders in Latin America. Through direct testimonies, the series revealed how community leaders and pastoral agents have been harassed for speaking out against authoritarianism.

The audio content explored stories of resilience from Indigenous and peasant communities that have maintained their struggle despite constant threats in Guatemala. The production underscored the urgency of establishing international protection mechanisms and highlighted the Church’s role in accompany-

ing these prophetic causes, especially in Nicaragua. With this resource, CELAM sought to raise public awareness about the historical debt owed to defenders of the land and the need for integral justice that guarantees the lives of those who denounce structures of oppression.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/la-vida-pende-de-un-hilo-podcast-revela-persecucion-contra-defensores-por-denunciar-injusticias/>

## CELAM Supports Pope Leo XIV's Call for Peace

The presidency of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) expressed its firm support for Pope Leo XIV following his recent appeals to halt global violence. Through an official statement, the bishops of the continent conveyed their deep concern for the suffering of civilian populations caught in armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions. The ecclesial body reaffirmed that peace is not merely the absence of war but a process of construction based on social justice and respect for human dignity.

CELAM urged the international community and political leaders to prioritize dialogue and diplomacy over the use of arms to resolve differences. It emphasized that the current global crisis demands a response rooted in solidarity and consistent with Gospel values, rejecting any form of indifference toward the pain of the most vulnerable. With this statement, the Latin American Church joined the Pontiff's prophetic voice, demand-

ing an immediate end to hostilities and the establishment of bridges that ensure peaceful and lasting coexistence.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/celam-respalda-al-papa-leon-xiv-y-clama-por-paz-global-con-urgencia/>

## CELAM Present at the 62nd Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of Brazil



During the assembly of Brazilian bishops, held from April 7 to 14, Monsignor Lizardo Estrada Herrera, Secretary General of CELAM, actively participated in the working sessions. The prelate invited pastors to deepen the building of ecclesial unity based on the pillars of communion and synodality. In his address, he emphasized that the shared journey among the diverse dioceses of this South American giant is essential to

strengthen the identity of a missionary Church that effectively responds to the continent's social and pastoral challenges.

Monsignor Estrada underscored the importance of mutual listening and organic collaboration as tools to overcome fragmentation. CELAM's presence at this gathering sought to strengthen fraternal bonds with the Brazilian episcopate and foster an integrated regional vision. At the close of his message, he encouraged bishops to continue being beacons of hope, promoting renewal processes that place the most vulnerable communities at the center, in the spirit of the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/mons-lizardo-estrada-invita-a-los-obispos-de-brasil-a-construir-la-unidad-desde-la-comunion-y-la-sinodalidad/>

## CEBITEPAL Announced Its Academic Offerings for June 2026

In April, the Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEBITEPAL) announced its academic offerings for June 2026, consolidating its role as CELAM's formative arm. The institution presented a varied program including diplomas and specialized courses designed to deepen the study of Sacred Scripture and pastoral theology. These educational proposals aimed to provide solid tools to clergy, religious, and laypersons committed to the evangelizing mission across the region's diverse contexts.

The training agenda prioritized key themes such as synodality, integral ecology, and Christian social thought, offered in both in-person and virtual modalities. CEBITEPAL promoted interdisciplinary dialogue and theological updating to respond to the contemporary challenges facing the Church in the continent. With this initiative, the center reaffirmed its commitment to high-quality formation, fostering a reflective faith that drives transformation and service in local communities.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/cebitepal-continua-su-agenda-formativa-2026-con-cursos-y-diplomados-previstos-para-junio/>

## Podcast “La vida como viene” Highlighted the Value of Peer Accompaniment in Addiction Recovery

In its sixth episode, the podcast “*La vida como viene*” emphasized the importance of peer accompaniment as a decisive factor in overcoming dependencies. Through testimonies and analysis, the program underscored how mutual support and empathy from those who have experienced similar struggles strengthen willpower and facilitate social reintegration. This production sought to highlight community-based intervention models that prioritize human dignity as a fundamental tool for integral healing.

The initiative promoted a compassionate, stigma-free perspective on addiction in today’s contexts. It stressed that the ec-

clesial community plays a crucial role in creating welcoming spaces where vulnerability is accompanied with respect and professionalism. With this audio resource, the aim was to raise awareness about the need to strengthen local support networks, reaffirming that recovery is a collective journey requiring the solidarity and commitment of the entire society.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/podcast-la-vida-como-viene-resalta-el-valor-del-acompanamiento-de-pares-en-la-recuperacion-de-adicciones/>

## VIII Symposium on Indigenous Theology: A Reflection on Church and Indigenous Peoples

The Communication Center provided special coverage of the VIII Symposium on Indigenous Theology, held in Riobamba, Ecuador, from April 20 to 24. During these days, experts and Indigenous leaders deepened the dialogue between Christian faith and the wisdom of original peoples. The gathering enabled reflection on the importance of a Church with its own face—one that recognizes and values ancestral spiritual roots—promoting an inculturated evangelization responsive to the realities of continental communities.

The theological reflection emphasized the need to strengthen Indigenous participation in ecclesial decision-making processes. Participants highlighted that Indigenous theology offers an integral vision of life and care for our common home—vital elements for synodal renewal. Through this event, the aim was to consolidate bridges of understanding and mutual respect,

reaffirming the institutional commitment to accompany the struggles and hopes of Indigenous peoples in building a more just and plural society.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/viii-simposio-de-teologia-india-una-reflexion-sobre-iglesia-y-pueblos-origenarios/>

Here you will find all the full special coverage: <https://adn.celam.org/tag/simposio-teologia-india/>

## Video-Podcast “Centinela” Addressed Political and Social Challenges Facing Youth

In episode 7 of its second season, the video-podcast “*Centinela*” analyzed the main challenges facing youth in Latin America and the Caribbean amid current political and social contexts. Through open dialogue, this program of the Latin American Youth Pastoral explored how lack of opportunities and representation crises affect civic engagement among new generations.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/video-podcast-centinela-aborda-desafios-politicos-y-sociales-de-la-juventud-en-la-region/>

## Meeting in Santo Domingo Articulated a Caribbean Network for a Culture of Care

Within the framework of the meeting held in Santo Domingo from April 21 to 23, 2026, the Church of the Caribbean came together to consolidate the regional network for a culture of care. CELAM has actively accompanied this initiative, providing technical and pastoral guidance to establish prevention protocols and safe environments through the Latin American Network for a Culture of Care. This initiative sought to strengthen protection mechanisms for minors and vulnerable persons, reaffirming the institutional commitment to zero tolerance for abuse and the promotion of restorative justice.

The meeting allowed delegates from Caribbean episcopal conferences to exchange best practices and unify criteria for action. It was emphasized that CELAM's accompaniment was essential in equipping local Churches with pedagogical and legal tools that guarantee human dignity within the community. With this progress, the goal was to institutionalize a permanent prevention culture in which listening and integral care for victims are the absolute priority in the region's evangelizing mission.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/encuentro-en-santo-domingo-articula-a-la-iglesia-caribena-para-consolidar-red-de-cultura-del-cuidado/>

## CELAM Participated in the First International Conference on Transition Beyond Fossil Fuels

From April 24 to 27, parallel activities of the First International Conference on Transition Beyond Fossil Fuels took place, organized by the governments of Colombia and the Netherlands, followed by a high-level event on April 28-29 with leaders of the convening nations. This summit featured active participation by members of the Center for Pastoral Programs and Networks (CEPRAP) and Monsignor José Domingo Ulloa, Second Vice-President of CELAM, while the Communication Center provided special coverage.

Participants underscored the ethical urgency of abandoning the extractivist model to mitigate the ecological crisis affecting the most vulnerable populations. Monsignor Ulloa emphasized that ecological conversion requires genuine political commitment and an incarnated spirituality in defense of territory and life. With CEPRAP's technical support, CELAM reaffirmed its role in articulating proposals for global energy justice. The conference aimed to consolidate a roadmap toward a sustainable future where human dignity and environmental balance are non-negotiable priorities.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/arranca-la-conferencia-de-santa-marta-con-encuentro-de-espiritualidades-por-una-transicion-mas-alla-de-los-combustibles-fosiles/>

Here you will find all the full special coverage <https://adn.celam.org/tag/cumbre-santa-marta/>

## CELAM Promotes Dialogues on a Culture of Care from a Synodal Perspective

The virtual dialogue “*Transparency and Accountability in the Prevention of Abuse*”, the first in the series “*Synodal Contributions for a Culture of Care*”, marked the beginning of monthly encounters extending through November 2026. In this initial session, CELAM and the team of the Latin American Network for a Culture of Care deepened these themes as foundational pillars to strengthen the protection of minors and vulnerable persons. This approach sought to establish clear mechanisms ensuring institutional responsibility and guaranteeing that prevention processes align with standards of ethics and justice.

The initiative enabled ecclesial jurisdictions to reflect on the importance of implementing rigorous protocols and providing integral accompaniment to victims. It was emphasized that transparency is an evangelical requirement that promotes healing and the credibility of the Church’s mission in the continent. Through this formative cycle, CELAM aimed to foster safe environments where honesty prevails, transforming internal structures through a synodal methodology that places absolute respect for human dignity at its center.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/iglesia-en-america-latina-profundiza-en-transparencia-y-rendicion-de-cuentas-como-pilares-de-la-cultura-del-cuidado/>

## CELAM Holds First Regional Meeting with Central America and Mexico



The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) held its first regional meeting with bishops and delegates from Central America and Mexico (CAMEX) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from April 28 to 30, 2026. This gathering served as a space for discernment to analyze the regional crisis marked by exclusion, violence, forced migration, and institutional deterioration. The meeting sought to strengthen ecclesial collegiality in the region and articulate joint pastoral responses to the social realities affecting the populations of these countries, promoting a Church that walks united in the face of common challenges.

During the working sessions, participants deepened the need to consolidate democracy and respect for human rights as foundations for social peace. They emphasized that migration is not merely a statistical phenomenon but a human drama requiring dignified and secure welcome by Christian communities. With this regional encounter, CELAM reaffirmed its commitment to accompany the episcopal conferences of the CAMEX region in

building projects of hope that mitigate the causes of exclusion and strengthen the social fabric through Gospel values.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/encuentro-camex-analiza-tesis-regional-marcada-por-exclusion-violencia-migracion-y-deterioro-institucional/>

## CELAM Encourages IV Synodal Cooperation Encounter in Santo Domingo



The city of Santo Domingo hosted, from April 28 to 30, 2026, the IV Synodal Cooperation Encounter, an initiative promoted by CELAM to strengthen the solidarity network among Church aid agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event brought together various cooperation agencies and ecclesial organizations to optimize resource management and

enhance projects responding to the most urgent needs of vulnerable communities. With a synodal approach, the aim was to move from a model of technical assistance to one of shared fraternity, where mutual listening and co-responsibility guide support for local Churches.

During the meeting, strategies were highlighted to improve transparency and the social impact of integral human development programs. Participants emphasized that synodal cooperation enables coordinated regional efforts against challenges such as poverty and exclusion, ensuring that aid reaches the neediest territories directly and sustainably. With this encounter, CELAM reaffirmed its role as a bridge of communion, consolidating strategic alliances that promote social justice and care for life throughout the continent.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/santo-domingo-acoge-el-iv-encuentro-de-cooperacion-sinodal-fortaleciendo-la-red-de-solidaridad-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

## CELAM Promotes Synodal Formation with a New Master's in Pastoral Theology

The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), through its Theological Center CEBITEPAL, has launched a new Master's in Pastoral Theology open to professionals from diverse fields of knowledge. This academic program, beginning in the 2026 cycle, seeks to offer integral formation with a marked synodal focus, enabling laypersons, religious, and priests to deepen theological praxis from a practical and con-

textualized perspective rooted in the realities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The program is designed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, integrating tools from the social sciences and pastoral management to respond to the contemporary challenges of evangelization. It was emphasized that this master's degree is not limited exclusively to theologians with prior formal training but invites professionals from various disciplines to enrich the Church's mission with their technical and professional competencies. With this initiative, CELAM reaffirms its commitment to ongoing formation and the qualification of ecclesial leadership, promoting a missionary Church that walks in communion and co-responsibility.

For more information, visit ADN Celam: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-impulsa-la-formacion-sinodal-con-una-nueva-maestria-en-teologia-pastoral-abierta-a-profesionales-de-diversas-areas/>

## CELAM's Journey

### JANUARY

#### CEILAC General Assembly (January 14)

This gathering marked the beginning of the year with the participation of 33 representatives from diverse organizations, including Indigenous Pastoral Ministry, Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean, REPAM, and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. During the session, a historical review was conducted of the work carried out in 2025, with special emphasis on the advocacy achieved at COP30 and the Global South Document. The assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the campaign "*La Vida Pende de un Hilo*" ("Life Hangs by a Thread") and REPAM's Water Campaign, recognizing the process of mining divestment as an act of ethical coherence in caring for our Common Home.

It was agreed that the path toward the upcoming COPs (17, 31, and 32) must be an opportunity to strengthen eco-spirituality and solidarity with local communities. The objective is to halt the criminalization of social leaders and promote economic alternatives that move beyond extractivism. Finally, the new Pro-tempore Secretariat of CEILAC was officially established, now composed of representatives from SICSAL, Caritas ALyC, Pax Christi, and REGCHAG, who will lead the coordination of thematic proposals from the Churches of the Global South in international forums.

## Annual Spirituality and Planning Retreat of the CGC Team (January 19–21)

From January 19 to 21, 2026, members of the Knowledge Management Center (CGC) held their annual planning and spiritual retreat at the organization's headquarters in Bogotá. The encounter, closely accompanied by Monsignor Ricardo Morales, bishop coordinator of this pastoral center, went beyond a mere technical review of processes and prioritized spirituality as the foundation of all institutional work. Using the methodology of "conversation in the Spirit," the team created a space for communal discernment, allowing active listening and openness to the Holy Spirit to guide the evaluation of completed tasks and the projection of future challenges. During the sessions, the team conducted an exhaustive analysis of the fulfillment of goals set in the previous period, examining achievements and difficulties from a deeply evangelizing perspective. Beyond administrative metrics, the focus was on understanding how the knowledge generated by the Center contributes to the mission of the Church in the continent.

## Launch of the Mining Divestment Campaign (January 26)

Promoted by CELAM and the Churches and Mining Network (RIM), this campaign seeks to highlight the structural harms of the extractivist model. The launch included the testimony of Misael, a resident of La Guajira, who recounted the devastation caused by coal mining in his territory. Martha Inés Romero of Pax Christi emphasized that such activities are often linked to

organized crime and violate fundamental rights, generating a “cry of the earth” that the Church cannot ignore.

From a pastoral perspective, Monsignor Juan Carlos Barreto stated that the Church’s action must be inspired by the Gospel and the encyclical *Laudato si’* to foster a culture of care over the power of capital. The campaign proposes a clear distinction between essential mining and mining driven by profit and ostentation. Fathers Alberto Franco and Javier Jahncke highlighted that this process, initiated in 2022, now seeks to articulate an international platform with strict ethical codes that demand absolute respect for human rights and the protection of nature against the commodification of life.

## Actions for Synodality and Afro-descendant Peoples (January)

Continuing reflections from the previous year, a specialized group of Afro-descendant and Garifuna communities began working on the Final Document of the Synod. The central purpose is to analyze this text from an Afro perspective, seeking to deepen its understanding and adapt it into simplified materials that allow these communities to see themselves reflected in the synodal process. During meetings this month, the strategic decision was made to expand the working group by integrating more Afro organizations to ensure a plurality of voices. As a result of this process of listening and reflection, a virtual seminar is planned for the first half of the year, which will serve as a platform to highlight the perspectives and contributions of these peoples to the universal Church.

## Publication of the Regional Report on Inequality and Ecological Crisis (January)

The fifth edition of the report "*Regional Balance to Understand the Present: Economy, Inequality, Democracy, and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (2024-2025)*" was made available to the People of God. Produced in collaboration with the ODSAL Network and under the technical responsibility of ODSA, the document revealed the deep structural tensions of the region. It warned that economic instability and environmental degradation are symptoms of an exclusionary accumulation model. Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the report urged the adoption of fraternity and care for our Common Home as pillars of integral and just human development

## FEBRUARY

### Encounter: From Crisis to Care for Children (February 2–5)

Held in Rome, this global event continued the commitment made at the 2025 International Summit on Children’s Rights, originally convened by Pope Francis. Representatives of the global Catholic community, including CELAM, gathered to design a global action plan to strengthen the protection and integral development of children and adolescents. The methodology was based on a reading of the “signs of the times” and communal discernment to identify the necessary conditions for structural change in favor of the most vulnerable.

The resulting plan seeks not only to support the resilience of minors but also to strengthen families and local communities as safe environments of care. All participating organizations committed to walking in communion, ensuring that Catholic-inspired entities have effective tools to promote children’s dignity. This effort is viewed as a collective mission in which the Church’s active participation concretely responds to the World Declaration on the Rights of the Child, translating words into measurable and sustainable pastoral actions.

## Gender Learning Dialogue with CAFOD (February 12)

A technical meeting was held to initiate a “learning journey” focused on strengthening the influence of women within ecclesial structures. Participants included Fr. Francisco, Humberto Ortiz, Fr. Luis Carlos, and Cristina dos Anjos, who analyzed how to promote gender justice and equity in Latin America and Africa. The proposal was well received as a necessary means to transform Church and societal structures. It was agreed that, following this initial dialogue phase, detailed discussions would proceed based on reports from the consultant coordinating the process, ensuring that female leadership becomes a cross-cutting axis in pastoral action.

## Bilateral Meetings of CEPRAP with International Delegations in Cartagena (February 22–27)

In Cartagena, Colombia, intensive dialogues were held between the Church and social movements to address food security and land tenure. On February 25, bilateral meetings took place with delegations from Germany, Brazil, and South Africa, seeking support for agrarian reform understood as a climate tool. The ecclesial coalition (CELAM, SECAM, Caritas, CIDSE) strongly denounced “green colonialism,” noting that many land transactions today are justified under environmental pretexts to displace local communities and create carbon offset schemes. This process prepares for the global food security conference to be held in Rome in October. Participation in Cartagena represented the culmination of a global advocacy effort

integrating an ecumenical and interreligious vision to demand structural justice in rural areas.

## Roadmap for Catholic Education: New Maps of Hope (February 25)

Led by the Latin American Network for Educational Pastoral Ministry, the proposal “*Designing New Maps of Hope*” was presented. This document outlines a roadmap for education in the region, integrating international objectives with the Church’s magisterium. The central proposal seeks to move toward an integral humanism that transcends merely vocational training, emphasizing critical digital competencies and socio-emotional management. Amid regional polarization, a “pedagogy of tenderness” was urged to enable institutions to build a human ecosystem centered on social justice and universal values.

## Ongoing Processes (February)

Three continuous lines of action were maintained during this month. First, the Centralidad de la Niñez Program (PCN) advanced its leadership schools and protocols for good treatment, preparing an in-person meeting in El Salvador and consolidating national networks. Second, follow-up continued on the path toward the Water Summit (2026-2027), working on a compendium of community resilience experiences and collaborating with the UN Special Rapporteur to highlight the interconnectedness of water systems. Third, prepara-

tions advanced for the Santa Marta Conference on Energy Transition, convening a global virtual seminar in March with Cardinal Spengler to present a manifesto demanding the abandonment of fossil fuels ahead of COP31.

## Strengthening Documentary Management and Technical Visit (February)

The Archive and Library team (ABC) conducted a technical visit to the libraries of the Capuchin Friars Minor and CONACED (National Catholic Confederation of Education) in Bogotá. The purpose was to consolidate partnerships for joint work in documentary management, addressing issues of historical preservation, digitization, and archival organization. These visits enabled the sharing of technical experiences and exploration of mutual support opportunities with other ecclesial institutions. The initiative is part of the commitment to promote collaborative networks that foster knowledge circulation and strengthen the documentary heritage of the Church across the Americas.

## Launch of Community-Use Documents on Social Doctrine and Synodality (February)

The institutional library made available 15 new documents designed to encourage communal study of Catholic Social

Teaching and pontifical magisterium. Among the texts were updated versions on synodality, such as the “12 Tracks for Implementation” and the constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*. Summaries of social encyclicals from *Rerum Novarum* to *Fratelli Tutti* were also included. These materials, featuring QR codes linking to original texts, respond to the mandate of the 39th Assembly to actively promote the Church’s social teachings among pastoral agents.

## MARCH

### Blessing of the Gallery of Our Lady of Latin America and the Caribbean (March 12)

On March 12, 2026, Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President of CELAM, presided over the blessing ceremony of the Gallery of Our Lady of Latin America and the Caribbean. This solemn act included the participation of General Secretaries of Episcopal Conferences gathered at the headquarters for their Annual Assembly. The gallery features eighteen images of the Virgin Mary corresponding to the patronesses of various countries in the region. These pieces originated from offerings presented by 18 episcopal conferences during the 2025 Regional Encounters held in San José (Costa Rica), Lima, Santo Domingo, and Buenos Aires.

Located in a dedicated space within the CELAM Library, the installation includes statuettes in custom display cases and framed images arranged on a prominent wall. The exhibition includes advocations such as the Black Virgin of the Antilles, Our Lady of Luján (Argentina), Aparecida (Brazil), Guadalupe (Mexico), and Coromoto (Venezuela), among others. The gallery's design allows the images to be relocated for special ceremonies, symbolizing the devotional unity and shared journey of Latin American peoples under Marian protection.

## Networking and Diplomatic Engagement with the Holy See (March 18–24)

The second half of March was dedicated to the technical and diplomatic consolidation of the ecclesial stance on the climate crisis. On March 18, CIDSE led a webinar to unite the Catholic family around shared technical expertise. On March 21, REPAM defined its specific position on the risks of new extractivisms, warning that the energy transition must not come at the cost of exploiting critical minerals in Indigenous territories. The Social Pastoral Ministry also presented proposals on non-extractive community economies, focusing on cases such as the Corridor of Life in Cesar and La Guajira.

On the diplomatic front, consultations were held on March 22–23 with Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, during his visit to Colombia to secure Vatican support.

Finally, on March 24, Cardinals of the Global South sent a formal letter to Pope Leo XIV. In this missive, they requested his public support for the manifesto and his intercession with national governments to actively participate in the Santa Marta conference, elevating the protection of our Common Home to the highest priority on the papal agenda.

## Accompaniment to JOC Peru and Pastoral Encounter (March 16–26)

CEPRAP developed an accompaniment agenda for the Catholic Worker Youth (JOC) of Peru, an organization with 90 years of history fighting for the dignity of youth labor. Activities began on March 16 in Chiclayo, focusing on political discernment from faith applied to the social economy and ancestral Mochica knowledge.

Subsequently, on March 26 in Lima, strategies for the Youth Agenda 2026–2031 were discussed, addressing labor informality affecting 85% of young people. CEPRAP's commitment centers on supporting labor rights, mental health, and public policy advocacy.

That same day, a meeting was held with the General Secretariat of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference (CCEE). During this encounter, the “Urdimbre” methodology—a pastoral weaving designed to overcome fragmentation and advance toward a synodal, articulated Church—was presented. The Peruvian CCEE formally invited CEPRAP to accompany its processes, using the integrative threads of Inculturation, Conversion, Hope, and Participation to strengthen the role of laypeople and women in decision-making.

## Water Summit and Advocacy Processes (March)

Throughout March, organizational efforts for the Water Summit continued, with a view toward the 2027 horizon. The

main focus has been strengthening planning guidelines and consolidating the communications team, whose task is vital to inspire communities through consistent publications that raise awareness about water resource management. This effort is not an isolated event but part of an international advocacy strategy in which CELAM maintains diverse actions to contribute data and testimonies to the UN Special Rapporteur on water.

Simultaneously, a strategic alliance was formalized with the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). Through mutual learning sessions, CELAM aims to support local Churches on human mobility issues, coordinating efforts with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Caritas Internationalis. This synergy is crucial ahead of the ICMC General Assembly to be held in Rome in November 2026, ensuring the voice of the Latin American Church is present in global decision-making spaces.

## Triple Frontera y Protección del Bioma Amazónico (Marzo)

The Triple Frontier process in the Amazon Biome advanced significantly this month under a collegial articulation structure involving CELAM, CEAMA, REPAM, and CLAR. The project has now entered its implementation phase, implying active participation by local communities and their grassroots organizations. A critical aspect highlighted in the report is the security of leaders collaborating in the territory, a priority given the vulnerability of those defending the Amazon. The project enjoys the solidarity support of the Diocese of Colonia and PORTICUS, enabling technical actions without losing pastoral focus.

To strengthen this journey, it has been suggested to maintain and enhance the Networks Encounter (including REPAM, REMAM, REGCHAG, and PLATINA), as this platform ensures integrated and holistic work that overcomes fragmentation. Clearly defining the roles of each participating organization seeks to avoid duplication and maximize the impact of Common Home defense, ensuring an effective, safe, and deeply incarnated ecclesial presence in Amazonian realities.

## APRIL

### Encounter with the Platform for Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights (April 6)

The Platform for Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights, through a virtual meeting, defined its roadmap toward the April 24 Assembly, prioritizing sustainability and fundraising for three strategic axes: the “*La vida pende de un hilo*” campaign, training in active nonviolence, and solidarity with Palestine. This encounter, convening 27 institutions, will evaluate advances in human rights and peace, seeking concrete responses to the cries of the territory.

The Platform also analyzed the ecclesial context under Pope Leo XIV’s pontificate, noting tensions with the Pontifical Commission for Latin America over mining initiatives not consulted with territorial networks. In response, the Platform reaffirmed its commitment to synodal dialogue keeping victims at the center. Finally, the coordinating team will centralize digital documentation to ensure informed discernment by all members ahead of upcoming challenges.

### Territorial Strengthening and Strategic Agenda of the Women’s Axis (April 8)

The Women in Church and Society Axis evaluated the positive impact of its meeting in Paraguay and mapped its organizational expansion roadmap. To deepen representativeness, it was agreed to formally incorporate delegates from Afro

Pastoral Ministry, Indigenous, and Garifuna communities, thus consolidating a more diverse network connected to women's realities across territories.

For the 2026 agenda, the group prioritized a cycle of seminars focused on analyzing culture and violence, alongside the launch of key research on the crisis in Haiti. These initiatives aim to strengthen internal formation and social advocacy, ensuring the axis generates critical tools and updated data to address the region's humanitarian and social challenges.

## Global Strategy and Preparations for the Rome Council 2026: II ICMC Meeting (April 10)

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), in a virtual meeting with 12 participants from various regions, including CEPRAP and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, advanced its strategy toward 2030. The space underscored the importance of integrating North America and the Middle East to consolidate a global vision, while CEPRAP presented its territorial articulation through the CLAMOR Network and OSMECA (Observatory on Human Mobility and Pastoral Ministry of Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean). The central objective is to define joint actions responding to current regional challenges, always prioritizing effective migrant protection and identification of key actors on each continent.

During the meeting, it was confirmed that the Council Meeting will take place in Rome from November 10-12, 2026, where leadership will be ratified and the Strategic Framework 2027-2030 approved. The agenda will include a critical review of the Global Compact on Refugees and Migration and the UN Convention, coordinating efforts with organizations like Caritas Internationalis and the Jesuit Refugee Service. Finally, it was agreed to promote campaigns for the ratification of international conventions and to draft a final message capturing ecclesial proposals not always adopted in global migration forums.

## Interreligious Advocacy and Integral Human Development: IX Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (April 13–14)

Representatives of diverse faith traditions, including Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Bahá'í, Indigenous, and Afro-Latin American communities, gathered at ECLAC headquarters to reaffirm that sustainable development is above all an ethical and spiritual imperative. Within the "*Shared Sacred Flourishing*" initiative, the encounter addressed the global polycrisis through technical sessions on critical SDGs (water, energy, and sustainable cities). The dialogue emphasized that human dignity and care for creation are the pillars of a network that, after two decades of work, seeks to transcend technical targets and focus on Integral Human Development (IHD) grounded in love and solidarity.

Amid declining governmental participation in these forums, the alliance agreed to strengthen its political advocacy and communication strategy under a Theory of Change framework with measurable goals. Emphasis was placed on “downward advocacy,” translating SDGs into the language of popular communities to mobilize grassroots transformation. As a result, a public declaration was issued redefining the roadmap of the Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) coalition, prioritizing co-responsibility and united action to identify and empower transformative actors in the region.

## Institutional Articulation and Training in the Ecclesial Archives Network (April 13)

The Colombian Ecclesial Archives Network (RAECOL), with active participation from the CELAM Archive, held an in-person working session at the Major Seminary of Bogotá. During the encounter, members evaluated the network’s progress and defined strategic guidelines to consolidate a participatory and sustainable governance model. This space allowed the identification of common challenges in documentary management and reaffirmed institutional commitment to safeguarding the Church’s historical memory in the country, ensuring structures that facilitate long-term consultation and preservation.

As a key milestone, RAECOL announced an alliance with the Conference of Religious Men and Women of Colombia (CRC) to implement awareness and training programs for the protection of documentary heritage. As a result, a training session for religious communities is scheduled for June 8 to promote sound archival practices. This initiative seeks to highlight the

cultural value of ecclesial archives and equip institutions with technical tools for proper administration of their historical and spiritual legacy.

## Seminar on Elderly Loneliness in the Americas (April 14)

Convened by the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life together with CEPRAP-CELAM, a session presented an overview of the situation of older adults in the region, warning of an unprecedented demographic shift. Projections indicate that by 2050, the elderly population will reach 182.7 million, surpassing the number of children under 15 by 2036. Faced with this reality, marked by insufficient pensions and growing vulnerability, the regional Church issues an urgent call for pastoral conversion that moves beyond mere assistance to projects of existence that combat loneliness and the throwaway culture.

The proposal promotes concrete actions at three levels: parish-based, through home visits and intergenerational groups; diocesan, via pastoral gerontology training; and synodal, walking alongside elders as living memory of the peoples. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's message and Pope Francis's legacy, the initiative seeks to ensure elders are not merely recipients of aid but protagonists of the ecclesial community, guaranteeing their dignity through permanent, affective accompaniment structures in all territories.

## Formalization of LACAM Network and Its Articulation with the Women's Axis (April 15)

In a strategic meeting, the structure of the Network of Afro-Catholic Women Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (LACAM) was formalized, integrating over 50 territorial representatives. During the encounter, Eunice and Tamara were appointed as representatives to CELAM's Women's Axis Commission, ensuring Afro-descendant women's perspectives and voices have direct influence on the regional organization's decisions and action plans for the next cycle.

The 2026 agenda established clear operational goals, highlighting the planning of an in-person meeting in Costa Rica scheduled for August. Additionally, leaders advanced the development of a sustainability proposal directed to the *Populorum Progressio* Fund to strengthen grassroots projects. These actions reaffirm LACAM's commitment to empowering Afro-Catholic women and their protagonistic role in building a more diverse, inclusive Church committed to social justice.

## Experiences of Popular Economy and Community Resistance in Buenos Aires (April 20–25)

The CEPRAP team visited Buenos Aires to closely observe the popular economy ecosystem as a response of subsistence and dignity amid exclusion from the formal labor market. Through visits to UTEP (Union of Workers of the Popular Economy)

and MTE (Movement of Excluded Workers), they witnessed how workers have institutionalized cooperatives in recycling, textiles, and rural agriculture, transforming individual survival into collective strength. In this context, the role of popular feminism and community care networks, essential for managing social crises in the most vulnerable neighborhoods, was highlighted.

The experience underscored the deep connection between these movements and the Catholic Church, under the banner of “Land, Roof, and Work” promoted by Pope Francis and supported by Pope Leo XIV’s pastoral vision. These devices of formation, health, and self-management operate as a “social antibody” against the advance of drug trafficking and the retreat of state public policies. Ultimately, the MTE resistance model consolidates as a transformative paradigm of integral ecology that prioritizes life and human organization over financial capital.

## Prophetic Action and Social Doctrine: Planning for the 135th Anniversary of *Rerum Novarum* (April 28)

The Social Dream, through a virtual meeting gathering ecclesial networks such as RedLapsi, CLAMOR, and Churches and Mining, coordinated actions to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and the first year of Pope Leo XIV’s pontificate. The central objective was to plan a reflection itinerary beginning May 15 with a dialogue on the relevance of social doctrine, followed by the virtual workshop “*Enchanting Politics*” on May 16. These activities aim

to strengthen the formation of democratic animators across the region and promote an updated rereading of the realities faced by workers today.

Furthermore, the Social Dream emphasized that these celebrations must address critical issues such as the impact of artificial intelligence, labor deregulation, and the migration crisis, using didactic materials provided by CELAM's Knowledge Management Center. The main event will be organized by a team coordinated by Daniel Seidel, Edgar Antonio López, and Miguel, with the intention of securing the participation of Dr. Emilse Cuda. The encounter concluded with a commitment to solidarity with the most vulnerable, reaffirming the mission of building God's Kingdom from local communities.

## Planning for the II Week of Christian Initiation (April 21)

The continental catechesis coordination team, through a working meeting led by CEPRAP, advanced the roadmap toward the II Week of Christian Initiation, to be held in January 2027. This process is grounded in a synodal dynamic that has integrated input from 380 dioceses through dialogues and surveys, seeking to strengthen broad and participatory ecclesial dialogue. The current objective is to define preparatory actions for the remainder of the year, consolidating a space that enables the renewal of faith experience in the communities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Likewise, the team focused on identifying and discerning hopeful processes of Christian initiation, recovering the most significant experiences emerging from local territories. This preparatory journey is embraced as a time of grace oriented toward revitalizing communities, ensuring that the upcoming continental gathering reflects communal discernment and the protagonism of the People of God. Planning will continue deepening these central axes to guarantee a profound and contextualized renewal of catechesis in the region.

## Formation Management and Territorial Self-Management: Advances of the Economies Platform (April 29)

The Economies Platform, through a virtual meeting, formalized its new coordination team composed of Gabriela Blanco, Edgar López, and Héctor Miranda, marking a stage of greater institutional articulation. In this space, active participation in the design of the course on the "Economy of Francis" was confirmed, scheduled for the third quarter of 2026 under the coordination of CEBITEPAL. Additionally, integration of this focus into the commemorative events for the 135th anniversary of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* was reaffirmed; these will include a dialogue forum and workshops on May 15-16, in alignment with the networks of the Social Dream (*Sueño Social*).

Regarding the School for the Formation of Young Leaders, the Economies Platform decided to move forward through a self-management model using its own resources, prioritizing the territorial knowledge of its members over waiting for external funding. This initiative seeks to consolidate a formative

proposal with its own identity, exploring alliances with the University of the Peripheries and IMDOSOC. Finally, an invitation was extended to participate in the Economy of Francis Congress in Costa Rica and in the anniversary of the Economy of Communion, establishing May 15 as the deadline for submission of pedagogical content and experiences for its new digital channels.

## Institutional Identity and New Strategic Approaches in the Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Platform (April 30)

The Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Platform, through a virtual meeting, carried out a critical evaluation of its trajectory and the challenges faced in building a common horizon since its creation within CELAM. During the dialogue, it was acknowledged that although timely responses have been given to urgent crises—such as the defense of human rights and conflicts in Palestine and Ukraine, it is imperative to strengthen collective identity and reverse the decline in active participation. Faced with difficulties in implementing previously funded projects, the team underscored the need to clarify its institutional link with CEPRAP to optimize the operational capacity of future initiatives.

As a result of this discernment, participants agreed on the importance of moving beyond foundational documents to rediscover themselves as a cohesive and proactive network. In this regard, the possibility of prioritizing democracy as the unifying axis and primary area of focus for the next work cycle was discussed. This strategic shift aims not only to revitalize the

internal structure of the Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Platform but also to generate more robust and sustainable advocacy that responds integrally to the region's sociopolitical challenges within a framework of shared governance.

## CELAM Archive and Library Reaches 5,000 Active Users (April)

The digital ecosystem of the CELAM Archive and Library (ABC) achieved a significant milestone in April 2026 by consolidating more than 5,000 active users. This growth is attributed to a robust infrastructure and the inclusion of cutting-edge topics such as artificial intelligence, which has attracted 93% new users, primarily through the *Celam Journal*. The platform now has global reach, with strong presence in Latin American capitals and emerging nodes in Southeast Asia and the United States, successfully positioning itself in both academic search engines and advanced language models.

The report highlights that interaction quality is highest in the OPAC Library, where average session duration doubles that of other areas thanks to the partnership with Oducal (Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean). Likewise, the Institutional Repository plays a key role in preserving memory, with the "*Manifesto of the Churches of the Global South*" standing out as the document with the greatest international impact. For the coming period, ABC will focus its strategy on audience retention, aiming to transform occasional users into recurrent researchers through content optimization and strengthening its identity as an academic and ecclesial reference.

## Advances in Knowledge Management and the Synodal Socio-Pastoral Observation Network (April)

CELAM's synodal action has taken a firm step in strengthening its research processes through the formalization of agreements with the eight institutions selected in the 2026 Call. Throughout April, dialogue tables and kickoff meetings were held to align scientific objectives with the organization's pastoral mission. These projects aim to provide the episcopate and the People of God with high-quality technical and social tools to address realities of injustice and promote human dignity across the continent.

Complementarily, the coordination team of the Synodal Socio-Pastoral Observation Network—with active participation from the Pastoral Socio-Anthropological Observatory (OSAP) of the Knowledge Management Center (CGC) defined that the central theme of the 5th Continental Colloquium will be the observation of educational policies. Organized by the Youth and Education Nucleus, this event will take place on Friday, May 29, and will be broadcast via Celam TV. The initiative aims to strengthen the creation of new ecclesial observatories, ensuring that the Church possesses accurate and up-to-date data to effectively influence social transformation and integral human development.

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## Upcoming Courses and Diplomas from CEBITEPAL

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The Theological Center CEBITEPAL continues to offer a renewed, broad, and articulated program aligned with the synodal journey of the Church. In the second quarter (June–August), it offers courses and diplomas aimed at strengthening pastoral leadership, accompanying synodal processes, and responding to the challenges of the present time.

**Course: Ministry of Lay Women and Men in a Synodal Church**

Instructor: Serena Noceti

**Course: Inculturation of the Faith and Incarnation of the Church: Toward an Amazonian Rite**

Instructor: Agenor Brighenti

**Course: The Law of the People in a Constitutively Synodal Church (Hybrid)**

Instructor: José San José Prisco

**Course: Social, Theological, and Pastoral Keys for Rethinking the Parish**

Instructor: Ernesto Palafox

**Course: Lived Synodality: The Strength of the Laity**

Instructor: Consuelo Vélez

**Course: Synodal Pedagogy in Christian Initiation Itineraries**

Instructor: Hosffman Ospino

**Course: Theology of the People of God**

Instructor: Carlos María Galli

**Course: Power and Synodality (Free course in Portuguese)**

Instructor: Alzirinha Souza

**Course: Synodality in Sacred Scripture  
(Module II - Continuation)**

Instructor: Juan Alberto Casas

**Diploma: Pastoral Guidelines of Churches Regarding Mining  
(Hybrid)**

In partnership with the Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women (CLAR), the Churches and Mining Network, and Pax Christi. More than 20 instructors and facilitators will participate.

**Course: Perspectives and Challenges of the Final Document  
of the Synod: Walking toward the Ecclesial Assembly of  
2028 (Asynchronous)**

Instructor: Rafael Luciani

**Course: Latin American Christology (Asynchronous)**

Instructor: Pedro Trigo

**For more information and registration:**

<https://cebitepal.celam.org/>

## Episcopal Appointments (January–February)

### JANUARY

#### January 3

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Osmany Massó Cuesta, of the clergy of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba, as Bishop of Santísimo Salvador de Bayamo y Manzanillo (Cuba). He was Vicar General and parish priest of San Antonio María Claret in Santiago de Cuba.

#### January 8

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Marco Aurélio Gubiotti, until now Bishop of Itabira-Fabriciano, as Metropolitan Archbishop of Juiz de Fora (Brazil).

#### January 8

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. José Roberto Fortes Palau, until now Bishop of Limeira, as Metropolitan Archbishop of Sorocaba (Brazil).

#### January 19

Pope Leo XIV accepted the resignation from the pastoral governance of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Morelia (Mexico) presented by H.E. Msgr. Carlos Garfias Merlos.

#### January 31

Pope Leo XIV accepted the resignation from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of La Paz en Baja California Sur (Mexico) presented by H.E. Msgr. Miguel Ángel Alba Díaz. He is succeeded by H.E. Msgr. Miguel Ángel Espinoza Garza, until now Coadjutor Bishop of the same diocese.

## FEBRUARY

### **February 2**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Luis Dario Martín, until now Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa (Argentina) and Titular Bishop of Bisenzio, as Bishop of Santa Rosa.

### **February 6**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Margarito Salazar Cárdenas, until now Bishop of Matehuala, as Bishop of Tampico (Mexico).

### **February 11**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Titular Archbishop of Novica, until now Apostolic Nuncio in the Czech Republic, as Apostolic Nuncio in Haiti.

### **February 11**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. José Alberto González Juárez, until now Bishop of Tuxtepec, as Bishop of Campeche (Mexico).

### **February 11**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Adolfo Miguel Castaño Fonseca, until now Bishop of Azcapotzalco, as Bishop of Atlacomulco (Mexico).

### **February 12**

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. José Silvio de Brito, until now Vicar General and Parish Priest of Nossa Senhora da Conceição of the same Archdiocese, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Natal (Brazil).

### **February 14**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Rubén Darío Jaramillo Montoya, until now Bishop of Buenaventura (Colombia), as Bishop of Montería (Colombia).

### **February 24**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Luis Augusto Campos Flórez, until now Bishop of Socorro y San Gil (Colombia), as Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucaramanga (Colombia).

### **March 13**

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Jefferson Santos Pinheiro as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Aracaju (Brazil)

### **March 18**

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Fr. José Manuel León, C.P., as Auxiliary Bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Caracas (Venezuela), assigning him the Titular See of Gighti; and Rev. José Dionisio Gómez Gouveia, assigning him the Titular See of Fuerteventura.

### **March 19**

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Fr. Alfonso María Bauer Ormazábal, S.D.B., as Bishop of Florida (Uruguay).

### **March 24**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Manoel de Oliveira Soares Filho as Bishop of Castanhal (Brazil). Likewise, the Holy Father appointed H.E. Msgr. Ángel Antonio Recinos Lemus as Bishop of the Diocese of Escuintla (Guatemala).

## APRIL

### **April 10**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Claudio Pablo Castricone, until now Titular Bishop of Castra Nova and Auxiliary Bishop of the same Diocese, as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Orán (Argentina).

### **April 18**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Nicolás Gregorio Nava Rojas, until now Bishop of Machiques, as Bishop of Cabimas (Venezuela).

### **April 25**

Pope Leo XIV appointed H.E. Msgr. Giancarlo Dellagiovanna, Titular Archbishop of Sistrioniana, as Apostolic Nuncio in El Salvador.

### **April 25**

Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. José Magdaleno Álvarez Briceño, of the clergy of the Diocese of Trujillo, until now Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, Rector of the Shrine of the Child Jesus, and Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary in Isnotú, as Bishop of the Diocese of Guasdualito (Venezuela).

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## Demises (January-february)

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### JANUARY

#### January 3

Msgr. Hernán Giraldo Jaramillo  
Bishop Emeritus of Buga (Colombia).

#### January 12

Msgr. José Eduardo Velásquez Tarazona  
Bishop Emeritus of Huaraz (Peru)

#### January 16

Msgr. Serafín Luis Alberto Cartagena Ocaña, OFM  
OFM, Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Zamora (Ecuador).

#### January 16

Msgr. Julio César Terán Dutari, S.J.  
Bishop Emeritus of Ibarra (Ecuador).

#### January 20

Msgr. Thadeu Gomes Canellas  
Bishop Emeritus of Osório (Brazil).

#### January 22

Msgr. Pedro Pablo Elizondo Cárdenas, L.C.  
Bishop Emeritus of Cancún-Chetumal, Quintana Roo (Mexico).

## FEBRUARY

### February 2

Msgr. Miguel Ángel Alba Díaz  
Bishop Emeritus of La Paz en Baja California Sur (Mexico)

### February 5

Msgr. Antonio Arregui Yarza  
Archbishop Emeritus of Guayaquil (Ecuador).

### February 6

Msgr. Pietro Gabrielli, SDB  
Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Méndez (Ecuador).

### February 20

Msgr. José Agustín Ganuza García, REMO  
Prelate Emeritus of Bocas del Toro (Panama).

## MARCH

### March 4

Msgr. Luis Serapio del Castillo Estrada, SJ.  
Bishop Emeritus of Melo, Uruguay.

### March 25

Msgr. Burchell Alexander McPherson  
Bishop Emeritus of Montego Bay, Jamaica, Antilles.

## APRIL

### **April 5**

Msgr. Mario Enrique Ríos Mont, CM, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Guatemala.

### **April 13**

Msgr. José Benjamín Castillo Plascencia, Bishop Emeritus of Celaya, Guanajuato.

### **April 17**

Msgr. Jorge Enrique Serpa Pérez, Bishop Emeritus of Pinar del Río, Cuba.

### **April 22**

Msgr. José Ulises Macías Salcedo, rchbishop Emeritus of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

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## To Re-watch and Participate

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CELAM, through its Communication Center, makes available recordings of events and materials produced during the period of January-February:

### JANUARY

#### CELAM ESPECIALS

Tuesday, January 6

Latin America and the Caribbean adores the Child God on the Day of the Kings

<https://youtu.be/cOhlhavDZ8>

Saturday, January 31

Series The Excluded: Confined in Innocence

<https://youtu.be/wbBBkZV6gGO>

#### REFLECTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

Sunday, January 4

Reflections for the Journey: Epiphany of the Lord

<https://youtu.be/2QU-XDYOMPI>

#### FACES AND VOICES

Tuesday, January 20

Faces and Voices: An economy that kills or that saves? The challenge of the Church in Costa Rica

<https://youtu.be/9JLq3dFG474>

## PODCAST LA VIDA COMO VIENE (LIFE AS IT COMES)

Friday, January 23

Podcast La Vida como viene: Ep. 2 Complexity and integral vision

<https://youtu.be/i8vRa5VDarI>

## LATIN AMERICAN POLYHEDRON

Wednesday, January 14

The prophetic voice in Latin America, the role of preachers | Polyhedron January 14, 2026

<https://youtu.be/sNtIPMGO4zo>

Wednesday, January 28

Why is interreligious and ecumenical dialogue urgent today? | Polyhedron January 28, 2026

<https://youtu.be/6bArHBy5ZAk>

## YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMS

Wednesday, January 7

Centinelas Video Podcast (Season 2). EP1 - Music and Youth Evangelization

<https://youtube.com/live/nXIZryBcfFI?feature=share>

Wednesday, January 21

Centinela T2 | EP2: "Mental Health and Youth in the Church"

<https://youtube.com/live/20lb4KXEeFw?feature=share>

Thursday, January 22

Encounter for the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

<https://youtube.com/live/Zg7Y3mC8dmA?feature=share>

Monday, January 26

Official Launch of the Mining Divestment Platform

<https://youtube.com/live/HNwjbFvnRz4?feature=share>

## FEBRUARY

### CELAM SPECIALS

Monday, February 2

Secretary General of CELAM to consecrated persons: "Incarnate the Gospel in the realities of today"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VrVXGZOaDE>

Thursday, February 5

Doing Theology Synodally: Discover the new academic offering of CEBITEPAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBBCHOEJMt8>

Monday, February 9

"The bishop is called to serve the faith of the people"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD5ESGzuHFI>

### ADN CELAM NEWS

Tuesday, February 17

#adncelam | The Church in Latin America responds to fires, migration, and extractivism

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_CZRGhuyuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_CZRGhuyuA)

## SPECIAL COVERAGE CHICLAYO

Monday, February 9

Chiclayo is the capital of charity! We are at the World Day of the Ill 2026

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpAlhO9vOSA>

Friday, February 13

Chiclayo: World Capital of Charity and beloved land of the Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwwVHqOkxgA>

## DOCUMENTARY SERIES THE EXCLUDED

Thursday, February 12

#documentaryseries Surviving in the Trash

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50TpmWpaJcY>

Thursday, February 26

#documentaryseries Cooperatives: a response to the culture of discard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ7BdwcLXyM>

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

Wednesday, February 18

Reflections for the Journey | Living listening: Message of Lent 2026

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2HPOMRxyyQ>

Sunday, February 22

Reflections for the Journey | Overcoming Temptation in the Desert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epPXchrltM>

## FACES AND VOICES

Wednesday, February 25

Faces and Voices | Weaving hope for victims of the conflict in Colombia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS4eHx4NQxc>

## PODCAST LA VIDA COMO VIENE (LIFE AS IT COMES)

Friday, February 6

#podcast We are family: The quality of the bond

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Wj7X-pjxYo>

Friday, February 20

Podcast La Vida como Viene Ep. 4 | Accompaniment and the network

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moypmZvt14g>

## YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMS

Tuesday, February 10

World Day of the Ill - Academic Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP-Js9KP910>

Wednesday, February 11

World Day of the Ill - Solemn Mass

<https://youtube.com/live/Wlyyi2Qa-j4>

Thursday, February 19

Centinela T2 | EP3: "Abuse Prevention and Culture of Good Treatment in Youth"

<https://youtube.com/live/RAt7gH822GU>

Thursday, February 26

Press conference: The voice of communities at ICARRD+20 Cartagena

<https://youtube.com/live/tSqKhu8uVKY>

## MARCH

### CELAM SPECIALS

Thursday, March 12

#documentaryseries La Trocha - The House of Peace. Our voices and experiences of reintegration

<https://youtu.be/vPxdXwOODCU>

Thursday, March 26

Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean pray for the peace of the world in communion with Pope Leo XIV

<https://youtu.be/nPpw714LtVI>

Friday, March 27

What world are we leaving for future generations? Interview with Cardinal Jaime Spengler

[https://youtu.be/4N\\_2W8rNaMI](https://youtu.be/4N_2W8rNaMI)

### REFLECTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

Sunday, March 1

Reflections for the Journey: 2nd Sunday of Lent

<https://youtu.be/OQshCTxZe-w>

Sunday, March 8

Reflections for the Journey: Third Sunday of Lent, do you have a "dry heart"?

<https://youtu.be/E-cC8Q2u5xO>

Sunday, March 15

Reflections for the Journey: Rejoice! Today is Laetare Sunday!

<https://youtu.be/e9hSW1QHwys>

Sunday, March 22

Reflections for the Journey: Even in darkness, there is life thanks to Christ

<https://youtu.be/t3U2EH2JO44>

Wednesday, March 25

Reflections for the Journey: The "Yes" that changed history

<https://youtu.be/67BpcQPkCCU>

Sunday, March 29

Reflections for the Journey: Palm Sunday with Mons. Giovanni Edgar Arana of Bolivia

<https://youtu.be/QMDaHCA9--c>

Monday, March 30

Reflections for the Journey: Holy Monday with Mons. Walter Guillén Soto

<https://youtu.be/8jWdaFMcBU8>

Tuesday, March 31

Reflections for the Journey: Holy Tuesday

<https://youtu.be/TFv1MWayqnQ>

## **ADN CELAM NEWS**

Monday, March 2

Latin America and the Caribbean strengthen network work for a synodal Church

[https://youtu.be/23kNZP\\_w\\_uM](https://youtu.be/23kNZP_w_uM)

Tuesday, March 24

After the Meeting of General Secretaries of the Episcopal Conferences of the continent, what comes next for the Church?

<https://youtu.be/lvBd-D8MbzA>

Monday, March 30

ADN Celam News: New leadership and challenges for the Church in the Amazon

<https://youtu.be/bycOEwg3mO4>

## FACES AND VOICES

Tuesday, March 10

Faces and Voices | The mission of the Church in Venezuela

<https://youtu.be/UuTsyQEqhao>

Tuesday, March 24

Faces and Voices | Defending life and territories in Guatemala

<https://youtu.be/h699B3wLvpO>

## PODCAST LA VIDA COMO VIENE (LIFE AS IT COMES)

Friday, March 6

Podcast La Vida como viene: Ep.5 The place of professionals

<https://youtu.be/J7YqpECNWSM>

Friday, March 20

Podcast La Vida como Viene | EPO6 Spirituality as a Resource for Healing

<https://youtu.be/3Fm9j5yhNj8>

## LATIN AMERICAN POLYHEDRON

Tuesday, March 31

Latin American Polyhedron: The Church is the last frontier of hope for migrant brothers and sisters

<https://youtu.be/kduDgwrwv1A>

## YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMS

Wednesday, March 11

Centinela T2 | EP4: Youth and the Church in the Digital World

<https://youtube.com/live/djYk23wxR8s?feature=share>

Monday, March 16

The Churches of the Global South and Europe raise a clear voice for our common home

<https://youtube.com/live/TN9cmd3ZZes?feature=share>

Tuesday, March 17

Dialogue: Hope takes the word

[https://youtube.com/live/i\]ASLaDKQ7E?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/i]ASLaDKQ7E?feature=share)

Monday, March 23

4th Colloquium for the creation and strengthening of Observatories

<https://youtube.com/live/rxQXOtyELu0?feature=share>

Wednesday, March 25

Video-podcast Centinela: Ep. 5 "Youth Vocations at the Service of God and Others"

<https://youtube.com/live/AweknDjrn3g?feature=share>

## APRIL

### CELAM ESPECIALS

Saturday, April 4

Our Lady of Holy Saturday: A sung prayer by Mons. Heriberto Bodeant of Uruguay

<https://youtu.be/wd7OKLif3Oc>

Saturday, April 11

What world are we leaving for future generations? Interview with Cardinal Jaime Spengler

<https://youtu.be/rPg39t7rAOY>

Thursday, April 30

Special report from Colombia: How to achieve a transition from fossil to renewable energies?

<https://youtu.be/uSO62m-HahM>

### REFLECTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

Wednesday, April 1

Reflections for the Journey: Holy Wednesday

<https://youtu.be/bqemlxVvflI>

Thursday, April 2

Reflections for the Journey: Holy Thursday

<https://youtu.be/WjP-eU4sp4M>

Friday, April 3

Reflections for the Journey: Good Friday, the Passion of the Lord

<https://youtu.be/aWv6SH7gANg>

Saturday, April 4

Reflections for the Journey: Holy Saturday of the Burial of the Lord

[https://youtu.be/Pl3\\_XYtziYw](https://youtu.be/Pl3_XYtziYw)

Sunday, April 5

Reflections for the Journey: Resurrection Sunday

[https://youtu.be/OYyZPT\]aKSk](https://youtu.be/OYyZPT]aKSk)

Sunday, April 12

Reflections for the Journey: Divine Mercy Sunday

<https://youtu.be/GVKuF6jUpXo>

Sunday, April 19

Reflections for the Journey: Heart that burns again

<https://youtu.be/8YFji4Hazk8>

Sunday, April 26

Reflections for the Journey: Where is your heart walking?

<https://youtu.be/WhOpnVHK9aQ>

## PODCAST LA VIDA PENDE DE UN HILO

Monday, April 6

Podcast La Vida Pende de un Hilo: Ep. 5 What if for raising your voice they called you a criminal?

<https://youtu.be/DXZ4aPwojLk>

## ADN CELAM NEWS

Wednesday, April 15

ADN Celam News: Where is the Church in Latin America walking?

<https://youtu.be/yvzklYMIKzk>

Monday, April 20

We are present in Ecuador to bring you details of the VIII Symposium of Indigenous Theology

<https://youtu.be/tPSASZe9Soc>

Friday, April 24

Synodal Church: Challenges and Hopes in the CAMEX Regional Encounter

<https://youtu.be/OPTP8FogGFM>

Tuesday, April 28

ADN Celam: Indigenous Theology: A Church with its own face

<https://youtu.be/EyysLBGjsJM>

Thursday, April 30

ADN Celam | The Church and the Energy Transition: Special Report from Santa Marta

<https://youtu.be/jYV4-k78XNc>

## FACES AND VOICES

Tuesday, April 7

Faces and Voices: The Liturgy: Much more than an external ritual [https://](https://youtu.be/rrX92DL8QJQ)

<https://youtu.be/rrX92DL8QJQ>

Tuesday, April 28

Faces and Voices: Where is communication in the Church heading? We speak with Paolo Ruffini

[https://youtu.be/hwDU6OHB\\_so](https://youtu.be/hwDU6OHB_so)

## PODCAST LA VIDA COMO VIENE

Friday, April 10

#podcast | Prevention: Sowing Future and Hope

<https://youtu.be/RMR25bSecfk>

## LATIN AMERICAN POLYHEDRON

Wednesday, April 15

Care is not an option, it is the very essence of our mission

<https://youtu.be/4u39DgPWd7o>

## YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMS

Wednesday, April 1

Centinela Podcast: The Passion of Christ: A Path of Faith for Youth

<https://youtube.com/live/O-5gzVnCiP4?feature=share>

Saturday, April 11

Vigil of prayer for Peace

<https://youtube.com/live/OoCzBy7Qdxs?feature=share>

Wednesday, April 15

Centinela T2 | EP7: Youth, Democracy, and Political Commitment in Latin America

<https://youtube.com/live/ULaa4l2-Ltw?feature=share>

Wednesday, April 22

Synodal contributions for a culture of care

<https://youtube.com/live/ekF387n5t9o?feature=share>

Friday, April 24

Climate justice encounter of spiritualities for a transition beyond fossil fuels

<https://youtube.com/live/fANtlKSfaAw?feature=share>

Friday, April 24

Encounter of spiritualities for a transition beyond fossil fuels  
(closing)

<https://youtube.com/live/BRLcVcccWGc?feature=share>

Sunday, April 26

Eucharist for the care of the common home and climate justice

<https://youtube.com/live/ekSDR3sohZU?feature=share>

Monday, April 27

Press conference churches of the global south for the transition  
beyond fossil fuels

<https://youtube.com/live/2JFmUel6rzA?feature=share>

Wednesday, April 29

Promoting climate justice and a just transition beyond fossil fuels

[https://youtube.com/live/p\\_VT3iYlsOY?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/p_VT3iYlsOY?feature=share)

## Come and Follow Us

Connect with the ADN CELAM ecosystem to stay informed about all activities, events, and initiatives for the entire Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

-  Our Web site: <https://adn.celam.org/>
-  Tik Tok: <https://bit.ly/4bEo9FW>
-  Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3IVrI5U>
-  X: <https://bit.ly/3tZndok>
-  Instagram: <https://bit.ly/2QzDNg6>
-  Youtube: <https://bit.ly/3bHXwBO>
-  LinkedIn <https://bit.ly/3L5CQpB>
-  Email: [prensa@celam.org](mailto:prensa@celam.org)

To stay closer, throughout all the days of the year,  
we invite you to join our channels:

### Whatsapp



<https://n9.cl/4we082>

### Telegram



<https://n9.cl/eyydd8>