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Acronym

CEAMA: Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.

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

CGC: CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

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

CELAM: Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council.

CPC: Center for Communication of CELAM.

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

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

LACAM: Red de Lideresas Afrodescendientes Católicas de las Américas.

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

ILO: International Labor Organization.

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

PAGAICEYNA: Pastoral Garífuna Inculturated Central America and the Caribbean.

PCAL: Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

PCN: Child Centrality Program.

PEG: Global Education Pact.

PLAPA: Pastoral Latinoamericana de Acompañamiento y Prevención de las Adicciones

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

RECOR: Red de Comunicades Organizadas de América Latina.

REGCHAG: Ecclesial Network Gran Chaco Guarani Aquifer.

REMAM: Ecclesial and Ecological Network of Mesoamerica.

REPAM: Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network.

RETEIS: Territorial Ecclesial Networks.

UNIAPAC: International Union of Christian Business Leaders.

News

Bishop Spengler, president of CELAM, was created a cardinal



Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre (Brazil) and president of CELAM, was made a cardinal during the public consistory held at St. Peter's Basilica (Rome) on December 7th. During the same celebration, Pope Francis also conferred this honor upon Archbishop Carlos Gustavo Castillo Mattasoglio of Lima (Peru), Archbishop Vicente Bokalic Iglic of Santiago del Estero (Argentina), Archbishop Luis Gerardo Cabrera Herrera of Guayaquil (Ecuador), and Archbishop Fernando Natalio Chomali Garib of Santiago (Chile).

In a statement to the press, Cardinal Spengler reflected on the three attitudes suggested by the Holy Father for them: "high eyes," to broaden the vision and open the heart; "hands together," referring to the impor-

tance of prayer; and “bare feet,” to touch the reality and suffering of the people.

When asked about the moment he was informed that he would be made a cardinal, Archbishop Spengler recalled his vocational journey and commented, “Since my early years, as a Franciscan, I made a commitment to never say no to anything that was asked of me, and to be available for whatever the Church asked of me.”

Asked what his cardinalate represents for the Latin American Church, the president of CELAM did not hesitate to affirm, “It is a recognition of the Church in our continent, but also a greater commitment to the successor of Peter,” expressing his particular concern for “the challenges our countries are facing, where the poor are the ones who suffer the most.” “Inequality in Latin America is a great scandal,” he added, “and the Church cannot remain silent in the face of this reality.”

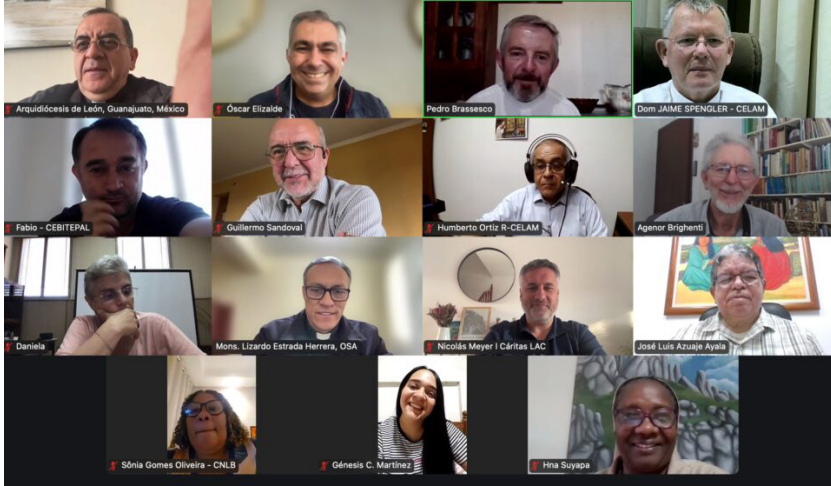
Similarly, Cardinal Spengler spoke about other challenges facing the continent, such as “the urgency of caring for our common home and, in particular, for the Amazon, as our survival depends on it,” as well as the need to “make known and put into practice the Social Doctrine of the Church.”

The Animation Commission for the reception of the Synod was formed

On Thursday, December 19th, the commission tasked with supporting the implementation of the Final Document of the Synod on Synodality in Latin America and the Caribbean met for the first time.

In a note attached to the Final Document, Pope Francis stated that “local Churches and groupings of Churches are now called to implement, in various contexts, the authoritative guidelines contained in the Document, through the discernment and decision-making processes provided by both the law and the Document itself.”

To this end, the commission that had been coordinating the synodal process in Latin America and the Caribbean has now “expanded” this space for communion, accompaniment, and animation, inviting new members from various ecclesial bodies to join.



The commission is composed of Card. Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre (Brazil) and President of CELAM; Card. Luis José Rueda Aparicio, Archbishop of Bogotá (Colombia) and member of the Ordinary Council of the Synod Secretariat; Archbishop José Luis Azañe, Archbishop of Maracaibo (Venezuela), First Vice-President of CELAM, and member of the Ordinary Council of the Synod Secretariat; Archbishop Jaime Calderón Calderón, Archbishop of León and Vice-President of the Mexican Episcopal Conference; Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon, Archbishop of Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago); Bishop Lizardo Estrada, Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco (Peru) and Secretary General of CELAM; Sr. Daniela Cannavina, Secretary General of CLAR; Mauricio López, Vice-President of CEAMA and Director of the Amazon University Program (PUAM); Nicolás Meyer, Regional Coordinator of Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean; Fr. Pedro Brassesco, Assistant Secretary General of CELAM; Fr. Francisco Hernández Rojas, Director of the Center for Ne-

tworling Programs and Pastoral Action of CELAM; Humberto Ortiz Roca, Director of Planning of CELAM; Sônia Gomes de Oliveira, President of the National Council of Laity of Brazil; Sister María Suyapa Cacho, Vincentian Sister committed to Afro and Garifuna pastoral work for CELAM and CLAR; Génesis Carolina Martínez, Delegate of the Caribbean Region of the Youth Pastoral of Latin America and the Caribbean; Fr. Fabio Antunes do Nascimento, Director of Cebitepal-CELAM; Óscar Elizalde Prada, Director of the Center for Communication of CELAM; and Guillermo Sandoval Vásquez, Director of the Center for Knowledge Management of CELAM.

CELAM advances in the articulation with the continental conferences of Africa and Asia

The leadership of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), and the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (Secam) held a new virtual meeting on May 23rd, continuing their efforts to coordinate common actions among the episcopates of the "Global South."

The meeting was attended by Card. Jaime Spengler, Bishop Lizardo Estrada, and Fr. Pedro Brassesco for CELAM; Card. Fridolin Ambongo, Fr. Rafael Simbine, Fr. Rigoberto Minani, Fr. Stephen Okello, and Fr. Germain Rajoelison for Secam; and Card. Filipe Neri Ferrao and Fr. William LaRousse for the FABC.

During the meeting, the work plans of each continent regarding COP 30 in Brazil were shared.

The dialogue highlighted the need for strong coordination and collaboration among the three continental associations of bishops' conferences, with concrete mechanisms, a task entrusted to the general secretaries. The need to establish responsible committees in each continent and mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration was also emphasized, along with connecting with environmental and climate change scientists across all three continents to involve them in the preparations

for COP 30. Additionally, the creation of a common document was discussed as a foundation for advocacy work within church organizations and with civil society. This document is expected to be ready before the Bonn meeting next May.

Life Hangs in the Balance” campaign launched



On December 10th, CELAM, together with other Latin American organizations, launched a campaign in solidarity with human rights and environmental defenders who are under threat, called “Life Hangs by a Thread.”

A coalition of social, religious, and civic organizations, including the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), the Platform for Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights, and the Latin American Protection Community, have joined forces to launch this initiative. Its purpose is to coordinate actions that promote solidarity, protection, and recognition of the work of human rights defenders, social leaders, and civic actors in Latin America and the Caribbean. The campaign is supported by the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America (PCAL).

The campaign was presented on December 9th in the Vatican Press Room, with the participation of Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development; Dr. Emilce Cuda, Secretary of PCAL; Cardinal Jaime Spengler, Archbishop of Porto Alegre (Brazil) and President of CELAM; Cardinal Carlos Castillo, Archbishop of Lima (Peru); and Cardinal Fernando Chomalí, Archbishop of Santiago (Chile).

The objective of the campaign is to highlight emblematic cases of human rights and environmental defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean, which should be nominated based on five thematic axes: the extractivist model (which includes activities such as logging, mineral extraction, hydrocarbons, large-scale agriculture, among others); drug trafficking and transnational crime; restrictions on freedom of expression and citizen participation; internal armed conflicts; and the suppression of women human rights defenders and their role in politics.

Through these emblematic cases, the campaign aims to share the stories and faces of women and men committed to social and ecclesiastical organizations defending human rights, indigenous peoples, environmentalists, and journalists, among others. This will serve to promote concrete actions in response to social indifference, institutional disintegration, the fragility of protection systems, and the impunity that prevails in the face of crimes committed.

Caritas Internationalis and CELAM on the road to COP 30

In a meeting held at Palazzo San Calisto on December 5th, representatives of Caritas Internationalis and CELAM met in person and virtually to outline strategies to strengthen their participation in COP30, scheduled for November 2025 in Belém, Brazil.

The meeting was attended by Cardinal Jaime Spengler, president of CELAM and the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB), who

emphasized the need for coordinated action across the entire Church in the continent, involving all relevant actors.



The meeting was coordinated by Dr. Victor Genina, director of Integral Human Development at Caritas Internationalis, who spoke of the need to generate synergies in order to provide a unified Catholic voice with weight at international decision-making tables. Other participants included Monsignor Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi, President of Caritas Internationalis, and Musamba Mubanga, a climate advocacy specialist, who stressed the urgency of this dialogue in the current context of environmental and political crisis.

Cardinal Spengler reinforced the Church's commitment to climate justice, supported by concrete actions such as the opening of an operational office in Belém, presented by Monsignor Ricardo Hoepers, Secretary General of the CNBB.

The meeting marked a significant step in the consolidation of a roadmap that will position the Church as a prophetic voice on the global stage, in pursuit of climate justice and the defense of creation.

CELAM Observatory Network leadership team formed

A team has been formed for the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Knowledge Management Center (OSAP-CGC-CELAM), with members from the four regions of CELAM:

Camex (Central America-Mexico)

- Abelardo Morales. Socio-Pastoral Observatory of Human Mobility of Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, Osmeca. Costa Rica.
- Jimena Hernández. Center for Advanced Social Research, Cisav. Mexico.
- Karen Castillo. Mexican Institute of Christian Social Doctrine, Imdosoc, Mexico.

Caribbean

- Waleska Sanabria, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico.

Bolivarian / Andean Countries

- Juan Alejandro Ponce Alcántara, Institute of Christian Social Studies, IESC. Peru.
- Liz Trujillo Puentes, Archdiocesan Observatory of Evangelization. Bogotá, Colombia.

Southern Cone

- Agustín Salvia, Red Observatorios de la Deuda Social de América Latina, Odsal. Argentina.
- Ana Martiarena, World Women's Observatory (WWO-Umofc). Argentina.

- Chico Botelho, Justice and Peace Network for the Patria Grande and CNBB. Brazil.

Organized around the OSAP-CGC and coordinated by Jeanette Rincón-Morales, these researchers will undertake the following tasks:

- Organize the first face-to-face meeting, to be held from March 5th to 8th, 2025 in Bogota.
- To make a proposal of directionality and modes of operation of the Network of Observatories of the Reality of CELAM (working document for a constitutive document).
- Elaborate a proposal to advance in the mapping of observatories and reality monitoring services, linked to the Church, as the first joint action agreed upon in the first virtual meeting of the Network held on October 18th, 2024.

CELAM promotes the Centralidad de la Niñez (Child Centrality) Program

In a letter addressed to the episcopates of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) expresses its support for and promotion of the Centralidad de la Niñez Program, urging the reinforcement of strategies aimed at preventing violence and ensuring that children are treated with respect and dignity.

The letter emphasizes the alarming rise in the prevalence of both physical and emotional violence against children and adolescents. It is estimated that, by 2024, 16.4 million children will require humanitarian assistance due to factors such as violence, forced migration, poverty, and natural disasters.

Moreover, the growing number of unaccompanied migrant minors has reached unprecedented levels. Reports indicate that, in countries such as Colombia, approximately 1,000 children and adolescents are recruited annually by armed groups.

The Centralidad de la Niñez Program is a collaborative initiative spearheaded by a variety of faith-based organizations, including CELAM, Caritas, the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education (CIEC), Fe y Alegría, and World Vision. Its primary objective is to establish an interfaith network dedicated to the comprehensive development of children and adolescents throughout the region.



Key actions promoted by the program include the implementation of national Centralidad de la Niñez programs, the Diploma for Multipliers of Tenderness and Good Treatment, the Leadership School for Adolescents (Eliad), the Footprints of Tenderness Walk, and the establishment of child protection and prevention protocols. These initiatives aim to mobilize families, schools, and religious institutions to eradicate violence against children and promote a child-rearing approach rooted in tenderness and respect.

CGC Director visited the Episcopal Commission for Social Action in Peru



Guillermo Sandoval, Director of the Knowledge Management Center (CGC) of CELAM, visited the team of the Episcopal Commission for Social Action of Peru (CEAS). This meeting, held on January 15th, serves to strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions following the recent signing of an agreement aimed at making popular versions of key documents of the Church's social magisterium accessible throughout Latin America.

During his visit, Sandoval was welcomed by Silvia Alayo, Executive Secretary of CEAS, who was accompanied by Javier Jahnke, Coordinator of the CEAS team, and Father Enrique González, the National Director for Health Pastoral Care in Peru.

The meeting focused on reviewing shared initiatives, including the preparation of popular and easily understandable versions of Pope Francis' encyclicals and apostolic exhortations. There were also plans to extend this effort to encompass historical documents of the papal magisterium,

During the meeting, both directors reviewed initiatives related to social dialogue, the Church's commitment to labor justice, and human development. They also discussed emerging trends in the labor market, particularly the opportunities and risks brought about by the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Furthermore, the discussion addressed the issue of "labor informality" in Latin America, a challenge that affects a significant number of workers in the region. Cardona expressed his respect and appreciation for the labor-related principles upheld by the Church, particularly those found within the magisterium of Pope Francis.

Sandoval also extended his gratitude to the ILO for the Andean countries for their willingness to collaborate with the Catholic Church, as well as with other religious communities and traditions.

A shared objective of both the ILO and the Church is the defense of human dignity in the workplace. Consequently, it is anticipated that concrete actions will be developed in the coming months as a result of this initial meeting.

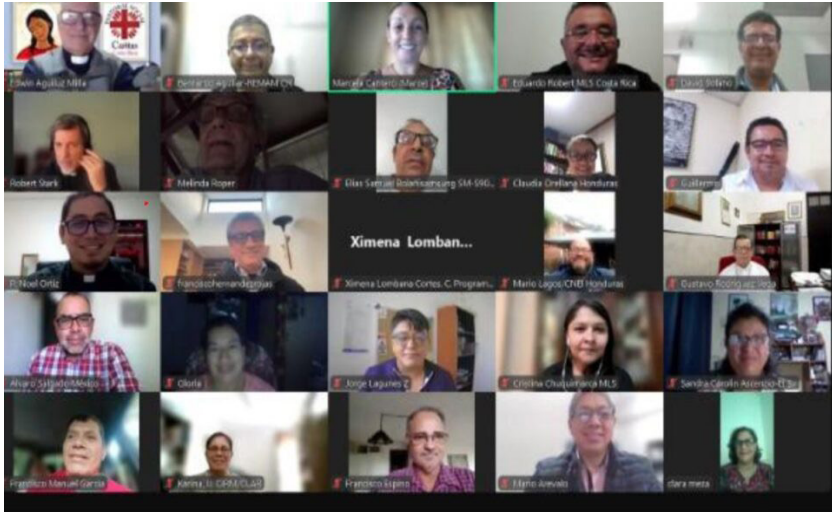
It is important to note that the ILO's headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) houses an office dedicated to fostering the relationship between this multinational organization and various religious faiths.

Remam's II General Assembly was held

The Second General Assembly of the Mesoamerican Ecclesial Network (Remam) convened representatives from various countries to reflect on the organization's challenges, achievements, and future goals. The assembly underscored Remam's commitment to integral ecology, social justice, and territorial coordination, laying the foundation for the strategic strengthening of the network in the coming years.

Held virtually on December 5th, the assembly provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on Remam's foundational principles and their impact on Mesoamerican communities. Annual reports were reviewed,

activities carried out over the past year were evaluated, and the importance of highlighting the work on critical issues such as environmental protection and human rights was emphasized.



Key activities from the past year included: participation in international events such as COP16; the organization of a diploma course on ecology and the care of our common home; support in emblematic cases of environmental injustice, such as the case of Juan López; the issuance of statements condemning social and environmental violations; and the development of proposals for a more robust future.

The assembly also approved a series of key measures aimed at strengthening the network:

- Coordinating Team: Review and reinforce Remam’s territorial integration; develop a strategy for enhancing visibility and update the constitutive framework.
- National Chapters: Improve coordination and communication among countries; systematize local ecclesial groups focused on integral ecology.

- Executive Secretariat: Organize an assembly in 2025 to present detailed financial reports.
- Working Committees: Reactivate dormant committees and strengthen other critical areas.

The decalogue discussed during the assembly reaffirmed Remam’s commitment to the integration of ecclesial processes, the Mesoamerican perspective, and social justice; the strengthening of grassroots communities; and territorial action. The suggestions put forth by participants, such as enhancing the connection between the being and doing of the network, will serve to enrich this key document, which will guide future initiatives.

The Second General Assembly of Remam marked a significant milestone in the network’s consolidation as a leading actor in the defense of integral ecology and human rights in Mesoamerica.

Oslam outlined its program of work and training for seminars



The Board of Directors of the Organization of Latin American Seminaries (Oslam) convened at the CELAM headquarters from January 26th

to 30th to define strategies and consolidate the formation plan for seminaries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Father Omar Arturo Carrera Campos, Rector of the Seminary of the Assumption in Guatemala and Board Member representing the Central America-Mexico region, explained that the Oslam Board of Directors meets annually to plan formation courses for seminaries, with the aim of providing updated tools for the preparation of future priests.

In this context, he indicated that the needs of the seminaries were analyzed, after which academic support was secured from the Biblical Theological and Pastoral Theological Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cebitepal). He also noted that in previous years, training sessions had been organized for academic directors, spiritual directors, and psychologists collaborating with seminaries. Additionally, specific courses have been developed for different stages of formation, such as the propaedeutic stage and discipleship, as well as meetings for rectors.

Regarding the implementation of the Final Document of the Synod, Father Omar Arturo emphasized the importance of renewing seminary structures to make them more synodal spaces. “Oslam can contribute significantly to a renewal and transformation within the seminary institution, especially by including seminarians themselves in the evaluation and decision-making process,” he stated.

Furthermore, he underscored the necessity of more actively integrating laypeople and women into priestly formation, both in the academic sphere and through accompaniment within the seminary. “I believe we could reflect on this and, in the future, implement aspects that would foster greater synodality, thus overcoming clericalism,” he concluded.

Coordinating Bishop of the Center for Communication presided over Jubilee pilgrimage in Rome



On January 25th, as part of the Jubilee for the World of Communications, Catholic journalists and communicators from around the globe made a pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica, passing through the Holy Door.

The event was led by Bishop Daniel Blanco, Auxiliary Bishop of San José, Costa Rica, and Coordinator of the CELAM Communication Center, alongside Bishop Manuel Ochagavía, Bishop of the Diocese of Colón-Kuna Yala and President of the Communication Commission of the Panamanian Episcopate, among other Latin American and Caribbean bishops.

In front of the altar of the confession, the site of the martyrdom of the Apostle Peter, participants engaged in a moment of prayer, led by Bishop Blanco and several bishops responsible for communication commissions from Latin American episcopates. The group then proceeded to the Paul VI Audience Hall, where they had an audience with Pope Francis.

Bishop Blanco emphasized that “the grace of God's love and mercy seeks to embrace us and forgive us,” noting that, as communicators,

our greatest truth is “salvation” as revealed in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ.

“That is precisely what we must communicate—hope and truth, for both go hand in hand when we proclaim the Paschal mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” he concluded.

Cebitepal: Integral formation at the service of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean



In 2024, a total of 11,561 individuals participated in the courses, diploma programs, and workshops provided by the Center for Biblical, Theological, and Pastoral Formation (Cebitepal), offered in both virtual and in-person formats. This pastoral center of CELAM has strengthened its formative pathways through communion and dialogue with the Episcopal Conferences, addressing their specific needs while collaborating with universities, networks, and training institutions across the continent.

Throughout the year, 259 scholarships were awarded, enhancing access to high-quality training for ecclesial leaders and pastoral agents.

Among the programs implemented, the following are particularly noteworthy:

- Media Training and Communication Strategies for Religious Leadership course, focusing on the prevention and response to cases of sexual abuse.
- Diploma in Protection and Care, developed in collaboration with CLAR.
- The reintroduction of the Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology, strengthening the academic formation of the Church in the region.
- In-person refresher courses for bishops, preachers, and musicians, offering opportunities for reflection and training for their pastoral mission.

Through this work, Cebitepal reaffirms its commitment to providing comprehensive, contextualized formation in communion with the Latin American and Caribbean Church.

New databases in digital version

Three important databases are now available to the users of the CELAM Library. This is a significant effort in the path of digitization, which will enhance access for those consulting from any remote location, especially from the Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from the libraries associated with the Network of the Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America, Oducal.

The acquired databases are:

- Religion & Philosophy Collection, which is a resource covering full-text content related to topics discussed in the fields of religion, theology, and philosophy.
- Academic Search Complete, a database that supports high-level research in key areas of academic study by providing access to journals, periodicals, reports, books, and more.

- Ebooks Collection, a collection of academic e-books and online versions of printed books that the library has been acquiring through subscription and perpetual license purchase. Currently, there are 350 recent titles covering topics such as the Bible, theology, pastoral work, the Church's magisterium, human sciences, and more.

The CELAM library team has made these databases available to the user community, which were acquired through Ebsco, a highly recognized information provider in academic fields.

It is important to highlight that the library has been enhancing a digital and electronic database to offer improved service and, in this way, address the challenge of supporting virtual education. These resources can be accessed at <http://documental.CELAM.org>

Bishop Estrada presented the progress of the reception of the Synod Document.

During the 128th Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of Peru, Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, Secretary General of CELAM, delivered a presentation on the progress and perspectives of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the synodal process, reaffirming the commitment to a more accessible, participatory, and missionary Church.

Bishop Estrada stated that since its launch on October 10th, 2021, the synodal process has been supported by CELAM. This support included the following phases: the consultation phase with the People of God, conducted at diocesan, national, and continental levels; the phase of discernment by the pastors, held in two sessions in October 2023 and 2024; and the phase of implementation for a Synodal Church, which commenced after the approval of the Final Document by Pope Francis on October 26th, 2024, with a focus on the reception and application of its directives.

The Secretary General of CELAM noted that Pope Francis emphasized the need for mediations in implementing the Final Document, urging local Churches and ecclesial groupings to adapt it to their specific contexts through discernment processes.



To accompany this time of implementation, referred to as the ‘reception phase’ within CELAM, the working team was expanded to include bishops, priests, and laypeople from various regions and pastoral areas.

Bishop Lizardo explained that among the future proposals is ‘to disseminate, encourage, and motivate the reception of the Final Synodal Document,’ where he emphasized that the focus is more on ‘reception than on implementation.’

It is also anticipated that a support team will be formed for the Episcopal Conferences, and through them, for all particular Churches. ‘This is why it is crucial to listen to and engage in dialogue with different sectors of the Latin American Church to discern their needs and assist them in making a pastoral ecclesiological interpretation,’ explained the bishop.

Furthermore, there is a recognized need to ‘achieve a convergence of processes, particularly between the Ecclesial Assembly and the Synod, while also considering Querida Amazonia and the Jubilee. It should be thought of as a whole,’ since the goal is to articulate, discern, prioritize, and guide.

Cebitepal present at the International Congress on the Future of Theology



Father Fabio Antunes, Director of Cebitepal, participated in the International Congress The Future of Theology: Heritage and Imagination, organized by the Dicastery for Culture and Education. The event was held on December 9th and 10th at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

The congress gathered 450 theology professors from ecclesiastical faculties across the five continents. The opening was marked by an audience with Pope Francis, followed by working sessions at the university's headquarters.

Cebitepal's participation in this event aimed to align its programs with the guidelines and challenges of theological study, particularly with the orientations of *Veritatis Gaudium*, which outlines new pathways for the renewal of theological thought and academic formation within the Church.

CELAM participated in advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras



‘Justice for Juan and an end to agrarian and socio-environmental conflicts’ was the slogan of the advocacy and solidarity tour that took place from January 20th to 24th in Honduras, with the participation of CELAM represented by Fr. Francisco Hernández Rojas, Director of Ceparap, and Paola Calderón Gómez, Media Leader at the CELAM Center for Communication.

The initiative aimed to provide international support to communities in the Central American country fighting for land access, justice, and the defense of common goods.

Delegates from at least 15 civil and ecclesial organizations also took part, including the International Platform Against Impunity, Heks Eper, Peace Watch, Protection International, the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, the Diocese of Trujillo, and the campaign ‘Life Hangs by a Thread,’ among others.

In response to events such as the murder of Juan López, former general coordinator of the Tocoa Commons Committee, and the growing smear campaigns against human rights defenders in Honduras, these

groups reaffirm their commitment to supporting communities affected by the advance of the open-pit mining industry.

Particularly, this relates to the extractivist project of Los Pinares, which, through its iron extraction processes, poses a threat to common goods and was, at the time, one of the causes of Juan López's struggle.

Among other activities, a meeting was held with Archbishop José Vicente Nacher, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa and President of the Episcopal Conference of Honduras, during which the purpose, objectives, and agenda of the visit were shared.

Meetings were also held with the Secretariat of Human Rights, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Attorney General's Office, where calls were made for the establishment of mechanisms to identify risk situations for defenders and to create a Truth Commission.

Additionally, discussions took place with the Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares (COPA) and the Plataforma Agracia, which has a signed agreement with the current government to end the violence perpetrated by armed groups linked to agro-industrial interests; however, none of these initiatives have been successfully implemented.

OSAP evaluates research proposals

The Socioanthropological and Pastoral Observatory (OSAP) of CELAM's Knowledge Management Center is currently evaluating thirty research proposals received by January 19th, 2025, as part of an open call launched in December 2024.

The invitation was extended to research teams, centers, and chairs of Catholic Universities, as well as Observatories focused on issues related to the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, inviting them to submit research proposals addressing one of the following prioritized topics of interest:

- Challenges faced by the Church in the absence of the rule of law and under criminal governance.

- Mapping of poverty, external debt, and extractivism.
- The new geopolitical framework in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges for Latin American integration.
- Crisis of democracy, conflicts, participation, and peacebuilding.
- Energy transition and Integral Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Migration and integration within the Church and society.
- Human trafficking and smuggling in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Religious freedom, faith expression, and martyrdom in Latin America.
- Youth religiosity.
- Women and structural change in the Church.
- Synodality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Systematization of experiences.
- Religion, spirituality, and virtuality.

The purpose of this call is to deepen and update scientific knowledge on these realities at the continental level—while considering the specific regional contexts of Camex, the Caribbean, Andean, and Southern Cone regions—in order to optimize pastoral services and guide the prophetic mission of the Church on the continent. For this reason, the topics were selected with the orientations of the CELAM Global Plan 2023-2027, the recommendations of the CGC Council, and the contributions of the Pastoral Centers of CELAM, particularly the networks grouped within the Center for Pastoral Programs and Networks in mind.

The evaluation is being carried out by a team of academics, and based on the resulting ranking, the selection will be made with consideration given to criteria such as geographical representation and the scope of the proposals.

Projects selected by the Evaluation Committee will receive an incentive for the development of the research, through a specific agreement, with a maximum amount of US \$8,000.

CELAM's progress in December and January

Training for Library and Archive staff



The 2025 working year for the Archives and Library team of the Knowledge Management Center began with training on bibliographic description and knowledge organization systems. The instructors leading this process are Rosario Valencia, a librarian from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, and Lina María Pinzón, a librarian and archivist from Universidad de La Salle. This professional development course aims to serve as a tool for enhancing the cataloging and classification of documents processed in both the bibliographic collection and CELAM's historical archives.

Agreement with the Pontifical Institute John Paul II and meetings at the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

During his stay in Rome on December 11th, Fr. Fabio Antunes, director of Cebitepal, met with the leadership of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, where they discussed the need to establish a cooperation agreement between both institutions to strengthen training in key areas such as life, family, and youth, fields in which the Institute has an outstanding track record.

He also visited the headquarters of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, where he toured its facilities and reaffirmed the commitment to collaborate with Cebitepal in promoting training initiatives aimed at protection, care, and the creation of safe environments within the Church.

Meetings at the Dicastery for Integral Human Development

On December 12th, Fr. Fabio Antunes met with the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, where he presented the work being carried out by Cebitepal in the area of formation, with a particular focus on the response to the four dreams of Pope Francis as outlined in the exhortation *Querida Amazonia*.

They also exchanged experiences regarding the training proposals offered by this center of CELAM and the Dicastery, and discussed possible ways of integration to strengthen the various initiatives promoted in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On this occasion, the director of Cebitepal also met with Emilce Cuda, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, to discuss various topics related to formation, especially in the social dimension, as well as issues concerning labor and culture.

Ceprap’s meeting with the Pontifical Commission for Latin America

The meeting took place virtually on December 19th to discuss strategies and actions in preparation for COP 30, with a focus on the defense of human rights, environmental protection, and the need to establish effective social dialogue. The importance of creating a foundational document that identifies relevant actions and conflicts for Latin America was highlighted, along with the necessity of unifying efforts among various organizations and communities to address these issues collectively.

Furthermore, the possibility of negotiating and engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders, including governments and organizations, was emphasized to ensure that the voices of communities are heard and that meaningful agreements are achieved at COP.

Meeting of the Coordination Commission for Youth Pastoral Ministry

On January 13th, a meeting was held with the Youth Pastoral Commission to review the program for the in-person meeting scheduled for the last week of January in Bogotá. The topics of synodality and communication were incorporated. It was deemed important to analyze the new realities faced by youth in the region, as well as to create a space for generating elements that will strengthen the organization, while keeping in mind the objectives and outcomes of the Paraguay Meeting.

Strategic actions of the “Life Hangs by a Thread” Campaign Coordinating Team

During the team meeting on January 14th, the need to design a strategic plan for the entire year was discussed. A communications policy was

also agreed upon with the Center for Communication, along with the campaign strategy, particularly the objectives. The main objective is “to promote the recognition and effective protection of human rights and environmental defenders, social leaders, and civic actors who are at risk due to their work advocating for their lives, struggles, and the processes they support.”

The experiences were evaluated, and key common elements were identified that could be crucial for the peacebuilding diploma courses in 2025. The experiences of accompanying certain dioceses and supporting victims were reviewed. Additionally, a set of contents aimed at addressing impunity and corruption was considered.

Meeting with the Latin American Network of Social Thought of the Church (Redlapsi)

This network was established within the former Department of Social Pastoral (Depas) of CELAM. It collaborated in the design of the Social Doctrine of the Church congresses (I and II), among many other initiatives and efforts. In the meeting held on January 16th, they mentioned that they have heard about the “Life Hangs by a Thread” campaign and wish to connect with all these pastoral dynamics. They are working on the theme of family, illuminated by the DSI, and recognize the importance of engaging in exchange with the various centers and networks of CELAM. They have discussed with Cebitepal the creation of diploma courses using a modular system that will allow them to offer one part in May and another in the last quarter of 2025.

Meeting with the Coordination of the Laity in the Church and in the World

On January 16th, members of Ceprap held a meeting with Carlos Ferré from the Latin American Lay Network. This network is present in

18 countries, with a base of approximately 400 people belonging to various organizations. During the meeting, the need to update the Church's social doctrine in light of Pope Francis' pontificate was discussed. The idea was proposed to hold a workshop that would involve not only experts but also lay people and other community members, with the goal of updating social thought in a synodal format. This is part of a broader effort to promote synodality and the active participation of the laity in both the Church and society.

Social Pastoral Course in the Diocese of Penonomé (Panama)

From January 17th to 19th, Fr. Francisco Hernández Rojas, director of Ceparap, taught a course on Social Pastoral in the Diocese of Penonomé (Panama), with 80 participants. The course provided training on the essence and work of Social Pastoral, the challenges posed by the Ecclesial Assembly and the Synod, and the spirituality of the pastoral agent.

Ceilac defined its steps for 2025

On January 20th, a meeting of the Integral Ecology Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (Ceilac) was held to discuss various proposals and suggestions regarding the organization and coordination of the subcommissions within the assembly. The need for monthly meetings for the advocacy, training, and coordination subcommissions was highlighted, as well as the proposal for the dynamic commission to meet monthly, and the assembly to meet three times a year. Topics such as promoting and educating on integral ecology, aligning agendas with other networks, and strengthening advocacy capacity within civil society were also discussed.

Additionally, the importance of revitalizing governance spaces and planning actions for COP 30 and the Laudate Deum pathway was emphasized, along with the need to review the 2024 plan to shape the 2025 plan.

Meeting of the Human Rights Facilitation Commission

This meeting took place on January 22th with the aim of continuing the discussions and reflections raised in previous meetings, particularly concerning internal governance, coordination, and the articulation between networks and platforms. The goal was to assess how these concerns have been addressed since the last meeting and what solutions have been found. Additionally, the need to strengthen the platform's identity and collective action was highlighted, along with the importance of projecting tasks and commitments for the future.

Face-to-face meeting of the Latin American Catechetical Team



From January 28th to 30th, a face-to-face meeting of the Latin American Catechetical Team was held at the CELAM headquarters. The meeting began with an exercise of conversation in the Spirit to discern two themes: Christian initiation and its relationship with the journey of missionary discipleship, and how to develop a process in continuity with the challenges presented during the First Week of Christian Initiation.

The team worked by analyzing the Final Document of the Synod to explore what it proposes for catechesis and to gather insights for design-

ning a process that will lead to the Second Week of Christian Initiation, scheduled for January 2027 at the CELAM headquarters.

A dialogue was also held with the Latin American Youth Pastoral Commission, where the importance of the transversal nature of catechesis was discussed. The conversation focused on how this pastoral work needs the impulse and strength of the kerygma as both a starting point and a continuous journey. The team reflected on the need for a more experiential, communal, synodal, and encounter-based catechesis.

Meeting of the Network for Life's Steering Committee

The meeting, held on January 31st, focused on the organization of the "Encounter for Life," which will take place in May in Quito (Ecuador). Seven women are part of the team and have taken on the coordination of both the process and the event. The program and CELAM's support were discussed.

Face-to-face meeting of the Youth Ministry coordinating team



The meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Pastoral Team took place from January 27th to 30th at the CELAM headquarters in

Bogotá, with the goal of jointly planning actions and projects for youth pastoral work in the region, addressing both current and future challenges faced by young people.

Some of the key agreements and conclusions were:

- **Analysis of the reality of youth:** Common challenges in Latin America were identified, such as marginalization, social injustice, the climate crisis, and the need for an authentic encounter with Christ. The specific realities of each country and region were also discussed.
- **Priorities of youth ministry:** The priorities of youth ministry were reaffirmed, including evangelization and an encounter with Christ, comprehensive formation, accompaniment, communication and networks, as well as social projects and transformation.
- **Listening to young people:** The importance of listening to young people, recognizing their inherent leadership, and providing spaces for them to act on political, social, ecological, vocational, and catechetical issues was emphasized.
- **Use of digital tools:** The potential of the digital world as a support tool for youth ministry was acknowledged, but the need for discerning and formative use of new technologies was also highlighted.
- **Call to action:** A call to action was made to “put hands to the plow” and work for young people, learning to discern, seeking authenticity, creating spaces for encounter, and forging strong bonds.
- **Synodality:** The importance of walking with a synodal approach was underscored, as a Church on the move—united and ready to build relationships and break down barriers.

Publications

Global Education Pact: Theological Perspectives from Latin America



The book *Global Education Pact: Theological Perspectives from Latin America* was presented, a work developed through an agreement between the Knowledge Management Center and the Catholic Religion Pedagogy Program of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, led by Professor Patricia Imbarak and Professor Carmelo Galio.

This work was created in response to Pope Francis' call for a Global Education Pact. These institutions collaborated to create the book, bringing together several theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean. The book is available for free distribution and can be found in the CELAM Library or accessed through the following link: [Global Education Pact PDF](#).

The publication incorporates contributions based on the premises and theological sources that inspired the Global Education Pact, aiming to offer keys to understanding the educational phenomenon and identifying the theological and pastoral implications for its fundamental axes.

The authors of this book are: Leonardo Rojas Cadena, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana-Cali (Colombia); Fernando Soler, Pontificia Universidad Católica (Chile); David Miguel Trujillo Utrera, Universidad Pedagógica Experimental Libertador (Venezuela); Guillermo Rosolino, Universidad

Católica de Córdoba (Argentina); Jutta Battenberg Galindo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia); Román Guridi, Pontificia Universidad Católica (Chile); Elias Wolff, Pontificia Universidad Católica do Paraná (Brazil); Birgit Weiler, Pontificia Universidad Católica (Peru); Carolina Bacher and Nathalia Da Costa, Instituto Teológico Egidio Viganó, Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez (Chile).

Forthcoming publications

Bishops and Priests in a Synodal Church. Author: Giacomo Canobbio. Pastoral contribution: Luca Garbinetto. *Synodality Booklets Collection 4.*

Deacons in a Synodal Church. Author: Luca Garbinetto. *Synodality Booklets Collection 5.*

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

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

Decolonial Thought: The Black in Catholicism. Author: Venanzio Mwangi.

Contributions of School Religious Education to the Culture of Peace. Co-published with USTA.

Truth and Reparation: Discerning Abuse of Adults in the Church. Author: Commission for the Protection of Minors of CLAR. Coordination: Sister María Rosaura González.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 0087-2025 Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM)

Whereas

- That the Statute of CELAM, in Article 55 § 3, establishes that the Pastoral Centers “are governed by these Statutes and by the Internal Regulations approved by the Presidency.”
- The presentation of the draft Internal Regulations for the Knowledge Management Center, made by its director, Mr. Guillermo Sandoval, to the General Secretariat for evaluation.

Considering

- The favorable opinion of the General Secretariat regarding the draft Internal Regulations for the Knowledge Management Center, submitted for the consideration of the Presidency of CELAM.
- That the Presidency of CELAM, in a meeting held on December 7th, 2024, discussed the matter and its members unanimously expressed their approval.

The Presidency of the Latin American Episcopal Council resolves

- To approve the Internal Regulations of the CELAM Knowledge Management Center, as per the attached text.
- To determine that these Regulations shall take effect upon their publication in the Official Bulletin of CELAM.

Given in the City of Bogotá, on the twentieth (20th) day of January in the Holy Year two thousand and twenty-five.

Publish, register and file.

Signed: Jaime Cardinal Spengler. Archbishop of Porto Alegre. President of CELAM.

To which I attest

Signed: Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, OSA. Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco. Secretary General of CELAM.

Rules of Procedure of the Knowledge Management Center

1. The Knowledge Management Center is governed by the provisions of the CELAM Statutes for all Pastoral Centers (Articles 55 to 62) and the present Internal Regulations, duly approved by the Presidency.
2. The mission of the Knowledge Management Center (CGC) is to foster, from CELAM, the generation and management of knowledge based on evidence, useful for discerning the signs of the times in light of the Word of God, theological reflection, and the ecclesial Magisterium, so that the Church, the People of God, may be a prophetic and wise voice in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The Knowledge Management Center is composed of the individuals outlined in Article 56 of the Statutes, Sections 1 and 2 (coordinating bishop, members of the Council, the director of the CGC, and the work team). The roles of the coordinating bishop and the director of the Center are outlined in the CELAM Statutes, Articles 58 and 60, respectively.

4. The coordinating bishop reports to the Pastoral Coordination Committee and, through it, to the Presidency.
5. The director reports to the coordinating bishop, the coordinating committee, and, through him, to the Presidency.
6. The CGC has a Council, which is a synodal body, presided over by the coordinating bishop and composed of the executive director and the councilors. It is defined as a “diakonia of intelligence” to the Episcopal Conferences, the CELAM Presidency, and, through it, to the People of God.
7. The functions of the Council are outlined in Articles 61 and 62 and in these Internal Regulations, to which the following are added:
 - a. To read, collegially, social, anthropological, and pastoral research, and to translate it didactically for understanding by the various audiences it is meant to serve. This task is carried out through the Center’s Work Team (the list of disciplines mentioned in this paragraph is not exhaustive and will be as broad as necessary for the proper exercise of the Council’s functions).
 - b. To respond promptly to requests for reports made by the Presidency.
 - c. To discern the thematic priorities of the tasks assigned to the Work Team and to offer guidance in this regard.
8. The Councilors are appointed by the Presidency, after hearing the proposal of the coordinating bishop, the Episcopal Conferences, and considering regional representation. The number of members of the Council will depend on the needs of the Center and will include bishops delegated from each region, laity, religious, and ordained ministers.
9. For the appointment of Councilors, the Presidency will take into account their academic qualifications, fidelity to the Church, and communion with the Pope. It will also consider their connection to

the themes the Center is to address, as well as their academic and pastoral experience.

10. The meetings of the Council are confidential, especially when dealing with tasks assigned by the Presidency. They will be held every two months in the ordinary course and in extraordinary sessions when called by the Coordinating Bishop.
11. The CGC shall have a Work Team, made up of professionals who coordinate the areas into which the Center's tasks are divided:
 - Socio Anthropological Pastoral Observatory;
 - Shared Knowledge;
 - Library, Newspaper Library, and Archive.
12. The team is led by the Center's director. Additionally, CELAM staff members assigned to the CGC are part of the team.
13. The area coordinators, led by the Center's director, will meet weekly to review the progress of the work plan, which is prepared by the team in accordance with the guidelines established by the Presidency, the General Secretariat, the Coordination Committee, and the CGC Council.
14. The area coordinators report to the director of the Center, and through him, to the coordinating bishop and the CGC Council.

Approved by the Presidency of the Latin American Episcopal Council at its meeting of December 7th, 2024.

Msgr. Lizardo Estrada Herrera, OSA
Secretary General of CELAM

Annex

CELAM Statutes - Chapter III Pastoral Centers

Article 55.

1. They are specialized bodies of communion and participation at the service of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, for the implementation of the priorities defined by the Assembly and outlined in the Global Plan, specified through programs and projects.
2. They are created, modified, or abolished by the Assembly, which also determines the scope and responsibilities of each of them.
3. They are governed by these Statutes and by the Internal Regulations approved by the Presidency.
4. Considering the Global Plan, in accordance with its purpose and profile, the Action Plan of each Pastoral Center is developed within the respective Council. Before being executed, it must be approved by the Pastoral Coordination Committee.

Article 56.

1. The Centers are composed of:
 1. The coordinating bishop and the members of the respective Pastoral Center Council.
 2. The director of the Center and the work team.
2. The headquarters of the Pastoral Centers is the same as that of CELAM and other headquarters in Latin America and the Caribbean according to the needs of decentralization.

Article 57.

1. The coordinating bishop of the Council is elected by the Assembly, by an absolute majority, from a list of three candidates drawn up by the Presidency based on proposals received from the Episcopal Conferences, considering the representativity of the Regions.
2. He shall serve a term of four years and may be re-elected only once.
3. When legitimately absent or definitively impeded, the Presidency shall entrust the position to a bishop until the next General Assembly, which, if not elective, will elect someone to serve for the remainder of the term.

Article 58.

The functions of the Coordinating Bishop of the Council are:

1. To convene and preside over the meetings and decisions of the respective Center's Council.
2. To guide and accompany, together with the director, the implementation and evaluation of the action plan, as agreed upon by the Council.
3. To be a member, by right, of the Pastoral Coordination Committee, promoting coordinated work among the Centers.
4. To participate in events and meetings organized by CELAM and the Pastoral Center whose Council he presides, as required.
5. To monitor the budget and contributions requested for the implementation of programs and projects.
6. To approve the Center's project plan submitted to the Presidency.
7. To appoint, jointly with the director, the ad tempus experts.

Article 59.

1. Each Center shall have a director, who is responsible for the management of the Center.
2. The director of a Center is appointed for a term of four years by the Presidency, based on the proposal of the Secretary General, after consulting with the coordinating bishop of the Council. The director may be reappointed for one additional term.
3. The director's performance is evaluated by the Coordinating Bishop of the Council, who, if necessary, may propose the director's removal to the Presidency.

Article 60.

The duties of the Center Director are:

1. To execute the action plan of the Pastoral Center.
2. To propose to the Council the necessary initiatives for this purpose, and to coordinate with the Coordinating Bishop of the Council on its activities.
3. To attend meetings of the Pastoral Coordination Committee.
4. To act in coordination with the General Secretariat.
5. To present to the Episcopal Conferences, through the General Secretariat, the plans, programs, and projects to be carried out in the territory of each Conference.
6. To request authorization from the Secretary General for the execution of the Center's budget.
7. To prepare the Center's financial report and budget execution, and, through the General Secretariat, to submit it in a timely manner to the Council for Economic Affairs for approval.

Article 61.

1. The Councils of the Pastoral Centers are synodal bodies that collaboratively make decisions between the coordinating bishop and the director of the Center.
2. Its members include the coordinating bishop and the director of the Center, by right; delegated bishops from each Region, lay people, religious, and ordained ministers, all experts in the areas of focus of each Center, appointed by the Presidency. The number of members will depend on the needs of each Center.
3. They are presided over by the bishop who guides the discernment process in close relationship with the director.
4. They report to the Pastoral Coordination Committee.

Article 62.

The functions of the Pastoral Center Council are:

1. To elaborate the proposal of pastoral priorities for each Pastoral Center.
2. To accompany the planning of the pastoral initiatives of the Center.
3. To accompany the implementation of the Center's pastoral initiatives.
4. To advise the coordinating bishop and the director in resolving any issues that arise.
5. To evaluate and monitor the objectives of the Center.
6. To submit the publications prepared by the Pastoral Centers for review and approval by the General Secretariat. Additionally, the approval of the competent authority must be obtained when necessary (Cf. CIC. cc. 825 § 1; 826; 827 § 1).

Episcopal appointments

- Dec. 5th: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Miguel Ángel Cabello Almada as bishop of the Diocese of Villarrica del Espíritu Santo (Paraguay), transferring him from the Diocese of Concepción.
- December 7th: Pope Francis appointed Fr. Alexander Matiz Atencio, from the clergy of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cali (Colombia), who was previously Episcopal Vicar for the Economy, as bishop of the Diocese of Buga (Colombia).
- December 10th: Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Víctor Hugo Palma Paúl as metropolitan archbishop of the Archdiocese of Los Altos, Quetzaltenango-Totonicapán (Guatemala), transferring him from the Diocese of Escuintla.
- December 12th: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Ernesto Giobando, S.I., previously titular bishop of Appiaria and auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, and currently apostolic administrator of Mar del Plata, as bishop of the Diocese of Mar del Plata (Argentina).
- Dec. 18th: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Antônio de Assis Ribeiro, S.D.B., as bishop of the Diocese of Macapá (Brazil), transferring him from the titular see of Babra and the office of auxiliary bishop of Belém do Pará.
- December 21st: Pope Francis appointed Rev. Fr. José Roberto dos Reis, C.P., previously master of novices and parochial vicar in the Diocese of São Luís dos Montes Belos, as auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Goiânia (Brazil), assigning him the titular see of Feradi Minor.
- December 30th: Pope Francis appointed Msgr. Ângelo Ademir Mezzari, R.C.I., as metropolitan archbishop of Vitória (Brazil),

transferring him from the titular see of Fiorentino and the office of auxiliary bishop of São Paulo.

- January 7th: Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon, Archbishop of Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Willemstad (Netherlands Antilles).
- January 9th: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Pablo Modesto González Pérez, S.D.B., as bishop of the Diocese of La Guaira (Venezuela), transferring him from the Diocese of Guasdualito.
- January 25th: Pope Francis appointed Archbishop José Armando Álvarez Cano, until now bishop of the Diocese of Tampico, as coadjutor archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Morelia (Mexico).
- January 25th: Pope Francis appointed Fr. Víctor Melchor Quintana Quezada, from the clergy of the Archdiocese of Chihuahua and previously pastor of Santa María Reina, as bishop of the Diocese of Nuevo Casas Grandes (Mexico).
- Jan. 28th: Pope Francis appointed Rev. Jaime Alberto Cabrera Arcos, from the clergy of the Diocese of Pasto (Colombia), previously pastor of Cristo Maestro and head of the Center for Priestly Formation for Youth Vocations Cristo Maestro, as bishop of the Diocese of Garzón (Colombia).
- Jan. 31st: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Gustavo Adolfo Rosales Escobar, previously titular bishop of Glavinizza and auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Guayaquil, as bishop of San Jacinto (Ecuador).

Resignations

- December 7th: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the Diocese of Buga (Colombia), presented by Bishop José Roberto Ospina Leongómez.

- Dec. 10th: Pope Francis has accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Los Altos, Quetzaltenango-Totonicapán (Guatemala), presented by H.E. Msgr. Mario Alberto Molina Palma, O.A.R.
- December 16th: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the diocese of Santa Rosa de Copán (Honduras), presented by Bishop Darwin Rudy Andino Ramírez, C.R.Sd.
- Dec. 18th: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the diocese of Macapá (Brazil) presented by Bishop Pedro José Conti.
- Dec. 30th: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Vitória (Brazil) presented by Msgr. Dario Campos, O.F.M.
- December 30th: Pope Francis has accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the diocese of San Isidro (Argentina), presented by Bishop Oscar Vicente Ojea. He is succeeded by Bishop Guillermo Caride, until now coadjutor bishop of the same diocese.
- January 7th: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the Diocese of Willemstad (Netherlands Antilles), presented by Msgr. Luigi Antonio Secco, S.D.B.
- January 31st: Pope Francis accepted the resignation from the pastoral government of the Diocese of San Jacinto (Ecuador) presented by Bishop Aníbal Nieto Guerra, O.C.D.

Deaths

- December 2nd: Bishop Héctor Luis Gutiérrez Pabón, bishop emeritus of Engativá, Colombia.
- Braulio Rafael León Villegas, bishop emeritus of Ciudad Guzmán, Jalisco, Mexico.

Upcoming courses and diplomas

Classroom Training for Musicians 2025

From February 17th to 22nd, Cebitepal will host the second edition of the international course “Formation for Musicians,” a face-to-face training initiative that will bring together various artists and musicians from Latin America. The goal is to foster a deep reflection on the vocation of the musician as both disciple and artist, serving the mission of the Church.

Special participants include Ziza Fernandes (Brazil), Daniel Poli (Argentina), Rafael Moreno (Mexico), Pablo Martínez (Argentina), Juan Delgado (United States), Fabrizio Catenassi (Brazil), Pedro Brassesco (CELAM), and Francisco Bermeo (Colombia).

CELAM to host the third edition of the Refresher Course for Bishops

Cebitepal will hold the third edition of the Theological-Pastoral Refresher Course for Bishops at the CELAM headquarters in Bogota from February 24th to 28th.

The course will be guided by Father José San José Prisco and Dr. Rafael Luciani, who will address key topics for episcopal ministry, such as the role of episcopal conferences in pastoral work and the pastoral opportunities from the perspective of canon law. The course aims to provide practical tools to strengthen the bishops’ mission in the Church.

Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology 2025 -2026

In both face-to-face and virtual formats, this program promotes the development of critical and proactive pastoral initiatives, delving into specific areas of theological studies. With a strong ecclesiological foundation, it encourages dialogue with reality, the culture of encounter, and the synodal spirit in the Church's mission.

On-site module: April 29th to June 20th.

Information: www.licenciatura.CELAM.org

Kerygmatic Preaching

To strengthen your skills and deepen your vocation as a preacher, we invite you to join the virtual course "Kerygmatic Preaching," from February 22nd to June 14th.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3E3DIu5>

Pastoral Education

From March 3rd to 26th, Cebitepal will offer the virtual course "Educational Pastoral Care" within the context of the Global Education Pact, promoted by Pope Francis. This approach integrates key principles aimed at forming individuals committed to the common good and social transformation, in harmony with the values of the Gospel.

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

Conversation in the Spirit for the strengthening of the Synodal Church

Discover the richness of communal discernment! Join the "Spiritual Conversation" course and immerse yourself in a transformative experience, where dialogue in the Spirit guides us as we seek God's will together.

Dates: March 4th to 25th

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

Urban insecurity as a challenge for synodal pastoral care

Participate in the virtual course “Urban Insecurity as a Challenge for Pastoral Care,” a training program designed to reflect on this phenomenon affecting our church communities.

Dates: March 5th to 26th

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4h6e6v8>

In the footsteps of faith: an approach to the Old Testament in a Latin American perspective

From March 3rd to May 14th, explore the theological, historical, and spiritual richness of Sacred Scripture from a critical and contextual perspective, committed to the realities of Latin America.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4jWY8FF>

Resource management for a Church in action

The intensive course “Resource Management for an Active Church,” with Gisella Rivera Reyes, provides practical tools to optimize resources and develop projects that benefit communities.

Date: March 10th to 14th.

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

Agreements signed

Institution	Object
Xindy Melissa Mosquera Rincón - Colombia	Collaboration agreement for style review of publications and editorial products related to pastoral centers (research, documents, and other publications).
Social Pastoral of San Pedro del Paraná - Paraguay	Inter-institutional cooperation between the Social Pastoral of San Pedro del Paraná, Paraguay, and CELAM, operating within the framework of the collaboration promoted by the project "Villages: Rethinking the Economy from a Community Perspective."
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana - UPB - Colombia	To combine technical, human, and operational efforts to carry out training programs in a virtual format, grouped by areas (biblical, theological, pastoral, social and DSI, culture, and ecology).
Faith and Life Formation Institute - USA.	To work together in areas of common interest, with the aim of fostering cooperation through the establishment of mutually beneficial relationships in teaching, research, and community engagement, in continuing education and postgraduate programs.

To see and participate again

CELAM, through the Center for Communication, makes available the content produced for the CELAM DNA ecosystem, as well as the messages and recordings of events during December 2024 and January 2025:

Video-messages from CELAM

- Dec. 20th: Christmas message from Card. Jaime Spengler, president of CELAM <https://youtu.be/ejSQbjdtIEc>
- December 29th: message of Card. Jaime Spengler for the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth <https://youtu.be/KcyWjeTDPrg>
- December 21st: a special Christmas card for you from CELAM, open it! <https://youtube.com/shorts/myAb9r-m0ws>
- January 1st: message of Card. Jaime Spengler for the Solemnity of St. Mary, Mother <https://youtu.be/D9sIL3ETiA>

Virtual events

- December 1st: Advent 1 preparatory meeting - Andean Region <https://youtu.be/4zqyW4hwKek>
- December 8th: Advent 2 preparatory meeting - Camex Region <https://youtu.be/d5mXKqh1sx0>
- December 12th: presentation of the book Global Education Pact (Reel 1) <https://youtube.com/shorts/W9ZdAjitJWE?si=3DOEQ-qwiuoxSPUHx>

- December 12th: how to download the book *Global Education Pact* (Reel 2) <https://youtube.com/shorts/PG9ONg6fLE8?-si=pBOSSdWjBI-JRJL2>
- December 12th: presentation of the book: *Global Education Pact: perspectives from Latin America* <https://youtu.be/oAnV-G1I2ztg>
- December 15th: Advent 3 preparatory meeting - Caribbean Region <https://youtu.be/BljNh8Bi8iw>
- December 22nd: Advent preparatory meeting 4 - Southern Cone Region <https://youtu.be/YpPtGJeYrtY>
- January 25th: Blessing to journalists in St. Peter's Basilica <https://youtu.be/fL0wk1wnQEY>

ADN CELAM News

- December 7th: special report of the consistory (1) <https://youtu.be/9DfXTg3uDFU>
- December 8th: special report of the consistory (2) <https://youtu.be/xiCGnIhEc18>
- December 9th: memories of the XII Continental Meeting of the Basic Ecclesial Communities <https://youtu.be/XOI4X074X6U>
- December 13th: "Life hangs by a thread", campaign in solidarity with Latin American defenders <https://youtu.be/cYiPRADipPg>
- December 21st: CELAM gathers Platforms of Latin American economies in Bogota <https://youtu.be/W7nvsqhxMXo>
- December 28th: Augustinianum Patristic Institute of Rome, learning about the beginnings of the Church https://youtu.be/TH_FFItPsZg
- January 04th: Americas network, digital missionaries and U. Church <https://youtu.be/m5PzO0Qcbgw>
- January 18th: Jubilee 2025: A Year of Renewal and Redemption <https://youtu.be/LfcColmIIyI>

Reflections for the road

- December 16th: 1st Anniversary of Cardinal Eduardo Pironio's beatification. Eduardo Pironio <https://youtu.be/BMlhfok-G4>
- December 24th: start of the Holy Year 2025 <https://youtu.be/mNNA6Sa3Dig>
- December 25th: Nativity of the Lord Jesus <https://youtu.be/KI-r17E1oQ7k>
- December 28th: Memorial of the Holy Innocents <https://youtu.be/CobBDmL4I2c>
- December 29th: Holy Family of Nazareth <https://youtu.be/GJUw2aqrgWs>
- January 1st: Solemnity of St. Mary, Mother of God <https://youtu.be/eccQDv05GPK>

DNA 60 seconds

- December 6th: <https://youtube.com/shorts/rdQkG65xwGA?si=cLTbS8wSeiaAiAlb>
- January 18th: 60-second summary of news from the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtube.com/shorts/aBPMD-wm-fMU>

Zoom DNA

- January 25th: Advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras (1) https://youtube.com/shorts/DTm_0Wu_iUE
- January 26th: Advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras (2) <https://youtube.com/shorts/bc8g-OmkeBI>
- January 27th: advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras (3) <https://youtube.com/shorts/31JmKpTgcVg>
- January 28th: Advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras (4) <https://youtube.com/shorts/rFGw1J6vTK0>

- January 29th - ADNZoom, advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras (5) <https://youtube.com/shorts/amFnt5l6BQo>

Latin American Polyhedron

- Broadcast of December 6th https://youtu.be/v5W_2hF6SGM

Jubilee Hymn, Latin American and Caribbean Version

- January 20th: CELAM in Tune with the Jubilee <https://youtube.com/shorts/H67bEJaujYw>
- January 20th: All on the same beat <https://youtube.com/shorts/3lSfJH54OTk>
- January 22nd - Pilgrims of Hope <https://youtube.com/shorts/ywfqpSZMN6s>

Campaign “Life hangs by a thread”.

- December 9th: press conference at the Holy See to present the campaign “Life hangs by a thread” <https://youtu.be/iuFd6IuNjlg>
- December 10th: Launching of the “Life by a Thread” Campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean <https://youtu.be/YiR1YaNbw-8>
- December 10th - Juan López, Honduran leader and martyr for defending the common home <https://youtu.be/7b7urpaHJ10>
- December 12th: #LaVidaPendedeunHilo Emilce Cuda, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America <https://youtube.com/shorts/HxNrjHA01CA>
- Dec. 17th: #LaVidaPendedeunHilo The President of CELAM, Card. Jaime Spengler <https://youtube.com/shorts/l96903ot6gI>

- January 21st: ‘Justice for Juan López’. This is the progress of the advocacy and solidarity tour in Honduras <https://youtu.be/Bs-9Ye3uQIZg>
- December 17th: #LaVidaPendedeunHilo Be attentive to the magisterium of Pope Cardinal Czerny <https://youtube.com/shorts/Q9-k9rBYevY>

Christmas Concert “Jesus enters your home”.

- December 1st: Are you ready? <https://youtube.com/shorts/Cig-jZtPn--0?si=tHmSOoCIXtAMvXbf>
- December 12th: Christmas fills us with hope! The Christmas concert “Jesus enters your home” <https://youtu.be/p2E83-PW7sca-rives>
- December 13th: Come celebrate Christmas with us! The Christmas concert “Jesus enters your home” is coming <https://youtu.be/cABYprp3QcM>
- December 18th: Antonio Cardoso, the singer of the Brazilian Amazon, present in “Jesus enters your home” <https://youtu.be/YEru4OBX30>
- December 18th: Lily Escu, arrives at the Christmas concert “Jesus enters your home” <https://youtube.com/shorts/QYEy3ZjmuVk>
- December 19th: Paz y Bien Music, special invitation for Jesus enters your home <https://youtu.be/LJJk3OSuoE>
- December 20th: Christmas concert “Jesus enters your home”, Garifuna villages present at this Christmas gala <https://youtube.com/shorts/1k1A-lu-q7g>
- December 20th: Christmas is Hope, message from the Latin American and Caribbean Bishops’ Council <https://youtu.be/-AH1kJy-F4KU>

- December 21st: Juan Morales, present at the Christmas concert “Jesus enters your home” <https://youtu.be/zZQu5xYRgaQ>
- December 22nd: the legendary group Jésed said yes, and will be at the concert Jesus enters your home <https://youtube.com/shorts/t1v-u6Oj7og>
- December 23rd: from Puerto Rico, the Salinense Ministerial Meeting joins Jesus enters your home <https://youtu.be/4an-c45W7L9U>
- December 23rd: Latin American and Caribbean concert “Jesus enters your home” https://youtu.be/SBa0gH74_28

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