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# CELAM Bulletin



September 2024



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# Acronym

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

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

**CGC:** CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

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

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

**CIMI:** Brazilian Indigenous Missionary Council.

**COMENCE:** Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union.

**CPC:** Center for Communication of CELAM.

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

**ECOSOC:** Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

**LACAM:** Network of Afrodescendant Women Catholic Leaders of the Americas

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

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

**PAGAICEYNA:** Pastoral Garifuna Inculturated Central America and the Caribbean

**PCAL:** Pontifical Commission for Latin America

**PCN:** Child Centrality Program.

**PEG:** Global Education Pact

**PLATA:** Latin American Pastoral Ministry of Accompaniment and Prevention of Addictions

**RECLAC:** Ecclesial Network of Communicators from Latin America and the Caribbean

**RECOR:** Latin American Network of Organized Communities

**REGCHAG:** Ecclesial Network of the Gran Chaco and the Guarani Aquifer.

**REMAM:** Ecclesial and Ecological Network of Mesoamerica.

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

**RETEIS:** Territorial Ecclesial Networks

**UNIAPAC:** International Union of Christian Business Leaders.

# News

## Second meeting of abuse prevention officers held



From September 3rd to September 5th, the second meeting of those responsible for abuse prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the CELAM headquarters. The meeting was attended by representatives from 19 Episcopal Conferences, the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious (CLAR), and Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under the theme “The culture of care in the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean: Sharing the path of transparency and reparation,” the gathering allowed participants to exchange experiences in this area and to strengthen the Culture of Care Network, which was established in 2023 during the first meeting in Chile.

Monsignor Luis Manuel Alí, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, spoke about the work of the Vatican's organization and the experimental universal guidelines currently in place. He described them as a "map that provides people with the criteria and indicators to know how to act in these situations. It is a work that has been in progress for many years, but has not yet been carried out in a homogeneous way throughout the Church," he noted.

Bishop Lizardo Estrada, Secretary General of CELAM, opened the sessions by emphasizing the importance of building on the agreements made during the first meeting in Chile last year to demonstrate the "shared commitment to care and respectful treatment." He also called on the Bishops' Conferences to "reaffirm their willingness to work together to prevent future cases of abuse and help victims recover."

Over the three days, each commission presented a report on their ongoing efforts to share experiences and lessons learned. The topics addressed included "Episcopal and diocesan commissions: structure, methods of operation, challenges," "Transparency in communication," "Experiences in initial reception," and "Reparation for victims."

Ilva Myrian Hoyos, President of the Council for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable People of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia—part of the host team for this event—offered a summary of the three days of work. She emphasized that the sessions have allowed the Church to engage in "listening to one another, walking synodically" with participation from bishops, priests, religious, and laypeople. She also noted that the meeting allowed participants to identify challenges and issues related to protection, care, and reparation for victims, as well as to recognize "various accomplishments achieved."

More information on the findings: <https://adn.CELAM.org/compromisos-de-la-iglesia-latinoamericana-y-caribena-para-erradicar-los-abusos-en-todas-sus-formas/>



## CELAM at the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress of Quito



CELAM participated with several members of its presidency in the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress held in Quito from September 8th to September 15th.

The first day of activities began with a Eucharist presided over by Monsignor Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre and President of CELAM, who, in his homily, reflected on the call to fraternity that is nourished, he said, “by the body and blood of the Lord,” with the purpose of bringing salvation to humanity. He spoke of a “fraternity that gathers in assembly around the table of the Word and the Body of Christ.”

In this context, he added that the body and blood are the revelation of the way of “being of the God of Jesus Christ: pure self-giving to every creature. In commanding us to ‘do this in memory of me,’ Jesus performs an act of pure faith in the loving acceptance of humanity.” He continued, “When we participate in the Eucharist, welcoming the Word of the Lord, sharing his Body and Blood, we express our participation in the very life of the Lord, forming fraternity and becoming brothers and sisters.”

Referring to a troubled world deeply wounded by poverty and hunger, he added the pain of the ecological crisis that humanity is currently experiencing. “A wound that we are invited to heal because we are the bridge between God and the world,” he said.

From there, he explained that we are all responsible for creation and reminded us that the future of humanity itself will depend on the actions and decisions we make regarding the care of our Common Home. “By taking the world into our hands, integrating it creatively, and referring it to God, we cooperate in liberating creation from its limitations, healing wounds, and thus promoting life.”

Also present during the Congress were José Domingo Ulloa, CELAM’s second vice-president; Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, general secretary; and a team from the Communications Center, who provided journalistic coverage of the event.”

## Meeting of organized communities of Latin America and the Caribbean



CELAM brought together representatives from organized communities across Latin America and the Caribbean from September 10th

to September 12th at its headquarters in Bogotá, aiming to create a network of networks that unites these groups accompanying various social realities.

Over 30 pastoral agents and representatives of social organizations participated, including the *Latin American Pastoral of Accompaniment and Prevention of Addictions* and the *Pastoral of the Street and Popular Movements*.

This new network of networks seeks to coordinate the pastoral work of all these groups, as the organized communities in their diverse expressions (such as citizens experiencing homelessness, street vendors, environmental and social leaders, recyclers, and others) “have made the decision to unite to save themselves, arising from suffering and expressed through an ethical commitment.”

CELAM organized the meeting with two main objectives: to establish organizational criteria for planning and to identify common elements to facilitate understanding, connection, and a sense of shared purpose.

Father Carlos Olivero, a PLATA member on the organizing team, emphasized that this effort recognized that “these communities are not established from above but are built from the grassroots, forming what Pope Francis calls ‘experiences of communitarian salvation.’”

“In these communities, a true mystique of communal salvation is lived, seeking the common good and social justice,” he explained, adding that “while every grassroots organization is a community, not all are considered organized communities.

## **CELAM hosted the 2nd Meeting of the Ecclesial Network for Justice and Peace of the Greater Homeland**

From September 17th to September 19th, the Ecclesial Justice and Peace Network of Patria Grande held its second meeting to continue discerning the work begun in person in October 2023, with a view to projecting actions until 2027.

Held at CELAM headquarters in Bogotá, the meeting welcomed 25 participants from 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries in person, while representatives from Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela joined remotely. Representatives from the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP), the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Pax Christi International, the Laudato Si' Movement, and CELAM's Pastoral Socioanthropological Observatory also attended.



Many participants shared that the event fostered hope amid the political, environmental, and human rights crises affecting the continent.

Friar Marcio Matute of the Justice and Peace Commission of Honduras expressed that the gathering brought hope “to the extent that we can join together and journey in synodality toward common goals.”

Silvia Alayo Dávalos, Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Social Action (CEAS) in Peru, spoke on the challenges and commitments for Patria Grande’s fraternity and the work for justice and peace in the region.

She noted they focused on three key issues: the political crisis, with democracy and human rights at serious risk; climate change and the state of our common home, where “the cries of our people, our Amazonian and Andean communities, must be heard to build a good life”; and

thirdly, the issue of decent work, which is essential in countries like Peru, where informal employment reaches 80 %.

Maria Constanza Arango, Salesian Sister Daughter of Mary Help of Christians and Executive Secretary of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Network of the Conference of Religious of Colombia, said the meeting allowed for sharing and learning from one another's experiences: "it is like a dock where we can anchor ourselves, replenish, and return with fresh vision and energy to our daily work in network-building in our country."

Daniel Seidel, the new network coordinator, stated that the goal of this second meeting was to provide a response to the Church's call to go forth, in alignment with Pope Francis's teachings. Among the primary challenges, he emphasized the integrity of creation, noting "how to make integral ecology go beyond the defense of nature to become a defense of life itself."

## **CELAM accompanied the 'We Are One Week'.**

The 'We Are One Week' and the VI International Conference of Praise and Worship 'We Are One' took place in Rio de Janeiro from September 16th to September 22nd, under the motto '*They persevered in prayer*' (cf. Acts 1:14). These events were held in preparation for the Jubilee marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (1325-2025) and the Great Jubilee of Redemption in 2033.

CELAM was represented by Fr. Pedro Brassesco, Deputy Secretary General, who participated in various sessions and conveyed the support of Latin American bishops for this space of dialogue and fraternal gathering among leaders of different Christian denominations.

The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity was represented by Monsignor Juan Usma Gomez, envoy of Cardinal Kurt Koch. Cardinal Orani João Tempesta, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, opened the conference and participated in multiple sessions throughout the Congress.



The event also welcomed evangelical leaders, including Pastor Bob Garrett, president of the U.S. platform Charismatic Leaders Fellowship (CLF-USA); Pastor Bruno Ierullo from United in Christ (Canada); Reverend Joe Tosini (John 17); David Cole, a member of the International Commis-



sion for Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue-USA; and Father Luciano from the Caminho Novo Community (France), among others.

The week is part of Rio de Janeiro's official city calendar and is recognized as a cultural and intangible heritage of the state. During these days, led by the Holy Spirit, brothers and sisters from around the world gathered for a fraternal encounter. Catholics and evangelicals from different denominations united in prayer, deeply convinced that unity is the answer in times of division.

The objective was to deepen fraternal bonds, establish new connections, strengthen the communion of the Body of Christ, and, through sharing experiences across contexts and continents, outline perspectives for the path toward unity in the years to come.

## Prayer and sending out' with synod fathers and mothers from Latin America and the Caribbean



On September 19th, the Church of Latin America and the Caribbean united in a moment of prayer and sending forth with synodal fathers and mothers, just days before the start of the second session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

This gathering, organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) with support from the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious (CLAR) and Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean, provided a space to pray for the cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, deacons, and laypeople who will participate in the Synod, that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them during their work in the Paul VI Hall.

At the start of the gathering, Oscar Elizalde Prada, director of the CELAM Center for Communication, remarked that this “is a space to gather as a pilgrim people, a people that prays and places in the hands of the good God this process we are living.” Addressing the synodal fathers and mothers, he added: “We are with you, praying. Feel sent by this people of God who are on pilgrimage across this continent.”

Several voices of synodal fathers and mothers were heard during this prayerful moment. Through a video, they shared their hopes and wishes that the Holy Spirit would guide the process and the work, and that “the cry of the poor would be heard.”

Prayers from different regions across Latin America were united, asking God that the Synod may help the Church draw closer to contemporary realities, that the synodal Church may grow through listening and discernment, becoming “a Church with open doors.”

They also expressed a vision for a more committed, co-responsible, synodal, and missionary Church, grounded in openness, accompaniment, and listening.

The event concluded with a prayer and blessing by Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, who, invoking the Patroness of Latin America, the Virgin of Guadalupe, entrusted the upcoming assembly of bishops to her protection and prayed for its fruitful outcomes.



## **CEBITEPAL received recognition from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana for its 50 years of existence**

The General Board of Trustees of the Pontifical Bolivarian University (UPB) awarded the Formation Center of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CEBITEPAL) a special recognition in commemoration of its 50 years of service to the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.



During a Solemn Session held on Tuesday, September 10th, in Medellín, Colombia, Fr. Fabio Antunes do Nascimento, director of the CELAM Formation Center, accepted the award on behalf of the institution. CEBITEPAL was honored for its role as a beacon of hope and guide on the path of faith, fostering spiritual and human development throughout the continent.

## Pre-COP16 reaffirmed the Church's commitment to care for the Common Home

With a manifesto committing to continued work for the care of our Common Home, respect for biodiversity, and the development of sustainable initiatives, the Pre-COP16 ecclesial meeting on 'Integral Ecology and Care for Our Common Home' concluded on Tuesday, September 24th.

The event, which began on September 23rd, was convened by the Colombian Episcopal Conference, CELAM, and the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. It gathered more than 200 participants, including directors of Social Pastoral ministries, pastoral agents, Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and peasant community leaders, as well as environmental experts.



In this context, the Catholic Church presented the initiative 'La Ruta Laudate Deum,' promoted by the Integral Ecology Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEILAC). Inspired by the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and Pope Francis's recent exhortation *Laudate Deum*, the initiative seeks to comprehensively address the socio-environmental crisis impacting the region.

In a message delivered at the close of the event, it was stated that this project proposes active participation in international forums such as the COPs on biodiversity and climate change, strengthening networks between the Church and local and international organizations. In this

way, the document “Ecclesial Foundations: the Catholic Church in Latin America and the Caribbean at COP16” was presented.

It presents a plan that addresses seven key areas of concern: social and environmental crisis; water, land, and territory; criminal structures and homogenizing culture; techno-economic paradigm and foreign debt; defense of human rights and social dialogue; Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and ecological spirituality; and a culture of care, common good, and alternatives for diverse forms of well-being.

Father Francisco Hernández, director of CELAM’s Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks, stated that this event builds on the outcomes of the Ecclesial Assembly held in 2021, seeking a personal, community, and inter-institutional commitment to safeguard our Common Home.

In this regard, he explained that CELAM has been organizing work on biodiversity through territorial and thematic networks, which will be shared at COP16. He added that significant progress has been made in reflection and contributions with the Integral Ecology Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, which brings together approximately 20 organizations.

## **Diploma in Care and Protection concludes classroom phase**

On September 19th, the in-person phase of the Diploma in Care and Protection of Children, Adolescents, and Vulnerable Persons, organized by CLAR and CELAM through CEBITEPAL, concluded in Bogotá.

This phase, lasting 2 months and 20 days, involved 28 students from 12 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Spain.

The closing ceremony was a time marked by spirituality, celebration, and gratitude for the journey completed. Religious congregations, as well as students’ families and friends, were present. Upon returning to

their countries and mission locations, students will continue the final phase of the Diploma program online, which will run until October 31.

Father Fabio Antunes, director of the CEBITEPAL Formation Center, expressed joy that this group of students has advanced through this stage of formation and shared his hope that those participating in this academic process will return to their home countries as advocates and promoters of the culture of care, which is so needed by the Church.



He extended his congratulations to the graduates on completing this phase of the program and expressed gratitude to the teachers and facilitators who have supported the group in person over the past three months, sharing their knowledge and fostering both intellectual and spiritual growth among the participants.

Father Antunes also thanked the four CELAM pastoral centers for their support and affirmed that CEBITEPAL will continue to work on offering new training programs to prepare specialized agents in promoting a culture of care within the Church.

## Red Clamor held its seventh general assembly at CELAM



From September 25th-29th, the seventh general assembly of the Clamor Network, comprising more than 60 Catholic organizations working from a faith-based perspective to defend and promote the human rights of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, was held at CELAM's headquarters in Bogotá.

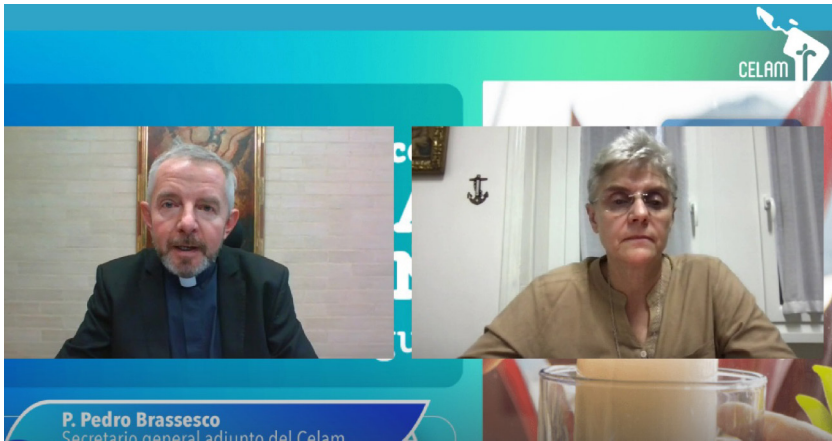
The opening ceremony was led by its president, Cardinal Álvaro Razzini, Bishop of Huehuetenango, Guatemala, who encouraged continued co-responsibility and a commitment to Pope Francis's call for synodality.

He explained that the program includes listening to national networks to evaluate progress and identify areas needing reinforcement, while keeping up the dynamism and enthusiasm for the future path and proposals.

He encouraged the Clamor Network member organizations to emerge from this meeting strengthened and, if needed, to build new connections with other organizations working on similar initiatives.

Lizardo Estrada encouraged the Network “to deepen its identity and mission daily, to enrich its spirituality as missionary disciples, which calls them to recognize Christ in people experiencing forced migration, taking the migrant as a theological space where we encounter the Risen Jesus, who comes close and walks with us, as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

## Latin American and Caribbean Church in prayer for Nicaragua



In an atmosphere of deep devotion and faith, on September 24th, the feast of the Virgin of La Merced, the Day of Prayer for the people of Nicaragua was observed. Convened by CELAM and CLAR, it was a call to prayer for the Church and the people of Nicaragua, who suffer under the regime’s persecution in that country.



During this time of prayer, led by Father Pedro Brassesco, Assistant Secretary General of CELAM, and Sister Daniela Cannavina, Secretary General of CLAR, hundreds of people from different countries joined via social networks to pray for this intention.

Father Brassesco opened by expressing closeness and solidarity with those enduring such persecution. He then read St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, which speaks about those who suffer, saying that this message resonates with the present reality of the Church and people in Nicaragua, "who, for more than six years, have walked a path of hardship and uncertainty, living through this Paschal journey of Jesus that includes the cross."

He recalled that since the socio-political crisis erupted in Nicaragua in 2018, the Church has faced persecution after denouncing repeated human rights violations. This, he stated, has resulted in the arrests and expulsions of priests, bishops, religious figures, and even the stripping of nationality from many.

Sister Daniela Cannavina also shared that as representatives of consecrated life, they stand in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua "so that they may experience the strength, comfort, and hope that comes from the Lord" and may find the paths of justice, freedom, and healing that are so needed in the country.

She also highlighted the three guiding words of this day of prayer: hope, prophecy, and solidarity, which, she emphasized, must be central for anyone who professes faith. She recalled Pope Francis's words, reflecting on the painful reality of many Christians facing persecution around the world. This, she noted, calls us to hope and prayer, to seek an end to the tribulation as soon as possible. She encouraged those enduring persecution not to lose heart.

## Leaders of two territorial church networks planned their activities for the coming years

CELAM, through CEPRAP, brought together representatives of the Mesoamerican Ecclesial Network (REMAM) and the Network of the Gran Chaco and the Guarani Aquifer (REGCHAG) in Bogotá.

Father Francisco Hernández, director of CEPRAP, described it as “an encounter between two ecclesial networks making a significant effort to care for our common home.” He emphasized that these networks promote “respect for all initiatives emerging in these regions, including those of Indigenous, Afro-Garifuna, and peasant communities.”



Both networks are committed to “building and seeking the necessary support to continue their work.” To this end, with support from the Porticus agency, representatives of these networks participated in a training on the “logical framework approach” (Zigla Consultants Workshop) to aid in formulating new projects.

Ángel Macín, Javier Flores Rodas, and Luis Andrés Villanueva took part, with Noel Ortiz representing REGCHAG and Guillermo Navarro representing REMAM.



Father Noel Ortiz, executive secretary of REMAM, noted that “knowledge and experiences were shared to develop a synergistic vision through the RETEIS (Territorial Networks of Integral Ecology).” Many of these actions are part of the so-called Laudate Deum Route, initiated at the last Pan-Amazon Social Forum (Fospa) and set to continue at the upcoming COP16. He also mentioned that they conducted a systematization process “to look two years ahead, defining how we want to work and develop our action plans.

## **Condolences and repudiation for the murder of Juan Antonio López**

On September 14th, Juan Antonio López, a leader of grassroots ecclesial communities, councilman, and member of the Mesoamerican Ecclesial Network (REMAM), was murdered in Tocoa, Honduras, outside his church after celebrating the Word of God in the diocese of Trujillo.

In a message of condolences, CELAM affirmed: “We categorically repudiate and condemn all forms of violence, and sadly, Juan’s murder reflects a small portion of society that is intolerant, unjust, and seeks to impose its will through force.”

“We thank the Lord that while he was among us, Juan was a witness of dedication and service, caring for our common home and the most impoverished and suffering in his country and throughout our region of Central America and Mexico, particularly within our beloved Mesoamerican Ecclesial Network of Ecology (REMAM),” expressed the bishops of the Presidency.

“We will always remember him for his spirit of service with prophetic insight, joy, unconditional friendship, and deep spirituality. He lived out many moments along this journey to extend the Kingdom of God, making these qualities visible in his life—a faithful servant to the people of the region and to our common home.”

“We also pray for all of you, his family, friends, and companions on this journey within the Church in the region, who, like him, seek to embody the preferential option with and for the poor, embracing the defense of Creation as God’s gift for all men and women.”



Bogotá, D.C., septiembre 15 de 2024

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Monseñor  
**Gustavo Rodríguez Vega**  
Arzobispo de Yucatán  
Presidente de la REMAM

Presbítero  
**Noel Ortiz Pineda**  
Secretario Ejecutivo de la REMAM

Familia del Sr. Juan Manuel López.

*Esta es la vida eterna: que te conozcan a ti, el único Dios verdadero,  
y a Jesús, el Mesías, a quien tú me enviaste (Jn 17, 3).*

Estimado Mons. Gustavo, amigas y amigos:

Un cordial y atento saludo de parte de toda la Iglesia de América Latina y el Caribe, unida en su espíritu de comunión y participación en el Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano y Caribeño (CELAM).

Nos ha conmovido, entristecido e impactado la partida hacia la casa del Padre de nuestro hermano Juan Manuel López. Él fue un reconocido líder religioso de las Comunidades Eclesiales de Base, delegado de la Palabra, coordinador de la dimensión samaritana de la diócesis de Trujillo y formó parte de la REMAM representando a su diócesis, y lo sigue siendo, porque para los que creemos en el Señor, la vida no termina solo se transforma.

Repudiamos y condenamos rotundamente toda forma de violencia, y lamentablemente el asesinato de Juan es reflejo de una pequeña porción de la sociedad que es intolerante, injusta y que quiere imponer su voluntad por medio de la fuerza.

Agradecemos al Señor porque mientras estuvo entre nosotros, Juan fue un testimonio de entrega y servicio al cuidado de la casa común, y de los más empobrecidos y sufridos de su país y de toda nuestra región de Centro América y México, particularmente desde nuestra apreciada Red Eclesial de Ecología Mesoamericana (REMAM). Siempre lo recordaremos por su espíritu de servicio con

**PRESIDENCIA**

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## REGCHAG comunicó: “the drama of the fires challenges us”.



Septiembre 2024

### El drama de los incendios nos interpela

Las comunidades y pueblos del Chaco están viviendo la destrucción y degradación de sus tierras y territorios, ahora por los incendios, en especial los pueblos originarios. El pueblo ayoreo, incluyendo aquellos que viven en aislamiento voluntario, se enfrenta a los incendios, además de las consabidas consecuencias de un desarrollo insostenible, de un progreso, que los ignora y margina.

Los incendios impactan nuestro Gran Chaco Sudamericano, afectando vidas humanas, la flora y la fauna, la vida silvestre, el aire y el suelo. Sobre todo, es incalculable la pérdida que se da en relación a los animales autóctonos y los bosques nativos que están destinados a desaparecer en su totalidad. Al igual que otros incendios en la Amazonia, en la Chiquitania y otras regiones, en sus bosques, pastizales y sabanas, humedales y otros diversos ecosistemas de vida, estos desastres nos llenan de impotencia, conmoción y dolor.

*“Los pueblos originarios no están en contra del progreso, si bien tienen una idea de progreso diferente, muchas veces más humanista que la de la cultura moderna de los desarrollados. No es una cultura orientada al beneficio de los que tienen poder” (FT 220).*

Estos incendios nos están alertando, como recordatorio de la urgencia de los daños y perjuicios de la contaminación, la deforestación, la desertificación, la pérdida de biodiversidad y la extinción de especies. La madre tierra sufre y somos los seres humanos los principales responsables de estos constantes desastres.

La protección de la naturaleza implica cuestionar, modificar y replantear nuestra visión de la misma. En el Chaco, la implementación de proyectos extractivos y agropecuarios engañosos y dominantes que no prestan atención a la degradación de la naturaleza y de la cultura se impone para beneficio de unos pocos. El territorio es tratado como un simple recurso para abusar y explotar la naturaleza. Es incomprensible la falta de prevención y de precaución de las autoridades y entidades de financiamiento, la ignorancia e hipocresías cómplices ante los inminentes riesgos, la exclusión de la participación de la sociedad cuestionadora de sus acciones y de sus irresponsabilidades.

*“Cuando se propone una visión de la naturaleza únicamente como objeto de provecho y de interés, esto también tiene serias consecuencias en la sociedad. La visión que consolida la arbitrariedad del más fuerte ha propiciado inmensas desigualdades, injusticias y violencia para la mayoría de la humanidad, porque los recursos pasan a ser del primero que llega o del que tiene más poder: el ganador se lleva todo” (LS 82).*

Se insta a la comunidad toda a tomar conciencia de la importancia de cuidar y preservar la vegetación y los animales propios de nuestro Gran Chaco. Que las instituciones educativas internalicen estos temas como transversales.

Es prioritario resarcir los daños, penalizar a los culpables y beneficiar a los perjudicados por los incendios. Urge la defensa de la dignidad humana, cuidar “nuestra Casa Común”. Basta de ecodios, de crímenes en el territorio chaqueño. Es hora de tomar conciencia y actuar en consecuencia en el cuidado de la Creación.

*Porque “un crimen contra la naturaleza es un crimen contra nosotros mismos y un pecado contra Dios” (LS 8).*

**Comisión Animadora de la Red Eclesial Gran Chaco y Acuífero Guaraní**

On September 17th, the Ecclesial Network of the Gran Chaco and Guaraní Aquifer (REGCHAG), through its steering committee, issued a com-

muniqué entitled ‘The Drama of the Fires Challenges Us.’ It describes the dire situation in the Gran Chaco and the Amazon in Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil, due to forest fires that have been raging for several weeks.

‘The communities and peoples of the Chaco are experiencing the destruction and degradation of their lands and territories due to these fires, affecting especially the native peoples. The Ayoreo people, including those living in voluntary isolation, are confronting the fires in addition to the usual consequences of unsustainable development and progress that ignore and marginalize them,’ they state in their message.

They denounce the impact on the entire ecosystem, including the loss of native animals, forests, and wetlands. Citing *Fratelli Tutti* 220, they emphasize the respect for life in all its forms, with a call for co-responsibility: ‘The native peoples are not opposed to progress, though they have a different understanding of it—often more humanistic than that of the modern cultures of developed countries. It is not a culture oriented solely to benefit those in power.’

‘The protection of nature requires us to question, modify, and rethink our perspective on it. In the Chaco, deceptive and dominant extractive and agricultural projects are imposed, disregarding the degradation of both nature and culture for the benefit of a few. The territory is treated as a mere resource for exploitation. The lack of preventive measures and caution from authorities and financial entities, the ignorance and complicity in the face of imminent risks, and the exclusion of society’s participation in questioning these actions and irresponsibilities are all incomprehensible.’”

More information: <https://adn.CELAM.org/red-eclesial-gran-chaco-y-acuifero-guarani-el-drama-de-los-incendios-nos-interpela/>

## CELAM joins the III Caravan for Integral Ecology



“In a letter addressed to Mariano Crociata, Bishop of Latina-Terracina-Sezze-Priverno and President of the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union (COMENCE), CELAM emphasized the urgency of an ‘ecological conversion’ and advancing universal fraternity, expressing its support for the III Caravan for Integral Ecology: ‘for a profound ecological conversion and universal fraternity.’

In this way, the organization reaffirms its commitment to protecting our Common Home by supporting this initiative, organized by the Churches and Mining Network in collaboration with the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) and the Indigenous Missionary Council of Brazil (CIMI). The initiative aims to bring visibility to the communities affected by mining in Latin America and promote a profound change in lifestyles and economic models that contribute to the environmental crisis.

‘The Caravan will carry the voices of these communities to Europe, fostering social friendship and a prophetic commitment to denounce an economic and social system that creates victims and hinders universal fraternity,’ states the letter.

CELAM reiterates its commitment to continuing its support for the Caravan and promoting visibility for these efforts, working towards the consolidation of the Kingdom. Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre and President of CELAM, and Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco and Secretary General, stated: 'We remain available to the Churches of Europe to continue building processes of convergence, promoting life, and paving the way for the consolidation of the Kingdom of God'.

## **CELAM expressed its support to the Escazú Agreement**

The Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks of CELAM, in its mission to accompany, encourage and generate synergy among the different Church institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, has considered the Escazú Agreement as an instrument to save the right of future generations to a healthy and sustainable environment.

Several religious organizations have expressed their support, including CLAR, REPAM and the Churches and Mining Network, urging governments to ratify and implement the treaty. The World Council of Churches and the Lutheran Church have also joined in urging governments to ratify and implement this important agreement.

The Escazú Agreement is the first regional treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean that promotes the right to timely and effective access to environmental information, participation in decision-making that affects the environment, and access to justice to ensure compliance with environmental laws and rights in the countries of the continent.

The treaty includes provisions for the protection of environmental defenders and was achieved with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

It was adopted on March 4th, 2018 in the city of Escazú, Costa Rica, and entered into force on April 22nd, 2021. This agreement establish-

es standards and conditions to guarantee the implementation and full enjoyment of rights in the region and seeks to protect human and environmental rights.

## CEBITEPAL launches special page for Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology 2025

LICENCIATURA CANONICA EN  
**TEOLOGIA PASTORAL**  
2025 • 2026

MÓDULO PRESENCIAL

29 DE ABRIL AL 20 DE JUNIO

SEDE DEL CELAM, BOGOTÁ • COLOMBIA

CELAM CEBITEPAL UDB

CEBITEPAL has launched a web page dedicated to the Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology (2025 edition), a postgraduate program that seeks to form leaders capable of developing critical and proactive initiatives and actions in the Church. The degree course focuses on an ecclesiology that dialogues with reality, promoting the culture of encounter and synodal exercise. The integral formation offered enriches pastoral practice with profound theological content.

Visit the website for more information about the curriculum, contents, schedule and academic team: [licenciatura.CELAM.org](https://licenciatura.CELAM.org)

# CELAM's journey in September

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## **Meeting of the drafting team for the documents towards COP16**

At the meeting held on September 2nd, progress was made in drafting the documents on ecclesial foundations and advocacy. It was recommended that platforms and networks strengthen their study and review of these contributions to continue fostering reflection and not lose this important articulation effort. The value of the documents lies in specifying pathways and actions for integral ecology and the protection of human rights within the church and in civil society.

## **Assembly of the Economies Platform**

At the assembly held on September 4th, the Economies Platform defined its general objective as consolidating the community process initiated in March 2024 and strengthening bonds of unity in diversity as the foundation for implementing its Strategic Plan.

## **The Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Platform is moving forward with a mapping exercise.**

The coordinating team met on September 6th to discuss the Platform's activities, starting with a mapping exercise and continuing with training and advocacy actions. Progress on the mapping requested by the three commissions as part of their work plan was presented. It was decided to conduct a single mapping for the Platform and integrate it with other surveys requested by platforms and networks promoted by CEPRAP.



## Progress in safeguarding the church's bibliographic heritage



CELAM's archive staff participated in an initial work and training session on old books, focusing particularly on certain incunabula. The area coordinator, Julio César Monroy, and Luz Marina Escobar, who oversees the Documentary Management Program, attended the session. The meeting took place on September 11th in collaboration with the Universidad de los Andes and its Department of Humanities and Literature. During the session, a schedule was agreed upon for future training sessions and collaborative work. 'These spaces are valuable for sharing knowledge and strengthening our capacities in the description, preservation, and management of ecclesiastical documentary heritage,' Monroy stated.

## Pre COP16 Preparation

In September, preparations continued with various church and civil society organizations to arrive at the COP 16 Conference on Biodiversity in a coordinated manner and to carry out the registered events, with the aim of promoting a pastoral approach to integral ecology and care for our common home. A communication strategy was developed to

foster the adoption of the two documents under preparation and to reach decision-making centers with greater impact.

## **Integral Ecology Commission meets by sectors**

CEILAC's sub-commissions met on September 2nd, 13th, and 20th. The emerging challenge is the effort needed to focus on joint actions where the three sub-commissions converge, as well as on the strong work of the coordinating team. This depends on the commitment of the member organizations. Strengthening identity is also a key factor.

## **CEPRAP Council Meeting**

On September 10th, the CEPRAP Council session was held. The report on the Meeting of Platforms, Networks, and Programs, the progress of the integral ecology process known as the Laudate Deum Route, and the preparation for COP16 were presented. The discussion focused on the negotiation and advocacy agenda for COP16 on biodiversity and COP30 on climate action, set to take place in Brazil in 2025.

In the cultural sphere, the entire process of the women's network was discussed, within the framework of the journey of women in the Church and society. The Black Theology Congress, which focused on corporeality, and the progress in organizing Mesoamerican Indigenous youth were also addressed. In the Ecclesial sphere, the workshop on supporting situations of drug dependency and addictions, as well as community meetings organized with popular movements, pastoral work for people experiencing homelessness, and those facing addiction, were discussed.

Council members expressed that all the work being done in advocacy for development, as well as efforts with various sectors and pastoral dimensions, is highly gratifying.

## Workshop to present the manual and tools for the management and coordination of Clamor Network lodging facilities.



After joint efforts that began in May this year between the Clamor Network, the UN Office of Migration (IOM), and the Knowledge Sharing area of the CGC, workshops were held to introduce tools for the coordination and management of collective accommodations. The materials presented were developed based on interviews, field visits, and review meetings where participants were able to validate the proposals through their own experiences.

These resources include eight tools that support the effort to establish minimum standards for the effective implementation of shelters and safe houses. The documents have been designed in collaboration with the Clamor Network, addressing identified needs and promoting capacity-building spaces to continue delivering essential services.

Two presentation workshops were held: the first took place virtually on September 11th and 12th, with 18 participants, and the second was in-person on September 24th at the UNHCR headquarters in Bogotá, attended by 11 participants.

## **Caravans for Integral Ecology**

Several meetings and discussions were held to understand all aspects of the Caravans for Integral Ecology: what it is and how to integrate it with the Laudate Deum route. The third Caravan began at the end of September, engaging in dialogue with sectors of civil society, governments, and churches in countries such as Spain, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, and Germany. It has become a prophetic witness to synodal communion. CELAM accompanies the Caravan with a message of fraternal and supportive solidarity.

## **Meeting of the Native Peoples Commission**

At the meeting on September 13th, work focused on designing the agenda for the Meeting of the Commission of Indigenous Peoples with all the Episcopal Conferences that make up CELAM. The main objective is to highlight the identity and mission of this commission. The Laudate Deum process of CEILAC and the status of COP 16 were also presented. Finally, the possibility of strengthening the Commission with the addition of new members was suggested”

## **On the road to the Observatory Network: CGC meeting with the Justice and Peace Network of the Patria Grande**

A preliminary presentation of the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network of Pastoral and Social Observatories was given by Dr. Jeannette Rincón, coordinator of OSAP, to the Justice and Peace Network in the Patria Grande.

Representing the CGC of CELAM, Rincón participated in the meeting held from September 17th to 19th, 2024.

On this occasion, citing the provisions of the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, Rincón stated that ‘understanding the world in which



we live and interpreting it in the light of the Gospel is an inherent duty of the Church's evangelizing mission,' and that the Network is being formed to advance synodality.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas about the new CGC initiative with the PCAL secretary, Emilce Cuda, and other participants from 17 countries across the continent. The first meeting to establish the new continental network will take place on October 18th, 2024, at 9:30 am (Bogotá time) via Zoom.

## REMAM meeting with the Diocese of Belize and Belmopan

On September 18th, a dialogue session was held with 25 priests from the dioceses of Belize and Belmopan to present and share impressions about the Ecological Network of Mesoamerica and CELAM, aiming to encourage participation and strengthen connections. It was decided to initiate a workshop on integral ecology and to hold a meeting with representatives from all CELAM Pastoral Centers to identify the best way to support church processes in this country.

## Campaign “Life hangs by a thread”.

The Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Platform is preparing the campaign ‘Life Hangs by a Thread’ to highlight the issues surrounding defenders of human rights, life, and land. The launch is scheduled for the morning of December 10th, during which emblematic cases involving environmentalists, human rights defenders, peace advocates, and migrants will be addressed, as each platform offers a unique perspective on the mission and the campaign

## CEBITEPAL promotes training on Missionary Discipleship for seminarians



On September 21th, seminarians from the Diocese of Fontibón, Colombia, participated in a formation session on ‘Missionary Discipleship.’ The meeting was led by Father Fabio Antunes, director of CEBITEPAL, and addressed fundamental topics such as the central role of the parish in ecclesial life, the pastoral approach to conversion, and the review of ecclesial structures, among other relevant pastoral issues.

## **Meeting with the Episcopal Commissions for Aboriginal Pastoral Care**

The meeting, held on September 23rd, was attended by representatives from the bishops' conferences of El Salvador, Honduras, Argentina, and Colombia. The meeting had two objectives: to present the coordinating commission dedicated to the pastoral care of Indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to learn about the pastoral processes in the different countries in order to promote collaboration around the overall pastoral care and the challenges faced in each process and region.

The representatives shared the situations in their countries: low organization, access difficulties, long distances, limited resources, low participation, socio-environmental and political conflicts, lack of awareness, and insufficient support. These challenges highlight the urgent need to disseminate and strengthen the work related to this pastoral care, which has been ongoing in some areas for more than 40 years but needs to be articulated as an ecclesial commitment.

## **CGC contributes to 'seeing' the reality of migration at the Migrared global seminar**

The CGC of CELAM, through the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory (OSAP), contributed to 'scrutinizing the signs of the times' at two important international events related to the service for migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and victims of trafficking, held from September 25th to 29th at the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá.

During the international seminar Migrared, which brought together ecclesial networks focused on assisting people in forced mobility from the five continents—America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania—Ana Martiarena, project coordinator of the World Observatory of Women affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), presented a preview of the results of the research conduct-

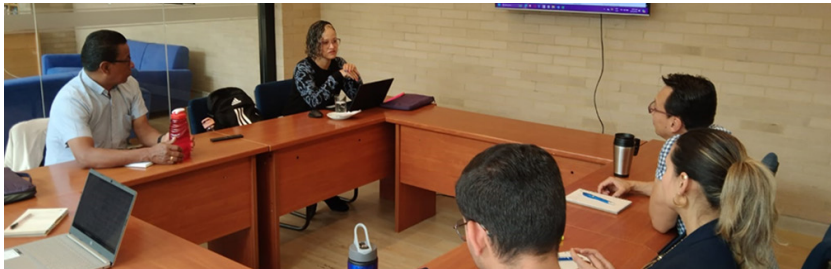


ed in partnership with OSAP, entitled ‘Migrant Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.’ This research was conducted in collaboration with OSAP-CGC. Based on an infographic, Martiarena shared the reasons for migration, challenges, vulnerabilities, and issues of interest for migrant women in the region. The full report will soon be available on the CELAM website.

## Meeting of the Coordinating Commission of the Latin American Youth Ministry

After reviewing what has been defined regarding the work of the communications team, it was agreed that the committee will meet in person from January 27th to 31st, 2025, and virtually every two weeks to revisit the notes from the Encounter in Paraguay. A small committee was formed for this purpose.

## Training of CELAM’s archives and library team



On September 25th, a training session on bibliographic description was held for the Archive and Library staff. The talk was delivered by Linamaria Pinzón, Chief Creative and Communications Officer at Open Sky Information. This company is the current provider of the KOHA and OJS platforms for the CELAM Library’s document management systems.



This training will lead to further progress in the digitization process of our organization's archives.

## **Meeting of the extended commission of the axis women in the Church and society**

The meeting held on September 26th provided an opportunity for prayer and a sending-off for the synodal mothers participating in the axis (Cristina Dos Anjos, Sister Suyapa Cacho, and Sister Birgit Weiler), who shared their feelings and expectations regarding the Assembly. There was consensus that resistance to women's demands persists and that it is essential to construct new narratives centered on synodal practice, to unite with those who are on the margins of the Church, to generate rational alternatives with other groups and initiatives, and to promote and defend the richness of diverse processes. A progress report was also presented on the agreed work plan for 2024-2027, focusing on three central strategies: organization, participation, and advocacy; as well as the related activities: formation, documentation, communication, and articulation. The conclusions were favorable for the process.

## **Meeting with the human mobility pastorals of the bishops' conferences of Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic**

At the meeting held on September 29th between CEPRAP and representatives of the human mobility pastorals from the bishops' conferences of Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, they discussed their history and the meeting that took place in El Salvador with border bishops. It was deemed necessary to strengthen relationships with the Clamor Network, of which they are all members. Currently, these commissions manage knowledge and migratory profiles and need to clearly define their objectives to further enhance their identity

as an organization. It was suggested to hold an in-person meeting from February 3rd to 7th, 2025, in Panama.

## **Meeting of REPAM's human rights nucleus**

CEPRAP participated in this meeting held on September 30th, where it reported on the completion of the three tasks entrusted to the advocacy commission: an advocacy manual based on the experiences of the schools for the promotion, defense, and enforceability of human rights, along with the advocacy actions undertaken in recent years; materials for communities on the importance of advocacy; and a document of contributions for COP30. CEPRAP's participation in the in-person meeting of the nucleus scheduled for November in Puyo, Ecuador, was also confirmed.

## **VI pastoral workshop for women of the archdiocese of Cusco**

Held on September 30th, the meeting included not only the members of the pastoral commission but also local and regional government representatives responsible for addressing violence against women. Participants were updated on advances in public policies and platforms for governance and inter-institutional collaboration aimed at the prevention, assistance, protection, and reintegration of victims of violence.

During the dialogue, important agreements and projections emerged as inputs for constructing the work plan for the women's pastoral ministry of the Archdiocese of Cusco. For instance, it was identified as a priority to focus on preventing violence and human trafficking, particularly within the educational community (teachers, students, and families) of public and Catholic institutions, in order to help break the cycles of violence and promote change.

# Publications

## Latin American and Caribbean Congress Synodal Theology for a Synodal Church. Scientific communications



From August 9th to 11th, 2024, the Congress “Theology in a Synodal Key for a Synodal Church” was held at the headquarters of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) in Bogotá, Colombia. This virtual publication compiles the communications presented in various thematic areas, reflecting the shared journey of the Latin American and Caribbean theological community and our mission to support the missionary synodality of the People of God.

The book on the scientific communications from the Synodal Theology Congress is organized into two circuits, each featuring specific working tables. Within these, readers will find the 33 presentations

from the researchers who participated in these dynamic proposals as part of the event.

It offers a thoughtful reflection on synodality and its contributions to ecclesial and social life. Consequently, it provides solid foundations for pastoral activity and is intended for all the People of God, particularly for theological, academic, and student communities.

To download the book, click on the following link:

<https://documental.CELAM.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=189832>

## Theology in synodal key. Contributions to a missionary synodality. Papers from the Latin American and Caribbean Congress



The printed book includes the 20 papers presented during the Congress on Theology in a Synodal Key for a Synodal Church, held in Bogotá from August 9th to 11th, 2024. The material is organized into four thematic axes, where you will discover the richness and theological insights of Carlos Galli, Rafael Luciani, Serena Noceti, Ernesto Palafox, Pedro Trigo, and Agenor Brighenti, among other authors.

This book represents a valuable contribution from the Latin American and Caribbean Church to the reflection on how to develop theological discipline in a synodal manner. It also fosters discussion on how to make progress in the structures and relational styles that facilitate growth in communion and participation for the mission.”

# Episcopal appointments

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- September 7th: Pope Francis appointed Father Mario Salas Becerra O. de M., Provincial Superior and President of the Conference of Religious of Chile, as Auxiliary Bishop of Valparaiso (Chile), assigning him the titular see of Ita.
- Mariano José Parra Sandoval, Archbishop Emeritus of Coro, as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Cumaná (Venezuela).
- September 12th: The Holy Father appointed the Most Reverend Pedro Ernesto Fournau, auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Bahia Blanca (Argentina), from the clergy of the same archdiocese, assigning him the titular see of Bararo.
- José Antonio Alarcón Gómez, O.F.M. Cap., superior of the community of San Pedro and parochial vicar of San Pedro in Chorrillos (Lima).
- September 19th: Mario Nicolás Villanueva Arellano, of the clergy of the same archdiocese and episcopal vicar for the clergy, has been appointed auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Tijuana (Mexico), assigning him the titular see of Gegi.
- September 3th0: Pope Francis appointed Father César Augusto Huerta Ramírez, of the clergy of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Arequipa, as bishop of Sicuani, parish priest of Cristo Obrero.

## Resignations

- September 17th: The Holy Father accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the diocese of Huaraz (Peru) presented by Bishop José Eduardo Velásquez Tarazona.

## Deaths

- September 28th: Mons. Hugo Barrantes Ureña, Archbishop Emeritus of San José, Costa Rica.
- September 30th: Mons. Adélio Giuseppe (José) Tomasin, P.S.D.P., Bishop Emeritus of Quixadá, Ceará, Brazil.

# Upcoming courses and diplomas

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## *Virtual Diploma: Initiation to the Christian life*

A unique opportunity to deepen faith and strengthen the evangelizing commitment, addressing key issues such as: the new coordinates in the transmission of faith, the kerygmatic dimension and catechumenal inspiration, the mystagogical dimension, and the essential elements for developing formative itineraries, as well as the initiatory formation of catechists and the fundamental role of the community in the initiation process.

**Date:** October 1st to 25th.

**Free registration at the following link:** <https://bit.ly/3zsQyJw> - **Certificate: USD 20**

## *Ethics, a near horizon*

To understand the importance of justice and transparency, and to deepen your understanding of ethics and values in light of the Gospel, we invite you to enroll in the virtual diploma course 'Ethics: A Close Horizon.'

**Date:** October 1st to 31st

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

## *Itinerary and vocational deepening for presbyters*

In a virtual format, the 'Itinerary and Vocational Deepening for Priests,' taking place from October 7th to 30th, is a course designed for priests that focuses on priestly spirituality with an emphasis on the sacraments, preaching, devotions, and the identity of the priest: Trinitarian, Christological, pneumatological, and ecclesiological.

**Information:** <https://bit.ly/3VZu7uQ>



## ***From Francis of Assisi to Francis of Rome: returning to the Gospel of care***

Those interested in deepening their spiritual life along the lines of Francis of Assisi, taken up again today by Pope Francis, cannot fail to register for the course #From Francis of Assisi to Francis of Rome: returning to the Gospel of care”, with Friar Michael Moore OFM.

**Dates:** October 8th, 11th, 15th & 18th

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

## ***On-site workshop ‘Aging together in community’.***

The second edition of the face-to-face workshop course ‘Aging Together in Community’, aimed at religious communities (both men and women), caregivers of the elderly and the general public interested in the topic, is now open for registration.

**Date:** October 15th to 18th - CELAM Headquarters, Bogota, Colombia.

**Information:** <https://bit.ly/4dffysi>

## ***Pastoral theological update for bishops***

The CELAM Formation Center - CEBITEPAL opens registrations for the second edition of the classroom course “Theological and Pastoral Updating for Bishops”, which will be held from November 4th to 8th at the CELAM headquarters in Bogota, Colombia.

The course includes lectures, thematic classes, workshops and consultancies on current themes of the Magisterium of Pope Francis, highlighting the horizons that challenge pastoral practice from the perspective of synodality.

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

# Resolutions

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## **Resolution No. 0086 - 2024**

### **Latin American Episcopal Council - CELAM**

#### **Viewed at**

The need to form the Pastoral Theological Reflection Team of CELAM for the period 2024-2028.

The mission of the Pastoral Theological Reflection Team is to promote a synodal exercise of theological work in Latin America and to serve the needs of CELAM, the Episcopal Conferences, and the theological community of Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to the Statutes of CELAM (Article 64. § 3), the Team is composed of experts recognized for their doctrine and good reputation, coming from various regions, appointed by the Presidency for a four-year term, and may be re-elected only once.

This issue was discussed at the meeting of the Presidency on October 13th, 2023.

#### **Considering**

The proposal presented by Fr. Carlos Galli, former coordinator of the Pastoral Theological Reflection Team, and Fr. Agenor Brighenti, in dialogue with the General Secretariat of CELAM.

The necessary consultations were made with the Episcopal Conferences of the countries of origin of the proposed members, and a favorable opinion was received.

The Presidency of CELAM, in a meeting held on August 8th, 2024, expressed its approval of these appointments.

## The Presidency of the Latin American Episcopal Council

### Resolve:

To appoint as members of the Pastoral Theological Reflection Team of CELAM for the period **2024-2028** the following:

Coordinator: **Fr. Agenor Brighenti** (Brazil)

Members:

**Carlos María Galli** (Argentina)

**Carolina Bacher Martínez** (Argentina)

**José Carlos Caamaño** (Argentina)

**Iván Ariel Fresia, sdb** (Argentina)

**Bernardeth Caero Bustillos, a.i.** (Bolivia)

**Abimar Oliveira de Moraes** (Brazil)

**Francisco de Aquino Junior** (Brazil)

**Fr. Carlos Federico Schikendantz** (Chile)

**P. Samuel Fernández Eyzaguirre** (Chile)

**Sister Birgit Weiler, MMS** (Peru)

**P. Fidel Oñoro Consuegra, CJM** (Colombia)

**Jaime Mancera Casas** (Colombia)

**Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, ODN** (Colombia)

**Antonio Ernesto Palafox Cruz** (Mexico)

**Sr. Nancy Raquel Fretes, ODN** (Paraguay)

**Sr. Altagracia González Ventura, FI** (Dominican Republic)

**Rafael Luciani Rivero** (Venezuela)

Given in the City of Bogotá, on the twenty-seventh (27) day of August of the year two thousand and twenty-four.

Publish, register and file.

*Signed: Msgr. Jaime Spengler and Msgr. Lizardo Estrada Herrera*

# Agreements signed

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Object</b>
Universidad Santo Tomás - Colombia	Co-publishing contract “Magdala - Women and Stigmas”.
Conference of Religious of Colombia - CRC	Execution of the development seeds project.
Pontifical Bolivarian Uni- versity - UPB	To conduct academic, teaching, research, and outreach activities in all areas of mutual interest aligned with their objectives and functions, aiming for the achievement of their goals and the efficient use of their resources.

# To see and participate again

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

- Virtual Formation Cycle : Encounter #5: Towards a Synodal Church <https://youtu.be/goxpGvcsyXc>
- Inauguration 2nd Meeting of the Justice and Peace Network of the Patria Grande <https://youtu.be/2HW2Js4EET4>
- “Moment of prayer and sending” with synod fathers and mothers from Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtu.be/Ldot-Br3IyZQ>
- Pre-COP16 Church Event Conference <https://youtu.be/clbOpQe-BrZ4>
- Pre-COP16 Church event talks [https://youtu.be/aD8zVVgn\\_iM](https://youtu.be/aD8zVVgn_iM)
- Press Conference: Pre-COP16 Church Event <https://youtu.be/HHapF33SSWA>
- VII Assembly of the Clamor Network: Opening ceremony <https://youtu.be/-TeJDPw7qLk>
- Share with other networks in the world <https://youtu.be/tbR6K7kBfnI>
- What we have done together [https://youtu.be/\\_gB0DgGzP-M](https://youtu.be/_gB0DgGzP-M)
- Contexts of human mobility: shelters, materials and applications <https://youtu.be/zmvLGm513qs>
- International protection of refugees and mixed migratory flows <https://youtu.be/zXoeuy6utDw>

- Current Situation of Displacement and Migration in the Americas <https://youtu.be/9Hkd8oOaGfM>

## Special coverings

- 53rd International Eucharistic Congress  
CELAM present in the prelude to the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Ecuador <https://youtu.be/mr5yN6B24CU>  
Quito, capital of the universal fraternity <https://youtu.be/cGN22pUAh6Y>  
Eucharist in the communities and fraternity with the discarded, from Quito <https://youtu.be/37Kaq3sW1Vo>  
This is how the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress is progressing in Quito <https://youtu.be/aOgKAXg5GDk>  
Recognize the Eucharist as a sacrament of healing [https://youtu.be/UGTvnFOaS\\_Q](https://youtu.be/UGTvnFOaS_Q)  
Voices from around the world at the International Eucharistic Congress [https://youtu.be/yy8O\\_9VDtrs](https://youtu.be/yy8O_9VDtrs)  
53rd International Eucharistic Congress comes to an end <https://youtu.be/PccYxp5Vx5E>  
ADN Zoom. Father José Domingo Meléndez (Dominican Republic) <https://youtu.be/avmUzj9DiiM>  
DNA Zoom. Bishop David de la Torre (Ecuador) <https://youtu.be/CB8hLbVth9s>  
DNA Zoom. Sister Andrea Lara (Ecuador) <https://youtu.be/fsHA-5fLE4WA>  
DNA Zoom: Eucharist, psalm of fraternity. Father González Guzmán <https://youtu.be/xjm-2AvZZX4>

ADN Zoom. Eucharistic procession through the streets of Quito. Felícita Zambrano <https://youtu.be/QV2qBdZV1oQ>

DNA Zoom, Conclusions and challenges of the International Eucharistic Congress. José Antonio Maeso <https://youtu.be/dgwl27SXLo>

- 2nd Meeting of the Network for Justice and Peace in the Great Homeland  
[https://youtu.be/fKev-60\\_mWw](https://youtu.be/fKev-60_mWw)
- Meeting of episcopal commissions for abuse prevention  
<https://youtu.be/9jftZRCALAc>
- VII Red Clamor Assembly and Migrared Encounter  
<https://youtu.be/Zyctxg0av5U>

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