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Presidency of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council - CELAM

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Acronym

CEAMA: Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.

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

CGC: CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

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

CELAM: Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council.

CPC: Center for Communication of CELAM.

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

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

LACAM: Red de Lideresas Afrodescendientes Católicas de las Américas.

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

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

PAGAICEYNA: Pastoral Garífuna Inculturated Central America and the Caribbean.

PCAL: Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

PCN: Child Centrality Program.

PEG: Global Education Pact.

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

RECLAC: Ecclesial Network of Latin American and Caribbean Communicators

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

Pope Francis received in audience the Presidency of CELAM



On Saturday morning, October 19th, Pope Francis granted an audience to some members of the Presidency of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) in an atmosphere of deep communion and fraternity.

The meeting was attended by the organization's president, Bishop Jaime Spengler, the first vice-president, Bishop José Luis Azuaje, the secretary general, Bishop Lizardo Estrada, and the assistant secretary general, Father Pedro Brassesco.

During the audience, the members of the CELAM Presidency were able to talk with the Holy Father on various issues related to the activities carried out by the institution, while informing him about the regional meetings planned for early next year with the Episcopal Conferences of the continent, in order to promote greater coordination of regional

actions on common issues and together with other ecclesial and civil society actors.

They also recalled that in 2025 the CELAM will celebrate its 70th anniversary, also evoking the First General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1955. Therefore, the 40th Ordinary General Assembly of CELAM will be held in this city in the last week of May.

Another item on the agenda had to do with the report presented to the Pope on the meeting held in Luxembourg at the end of August, together with the Bishops' Conferences of Africa and Asia (Secan and FABC, respectively). They also discussed some perspectives for the work of the Synod, for the implementation of its conclusions and in the framework of the celebration of the Jubilee of Hope, as well as various aspects related to the Conference on Climate Change (COP 30) that will take place next year in Belem do Para (Brazil). It was also ratified the desire that the churches of the global south can make a journey together in order to exchange gifts and contribute to mutual strengthening.

At the end of the meeting, Pope Francis encouraged the CELAM Presidency to do everything possible to ensure that bold proposals emerge from Latin America to continue strengthening the synodal spirit.

The president of CELAM to be created a cardinal

On Sunday, October 6th, at the conclusion of the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis announced the creation of 21 new cardinals, including the president of CELAM, Bishop Jaime Spengler. The ceremony will take place in St. Peter's Basilica on December 7th.

In addition to Bishop Jaime, Pope Francis will appoint four other Latin American cardinals: Archbishop Carlos Gustavo Castillo Mattasoglio, Archbishop of Lima (Peru); Archbishop Vicente Bokalic Iglic, CM, Archbishop of Santiago del Estero (Argentina); Archbishop Luis Gerardo Cabrera Herrera, OFM, Archbishop of Guayaquil (Ecuador); and Arch-

bishop Fernando Natalio Chomalí Garib, Archbishop of Santiago de Chile (Chile).

In a video message following the announcement, Bishop Spengler expressed gratitude for the expressions of affection and remarked, “I pray that together we can cooperate in the best way to promote the Gospel in all the realities of our society.” He encouraged everyone to “walk together in communion so that we can foster, even among ourselves, the Kingdom of God and His justice.”



Bishop Spengler was born on September 6th, 1960, in Gaspar, Santa Catarina, Brazil. He joined the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) on January 20th, 1982, and was ordained a priest on November 17th, 1990.

He studied philosophy at the St. Bonaventure Philosophical Institute in Campo Largo and theology at the Franciscan Theological Institute in Petrópolis, later earning a degree in Sacred Scriptures from the Jerusalem Theological Institute in Israel. Following his ordination, he completed a doctorate in philosophy at the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome. He also undertook various pastoral responsibilities within his religious congregation, as well as roles in teaching and formation.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him auxiliary bishop of Porto Alegre, and on September 18th, 2013, he was named archbishop by Pope Francis.

In May 2019, he was elected first vice-president of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB) for a four-year term. As of April 24th, 2023, he serves as the president of the CNBB for the 2023–2027 term.

On May 17th, 2023, during the 39th Ordinary General Assembly of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), he was elected president of CELAM for the same period (2023–2027).

The Holy Father sent a thank you video to CELAM workers



On Saturday, October 19th, during the private audience granted by Pope Francis to the CELAM Presidency, the Pontiff received a message of closeness, support, and gratitude from the collaborators of the epis-

copal organization based in Bogotá, Colombia, through a video presented to him.

“On behalf of the employees and collaborators of the different Pastoral Centers and areas of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), we want to express our feelings of closeness, support, and gratitude,” began the message, which showed the CELAM family gathered in the auditorium and in various aspects of their daily work.

“We are aware of the great commitment that each of us has, from our dignity as baptized persons, to proclaim the Good News,” the message continued, with CELAM collaborators also thanking the Pope “for his witness of simplicity and humility” and expressing their “admiration for his dedication to unity, listening, communion, and the mission of the Church.”

“We love you very much and we pray for you,” the message concluded. The Holy Father responded with a brief video message, saying: “Brothers and sisters, here they showed me the video you made. I liked it very much,” emphasizing that “CELAM includes all those working behind the scenes to support apostolic activity.”

“You are precisely that. Thank you very much for what you do. Pray for me, and I pray for you,” the Pope said, adding a final piece of advice: “Don’t lose your sense of humor.”

To see the video of the Holy Father: <https://youtu.be/V55jKfBfLrA>

To watch Pope Francis’ video: <https://youtu.be/zLBgxpCtZU>

CELAM delivered to the Pope and the synodal delegates the book with the papers of the Congress of Synodal Theology



At the beginning of the second session of the XVI Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, members of the CELAM Presidency presented the Holy Father with a printed book containing the papers from the Synodal Theology Congress held last August in Bogotá.

The text, titled “Theology in a Synodal Key: Contributions to a Missionary Synodality,” was printed in Rome and distributed free of charge to the 368 members of the Assembly and other participants.

The book compiles 20 papers written by researchers from various countries around the world who offered their conceptual contributions during the Congress. It is organized into four thematic sections: Syno-

dality and Theology, The Synodality of the People of God, Missionary Synodality, and Levels, Processes, and Structures of Synodality.

In response to the question of how to be a synodal Church in mission, the book offers a vision where reflections, pastoral insights, and theological proposals converge, guiding the journey toward conversion and reform.

The aim is to contribute concretely to this moment in history with the hope that the Church will better refine its focus and deepen its understanding of the foundations of synodality. This involves embracing a synodal or communal approach to theology that is grounded in listening, sincere dialogue, discernment, and the integration of diverse perspectives.

CELAM's headquarters was awarded as an architectural project



The CELAM headquarters received the 29th edition of the Fernando Martínez Architecture Biennial Prize for 2024, organized by the Colombian Society of Architects, in the “Architectural Project” category. The CELAM headquarters was chosen from among 410 submissions.

The award ceremony took place in the city of Cartagena, where the jury evaluated the most significant works across various fields of architecture.

Father Adolfo Vera, assistant secretary for the new venue, explained that the architecture biennial “is a cultural and academic event organized since 1962 by the Colombian Society of Architects, founded on June 6th, 1934.”

He noted that “the best architectural and urban projects developed over the past five years in Colombia participated,” with this year’s event held under the theme “Transforming Our Habitat.”

Father Vera highlighted that the biennial primarily recognizes “projects whose quality contributes to preserving and enhancing the architectural, urban, historical, environmental, social, and cultural values of the environment where they have been developed.”

He further emphasized that “the selected projects aimed to address the urgent need for strategic actions in different territories to build lasting social welfare by achieving balanced coexistence between environmental, social, and urban dimensions.”

A course was held on intellectual formation in the seminaries

From September 30th to October 4th, the course “Intellectual Dimension of the Seminaries of Latin America and the Caribbean” was held at CELAM’s headquarters in Usaquén, Bogotá. Organized by CELAM and coordinated by the Organization of Latin American Seminaries (Oslam), the course aimed to address key challenges in the academic and intellectual formation of seminarians.

Father Fidel Suárez, the course coordinator, explained that its primary goal was to identify challenges and demands in the intellectual dimension of seminarian formation, seeking ways to foster a new phase of evangelization and theological development among seminarians.



He emphasized that one of the significant challenges is ensuring that seminarians' formation integrates various dimensions from the very beginning, particularly the intellectual or academic dimension. This clarity, he noted, is essential for shaping today's pastors, who "can no longer align with the model of a pyramidal Church" but must recognize that their mission is fundamentally "to promote the ministry of the entire People of God."

Omar Carrera, rector of the National Major Seminary of the Assumption in Guatemala and a member of Oslam's board of directors, highlighted the fraternal spirit of the gathering: "We shared not only our lives but also our faith, service, and vocation as formators." He added that the meeting offered enriching opportunities to learn from formative experiences within their own countries and from those of others in attendance.

Reflecting on the lessons learned, Carrera encouraged a hopeful approach: "We must move forward without fear, leaving pessimism behind and embracing greater faith in the processes. I want to encourage everyone to trust—if the Pope exemplifies anything, it is faith and that hope which does not disappoint but instead fills us with joy."

In collaboration with Oslam, CELAM has emphasized the importance of intellectual formation for seminarians, paving the way for a paradigm shift to address the transformations required by today's realities.

This involves rethinking mentalities and adapting learning models. As Carrera stated, “While seminaries have always offered solutions to the challenges of their times, it is equally true that today we face unique challenges that must be addressed through a healthy and serene theology that responds to the demands of our era.”

CELAM will also accompany the upcoming Oslam General Assembly, scheduled to take place in Guatemala City from November 17th to 22nd.

Addictions: poverty and humility on the road to recovery



On October 4th, the 7th Seminar organized by the Pastoral Latinoamericana de Acompañamiento y Prevención de las Adicciones (PLAPA) was held virtually under the theme: “Poverty and Humility: Essential on the Road to Recovery.”

The event featured Jesuit priest Fernando Cervera, from the Centro Barrial Papa Francisco (Hogar de Cristo in San Miguel, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina), and Brazilian priest César Alberto Dos Santos, from Fazenda da Esperança.

In his reflection, Fr. Cervera stated, “Poverty and humility are evangelical because through them we understand something fundamental about love: when I say I love someone, I am saying, ‘I am poor; I need you.’” He described their work as “beggars of love. That is our primary poverty, and it is good that our wounds keep us in need of God’s love.”

He then posed the question, “Why do I come to accompany these people?” and answered, “We believe in hope, not in efficacy. The answer lies between God and them. Our destitution as companions reflects our own need for love.” He further emphasized, “You can only change someone’s heart with a measure of love that is entirely gratuitous—freely given by the one offering it and freely accepted by the one receiving it.”

Fr. Dos Santos reflected on humility, describing it as a virtue that helps us recognize who we truly are. He explained, “To free ourselves from ourselves, we need a good dose of humility. To overcome selfishness requires humility—essentially, profound self-awareness, because those who know themselves become humble.” He added, “At the Fazendas de la Esperança, we help drug addicts by opening ourselves to others, going beyond each person’s condition, beyond their sense of nothingness.”

To watch the Seminar again: <https://youtu.be/Arj9XTfEMu8?si=k9pjd-n73zQGD5CDN>

Conversatory to celebrate four years of the Global Education Pact

On the fourth anniversary of the Global Education Pact (GEP), launched by Pope Francis in October 2020, CELAM, together with other Church organizations, hosted a virtual discussion on October 15 titled: “Four Years of the Global Education Pact: Journey, Current Events, and Prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Cláudia Chesini, a Brazilian nun from the Congregation of St. Catherine, was the first to share her reflections. She highlighted the fundamental

role of education throughout the Church's history, describing it as a service that contributes to the development of peoples and the construction of Latin American and Caribbean culture and identity.



She noted that since the GEP's launch, strategies have been developed to renew the Church's commitment to younger generations, reigniting a passion for education that is more open, inclusive, attentive, dialogical, and understanding—an education that forms mature individuals.

Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, emphasized that the GEP represents a new vision for education, calling for the revision and reformulation of curricula, programs, and educational projects in line with this renewed perspective. He noted that this process also requires a shift in mindset: "We are called to a conversion because the Global Education Pact is also a question of spirituality—of how we see, embrace, and engage with reality. It is something that must emerge from within us," he said.

The Cardinal highlighted that Latin America has responded more than any other continent to the Pope's call for the GEP, evident in the numerous activities related to its implementation. He expressed gratitude for these efforts, encouraging participants to continue sharing their experiences and strengthening networks.

Pedro Brassesco, Assistant Secretary General of CELAM, stated that commemorating four years of the Global Education Pact involves reflecting on the path ahead and committing to concrete proposals to advance the process in the Americas. He acknowledged the significant progress made but stressed the importance of highlighting the actions undertaken by educators, families, ministers from other denominations, religious communities, and the public sector.

The executive made an analysis of the seven commitments for the Global Education Pact proposed by Pope Francis, which involves all components of society. They are: Put the person at the center, listen to the younger generations, promote women, make the family responsible, open to welcome, renew the economy and politics and take care of the common home.

To see the complete conversation: <https://youtu.be/Yk6fQAwF4RI>

Laudate Deum Route: the Church's proposal at COP 16



The Catholic Church in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in COP 16 through the Laudate Deum Route, an initiative led by the Commission for Integral Ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean (CEILAC), a branch of CELAM.

From this platform, the Church promoted three main axes of reflection and action: interconnection, justice, and ecological sustainability. These themes aimed to strengthen the global conversation on biodiversity and its preservation worldwide.

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 16) took place from October 21st to November 1st, 2024, in Santiago de Cali, Colombia, with representatives from 170 countries and institutions in attendance.

The Church's contributions to the conference were framed from a perspective illuminated by the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Magisterium. These reflections sought to engage in dialogue with diverse cultural worldviews and reject any form of despotic or irresponsible domination of humans over other creatures.

For decades, the Church has been active across the continent, dedicated to the care of our common home. In collaboration with Church organizations, civil society, the private sector, and governments, the Church has committed to sharing its experience to foster reflection. From this, it hopes to inspire challenges and hopes that drive genuine ecological conversion.

Drawing on its ecclesial and ecumenical experience, the Laudate Deum Route has identified seven thematic areas as critical challenges and opportunities for action. Through these, the Church aims to contribute to society's collective efforts to raise environmental awareness, address the challenges of caring for our common home, and develop sustainable solutions and alternatives.

These seven axes are: 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 spiritu-

ality; culture of care, common good and alternatives for the different forms of good living.

CELAM repudiates the murder of Fr. Marcelo Pérez Pérez



P. /No. 0126 de 2024

Bogotá, D.C., octubre 20 de 2024

Monseñor
Rodrigo Aguilar
Arzobispo de San Cristóbal de las Casas
México

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

Querido hermano:

Desde el Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano queremos manifiestarle nuestra consternación y dolor por el asesinato del padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez ocurrido en la mañana de este domingo.

Sabemos que el padre Marcelo ha sido un incansable buscador de la paz y la justicia en su pueblo, fruto de su compromiso fiel por el Evangelio y su entrega total a Cristo presente entre los que más sufren.

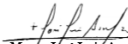
Nos hacemos cercanos a su familia y comunidad con el deseo de renovar la esperanza en que este grano de trigo que hoy muere de frutos abundantes en el Señor.

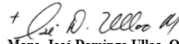
Que María de Guadalupe reciba en sus brazos maternos al padre Marcelo y lo conduzca al gozo de Dios.


Dale Señor el destacando eterno, y brille para él la luz que no tiene fin.


Fraternalmente en Cristo y María,

+ 
Mons. Jaime Spengler
Arzobispo de Porto Alegre, Brasil
Presidente

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

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

+ 
Mons. Santiago Rodríguez Rodríguez
Obispo San Pedro de Macoris, Rep. Dom.
Presidente CAE

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The directors of CELAM expressed profound sorrow and dismay over the murder of Mexican Indigenous priest Marcelo Pérez Pérez, a devoted human rights defender with a lifelong commitment to the Indigenous communities of the region.

Rodrigo Aguilar, Archbishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas (Mexico), along with the members of CELAM's presidency, highlighted Father Marcelo's dedication to the Gospel and his unwavering devotion to Christ, who is present among the most vulnerable. They stated: "We know that Father Marcelo was a tireless advocate for peace and justice among his people, driven by his faithful commitment to the Gospel and his total dedication to Christ, especially among those who suffer the most."

CELAM also expressed its solidarity with Father Marcelo's family and community, renewing the hope that his sacrifice will bear spiritual fruit: "This grain of wheat that dies today will bear abundant fruit in the Lord."

The letter, signed by all members of CELAM's presidency, concludes with an invocation to the Virgin of Guadalupe, asking her to embrace Father Marcelo in her maternal arms and guide him to eternal joy.

On October 20th, Father Marcelo Pérez Pérez was murdered in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, after celebrating Mass in the Cuxtitali neighborhood. While on his way to the Guadalupe Church, he was intercepted by two men on a motorcycle who shot and killed him.

Father Pérez was renowned for his work promoting justice and peace within the Indigenous communities of the region. He also served as a mediator in conflicts in areas such as Pantelhó, where violence and insecurity have risen significantly.

REMAM in the face of the murders of the defenders of the Common Home

In a strong communiqué issued on October 21st, the Mesoamerican Ecological Ecclesial Network (REMAM) expressed its indignation and

pain at the murder of Father Marcelo Pérez Pérez, a priest of the diocese of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, and a founding member of REMAM.

REMAM described the murder of Father Marcelo as ‘vile’ and lamented his death: “We deeply condemn the death of this tireless fighter and defender of the native peoples and of Creation in the State of Chiapas.”



“In the face of so much violence, which has taken the life of Berta Cáceres on March 3th, 2016, as well as the recent murders of Juan Antonio López in Honduras on September 14th, 2024, Francisco Pop Ico in Guatemala on October 17th, 2024, and Father Marcelo Pérez in Mexico on October 20, 2024, and of so many other martyrs for the defense of the Common Home, we rise to shout: ENOUGH ALREADY! Mesoamerica, what have you done with your faith?”

Quoting Pope Francis, the ecclesial network calls on those responsible for these acts of violence to conversion, appealing for respect for life, nature, and the rights of the most impoverished: “God has given the earth to the whole human race so that it may sustain all its inhabitants, excluding no one and privileging no one” (LS 93).

“We make an urgent appeal to all those who are driven by selfish interests to the detriment of the common good, to all those who participate in organized crime, and to all those who sow death and mourning throughout our region, to reflect,” the communiqué states, praying: “Let Christ touch your heart, repent of your sins, open yourselves to the needs of the most impoverished people and peoples, respect the life and territories of the native peoples and impoverished peasants.”

The statement, signed by the Archbishop of Yucatán and president of REMAM, Bishop Gustavo Rodríguez Vega, and REMAM’s executive secretary, Father Noel Ortiz, expresses the hope that Fr. Marcelo’s martyrdom will inspire fruits of peace and reconciliation in Mesoamerica.

Bishop Azuaje was elected member of the Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

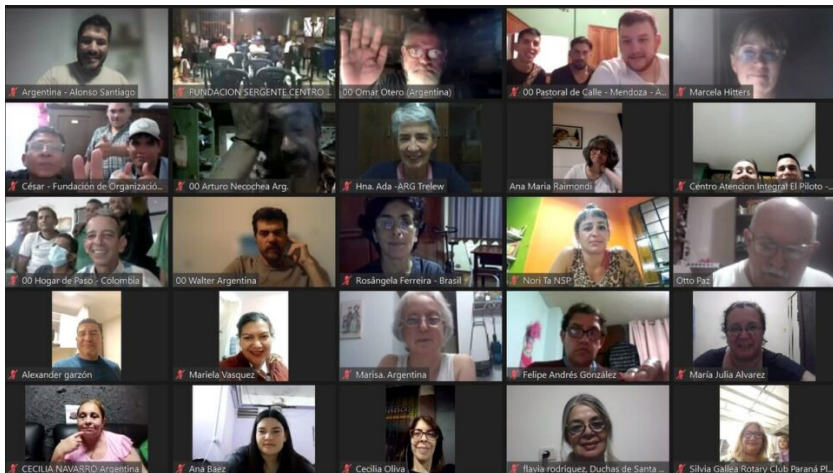


Archbishop José Luis Azuaje, Archbishop of Maracaibo (Venezuela) and First Vice-President of CELAM, was elected as a member of the Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod, alongside Cardinal Luis José Rueda, Archbishop of Bogotá (Colombia).

The Ordinary Council consists of 17 members, the majority of whom are diocesan bishops elected by the Fathers of the Ordinary General Assembly. Since its establishment in 1971 to prepare for and carry out the Ordinary General Assembly, the Council has proven its usefulness, in part responding to the wish of the Council Fathers who called for the co-optation of certain bishops, dedicated to pastoral ministry in different regions of the world, as stable cooperators of the Roman Pontiff in his role as universal pastor.

According to the Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis Communio*, the Council is responsible for the preparation and conduct of the Ordinary General Assembly. Its members take office at the conclusion of the Ordinary General Assembly, remain members of the succeeding Assembly, and end their term with the dissolution of the latter.

Second meeting with homeless people



On October 30th, the Second Meeting of the People of God on the Streets, “Let’s Dream Together”, was held, organized by the Center for Knowledge Management (CGC) of CELAM and the Latin American Pas-

toral for the People of God on the Streets. More than 400 people from Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and Mexico participated.

The main guests were homeless individuals who are somehow sheltered in Catholic spaces and embrace these human vulnerabilities.

Participants knew that the environment was both communal and private, as the event was not streamed on social media. As one of the organizers stated, “There is joy, there are voices, just as it should be. We never expected it to be silent. Welcome the words, the songs.”

From Argentina, a story was shared: “It’s not my eyes that cry, it’s my soul,” said the storyteller. From Brazil, the song “Ey, let me go” was sung in Portuguese.

Father Marcos Augusto from Brazil led the opening prayer during a “historic night,” a wonderful evening of hugs and attentive listening to every intervention, because each one represented the recovered voice of a life struggling against violence and the helplessness found in the streets of our continent.

“To be here, we are moved by love, and organized love. It is only possible to walk alongside others. No one is saved alone,” was a powerful reflection from Argentina.

For the exchanges between the various groups connected from their community homes, the following questions were proposed: What is the presence of pastoral work or the Church on the streets? What would we like the Church to do? How can we participate?

In the spirit of listening, the following reflections resonated in the conversations: “They helped us talk”; “The Church is sometimes short-sighted, it doesn’t see us”; “Missionary gestures do good”; “We need to learn to be a family”; “We need more people in the street to help us, and now”; “Forgiveness is for everyone”; “God doesn’t leave us alone, He gives us another chance”; “Courage, yes we can”; “This is an encounter with the smell of resurrection”; “We are people who deserve to be supported and respected.”

Father ‘Tonga’ Colombres from Argentina closed the meeting with a prayer to the Virgin, the Our Father, and concluded with the farewell song “Sucedió” (It Happened) performed by the group SonDeLaCalle.

The culture of care in the synodal journey



On October 23rd, the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Culture of Care of CELAM held the webinar “Perspectives on the Culture of Care in the Light of the 2024 Synod.” The event featured Monsignor Ricardo Morales, Bishop of Copiapó and President of the National Council for the Prevention of Abuse and Victim Support in Chile; Sister Gloria Liliana Franco, President of the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious (CLAR); and Father Pedro Brassesco, Assistant Secretary of CELAM. Ana María Celis, a member of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, moderated the session.

The participants shared how the culture of care was addressed at the Synod on Synodality.

Sister Liliana Franco emphasized that “the culture of care is transversal to the spirit of synodality” and explained that synodality is not just lim-

ited to an assembly, but rather encompasses a whole spirit—a way of relating to one another, of building and being the Church.

For Sister Liliana, speaking about synodality means talking about constructing a “relational ecosystem” where there are no abusive or hierarchical relationships, but rather fraternal bonds based on mutual respect, “so that the relational model that prevails is the way of Jesus.”

Bishop Ricardo Morales recalled the “penitential vigil” held at the beginning of the Synod, where a victim of abuse within the ecclesial context shared their testimony. “It was an explicit decision of the Holy Father to have this space where the Church asks for forgiveness,” explained Bishop Ricardo, underscoring that this act of contrition is a step toward restoring the Church’s credibility.

“The Synod is not some kind of strategy that a company or any institution can use to improve its procedures or credibility,” clarified the bishop. He emphasized that one of the key topics discussed was the credibility of the Church, “because only to the extent that we are credible can we truly proclaim the message of Jesus Christ.”

Father Pedro Brassesco reflected on the innovative features of this Synod that distinguish it from previous ones. He highlighted the open consultation with the people of God, the roundtable discussions during the sessions to foster dialogue in the Spirit, and reminded everyone that the value of this Synod lies in the process itself.

The priest stated that we must “understand the richness of synodality for a Church on the move, a missionary Church.” In this sense, he noted that sometimes a quantitative evaluation is made regarding whether a topic was addressed, when in reality, the Synod is focusing on understanding the causes and reasons behind a problem or challenge.

To view the full webinar: <https://youtu.be/eSYN21t6w60>

Pope Francis received Project Hope members



On October 30th, the Holy Father received in audience members of Project Hope, an initiative that has been supporting men and women since 1999 who, for various reasons, have voluntarily terminated a pregnancy and have struggled to cope with the pain, guilt, and emptiness that followed.

Also present at the meeting were Francisco Hernández, Director of CELAM's Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks, and Jesús Briceño, advisor to CEPRAP, both of whom have been accompanying the Project's journey.

Pope Francis referred to a passage from the Gospel of Matthew describing the flight to Egypt, almost suggesting that such a profound evil can distance us from Jesus, preventing Him from entering our homes or finding a place in our hearts. However, he said, "We must not lose hope, because evil does not have the last word; it is never definitive." Just as the angel appeared in St. Joseph's dream, God announces to us that,

after this desert, the Lord will return to reclaim His house, the house of our hearts, the torn womb, the life that was interrupted.

For this reason, he emphasized the mission of Project Hope: “For many people, you are like that angel, and I am truly grateful to you. Trust in the firm hand of St. Joseph so that these brothers and sisters of ours can find Jesus in their desolation,” he said. “For only with Him will they reach the warm and secure home of Nazareth, where they can experience the inner peace and joy of being welcomed and forgiven in the embrace of the Holy Family.”

II Meeting in preparation for the Symposium on Indian Theology



The II Meeting in preparation for the VIII Symposium of Indian Theology, held virtually on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, focused on key themes such as the “dreams of an indigenous Church in and with the native peoples,” “women’s ministries and new generations,” and “communality and ministeriality from the Gospel, the territories, and the heart of the native peoples.”

The goal of the meeting was to deepen the identity and mission of the Church in dialogue with native cultures, respecting and valuing their contributions based on faith and tradition.

At the outset, Father Eliazar López Hernández emphasized two key aspects: a Church and an experiential theology rooted in the concrete experiences of indigenous peoples. This is a critical theology that emerges from life itself and returns to life, “offering a path to live synodality from the roots of these peoples.”

Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzini Imeri, coordinator of CELAM’s advisory team on Indian Theology, highlighted the efforts made during the preparation and encouraged this experience to strengthen and energize the mission of transmitting the experiences and reflections of those involved in this process, while maintaining the spirit of communion and fraternity within the Synod context.

The meeting concluded with a call to take on concrete commitments that will lead us toward a more inculturated, intercultural, and decolonial Church. Among the lessons learned, special emphasis was placed on the importance of listening, particularly in response to the cry of the peoples and the role of women in the ecclesial community. In alignment with the Synod on Synodality, participants were urged to open their ears in order to foster a unity that respects cultural and spiritual differences. Furthermore, the need to train clergy in the practice of listening was highlighted, which also involves learning the languages of native peoples to better connect with them and understand their struggles and hopes.

To view the Meeting:

Day 1: <https://youtu.be/VNE-K5rzziE>

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/shfTqsIh9ZQ>

Day 3: <https://youtu.be/ND-PRxXv3S4>

Webinar on the Church in higher education



Guillermo Sandoval, Director of the Center for Knowledge Management (CGC), participated in the webinar “The Church in Higher Education: Perspectives from the Episcopal Conferences,” organized by the International Center for Research and Decision Support (Cirad) and the International Federation of Catholic Universities-Paris (FIUC).

The Director of the CGC at CELAM recalled what then Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Eduardo Lozano, stated more than ten years ago: “More than 75 % of political leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean have completed more than 12 years of study in Catholic institutions, schools, and universities. Viewing the regional reality from this perspective is both impressive and thought-provoking. Surely, in the field of economics, the percentage was even higher. Lozano then highlighted the Latin America and the Caribbean we have. The socio-economic indicators do not exactly reflect a society inspired by the values promoted by the Church and its social teachings.”

“Our Center for Knowledge Management at CELAM has a Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory, which annually publishes a report on the realities of this region. There, we observe numerous indicators. Some tell us that we are growing, that we are a subcontinent rich in nat-

ural resources with beautiful landscapes. But there are others that show that a few have much while many have little. A land where we exploit our common home,” Sandoval continued.

“Everything points to the need for Catholic universities, more than just universities of the Church. Universities that are capable of forming individuals with solid faith and a healthy religiosity, who see their profession as a mission; men of dialogue, custodians of Creation, excellent in their fields, passionate about justice, who eagerly seek the truth and are not scandalized or paralyzed by human weakness, but are able to overcome the sin present in all human realities,” Sandoval concluded.

To view the complete webinar: https://youtu.be/5m-1_38FvCY

Media Training course in Buenos Aires trained bishops and communicators on Crisis and Protection

From September 30th to October 4th, CEBIPETAL held the course “Media Training and Communication Strategies in Crisis Situations Regarding Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church” in Buenos Aires (Argentina), with the participation of bishops, priests, religious, and communication advisors from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Mexico.

During the course, participants engaged in practical sessions involving television and radio programs, individual interviews, press conferences, as well as lectures delivered by crisis communication experts Albertina Navas, Virginia Bornard, and Esteban Pitaro. Crucial topics were covered, including the Vatican’s policies for the protection against sexual abuse and the active care of victims, with insights from Sr. Alejandra Elbalba and María Inés Franck.

At the Argentine Catholic University (UCA), participants received hands-on training in radio and television studios, guided by professors and journalists affiliated with the Argentine Episcopal Conference, Signis, Pontifical Missionary Works, and other Argentine media outlets. Addi-

tionally, UCA journalism students actively participated in the press conferences, contributing to the course's dynamic and practice sessions.



This was the third edition of the course organized by CEBIPETAL, the training center of CELAM, which has already trained more than 60 church leaders from various Latin American countries, under the direction of Fr. Fabio Antunes, CEBIPETAL's director, and Janaina Santos, the marketing manager and course coordinator for Latin America.

CEBIPETAL highlights CELAM's commitment to youth at Redlacijs meeting in Brazil

From October 7th to 9th, the XVII Meeting of the Latin American Network of Youth Pastoral Centers and Institutes (Redlacijs) was held in São Paulo (Brazil). On the afternoon of Tuesday, October 8th, Father Fabio Antunes, director of CEBIPETAL, presented the work that CELAM has been developing with Latin American youth.

Redlacipj is a space for exchange, integration, and mutual enrichment among institutions that offer training, research, consulting, and publishing materials. Its objective is to promote and strengthen initiatives aimed at youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.



The Network is composed of the Instituto Nacional de Formación de Pastoral de Juventud Cardenal Pironio (Argentina), Instituto de Pastoral Juvenil UCSH (Chile), Instituto de Pastoral de Juventud (Venezuela), Centro de Cursos de Capacitação da Juventude (Brazil), Anchiatanum (Brazil), Instituto Paulista de Juventude (Brazil), Central de Juventudes (Colombia), Centro de Formación Mons. Leonidas Proaño (Ecuador), Instituto de Pastoral y Desarrollo Juvenil (Peru), Servicio de Capacitación para Jóvenes y Asesores de Juventud (El Salvador), Instituto Fe y Vida (USA), Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (USA), Instituto Arquidiocesano de Pastoral Juvenil San Juan Pablo II (Honduras), Casa de la Juventud (Dominican Republic), Instituto Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil (Paraguay), and CELAM.

The objectives of the Network are to be a qualified and prophetic presence in the service of the evangelization of youth; to act in the formation, counseling, and research of the world of adolescents and young people; and to promote the exchange of training experiences and materials among the Centers and Institutes, creating methodologies that support and integrate the journey, overcome isolation, broaden relationships, and strengthen evangelization.

Biodiversity and care for the Common House

Biodiversidad y cuidado de la casa común

Experiencias de los territorios desde una mirada eclesial en la COP16 de Cali - Colombia

*“Un continente que custodie su belleza natural, conectado a una ecología humana y social”
(Asamblea Eclesial, n.234)*

Martes, 22 OCT. 6:00 p.m.
hora de Colombia

TRANSMISIÓN LIVE celam.official YouTube Celam TV

The Appropriation Team of the Ecclesial Assembly and CELAM, through its four Pastoral Centers, especially CEPRAP, which accompanies the ecological dream, organized the discussion: “Biodiversity and care of the common home: experiences from the territories at COP16” held in Cali (Colombia).

This discussion aimed to “challenge us with the signs of the times, by showing that the people live in a reality marked by significant changes that affect our lives and have a global reach. Therefore, the presentation was given by people who, from the territory, have been accompanying the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

In this regard, representatives from the territorial ecclesial networks: Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network (REPAM), Mesoamerican Ecological Ecclesial Network (REMAM), and the Ecclesial Network of the Gran Chaco and Guarani Aquifer (REGCHAG), were in charge of sharing the efforts and commitment made in their territories to care for the Common Home.

The discussion, which had the theme: “A continent that preserves its natural beauty, connected to a human and social ecology” (Ecclesial Assembly, no. 234), was held virtually on Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:00 PM Colombia time and was streamed through CELAM’s social networks.

To replay the discussion: <https://www.youtube.com/live/LMLvBH-vcRgw?si=oA1qmcuKwG82PBhq>

Plenary Assembly of the Dicastery for Communication

The Plenary Assembly of the Dicastery for Communication was held in the Vatican from October 28th to 31st, with the participation of Oscar Elizalde, Director of the Center for Communication of CELAM, as a consultant.

This Assembly focused on the theme of “a constitutively synodal communication,” allowing for a review of the significant progress made in each continent. It also addressed various reflections on collaborative synodal communication and digital literacy in the era of Artificial Intelligence.



The Assembly concluded with an audience with Pope Francis and his message to communicators.

From Latin America and the Caribbean, Monsignor José de Castro, Bishop of the Diocese of Campo Limpo (Brazil) and President of the Episcopal Commission for Social Communication of the CNBB, and Archbishop Jorge Lozano, Archbishop of San Juan de Cuyo (Argentina) and former Secretary General of CELAM, also participated as members of the Dicastery.

CEPRAP met with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

On October 17th, a working meeting was held at the headquarters of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life in Rome, with the participation of Gabriella Gambino, Secretary of the Dicastery, Father Francisco Hernández Rojas, Director of the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP), and Jesús Briceño, CEPRAP advisor for the Ecclesial Dream. The meeting focused on exchanging experiences regarding the importance of integral formation provided through more

than 40 Catholic universities, particularly those in Latin America and the Caribbean.



It was agreed that reinforcing ethical and moral values within the domestic Church is the greatest challenge we face today.

In this regard, the Dicastery offers a significant number of pastoral tools available in digital form, which can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/es/famiglia-e-vita/-strumenti-pastorali.html>.

Finally, the need to intensify the integral formation of family and life pastoral agents was discussed, focusing on continuous sharing of experiences with the Dicastery.

Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Protection of Life with the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

On October 31st, the authorities of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life received representatives from the “Hope Project”, which is part of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Protection of Life, supported by CELAM through the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP).



Dr. Gabriella Gambino, secretary of the Dicastery, shared information about the current training programs. Post-abortion accompaniment and the defense of human life from conception to natural death open the way for a series of groups to provide pastoral presence with victims and their surroundings, becoming ministers of listening and accompaniment throughout all phases of human life. In this context, Dr. Gambino emphasized, “We want to make a synodal journey as the Church we are and to enrich ourselves with their experiences.”

Representatives from more than 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated.

Meeting with the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute Marriage and Family

On October 24th, an important working meeting was held in Rome between the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences and the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP) of CELAM.

The Institute seeks to promote the family as a school of humanity, considering that families are not a problem, but rather an opportunity (cf. AL 7), and we must care for, protect, and accompany them.



They provided information about the various programs currently being offered, particularly for the comprehensive formation of family pastoral agents. These include bachelor's degrees, specializations, master's degrees, doctorates, masterclasses, and both distance and in-person diploma courses in the field of human and family development. These programs are available in several locations worldwide, including Rome, Madrid, Valencia, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Salvador (Brazil).

Currently, they are preparing an agreement for formation with CEBIP-ETAL and pastoral accompaniment with CEPRAP, which would consolidate a formation and accompaniment plan for CELAM.

First meeting on the road to the Ecclesial Network of Observatories

The first virtual meeting towards the constitution of the CELAM Network of Observatories of Reality was held on October 18th. The meet-

ing was attended by 40 representatives from various observatories and pastoral organizations across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as members of the Knowledge Management Center team.



The main objectives of this new Latin American and Caribbean ecclesial network are to integrate and strengthen the information on the reality produced in the different countries of our continent; to collaboratively enhance the teams' capacities for collecting information and interpreting the signs of the times; and, thirdly, to establish a platform for the broad dissemination of research and reflections.

The next step is to consolidate the leadership team of the Network, whose responsibilities will include advancing a mapping of the observatories and reality-monitoring services linked to the Church (the first joint action agreed upon), as well as organizing the first in-person meeting, which will take place in the first half of 2025.

Research work in the CELAM archive

The research work of Diego Hernández Vera, who is currently pursuing a master's degree in history at the Universidad Autónoma de México,

was attended to during the month of October in our Library and Historical Archives.



The central focus of his research was on “Christian progressivism in the Diocese of Cuernavaca, through the figure of Monsignor Sergio Méndez Arceu”, during the period 1952 to 1965.

Bishop Méndez played an important role in the First General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1955. For this reason, the General Archive of CELAM is a crucial source, as it holds a comprehensive collection of documentary and archival materials for historical research on the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Network for the History of Catholicism in Latin America in the 20th Century visited the CELAM Library

The visit of the Network for the History of Catholicism in Latin America in the 20th Century was hosted by the CELAM Library team on October 16th. This network formalized its establishment in 2023 at the

University of the Pacific in Lima (Peru). The academic organization brings together a group of historians representing most Latin American countries.

The visit was led by Francesco Ferrari, researcher and professor at the Catholic University of Colombia, who is a member and co-founder of the network. Ferrari, together with Dr. Andrés Felipe Agudelo, professor of political science and researcher at the University of La Sabana, presented the network's aims and objectives.

The network has focused its attention on the great wealth of the CELAM Archives and Library, recognizing their heritage and documentary value, particularly for studies in Latin American pastoral theology. They emphasized the information held by the Archives and Library as an important contribution to research and the network's proposed objectives.

Ecclesiastical archives of Bogota met at CELAM headquarters

The second meeting of six ecclesiastical archive centers in the city of Bogotá was held at the CELAM headquarters. The aim of the meeting was to outline work plans for the coming year. The focus was on identifying common opportunities and proposals to enhance cooperation in areas such as digitization, conservation, public access, and the dissemination of documentary and archival heritage.

Representatives from the archives of the Order of Friars Minor, the Archdiocese of Bogotá, the Major Seminary, CELAM, the Javeriana University Archives, the Order of Preachers, and a delegation from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Los Andes participated.

In a fraternal atmosphere, information was shared about each archive, appreciating its richness and tradition. Additionally, work perspectives were developed in a constructive manner.

The meeting concluded with a series of important agreements, including the organization of three workshops to be held next year. These

workshops will address key topics such as regulations and training in archival instruments, as well as strengthening the visibility of ecclesiastical archive centers in the city.



Publications

With them. Synodality for children.

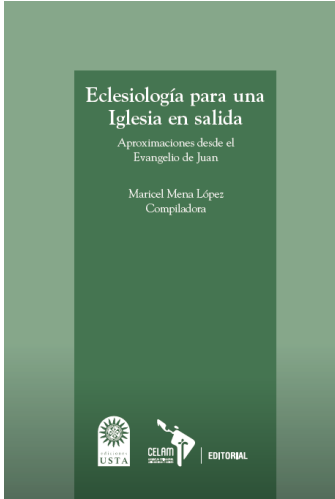


Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri offers a series of sessions to help us embrace and live synodality within the Church. This is original material designed for children, whether in school or catechetical settings, to understand and become part of a Church where we are all the People of God.

“This book is meant to be a journey, because everything we do is a path, a process, a daily effort to embark on together, with the certainty that we are brothers and sisters, on a shared journey of passion for Jesus and for the Kingdom.”

“If you have the heart of a child, and if every day you ask God for the grace of a pure heart, capable of seeing His face in the twists and turns of history, don’t hesitate—this book is for you. It belongs to you.”

Ecclesiology for a Church on the way out. Approaches from the Gospel of John



This book, the result of research, focuses on Johannine ecclesiology through the understanding of the body of Jesus as a temple that also encompasses the community.

The book starts from the hypothesis that it is possible to propose an ecclesiology rooted in the praxis of love. It aims to bring into dialogue and communion the diverse ecclesiological models found in the Gospel to deepen an “outgoing” ecclesiology that addresses the challenges of today’s society—an ecclesiology that begins with excluded communities to build inclusive commu-

nities of discipleship, capable of living the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth through dialogical networks.

Compiler: Maricel Mena López

Authors: Maricel Mena López, Fernando Torres Millán, Mary Betty Rodríguez, Ana Francisca Vergara Abril, Carlos Andrés Pinto López, Juan Esteban Santamaría, William Vásquez Alarcón

A co-publication of Ediciones USTA and Editorial CELAM.

Magdala! Women and stigmas. The vindication of the role of women in society from the praxis of Jesus of Nazareth.

¡Magdala! Mujeres y estigmas

La reivindicación del rol de las mujeres en la sociedad a partir de la praxis de Jesús de Nazaret

Andrés Felipe Rivera Gómez



Taking into account the invisibilization, indifference, and mistreatment that many women currently endure, this book seeks to identify, through the praxis of Jesus, an ethical and moral foundation that contrasts with the treatment historically given to women from patriarchal and hierarchical perspectives that have seldom acknowledged their worth. For this reason, the book aims to highlight the significance of women in the Christian world through the praxis of Jesus of Nazareth, with the goal of achieving a historical vindication of their gender.

Author: Andrés Felipe Rivera Gómez

A co-publication of Ediciones USTA and Editorial CELAM

Episcopal appointments

- October 4th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Nelson Jair Cardona Ramírez as bishop of the Diocese of Pereira (Colombia), transferring him from the Diocese of San José del Guaviare.
- October 4th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Father Benigno Condori Chuchi, O.F.M., previously pastor of San Antonio de Padua in Puno, as bishop prelate of Ayaviri (Peru).
- October 15th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Simón Bolívar Sánchez Carrión, counselor to the nunciature, as apostolic nuncio to Honduras, elevating him at the same time to the titular See of Rosella, with the rank of archbishop.
- October 18th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Carlos Tomás Morel Diplán as bishop of the Diocese of La Vega (Dominican Republic), transferring him from the titular see of Capo della Foresta and his position as auxiliary bishop of Santiago de los Caballeros.
- October 18th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Juan Gómez, titular bishop of Semta, as auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), transferring him from his role as auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cochabamba.
- October 23rd, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Celmo Lazzari, C.S.I., previously Vicar Apostolic of San Miguel de Sucumbíos, as Vicar Apostolic of the Apostolic Vicariate of Napo.
- October 23rd, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Father Moacir Goulart de Figueredo, M.S.C., previously Superior of his religious congregation in the Province of Curitiba, as Vicar Apostolic of the Apostolic Vicariate of San Miguel de Sucumbíos.

- October 30th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop João Gilberto de Moura as bishop of the Diocese of Lins (Brazil), transferring him from the See of Jardim.
- October 30th, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Father Fernando Daniel Rodríguez, of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires and currently pastor of Our Lady of Luján Parish in El Bolsón (Diocese of San Carlos de Bariloche), as auxiliary bishop of Lomas de Zamora, assigning him the titular see of Castabala.
- October 31st, 2024: Pope Francis appointed Bishop Lisandro Alirio Rivas Durán, I.M.C., previously titular bishop of Dardano and auxiliary bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Caracas, as bishop of the same diocese.

Resignations

- October 4th, 2024: Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Rigoberto Corredor Bermúdez from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Pereira (Colombia).
- October 30th, 2024: Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Carlos Alberto dos Santos from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Itabuna (Brazil).
- October 31st, 2024: Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Mario del Valle Moronta Rodríguez from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of San Cristóbal de Venezuela (Venezuela).

Deaths

- October 11th, 2024: Bishop Jean Alix Verrier, bishop emeritus of Les Cayes, Haiti.
- October 18th, 2024: Bishop Paulo Sérgio Machado, bishop emeritus of São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil.

Upcoming courses and diplomas

Introduction to the New Testament in a Latin American Key

Registration is now open for the virtual course “Introduction to the New Testament in Latin American Key”! This course is aimed at pastoral agents and all those interested in the study of the Bible.

Date: November 4th to December 4th, 2024

Information: <https://bit.ly/4h5a3iX>

Virtual Diploma “The Joy of Synodality”.

The diploma course “The Joy of Synodality - exegetical-theological and pastoral reading of the letter to the Philippians” is open for interested pastoral agents of dioceses, parishes and religious communities.

Date: November 5th to 28th

Information: <https://bit.ly/4fuiZyD>

Youth Advisor Training: A Samaritan Network

From November 22nd to 24th, in Campinas (SP), Brazil, the “Training of Youth Advisors: A Samaritan Network”, a training proposal organized by Cebitapal and the Stigmatinos, will be held in Campinas (SP), Brazil.

Information: <https://bit.ly/4g4SgrE>

Clara and Francisco's Economy

Pastoral agents of dioceses, parishes and religious communities: youth, bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, leaders and animators of the socio-transformative dimension, academics, social activists, seminarians and all people of good will interested in collaborating to revitalize the economy, are invited to enroll in the virtual course "With Clare and Francis: Rebuilding the Common Home".

Dates: November 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th - December 4th and 11th.

Information: <https://bit.ly/4dPgB2v>

Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology 2025–2026

LICENCIATURA CANONICA EN
TEOLOGIA PASTORAL
2025 • 2026

MÓDULO PRESENCIAL

29 DE ABRIL AL 20 DE JUNIO

SEDE DEL CELAM, BOGOTÁ • COLOMBIA

CELAM FEBITEPOL UDB

In collaboration with the Pontifical Bolivarian University, the postgraduate degree in Canonical Licentiate in Pastoral Theology offers a flexible and autonomous learning approach, available both in-person and online, designed for pastoral agents. Its aim is to foster critical and proactive initiatives and actions within the Church, focusing on a specific area of theological studies to provide comprehensive training that enhances pastoral practice. This program is grounded in an ecclesiology that engages with reality, fosters a culture of encounter, and promotes synodal processes.

On-site module: April 29th–June 20th, 2025

Information: <https://licenciatura.celam.org/>

Training for Musicians 2025

Registration is now open for the in-person course “Formation for Musicians.” This course aims to inspire participants to reflect on their vocation as disciples and artists, enhancing their musical service in a synodal Church.

Dates: February 17th–22nd | **Location:** CELAM Headquarters, Bogotá (Colombia)

Registration: <https://musicos.celam.org/>

Agreements signed

Institution	Object
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana - UPB - Colombia	The collaboration between the parties to jointly offer the postgraduate program "Canonical Licentiate in Theology" of the School of Theology, Philosophy and Humanities of the University.
Jesús Nazareno de Payan Parish - Diocese of Tumaco in Colombia	Execution of the project for raising and production of laying hens and commercialization of eggs for families that are victims of the armed conflict.

To see and participate again

- CELAM, through the Center for Communication, makes available the RECORDings of the events and material produced during the month of October:
- II Virtual Meeting on Indian Theology: Indigenous Church and Native Peoples
 - Day 1: <https://youtu.be/VNE-K5rzziE>
 - Day 2: <https://youtu.be/shfTqsIh9ZQ>
 - Day 3: <https://youtu.be/ND-PRxXv3S4>
- Four years of the Global Compact for Education: History, current events and perspectives. <https://youtu.be/Yk6fQAwF4RI>
- Jaime Spengler's message after his appointment as Cardinal. <https://youtu.be/AoQwR5K-MsA>
- Biodiversity and care of the common home, experiences of the territories at COP16. <https://youtu.be/LMLvBHvcRgw>
- Perspectives on the culture of care in light of Synod 2024. <https://youtu.be/eSYN21t6w60>

Special covers:

Second session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

From September 27th to October 27th, the CELAM Center for Communication (CPC) participated in the journalistic coverage of the second session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Throughout this month, the following contents were produced for ADN CELAM and for the Ecclesial Communication Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (RECLAC)

- Broadcasts of the news program En Clave Sinodal:
 - En Clave Sinodal, ready to bring you details of the 2nd session of Synod 2021-2024 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J3YmL9tblq8&t=9s>
 - In Synodal Key: Pope inaugurates 2nd session of Synod 2021-2024
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK9KpxrRujc>
 - In the Synodal Key: Progress of the first sessions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZCdLBmroO4>
 - In the Synodal Key - October 10th
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZJtGYUZrVE>
 - In the Synodal Key - October 13th
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5ApL6VE0AA>
 - En Clave Sinodal - October 17th <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl-O6abvy-A>
 - In the Synodal Key - October 22nd
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwQzAP8IpZQ>
 - In the Synodal Key - October 25th
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hk_Hcq0iJg
 - In the Synodal Key - October 26th, 2024
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUyEckVt9cM>

- **Zoom DNA broadcasts** (daily summary based on the experience of synod fathers and mothers):
 - DNA Zoom from Rome, we begin with a spiritual retreat as a prelude to the Synod - October 01st <https://youtu.be/f-d9sHX-sTog>
 - DNA Zoom, Fruits of the spiritual retreat - October 03rd <https://youtu.be/W7i9dG7a6cY>
 - ADN Zoom, the inauguration and first sessions of the Synod 2021-2024 - October 05th https://youtu.be/qvat_P3n-ws
 - ADN Zoom - “The Instrumentum Laboris” - October 06th <https://youtu.be/sQ1s--Oa8aU>
 - ADN Zoom - October 06th <https://youtu.be/yYMekkHIGMk>
 - ADN Zoom - October 09th <https://youtu.be/bIRAIGq3ppQ>
 - ADN Zoom - October 10th <https://youtu.be/JI0xplfEJpI>
 - ADN Zoom - October 11th <https://youtu.be/z8OLZ79bUzk>
 - ADN Zoom - October 12th <https://youtu.be/Qu6AJRJqHQY>
 - ADN Zoom - October 13th <https://youtu.be/40oKE-k7bvE>
 - ADN Zoom - October 14th <https://youtu.be/95kS-prASw0>
 - ADN Zoom - October 16th
<https://youtu.be/y9qVdB1bRCE?si=mhYZhvdH0Wn4D84K>
 - ADN Zoom - October 17th
https://youtu.be/6DN_gsAtD6A?si=84gR4MfpUjak4Z5N
 - ADN Zoom - October 22nd https://youtu.be/FF4kOGL0t-ng?si=2nAOLuQ7goMH-P_0
 - ADN Zoom - October 25th
<https://youtu.be/6If0AhMcOJ0?si=79O1TdXrHEbgcfCH>

- **Synodal Capsules** (Opinion poll with specialists on expectations and hopes for the synod).

They can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQYPKP2zdnM&list=PLQp-j1Ix2-2lR7m1mCly7tXWGUldnl2djl>

- **Special Videos** (Audience of the CELAM Presidency with Pope Francis)

- Greetings from CELAM collaborators to Pope Francis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V55jKfBfLrA>

- Pope Francis' message to CELAM collaborators

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/zLBgxpUUtZU>

- Special broadcasts of press conferences from the press room via social networks
- Special broadcasts of key moments in the Synod agenda
- Synod News broadcasts: (Strategic alliance with the Synod Secretariat Including 4 languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English and French) Available in the following list: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Std7ImOwqs&list=PLQpj1Ix2-2lQdvtiwwYMJHf-wI9pe_X4a_
- Pedagogical videos on the synthesis document: Part 3 18 / Part 2 16 / Part 1 22. Total 56 (ES-PT)

They are available in the following list:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa2xE56mf9A&list=PLQp-j1Ix2-2lRRKo3_1wX2PyiKwkYTTZCW

- Transmissions of some of the activities of the Latin American Observatory of Synodality through the Synodality Store.
- Press releases on the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly. They are available here: <https://adn.CELAM.org/tag/2-sesion/>

- Photo-phrases for social networks
- Conversation between theologians and authors on synodality: “Books for a missionary synodal Church”, transmitted by Vatican News in Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4fucwroBmI>

COP 16 - Conference of the Parties on Diversity in Cali (Colombia)

From October 2st1 to November 1st, COP 16 took place in Cali (Colombia). The CELAM Center for Communication participated together with CEPRAP generating content in various formats for the CELAM DNA ecosystem.

- **News broadcasts:** Voices from the Territories and Laudate Deum Route
 - Church of Latin America, present at COP16. <https://youtu.be/wiM7pVCon90>
 - COP16 ends and the Church proposes the Laudate deum Route in preparation for COP30 <https://youtu.be/dEZOamQbZh4>
- **Zoom ADN broadcasts** (Daily summary from the point of view of the host bishop, a laywoman and a layman)
 - ADN Zoom - October 23rd <https://youtu.be/WdfkuQvKE-J4?si=yrK9tMkc7jJhkFsN>
 - ADN Zoom - October 29th https://youtu.be/dEHMUQkS_FU?si=9u1Yq5kw6dcc4GZb
 - ADN Zoom - November 01st <https://youtu.be/oMLiWg-gEoMU?si=KpmkyrZwawt9EGnF>

- **Press. Press content.** All the articles published in ADN CELAM about the COP 16 can be found here: <https://adn.CELAM.org/tag/cop16/>
- **Conversation** with live broadcast on “Biodiversity and care for our common home”.

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

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

