

N.º 358 n.e.

Celam Bulletin



May-august
2025

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You can view and download
the CELAM Bulletin every month
in four languages at:

https://revistas.celam.org/index.php/boletin_celam_ne



Acronyms

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

Ceama: Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.

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

CGC: CELAM Knowledge Management Center.

Ceilac: Latin American and Caribbean Commission for Integral Ecology.

CELAM: Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council.

CLAR: Latin American Confederation of Religious.

CLACSO: Latin American and Caribbean Social Sciences Conference.

CNBB: National Conference of Bishops of Brazil.

Ceprap: CELAM Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks.

CIEC: Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education.

COP: Summit of the Parties.

CPC: CELAM Communication Center.

Ecosoc: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

FABC: Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

FIUC: International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Lacam: Network of Catholic Women Leaders of African Descent in the Americas.

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

Oslam: Organization of Latin American Seminaries.

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

Pagaiceyna: Inculturated Garifuna Pastoral Ministry in Central America and the Caribbean.

PCAL: Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

PCN: Centrality of Children Program.

PEG: Global Education Pact.

Plapa: Latin American Pastoral Care for Accompaniment and Prevention of Addictions.

REC: Network of Catholic Radio Stations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

Recor: Network of Organized Communities of Latin America.

Redlapsi: Latin American Network of Social Thought of the Church.

Regchag: Ecclesial Network of the Gran Chaco Guaraní Aquifer.

Remam: Ecclesial and Ecological Network of Mesoamerica.

Repam: Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network.

Reteis: Territorial Ecclesial Networks.

SCALA: Society of Latin American Catechists.

SECAM: Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

Uniapac: International Union of Christian Business Leaders.

WUCWO: World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

News

MAY

Welcome Leo XIV: The Pope of unarmed
and disarming peace



On May 8, 2025, the Catholic Church entered a historic new chapter with the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A. an American-born prelate and naturalized Peruvian citizen as Pope. Taking the name Leo XIV, he became the 267th Successor of Saint Peter and the first member of the Order of Saint Augustine to assume the ministry of St. Peter.

Deeply shaped by his decades of pastoral service in Peru, Pope Leo XIV inaugurated his pontificate with a heartfelt appeal for peace, unity, dialogue, and missionary outreach. His leadership, imbued, with Augustinian humility and forged through rich intercultural experience, ushers in a renewed season of hope for the People of God.

It is worth remembering his words in St. Peter's Square in front of thousands of faithful: "Peace be with you! This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a peace that is disarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally."

The Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) responded with profound joy, expressing its affection, solidarity, ecclesial communion, and full support for the election of their brother, Robert Prevost. They recognized him as a reconciling pastor, attentive in listening, discerning in judgment, and courageous in bearing witness to Christ in the heart of society.

They thanked God for inspiring the cardinals in the conclave to elect a leader who faces the challenges of the times with prophetic vision, seeking peace and unity in a world that cries out for justice and coexistence.

Download the CELAM message here

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O_FayuGp6XD-uLkIczgx-OwDO-lBr4okT/view?usp=drive_link

Pope Leo XIV begins his pontificate with a call for unity and evangelization



Pope Leo XIV's first Eucharist was held on May 18, 2025, in St. Peter's Square, although there was also an initial celebration on May 9 in the Sistine Chapel with the cardinal electors. <https://adn.celam.org/el-papa-leon-xiv-inicia-su-pontificado-con-un-llamado-a-la-fe-valiente-y-humilde/>.

Before thousands of the faithful, alongside ecclesiastical and civil authorities, the Successor of Peter delivered his first homily a message deeply pastoral in tone and rich in theological insight. With heartfelt gratitude, he honored the legacy of Pope Francis and called the Church to be "a community that walks together, builds bridges, and proclaims the Good News."

Rooted in the Gospel account of the risen Christ's encounter with Peter at the Sea of Tiberias, Pope Leo XIV emphasized that the Petrine ministry is founded not on power or domination, but on self-giving love and total dedication. He exhorted the faithful

to embrace a missionary Church anchored in charity, radiant as a beacon amid the world's darkest nights and to resist the erosion of faith caused by the unchecked advance of money, power, and fleeting pleasure.

More details here

<https://adn.celam.org/papa-leon-xiv-inicia-su-pontificado-con-un-llamado-a-la-unidad-y-la-mision-evangelizadora/>

Pope Leo XIV meets with CELAM leaders for the first time

On the afternoon of May 15, Pope Leo XIV received in audience Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President, and Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican.

“On this occasion,” the Council stated. “On this occasion, they reiterated the congratulations, gratitude, and joy of the Latin American and Caribbean episcopate for his recent election, while renewing their commitment to support and collaborate with his mission as successor of Peter.”

The encounter, marked by fraternal warmth, collegiality, and a shared commitment to synodality, provided an opportunity to brief the Bishop of Rome on key initiatives, including the upcoming 40th General Assembly of CELAM, the Church's participation in COP30 in Belém, Brazil, and efforts to strengthen ecclesial communion in the Global South through closer coordination with episcopal conferences in Africa and Asia.

The delegation also presented the Pope with the popular edition of the Synod's Final Document, pastoral resources on synodality, and a newly drafted reflection titled "Artificial Intelligence: a pastoral perspective from Latin America and the Caribbean." CELAM thanked Pope Leo XIV for his pastoral availability and his openness to welcoming the hopes and challenges of the Church on pilgrimage on the continent.

More details about this visit can be found here: <https://adn.celam.org/el-papa-leon-xiv-se-encuentra-por-primera-vez-con-los-directivos-del-celam/>



40th General Assembly of CELAM, 70 years sowing hope

For seventy years, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) has navigated profound challenges while making significant contributions to the Church's magisterium since its founding in 1955. In this spirit, CELAM convened its 40th Ordinary General Assembly in 2025 in Rio de Janeiro—the very city where its journey began.

From May 26 to 30, presidents and secretaries general of the region's 22 episcopal conferences gathered "to strengthen the spirit of collegiality and service to our peoples." During the Assembly, the bishops prayerfully discerned "the signs of the times" in this new chapter of the universal Church under the guidance of Pope Leo XIV. They renewed their commitment to a missionary and evangelizing presence, faithful to the vision of the First General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate.

Amid painful realities, including poverty, forced migration, and violence; the bishops reaffirmed their vocation as close, compassionate pastors and humble servants of the People of God. Guided by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the living faith of their communities, they placed the Risen Christ at the heart of every word, decision, and action.

All the details, news, and interviews from the 40th General Assembly of CELAM in Rio can be found here <https://adn.celam.org/tag/40-asamblea-celam/>

Letter of Gratitude from CELAM's 40th General Assembly to Pope Leo XIV

"We feel compelled to renew our commitment to a merciful, synodal, and outgoing Church." This pledge stands among the key resolutions affirmed by the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean in their message to the continental Church following the conclusion of CELAM's 40th Ordinary General Assembly

This event served to strengthen the spirit of collegiality and service to the peoples of the continent, discerning the signs of the times and the paths of communion that will renew the presence and evangelizing mission of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In their message, the bishops reaffirmed their dedication to "a Church that listens and learns from the insights the Holy Spirit offers to all the People of God; a Church that allows itself to be challenged by the cries of the poor and marginalized, and has the courage to stand in solidarity with them."

Download the full letter here

https://drive.google.com/file/d/ljzvLEWxZYwswogHij58gBt9sGpeMCw7U/view?usp=drive_link



Father Pedro Brassesco: a mission marked by continuity, synodality, and pastoral coordination

CELAM expresses its profound gratitude for the invaluable service of Father Pedro Brassesco, of the Diocese of Gualaguaychú (Argentina), who served as Deputy Secretary from November 2021 until the conclusion of the 40th General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro in May 2025. Throughout this period, he carried out his ministry with dedication, wisdom, and a deeply synodal spirit.

His close accompaniment of the Council's work, his exceptional capacity for pastoral coordination, and his unwavering commitment to the renewal of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean have left a lasting imprint on CELAM and on the particular Churches of the region. We are grateful for his witness of faith, his serene leadership, and his constant availability to build bridges and strengthen ecclesial processes in the service of the People of God.

In the following interview on the ADN Celam website, learn about his testimony.

<https://adn.celam.org/padre-pedro-brassesco-una-mision-marcada-por-la-continuidad-la-sinodalidad-y-la-articulacion-pastoral/>



A Puerto Rican administrator priest was appointed as the new Deputy General Secretary of CELAM



During its 40th General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro in May 2025, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) appointed Father Eric Iván García Concepción priest of the Diocese of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico as its new Deputy General Secretary.

Bringing a rich blend of professional experience in nonprofit management and a profound pastoral vocation, Fr. Eric offers a uniquely integrative vision that harmonizes administrative competence with spiritual depth. His extensive work in youth ministry, his steadfast commitment to the most vulnerable, and his active engagement in synodal processes have established him as a trusted voice in ecclesial leadership across Latin America and the Caribbean.

He assumes this ministry with a clear desire: to strengthen collaboration among episcopal conferences, consolidate regional pastoral networks, and faithfully accompany the initiatives entrusted by the Assembly, always guided by a spirituality of communion and a Church that goes forth to the peripheries.

His appointment marks a renewal in CELAM's service to the continent, shaped by his pastoral sensitivity, social awareness, and

dedication to integral human and ecclesial formation. CELAM welcomes him with joy and hope, confident that his contribution will invigorate synodal discernment, deepen continental coordination, and foster close, fraternal accompaniment of the particular Churches. In this pivotal moment for the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, Fr. Eric's service will be instrumental in building a Church that is missionary, prophetic, and deeply fraternal.

In the following interview on the ADN Celam website, meet the new Assistant Secretary:

<https://adn.celam.org/un-administrador-convertido-en-sacerdote-puertorriqueno-liderara-la-secretaria-general-adjunta-del-celam/>

Gratitude to Fr. Fabio Antunes Do Nascimento for his service at CELAM



CELAM expresses its deep gratitude to Fr. Fabio Antunes Do Nascimento, a native of Brazil, who during his time as Secretary attached to the General Secretariat and later as Director of CEBITEPAL, offered generous, competent, and deeply ecclesial service.

His leadership was marked by an integrative vision that harmonized formation, theological reflection, and pastoral coordination, always guided by a synodal spirit and a continental perspective. Until the 40th General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Fr. Antunes devoted himself to accompanying CELAM's formation processes, strengthening spaces for encounter, critical reflection, and incarnational spirituality.

A further cornerstone of his work was his steadfast support for territorial networks collaborations made possible through the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP) as well as the modernization of the CEBITEPAL digital learning platform.

At the explicit request of Cardinal Robert Prevost (now Pope Leo XIV), then Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, Fr. Antunes also promoted specialized formation for bishops during his participation in CELAM's 39th General Assembly in Puerto Rico. This initiative gave rise to two key programs: a media training course for bishops, focused on managing communication crises and a formation module on protocols for the protection and pastoral care of victims. The latter has since been integrated into the work of national and diocesan safeguarding commissions.

Fr. Antunes' witness of faith, closeness to the People of God, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean have left a lasting mark on the life of CELAM.

In the following interview on the ADN Celam website, learn more about Father Antunes' work <https://adn.celam.org/padre-fabio-antunes-gracias-a-todo-el-equipo-cebitepal-que-me-acompano-en-estos-tres-anos/>

Dr. Rafael Luciani assumes office as the new Director of Cebitepal



During the 40th General Assembly of CELAM, held in Rio de Janeiro in May 2025, Venezuelan theologian Dr. Rafael Luciani was appointed Director of CEBITEPAL. Widely recognized for his extensive academic career, his dedication to theological formation in a synodal key, and his active involvement in the Universal Synod process, Dr. Luciani's appointment reflects CELAM's commitment to renewed ecclesial formation—deeply rooted in the realities of Latin America and the Caribbean, marked by critical reflection, pastoral sensitivity, and openness to interdisciplinary dialogue.

Born in La Guaira, Venezuela, Dr. Luciani holds a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and completed postdoctoral research at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg in Germany. With over 25 years of experience in teaching and theological research, he brings a wealth of scholarly contribution and institutional engagement, evident in his numerous publications and service in various ecclesial bodies.

He assumes this role with a clear vision: to strengthen continental theological thought, weave together formation networks across the region, and accompany pastoral processes that foster a more participatory and prophetic Church, one attentively discerning and responding to the signs of the times.

More about the new Director of Cebitepal in the following article on the ADN Celam website: <https://adn.celam.org/rafael-luciani-asume-la-direccion-de-cebitepal/>

Diploma from the Ecclesial Justice and Peace Network in the Patria Grande: strengthening the region through spirituality and social justice

In May 2025, the Ecclesial Network for Justice and Peace in the *Patria Grande* launched a diploma course as a formation initiative aimed at promoting justice and peace throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The program is grounded in Pope Francis's message to the World Meeting of Justice and Peace Commissions and draws inspiration from *Laudato si'*, *Querida Amazonía*, and *Fratelli tutti*.

This program was supported by Cebitepal and the Latin American Network of Social Thought of the Church (Redlap-si). It was structured in four thematic modules: Latin American and Caribbean History and Thought; Geopolitics of Peoples; Economy of Francis and Social Thought of the Church. The

training brought together 160 participants, both synchronously and asynchronously, from twenty sister countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The course was carried out in different phases: Module 1 was completed in May and early June; Module 2 in July; and Module 3 in August. The initiative provides tools to strengthen the unity of the Latin American and Caribbean people through various ecclesial commissions, promoting the “bottom-up” integration proposed by Francis in *Laudate Deum*, as well as the transformation of the technocratic economy into a solidarity economy.

The process will culminate with module 4, dedicated specifically to the social thought of the Church, although all the modules were developed based on the teachings of the Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC).

More details in the following note on the ADN Celam [website](https://adn.celam.org/diplomado-en-justicia-y-paz-necesitamos-lideres-que-construyan-justicia-y-paz-desde-la-fe/)
<https://adn.celam.org/diplomado-en-justicia-y-paz-necesitamos-lideres-que-construyan-justicia-y-paz-desde-la-fe/>

Pontifical Commission for Latin America and CELAM celebrate 10 years of *Laudato si'*

May 24, 2025, marked the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'* a cornerstone of the Church's contemporary Magisterium that addresses the environmental consequences of human activity and their profound interconnection with life, culture, economics, and politics.

To commemorate this milestone, the Second Synodal Meeting of University Rectors for the Care of Our Common Home was held

from May 20 to 24 at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. CELAM participated actively in the gathering and provided special coverage through its Communication Center.

With the participation of more than 200 universities from across the Americas, the United States, Spain, and Portugal, the meeting strengthened academic collaboration and joint initiatives on sustainability and climate action, particularly in preparation for COP30 in Belém. Organized by the University Network for the Care of Our Common Home (RUC) and supported by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, the event builds on the momentum of earlier efforts such as the "Organizing Hope" initiative launched in 2023.

The meeting also fostered a distinctly synodal approach, centered on listening, communal discernment, and collective response to the socio-environmental crisis, in harmony with the vision of Pope Leo XIV. It brought together representatives from governments, the Church, and multilateral organizations, reaffirming the shared commitment of the academic and civic community to care for our Common Home and to advance concrete proposals ahead of the upcoming global climate summit.

Access the special news coverage by the ADN Celam team at the following link.

<https://adn.celam.org/tag/ruta-laudate-deum/>

JUNE AND JULY

Nicea 1700 Years Meeting: A Living Source for Mission, Communion, and Christian Witness



From June 30 to July 3, 2025, Guatemala City hosted the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting “Nicea 1700 Years,” convened by CELAM under the theme “Faith, Unity, and Hope.”

More than 70 participants from 15 countries gathered, representing a wide spectrum of Christian traditions, Catholic, Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Protestant, and Evangelical to commemorate the First Ecumenical Council and reflect on its enduring significance for today’s world.

The meeting offered a space for dialogue, common prayer, and fraternal encounter, affirming that ecumenism is the reception of communion as a divine gift, not a human achievement. The program included theological reflections, shared liturgical celebrations, and moments of fellowship that deepened bonds among the participating churches.

From Guatemala, a clear desire emerged to continue building unity in diversity amid a world increasingly marked by polarization. The legacy of Nicaea was thus rekindled—not as a distant memory, but as a living source of hope and a well-spring of inspiration for new ecumenical initiatives across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Access the special news coverage by the ADN Celam team at the following link

<https://adn.celam.org/tag/1700-anos-nicea/>

More than 60 priest formators from major seminaries in the Americas participate in a formative experience in Bogotá

From June 30 to July 18, 2025, the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá hosted the 46th Latin American Course for Major Seminary Formators, organized by OSLAM and CELAM, with the support of the General Secretariat and the academic backing of CEBITEPAL.



Under the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope in Priestly Formation*,” 67 priests from across the continent engaged in a formative experience marked by synodality, affective accompaniment, and a renewed commitment to humanizing the vocational journey.

The course provided theological, psychological, and pastoral tools to strengthen the formator’s role as an integral guide for future priests. Beyond academic formation, it fostered a communal experience that challenges clericalism and affirms a Church that is close, dialogical, and rooted in continental communion.

More details about this event can be found in the following press release on the ADN Celam website: <https://adn.celam.org/mas-de-60-sacerdotes-formadores-de-seminaristas-de-america-latina-llegan-al-celam-para-el-curso-peregrinos-de-esperanza/>

Bishops from the global south raise their voices for climate justice ahead of COP30



On July 1, 2025, CELAM presented the document “*A Call for Climate Justice and the Care of Our Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation, and Resistance to False Solutions*” at a press conference in the Vatican Press Office. The text was prepared in collaboration with the Federation of Asian Bishops’

Conferences (FABC) and the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM).

Born of spiritual and communal discernment among the Churches of the Global South, the document was previously presented to Pope Leo XIV during a private audience. It denounces so-called “false solutions” to the climate crisis that disregard its ethical and human dimensions, and instead proposes a just, inclusive, and community-centered ecological transition, one that places Indigenous peoples, women, and youth at its heart.

Represented by Cardinal Jaime Spengler and Monsignor Lizardo Estrada, CELAM reaffirmed its commitment to integral ecology, in faithful continuity with the legacy of *Laudato si'* and the urgent Gospel call to act with courage and solidarity in defense of creation and the most vulnerable.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website <https://adn.celam.org/iglesias-del-sur-global-presentan-al-papa-leon-xiv-documento-sobre-justicia-climatica-pedimos-al-mundo-una-conversion-del-corazon/>

The Knowledge Management Center launches the Data Viewer in celebration of CELAM's 70th anniversary

On the occasion of CELAM's 70th anniversary, the Knowledge Management Center through its Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory, launched the new Data Viewer on July 25, 2025. This interactive web platform, accessible at datos.celam.org, systematizes 70 key indicators related to the presence and mission of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The data are drawn from the *Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae* (1969-2022) and cover all 22 episcopal conferences of CELAM.

The Data Viewer is the outcome of the second phase of the study “*The Mission of the Church in Latin American Countries,*” carried out between 2024 and 2025 in collaboration with the Catholic University of Argentina. It features interactive graphs, comparative tables, and analytical tools that allow users to explore data on pastoral agents, sacramental practice, and ecclesial structures—both territorial and ministerial. Designed to support evidence-based pastoral planning, the platform promotes the responsible use of digital technologies to strengthen evangelization, in alignment with CELAM’s Global Plan 2023-2027.

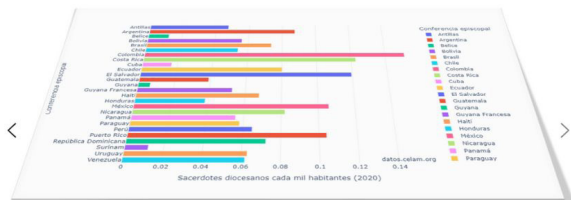
During the online presentation, speakers underscored the tool’s pastoral and strategic relevance. The event included a guided demonstration, a space for basic instructions, and a live Q&A session. A recording of the launch is available on YouTube

More details in the following article on the ADN CELAM website: <https://adn.celam.org/el-celam-lanza-el-visor-de-datos-sobre-la-accion-de-la-iglesia-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

Watch this presentation again on Celam TV <https://youtu.be/uc2dvOTlrBY>

Bienvenido al Visor de Datos del CELAM

Una herramienta potente para comprender la evolución de la Iglesia Católica en América Latina. A través de infografías, series temporales, gráficos comparativos y visualizaciones geolocalizadas, podrás explorar cómo ha cambiado la presencia y la misión de la Iglesia a lo largo del tiempo.



The Knowledge Management Center presents research on Migrant Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

On June 24, 2025, in the lead-up to World Refugee Day, the Knowledge Management Center, through its Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory (OSAP-CGC), presented the study "Migrant Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Perspectives from Pastoral Agents Who Accompany Them." The research is the fruit of a collaboration between CELAM and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), through the World Observatory of Women.

The virtual event gathered pastoral agents from the CLAMOR network, migration specialists, theologians, and civil society representatives to reflect on the root causes, lived conditions, and far-reaching consequences of female migration, as well as the responsibilities of the Church and society in responding to this reality. Participants explored biblical and pastoral approaches to accompanying migrant women and heard a powerful testimony from the Mexico-United States border region. In her closing remarks, Elvy Monzant, Executive Secretary of CLAMOR, emphasized that the experience of migrant women challenges the Church to respond with both faith and prophetic courage in the defense of their dignity and rights.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website <https://adn.celam.org/mujeres-migrantes-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe-una-investigacion-que-visibiliza-sus-desafios-y-luchas/>

Watch this presentation again on Celam TV <https://youtu.be/hZ-4M7UEHeo>

CELAM celebrates 80 years of the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education



“They are a beacon of hope for our unequal societies,” said Monsignor Lizardo Estrada Herrera, Secretary General of CELAM, during the IX Inter-American Meeting on Educational Pastoral Care, organized by the Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education (CIEC) in Bogotá on June 6 and 7, 2025.

Monsignor Estrada congratulated CIEC on its 80 years of service and highlighted its pivotal role alongside the Latin American Confederation of Religious (CLAR) and CELAM, in pioneering a renewed form of pastoral ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean. This collaborative vision, he noted, anticipated the “New Pentecost” ushered in by the Second Vatican Council and helped foster a deep inculturation of the Gospel across the continent.

Monsignor Estrada described CIEC as a sign of ecclesial vitality and a steadfast beacon of hope amid persistent social inequality. Emphasizing its tireless commitment to quality education for all, especially the most vulnerable, he called for continued investment in school leadership that promotes inclusion, justice, and peace, while thoughtfully engaging with the challenges

and opportunities of our changing times and emerging technologies. The CELAM Communication Center provided special coverage of this significant anniversary.

Access the special journalistic coverage by the ADN Celam team at the following link

<https://adn.celam.org/tag/ix-encuentro-ciec/>

CELAM Communication Center promotes the course “Water and Life in the Pan-Amazon Region” with REPAM

During June and July 2025, the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) offered the virtual course “*Water and Life in the Pan-Amazon Region: Resistance, Rights, and Hope*” as part of its continental campaign for the defense of water. This free and open initiative gathered communities, grassroots leaders, and committed individuals from across the Amazon region to raise awareness about the critical state of water sources, the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous peoples, and the inspiring experiences of resistance that safeguard this sacred gift.

The CELAM Communication Center (CPC) supported the initiative by providing its digital platform for live broadcasting of all sessions, applying its established technological protocols for virtual ecclesial events. In addition, the CPC produced journalistic reflections on key themes of the course, highlighting their relevance to the Church’s social teaching and ecological mission.

Access the special journalistic coverage by the ADN Celam team at the following link: <https://adn.celam.org/tag/curso-agua-repam/>

CELAM and the Church and Mining Network launch Pastoral Guidelines on the Impact of Mining



On July 18, 2025, CELAM and the Church and Mining Network officially launched the Pastoral Guidelines on the Impacts of Mining, a document developed to guide the Church's response to the expanding extractive industries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The virtual event, hosted by the CELAM Communication Center, featured powerful testimonies, theological and socio-environmental analysis, and concrete pastoral proposals aimed at defending life and caring for our Common Home. The Guidelines emerged from a broad process of listening and discernment involving bishops from across the region, coordinated by CELAM and the Church and Mining Network, with the support of the Holy See's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The CELAM Communication Center, in partnership with the Churches and Mining Network, promoted the event, while the CPC was responsible for the broadcast. The Church proposes paths of accompaniment and resistance in the face of mining that continues to devastate territories, displace communities, and deepen the socio-environmental crisis.

For more details on this event, see the following article on the ADN Celam website: <https://adn.celam.org/iglesia-latino-americana-presenta-orientaciones-pastorales-frente-al-impacto-de-la-mineria/>

Download the pastoral guidelines document here: <https://adn.celam.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ORIENTACIONES-PASTORALES-DE-LA-IGLESIAS.pdf>

Meeting of the Society of Latin American Catechists (SCALA): Celebrating 30 years of shared journeys



From July 7 to 11, 2025, Asunción, Paraguay, hosted the Meeting of the Society of Latin American Catechists (SCALA), gathering representatives from across the region to strengthen the catechetical mission in a synodal key. The event marked the 30th anniversary of SCALA, a moment of gratitude, remembrance, and renewed commitment to the Church's evangelizing mission.

The primary aim of the gathering was to encourage the diverse expressions of catechetical ministry to continue walking together as a synodal Church: one that listens, discerns, and joyfully proclaims the Gospel. Guided by the vision of Pope Francis, participants placed special emphasis on sharing experiences and reflections on the challenges facing catechesis today, particularly in light of the ongoing Synod process and the upcoming Jubilee Year.

The importance of producing critical thinking, overcoming superficial spiritualities, and incarnating oneself in the world to transform it from within was emphasized. The demand for an inclusive pastoral ministry that cares for victims, perpetrators, and their relationships, promoting healing, fraternity, and solidarity, as opposed to judgment, was also addressed.

For more details on this event, see the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/x-jornadas-de-estudio-scala-iglesia-latinoamericana-impulsa-renovacion-catequetica-desde-asuncion/>

First colloquium on the creation of socio-pastoral observatories promoted by CELAM

On July 18, 2025, the Synodal Network for Socio-Pastoral Observation, supported by CELAM's Knowledge Management Center and its Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory (OSAP) launched a series of monthly colloquiums aimed at assisting episcopal conferences, dioceses, and other ecclesial bodies in forming teams capable of developing "an ecclesial gaze" on the realities of the continent.

These gatherings foster dialogue on the conditions needed to establish or strengthen Socio-Pastoral Observatories across Latin America and the Caribbean, integrating scientific rigor with faith-inspired discernment. Each session highlights a concrete experience, presenting its motivations, key steps, required resources, challenges overcome, achievements, and essential lessons for success.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website: <https://adn.celam.org/la-red-sinodal-de-observacion-socio-pastoral-alista-un-primer-coloquio-para-dar-una-mirada-eclesial-a-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

Watch this presentation again on Celam TV <https://youtu.be/94ljvUY7Fq8>

AUGUST

The ALMA Catholic Television Network is born



On August 14, 2025, during the Meeting of Catholic Television Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) through its Center for Communication, the **ALMA Television Network** (*Alianza Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Medios Audiovisuales Católicos*) was officially launched in Aparecida, Brazil.

The initiative emerged from a process of listening, dialogue, mutual understanding, shared learning, exchange of best practices, and communal discernment that marked the gathering, held from August 11 to 14 at the Rainha do Brasil Hotel, at the foot of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. The meeting brought together 60 directors and production manag-

ers from 12 countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the United States, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay—representing 27 Catholic television stations across the continent.

According to the organizers, “This new Catholic network seeks to become a collaborative space for synergy and coordination, grounded in a synodal vision, in communion with the episcopal conferences of the region, and inspired by the Church’s Magisterium.”

The event was supported by the Episcopal Commission for Communication of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB) and SIGNIS Brasil TV.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/nace-la-red-de-television-catolica-alma/>

For more information, see this special report from ADN Celam News: https://youtu.be/C_pAh7OPK3Y

CELAM creates REC, the Network of Catholic Radio Stations in Latin America and the Caribbean

Following the Meeting of Catholic Radio Station Managers of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) through its Communication Center, the **Network of Catholic Radio Stations in Latin America and the Caribbean (REC)** was formally established in Lima, Peru, from August 26 to 28, 2025. The initiative emerged from a process of listening, dialogue, and

communal discernment among 55 participants representing 14 countries across the region.



The newly formed network will foster collaborative spaces for synergy and coordination, grounded in a synodal vision, in communion with the continent's episcopal conferences, and inspired by the Church's Magisterium. It affirms the enduring role of Catholic radio as a "prophetic voice" amid the complex and diverse realities of Latin America and the Caribbean, a conviction reinforced by the presentation of findings from the diagnostic tool that opened the meeting.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/ha-nacido-la-rec-red-de-emisoras-catolicas-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

In this special report from Noticiero ADN Celam, learn more at <https://youtu.be/ZlvM70t23io>

CELAM hosts the Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon

From August 17 to 20, 2025, the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá, Colombia, hosted the *Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon*,

an event aimed at further strengthening and consolidating the Amazonian face of the Church in the region. The gathering was convened by Cardinal Pedro Barreto Jimeno, S.J., Archbishop Emeritus of Huancayo, Peru, and President of the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA). The ADN CELAM press team provided special coverage of the event, including live broadcasts of three press conferences.

Cardinal Barreto highlighted that the Church has been present in the Amazon for more than 500 years, a journey marked by both light and shadow yet consistently rooted in a process of listening to God and to the peoples of the region. He stressed that the Church's current experience in the Amazon is the fruit of this historical path, which, though not formally termed "synodal," was in essence a profound practice of mutual listening and discernment in the light of the Holy Spirit.

All news reports and interviews from the event are available at the following link:

Access the special news coverage by the ADN Celam team at the following link: <https://adn.celam.org/tag/encuentro-obispos-de-amazonia/>



Interreligious Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Religions for Peace



From August 26 to 28, 2025, the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) hosted the Interreligious Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Religions for Peace, bringing together more than 60 religious leaders from diverse spiritual traditions across the region. Held under the theme “*Promoting Shared Sacred Flourishing*,” the gathering offered a spiritual vision of human development that complements and deepens the ethical foundations of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through prayer, dialogue, and shared reflection, participants reaffirmed their common commitment to peace, justice, and the inviolable dignity of every human person, drawing strength from universal values such as love, solidarity, and mutual respect. In its final declaration, the meeting called for a renewed and more visible role for religious communities in public life, urging the formation of strategic alliances to foster fraternal, just, and sustainable coexistence throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/lideres-religiosos-impulsan-florecimiento-sagrado-compartido-para-enfrentar-desigualdad-y-crisis-socioambiental/>

Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean strengthen the evangelizing mission in education, culture, and sports

From August 11 to 14, 2025, bishops responsible for, and those from episcopal commissions on education, culture, universities, and sport from across Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the CELAM headquarters in Bogotá, Colombia.

In an atmosphere of fraternal communion, bishops, priests, religious, and lay women and men reaffirmed the Church's mission to evangelize culture and education as essential pathways for humanization and the inculturation of the Gospel. They acknowledged the profound challenges posed by our changing times, including globalization, digital culture, social media, and artificial intelligence.

Inspired by Pope Francis, the participants embraced the *Global Educational Pact* as the central axis of their pastoral action, committing to promote human dignity, fraternity, justice, and peace. They emphasized the importance of synodality, the integral connection among education, culture, and sport, and the ongoing formation of formators. Special attention was also given to care for our Common Home and the urgent need to strengthen regional networks capable of responding coherently to contemporary challenges.

As a significant outcome of the meeting, the delegates consolidated the **Ecclesial Network for Educational Pastoral Care in Latin America and the Caribbean**, now formally affiliated with CELAM through the Center for Pastoral Action Programs and Networks (CEPRAP).

More details on this meeting can be found in the following article on the ADN Celam [website](https://adn.celam.org/celam-in-augura-encuentro-continental-para-impulsar-el-pacto-educativo-global-con-vision-sinodal/)<https://adn.celam.org/celam-in-augura-encuentro-continental-para-impulsar-el-pacto-educativo-global-con-vision-sinodal/>

The “Life hangs by a thread” campaign launches its own podcast series with the support of CELAM



Since its launch on December 10, 2024, International Human Rights Day, the “Life Hangs by a Thread” campaign has stood in solidarity with emblematic cases of leaders, human rights defenders, and civic actors at risk because of their work, seeking to honor their lives, struggles, and the communities they accompany. On August 15, 2025, the campaign launched a new podcast series, available on CELAM’s YouTube channel and at <https://lavidapendedeunhilo.org/> Through intimate storytelling, the series gives voice to the faces and experiences behind these cases, not only to denounce violence but also to uncover its root, structural causes.

Produced by CELAM in partnership with Juan Diego Network, the podcast sheds light on urgent struggles: the fight for the recognition of fundamental human rights; resistance against environmental destruction driven by powerful corporations; and the alarming patterns of silencing, forced disappearances, criminalization, stigmatization, threats, repression, and killings of defenders across Latin America and the Caribbean.

More details on this initiative can be found in the following article on the ADN Celam website.

<https://adn.celam.org/campana-la-vida-pende-de-un-hilo-lanza-su-propia-serie-de-podcast-con-apoyo-del-celam/>

Access all chapters of this series here <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lQHEjV5ViqZJmxUSsXmgKy->

CELAM reflects on the Solemnity of Creation in Christ and the new Mass for the care of creation

On August 12, 2025, CELAM, jointly with its Liturgy Network, CEILAC, and the Laudato si' Institute at the University of Oxford, hosted its second virtual dialogue on the Solemnity of Creation in Christ and the newly promulgated Mass for the Care of Creation.

The gathering brought together bishops, theologians, liturgists, and pastoral ministers from Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions. Rodrigo Martínez, the event's facilitator, empha-

sized its historic significance as a space for mutual exchange and the development of concrete pastoral and liturgical proposals.

The spiritual opening was led by Father Eric Iván García Concepción, Deputy Secretary General of CELAM, who guided participants in Pope Francis's "*Christian Prayer with Creation*," invoking the Holy Trinity as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all creation. In this way, the event beautifully integrated theological reflection and contemplative prayer in service of integral ecology and the Church's mission to protect our Common Home.

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/iglesia-latinoamericana-reflexiona-sobre-la-solemnidad-de-la-creacion-en-cristo-y-la-nueva-misa-por-el-cuidado-de-la-creacion/>

Director of the Knowledge Management Center participates in Copiapó Theological Week

As part of the 22nd Theological Week, organized by the Diocese of Copiapó, Chile, from August 5 to 8, 2025, Guillermo Sandoval—Director of the Knowledge Management Center of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) took part in the event with a presentation on the Church's Social Doctrine (CST). The gathering formed part of the universal Church's synodal journey in preparation for the Jubilee of Hope 2025, called by Pope Francis. It was conceived as a space for reflection and discernment, attentive to the cries of the people, especially those enduring suffering, exclusion, and displacement.

The specialist explained that the SDC is developed following a methodology that involves seeing and listening, judging and discerning, and finally acting. In the first stage, reality is observed from the perspective of its protagonists and from the contribution of the human sciences, in multidisciplinary dialogue, in order to understand it from different angles. This reality is then confronted with the principles of the Gospel, which allows it to be illuminated with the Church's "expertise in humanity."

More details in the following article on the ADN Celam website

<https://adn.celam.org/guillermo-sandoval-en-semana-teologica-de-copiapo-doctrina-social-ilumina-desafios-y-alienta-compromiso/>



CELAM's journey in May, June, July, and August

Cebitepal presents new working structure

In its new phase, CEBITEPAL seeks to strengthen its identity as an academic and ecclesial space dedicated to research, theological reflection, and pastoral formation. Its mission is to foster synodal experiences, knowledge, and practices by bringing together episcopal conferences, universities, pastoral institutions, religious, and lay faithful on a shared journey of conversion and structural renewal. To this end, it has created three strategic coordination areas: formal education, ongoing formation, and priority lines, in addition to the "Together Synodal Ecosystem Office" for global coordination. Synodality will be the central axis for responding to the challenges of the Church, especially in the implementation of the Final Document of the Synod. These spaces are complemented by the Steering Committee, which executes the vision; the Advisory Committee, which evaluates programs; and the Enrollment Committee, which guarantees quality and scope, ensuring that Cebitepal's offerings maintain their identity and fidelity to CELAM's theological-pastoral horizon.

The Latin American and Caribbean Church's journey towards COP30 in Brazil

Between May and August 2025, the Latin American and Caribbean Integral Ecology Commission (CEILAC), with the support of CEPRAP, advanced its preparations for COP30, to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November. Through the "*Ruta Laudate*



Deum” initiative, the Church has sought to listen to and amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and the rich biodiversity of the Amazon, fostering collaboration with civil society organizations and diverse Christian churches. Key milestones in this process included the People’s Summit meetings, the XI Forum of Social Pan-Amazonian Organizations (FOSPA) in Bolivia, and COP16 in Colombia. For its part, the Brazilian Church, led by the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB) has consolidated concrete proposals and pastoral actions to be presented across multiple forums and networks. These include national gatherings in Brasília and joint ecumenical initiatives aimed at ensuring that the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor remain at the heart of the global climate agenda.

Support for organized communities in Latin America and the Caribbean

RECOR (Network of Organized Communities) is an initiative of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), launched in September 2024. It functions as a “network of networks,” bringing together social organizations and ecclesial communities that embody the struggles and hopes of people in situations of vulnerability, poverty, and marginalization, including persons experiencing homelessness, street vendors, waste pickers, and environmental and social leaders, among others.

From June to August 2025, with the support of CEPRAP, RECOR engaged in a series of regional and international activities. These included participation in the Latin American Congress of CLACSO (Latin American Council of Social Sciences) commemorating the 10th anniversary of *Laudato si'* (June); the Annual Social Pastoral Meeting and Addiction Pastoral Congress in Paraguay (June); formation gatherings in Peru and Colombia; and regional encounters such as *Building Bridges* in Washington, D.C., and a coordination meeting in São Paulo. In addition, RECOR took part in a national assembly of popular movements in Brazil in June, as well as in joint training and coordination initiatives with international institutions, further strengthening its mission of accompanying grassroots communities in their quest for dignity, justice, and structural change.

Ceprap participated in the 10th Meeting of the “Protectors of Life” Network in Guayaquil.

From May 19 to 23, 2025, the 10th Meeting of the “Protectors of Life” Accompaniment Network took place in Guayaquil, Ecuador, under the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope, Protectors of Human Dignity*.” The gathering reaffirmed the Church’s mission as a merciful and welcoming mother, called to heal wounds with compassion and to stand as a living sign of hope, communion, and peace. Pastoral accompaniment was highlighted as an art rooted in closeness, attentive listening, and profound respect, inspired by Christ’s own pedagogy on the road to Emmaus. Special emphasis was placed on holistic care for women and families affected by abortion, promoting the boundless mercy of God and upholding the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death.

CGC Director Speaks at Webinar of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (FIUC)

On May 7, 2025, the Director of CELAM's Knowledge Management Center participated in a webinar organized by the International Federation of Catholic Universities (FIUC) in Paris, centered on the theme "Young People as a Promise of Hope for the Future" and the urgent challenge of caring for our Common Home. The Chilean lay leader emphasized that Catholic universities, in particular, have a vital responsibility to provide not only rigorous scientific analysis but also concrete, hope-filled responses to the concerns of young people regarding pressing global issues, especially climate change and artificial intelligence. He stressed the need to address these challenges from an integral perspective, confronting the structural injustices of contemporary society and fostering what he called "active hope" a commitment to building a more just and sustainable future. In this endeavor, he affirmed, the university must embrace a transformative role that is simultaneously political, economic, and educational, always at the service of the common good and human dignity.



Knowledge Management Center promotes collaborative networks in Catholic education in Brazil

From May 13 to 16, 2025, leaders and promoters of Catholic education from across Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the **XII Integra Meeting**, held under the theme “*Re-enchantment: Hopes and Challenges of Catholic Educational Leadership*.” The event has become a vital space for encounter, discernment, and shared reflection for those who, grounded in faith, continue to see education as a transformative force for peoples and societies. Representing CELAM, Guillermo Sandoval, Director of the Knowledge Management Center of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), delivered a keynote address calling for a renewed understanding of the Church’s role in contemporary educational processes. Sandoval recalled a conversation with Pope Francis in 2015, during which the Holy Father emphatically urged: “*Work in networks. That is the way to work today.*” Those words, he noted, have since served as a guiding compass for the Church’s mission, especially in the field of education where collaboration, communion, and shared vision are more essential than ever.

American academics visit the CELAM Library

On May 20, the CELAM Library welcomed Father Jorge Fernando Rodríguez Ruíz, OP; Father David Tomás Orique, OP; and Dr. Rady Roldán from Providence College, a Catholic university of the Order of Preachers in the United States. The



meeting focused on reflecting on Latin American theology and its ecclesial teaching. During the day, the researchers explored various perspectives, delving into topics such as anthropology, the model of the Church, evangelization, and mission.

CELAM participates in the International Meeting on Peace, Mining, and Human Development in Colombia

From June 10 to 13, 2025, the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá hosted the international conference “*Peacebuilding, Mining, and Integral Human Development*,” organized by the Notre Dame Catholic Peacebuilding Network with the support of CELAM and other partner institutions. The gathering addressed the complex conflicts arising from extractive industries, explored the Church’s prophetic role in peacebuilding, and examined the socio-environmental consequences, human rights violations, and systemic marginalization endured by Indigenous communities. Central to the event was the promotion



of synodal pastoral care, characterized by attentive listening, accompaniment, and the weaving of collaborative networks among ecclesial, academic, and civil society actors.

Particular emphasis was placed on the courageous leadership of women who, as survivors of both extractivism and violence, are driving forces of healing, resistance, and community transformation. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants launched a new resource titled *“Catholic Perspectives on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Processes,”* offering guidance for advancing social and environmental justice in mining-affected regions.

Red Clamor prepares for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees and the Jubilee of Migrants 2025

On June 20, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, a meeting of coordinators of the national Clamor Networks was held to plan the next World Day of Migrants and Refugees, as well as the Jubilee of Migrants 2025. Currently, the Clamor Network



is made up of 237 organizations at the national level, which carry out 475 Church projects in 19 countries on the continent, dedicated to welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating people in forced mobility. During the meeting, it was announced that the Clamor Network will present a new Pastoral Guide to Human Mobility in Rome, in the context of the Jubilee for Migrants. This guide is a key tool for parishes, dioceses, and congregations that wish to organize or strengthen their work with migrants, refugees, and victims of trafficking. In addition, they will develop the Communication Campaign “Migrants, Missionaries of Hope.”

Second Round of Regional Meetings of Indigenous Peoples in Search of Synodality

In June 2025, CEPRAP convened the second phase of regional gatherings with Indigenous peoples across three key regions: the Andean-Amazonian, the Southern Cone, and CAMEX-

PA (Central America, Mexico, and Panama). These meetings sought to revisit Pope Francis's "four dreams" for the Amazon, reflect on the challenges emerging from the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean, and deepen the commitments made at the 2023 Synodal Assembly in Latacunga, Ecuador. Participants engaged in profound synodal discernment, drawing on documents prepared by CELAM's Pastoral Commission for Indigenous Peoples at various stages of the Synod and the Latacunga Assembly, processes that gathered the voices of communities and defined strategic pastoral directions. The gatherings highlighted the vitality of the Indigenous Church, the creativity of Indigenous expressions of synodality, and the indispensable leadership of Indigenous women and youth as central protagonists in the Church's ongoing synodal journey.

Meeting in Honduras and El Salvador reinforces inculturation and interculturality in indigenous and Afro-descendant pastoral ministries

In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, a face-to-face encounter was held, organized by REMAM (Mesoamerican Ecclesial Ecological Network) with the support of CEPRAP to strengthen reflection, dialogue, and unity among faith communities of Indigenous peoples, Garifuna, and Afro-descendant populations. The meeting was inspired by the spirit of the Synod on Synodality and a renewed commitment to pastoral accompaniment. Participants reaffirmed their dedication to processes of inculturation and interculturality in response to persistent challenges: structural exclusion, racial and cultural discrimination, loss of

identity, forced migration, territorial dispossession, and limited youth engagement. Specific concerns were identified, including the pervasive influence of dominant cultures that erode ancestral worldviews and spiritual practices. The group emphasized the urgent need to integrate Indigenous and Afro-descendant languages, spirituality, and cosmovisions into family life, education, and ecclesial formation. The meeting also underscored the importance of legal frameworks that recognize and protect the cultural and territorial rights of these communities, as well as the necessity of strengthening regional coordination for the defense of their lands and dignity.

Mary Magdalene, disciple and apostle: a discussion to rediscover her figure from the perspective of faith and history



On July 18, 2025, the Commission for the Animation of Women in Church and Society hosted a virtual dialogue dedicated to Mary Magdalene. The featured speaker was Gloria Ladislao, an Argentine lay theologian, biblical scholar, catechist, and author of numerous works on biblical figures. Ladislao explained that the purpose

of the gathering was to offer a renewed perspective on Mary Magdalene, particularly her role as a faithful companion on Jesus's journey, a dimension increasingly recognized in recent de-

cares. From the outset, she proposed an integrated biblical, historical, and spiritual reading aimed at dispelling long-standing misconceptions and restoring Mary Magdalene's authentic place as a witness, disciple, and apostle of the Risen Christ.

Watch this discussion again on Celam TV

[https://youtu.be/JYokuD\]sqhk](https://youtu.be/JYokuD]sqhk)

Launch of the Toolkit and podcast series for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

On the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, commemorated every July 30, the ecclesial networks Red Clamor and Talitha Kum presented the podcast series "Voices of Clamor, Echoes of Hope." This seven-part production is promoted by Red Clamor's Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons and seeks to raise awareness about this serious problem in society. On the same day, the "Toolbox Against Human Trafficking" was presented, a comprehensive resource designed to support prevention and awareness of this scourge. The box includes material for spirituality, such as the Way of the Cross, Rosaries for all the mysteries, Holy Hour, and Lectio Divina, as well as communication resources such as explanatory videos on the different types of trafficking, video clips, and a collection of poems written by women who are victims of trafficking.

Access the podcasts at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lSPAZWgOOQwF2i3tkOCTkhWV>

Download the toolkit here: <https://redclamor.org/caja-de-herramientas-contra-la-trata-de-personas/>

Afro-Catholic women commemorated the first anniversary of their ecclesial network in Latin America



On Thursday, July 31, 2025, on the occasion of the International Day of African Women and Girls and the first anniversary of LA-CAM (Network of Afro-Descendant Catholic Women Leaders of the Americas), the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) hosted a virtual forum on the chal-

lenges and contributions of Afro-Catholic women.

Titled "*Afro-Descendant Women and Territory: Challenges of Visibility, Rights, and Care for Creation in Latin America*," the event was streamed live on CELAM's official channels and digital platforms.

Watch this discussion again on CELAM TV <https://youtu.be/eug74j2BHhc>

Network of socio-pastoral observatories promotes the creation of thematic groups



On August 29, 2025, the Synodal Network for Socio-Pastoral Observation held its third virtual follow-up meeting, convened by CELAM's Knowledge Management Center and its Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory (OSAP). During the session, participants reviewed the progress of the research survey commissioned by the CELAM Plenary to the Catholic University of La Plata and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Based on the preliminary findings, the Network agreed to establish thematic working groups in the form of seminars to foster collaboration among observatories sharing common interests. These groups will promote joint research and the organization of academic events, while developing shared conceptual frameworks on key themes such as democracy, poverty, and mental health. The aim is to enable a more coherent and synodal analysis of the social and pastoral realities facing the region. The meeting also emphasized the importance of broad-

ening the participation of all observatories to ensure more inclusive, comprehensive, and participatory discernment in the Network's ongoing work.

CELAM archive enriches information work

The CELAM Communication Center conducted exhaustive research to compile documentary sources, iconography, and significant images to mark the organization's 70th anniversary. In this way, the archives and documents held by the Library were evaluated for non-academic purposes. The research, for journalistic use, was conducted by Giovanni Alexander Pinzón Salamanca, creative advisor and audiovisual producer at the CPC. This archive increases the possibilities for enhancing the work of other centers and is a space open to all the People of God, fulfilling its mission to safeguard and disseminate CELAM's historical memory for research, academic studies, and dissemination in the media.

Consultations can be made remotely by contacting us via email: biblioteca@celam.org

Launch of the call for shared knowledge roundtables

On August 12, 2025, CELAM announced through its internal channels the launch of Shared Knowledge Tables, intentional spaces for exchanging insights and lessons drawn from lived



pastoral experience. By August 31, the initiative had received 450 expressions of interest. Participants will be invited to join one of 26 thematic tables, based on their experience and availability. These roundtables will explore the diverse dimensions of the Church’s pastoral action, fostering mutual learning and collaboration in response to the Synod’s call to “share the gifts we have received” (*Final Document of the Synod*, n. 120). More than discussion forums, the tables are envisioned as a living network of relationships that nurtures a culture of encounter, social justice, inclusion, fraternity among peoples, and care for our Common Home, rooted in local realities and animated by Catholic unity. They offer a concrete opportunity to deepen pastoral commitment, coordinate efforts, and embody a Church that is prophetic, compassionate, and steadfast in solidarity.

CELAM and CLAR meet to strengthen the documentary memory of religious life in Latin America

On August 22, 2025, in a spirit of fraternity and mutual collaboration, Julio César Monroy, Coordinator of the CELAM Archive and Library, met with Father José Luis Loyola, President of CLAR, and Sister María Inés Castellaro, Secretary General of the same organization.

The gathering focused on shared experiences and strategies for preserving archival heritage and promoting access to bibliographic materials related to consecrated life in Latin America. Both institutions presented their current initiatives and expressed a strong desire to deepen their cooperation, pooling resources and efforts for the benefit of the Church and society.

This meeting marks a significant step toward building a shared ecclesial memory that honors, preserves, and disseminates the rich history and enduring presence of religious communities in the region, thereby fostering greater appreciation for the cultural and pastoral legacy of consecrated life in Latin America.

CELAM present at the 5th Economy of Francesco Congress: Transforming debt into hope

In August 2025, Brasília hosted the V Congress of the Economy of Francesco in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the CELAM Platform of Economies, Caritas Latin America

and the Caribbean, and the Latin American Network of the Economy of Francesco. Under the subject “*Transforming Debts into Hope*,” the Congress explored economic realities from a territorial and grassroots perspective, with special attention to the experiences of marginalized communities—including migrants and other vulnerable groups. Participants reflected on the ethical and structural debts that continue to exclude millions, and advocated for economic models that are just, sustainable, and participatory. The event also strengthened participants’ capacity for political advocacy in defense of the land, food sovereignty, and agroecology. The book *Aldeas (Villages)* was launched during the gathering, offering a compelling invitation to reimagine the economy from a community-centered, relational standpoint. In the final Assembly, participants developed concrete projects and strategic pathways aimed at structurally transforming economic systems. They reaffirmed their commitment to a fraternal, regenerative economy, one rooted in the peripheries, animated by solidarity, and calling for personal and societal conversion toward greater social justice.

Chilean professors request information on CELAM activities

Invited by the Education Department of the Chilean Episcopal Conference, CGC Director Guillermo Sandoval met with academics from various universities in that country. The meeting was held on May 7 and was led by Roberto Pavez, director of the CECH Education Department. For approximately one hour, they discussed CELAM’s organization and tasks, as well as areas for cooperation.

Third meeting of the Bogotá Ecclesiastical Archives Network at the Pontifical Xavierian University

On August 25, 2025, the third meeting of the Bogotá Ecclesiastical Archives Network was held at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, with the aim of strengthening the Church's documentary memory in the region. The gathering brought together representatives from various ecclesial and academic institutions in a spirit of collaboration and shared planning. The active participation of the CELAM Library team reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to preserving the Church's archival heritage and ensuring broad access to these vital historical resources.



First Discussion on Pastoral Care with Women: understandings, approaches, and prophetic action

The first discussion, coordinated by the Commission on Women in the Church and Society, sought to renew commitments, deepen reflection, and share experiences regarding pastoral care for women in synodal times. Drawing on the conclusions of the Regional Meetings in Mesoamerica and the Andean-Amazon region, participants emphasized that pastoral care with women must be rooted in attentive listening, spiritual accompaniment, and a commitment to the struggle for equality, empowering women and affirming their dignity and rights. The need for integrated collaboration with other pastoral ministries, particularly those serving families, youth, and children was underscored as essential to preventing violence and promoting the full flourishing of women. Such coordination should be guided by strategic priorities and a spirituality shaped by the Gospel values of equality and equity.

Ultimately, pastoral action with women must be a transformative space one that advances justice, prevents harm, and upholds human dignity across the diverse cultural contexts.

Training in OMEKA to strengthen CELAM's institutional repository

On August 28, 2025, the CELAM Archive and Library team began specialized training in Omeka, a digital platform for managing institutional repositories that enhances the organi-

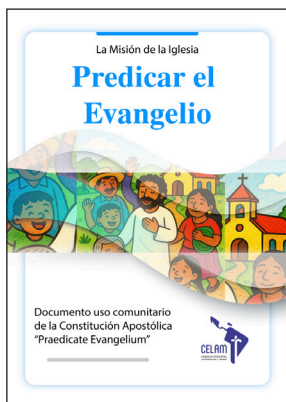
zation, accessibility, and preservation of the Council's historical and documentary heritage. The training, led by engineer Andrés Mora and librarian Lina maria Pinzón, is being delivered under contract with OpenSky, the company responsible for managing the technological infrastructure of CELAM's information ecosystem. The sessions will continue throughout September, comprising a total of 20 instructional hours designed to strengthen the team's competencies in the digital management and long-term conservation of ecclesial documentary heritage.

Advances in pastoral care and inculturation: key discussions and meetings

Two important discussions were held within the framework of the 2025 processes: the First Discussion "*Understanding, Approaches, and Prophetic Action on Inculturation and Interculturality in Pastoral Care*," coordinated by the Commission on Indigenous, Afro, and Garifuna Peoples in partnership with the Knowledge Management Center (CGC); and the *Face-to-Face Meeting on Educational Pastoral Care and the Global Educational Pact*, coordinated by the Educational Pastoral Care Network and Ceparap. Both spaces sought to deepen the dynamics of inculturation, interculturality, and the strengthening of pastoral care in the current context, promoting prophetic actions and strategic alliances to advance the evangelizing mission.

Publications

The mission of the Church: Preach the Gospel



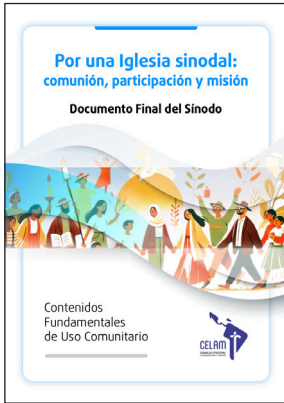
The popular version of *Praedicate Evangelium* (*Preach the Gospel*), Pope Francis's Apostolic Constitution reforming the Roman Curia, was published by CELAM (Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council) through the Knowledge Management Center. This version is titled "*Changes in the Church to Preach the Gospel Today*" and serves as a pastoral guide adapted for the ecclesial communities of the region, seeking to facilitate the

understanding and application of the Curia's reform in a Latin American and Caribbean context.

Download here <https://bit.ly/40OrVIx>

Final Document of the Synod, Fundamental Contents for Community Use

The continental team for the reception of the Synod, with the support of the Knowledge Management Center, published the "popular version" of the Final Document of the Synod 2021-2024, a version intended for community use, presented in clear and simple language while remaining faithful to the original

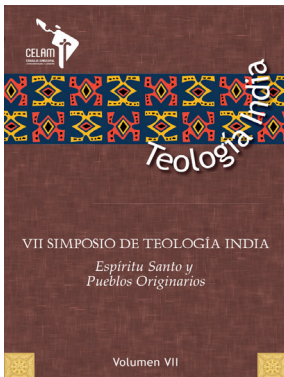


text. This community edition of the document is divided into five parts, each concluding with a series of reflection questions and a summary of key ideas for individual or communal reflection.

This version is available in the CELAM Library and can be downloaded at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3EV2cGK>

VII Symposium on Indian Theology. The Holy Spirit and Indigenous Peoples

When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was prefect of the then Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in dialogues with CELAM leaders, he entrusted us with “continuing the path of deepening the doctrinal content of Indian Theology, in order to advance in its classification in the light of the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church.”



Edition: 1st Edition 2024

Pages: 315

Area: Institutional

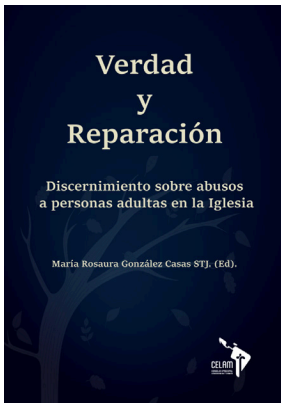
Collection: Miscellaneous Publications

Weight: eBook 11 Mb | PDF 7Mb

Available in print or digital format here <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/teologia-india-vii-espiritu-santo-y-pueblos-originarios-ebook/>

Truth and Reparation: Discernment on Abuse of Adults in the Church

This book is the fruit of a collective effort that seeks to respond with truth and courage to the structural sin within the Church that enables the abuse of adults. Such abuse challenges and calls all institutions to account. The Catholic Church, confronted by reports of sexual abuse committed by clergy and consecrated persons, feels both challenged and summoned to a profound conversion, one that must be reflected in its renewed practices and structures.



Author: María Rosaura González Casas

Edition: 1st Edition 2025

Pages: 346

Area: Social

Collection: Authors

Weight: 470 g

Available in print or digital format here <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/verdad-y-reparacion-discernimiento-sobre-abusos-a-personas-adultas-en-la-iglesia/>

Theology of Conversation in the Spirit

We hope that this book offers readers a theological contribution on *Conversation in the Spirit*, a method developed within the framework of the Synod on Synodality, yet one that transcends the ecclesial event itself. *Conversation in the Spirit* is the

dialogical and discernment practice that the Pope proposes to the Church as a path for its renewal.



Authors: Marcela Mazzini and Fernando Soler (Eds.)

Edition: 1st Edition 2025

Pages: 354

Area: Theology

Collection: Authors

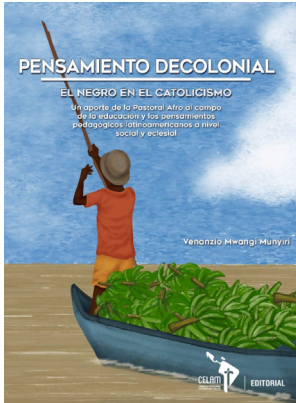
Weight: e-book 3 Mb | PDF 4Mb

Available only in digital format here

<https://editorial.celam.org/producto/teologia-de-la-conversacion-en-el-espiritu-ebook/>

Decolonial Thought: Black People in Catholicism

This text, inspired by a doctoral thesis, brings together a series of historical, social, ethnocultural, and ecclesial reflections which, mediated through an academic exercise, invite the reader into a distinctive encounter with Blackness as a locus of thought. From this perspective, the author, concerned with the scope of Afro-descendant and Caribbean pastoral care over the past four decades (1980-2020) interrogates the subjectivity of “Blackness” and its evolution within Catholicism, as well as the impact of this evolution on Latin American thought.



Author: Venanzio Mwangi Munyiri

Edition: 1st Edition 2025

Pages: 426

Area: Social

Collection: Authors

Weight: 480 g

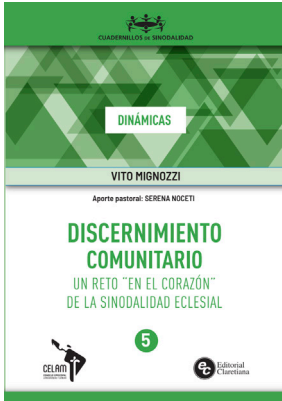
Available only in physical format here

<https://editorial.celam.org/producto/pensamiento-decolonial-el-negro-en-el-catolicismo/>

*The digital version will be available in November 2025

Community Discernment: A Challenge in the Heart

This deeply personal Christian experience of discernment can and should be accompanied by a communal form of discernment, one that concerns not only the individual believer's life but the Church's structures and mission as a whole. In other words, discernment is not only a necessary path for Christians who, before God, seek clarity in responding to questions about their vocation, moral life, and spiritual journey; it is also increasingly emerging as the primary way for Christian communities to authentically exist as Church in history and in the world.



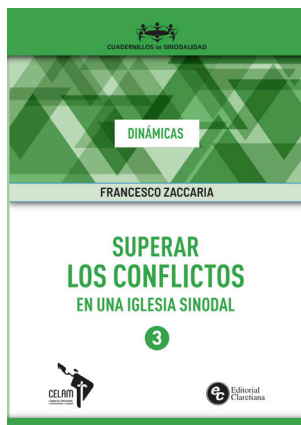
Author: Vito Mignozzi
Edition: 1st Edition 2025
Pages: 48
Subject: Theology
Collection: Authors
Weight: 95 g

Available in print format here
<https://editorial.celam.org/producto/discernimiento-comunitario-un-re-to-en-el-corazon/>

*The e-book format will be available in the first week of October.

Overcoming conflicts

The ongoing synodal processes are bringing to light divergent and at times, conflicting perspectives among the People of God regarding how the Church should embody its missionary conversion. The synodal documents do not conceal the tensions that have emerged from listening to such a wide range of voices in recent years; instead, they underscore the need to continue journeying together in discernment to address them. An ecclesial community is truly synodal when it learns not to suppress differences, but to bring them into open and prayerful dialogue through communal discernment, so that, together, we may recognize which of the various possible paths are the ones the Spirit is calling us to follow today in order to walk more faithfully along the way of the Lord.



Author: Francesco Zaccaria
 Edition: 1st Edition 2025
 Pages: 48
 Area: Theology
 Collection: Authors
 Weight: 95 g

Available in print format here <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/super-ar-los-conflictos/>

*The e-book format will be available in the first week of October.

The Sensus fidei of the entire People of God

The theology of the *sensus fidei* is key to understanding the ecclesiological shift we are experiencing, although its reception has not been without controversy, as it touches on the very heart of identities and modes of relationship among individuals in the Church. The conciliar passage does not seek to nullify the authority of the hierarchy, but rather to place it among the faithful on the basis of a rich exchange of vocations, charisms, and ministries.



Author: Rafael Luciani
 Edition: 1st Edition 2025
 Pages: 68
 Area: Theology
 Collection: Authors
 Weight: 120 g

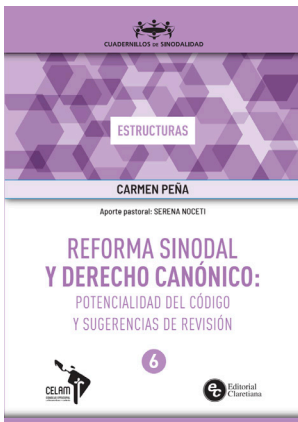
Available in print format here <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/el-sensus-fidei-de-todo-el-pueblo-de-dios/>

*The e-book format will be available in the first week of October.

Synodal reform and canon law

Canon law, whether universal or particular, possesses distinctive characteristics: its instrumental nature, its profoundly pastoral meaning and purpose, and its dynamic character. To affirm the instrumental nature of canon law is to recognize that positive legal norms must always remain subordinate to the Church's essential nature as understood by the Magisterium and lived by the ecclesial community. At every moment in history, canon law serves as the "legal translation" of the prevailing ecclesiological principles, giving them concrete form and practical effectiveness. This is expressly stated in the Apostolic Constitution promulgating the 1983 Code of Canon

Law, which affirms that the Code's function "is in no way to replace faith, grace, charisms, and above all charity in the life of the Church and of the faithful," but rather "to ensure their orderly development."



Author: Carmen Peña
Edition: 1st Edition 2025
Pages: 52
Area: Theology
Collection: Authors
Weight: 100 g

Available in print format here <https://editorial.celam.org/producto/reforma-sinodal-y-derecho-canonico/>

*The e-book format will be available in the first week of October.

Upcoming releases:*

- A path that creates a people. The synod of synodality explained to everyone. Rafael Luciani.
- Advance into deeper waters. Synodal paths of the Church in the Amazon. Julio Caldeira.
- Practical theology and practices of synodality. Ernesto Palafox (Cord.) print and digital format.
- Consecrated Life and Synodality. Daniela Cannavina.

*Progressive release in the second half of 2025.

Upcoming courses and diploma programs at Cebitepal

Free course on Christian hope – from Advent to Easter

As we close the Jubilee Year of Hope and approach Advent, we invite you to delve into the figure of Jesus of Nazareth as a living sign of Christian hope that does not disappoint

(Rom 5:5). Date: November 4-13 Registration: <https://bit.ly/3HdHuTm>

Free online course on an eco-theology of hope

This course invites reflection on our responsibility in the face of the ecological crisis and encourages concrete actions that lead to meaningful change in our communities. Date: October 6-29

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4iChsa0>

In-person course - Exhaustion in Religious Life and Burnout in Priestly Life

A formative space to recognize, understand, and prevent exhaustion and burnout, fostering holistic care for consecrated persons and strengthening community and spiritual life.

Date: October 28-31 Location: CELAM Headquarters

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

Virtual course Path to Sainthood: Canonization Process in the Catholic Church

Learn in depth about the special procedure for the Cause of Saints in the Catholic Church. Learn about the requirements, criteria, and steps that govern canonization, and discover the importance of holiness in the educational and pastoral mission of the Church.

Date: October 6-29

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4mNVYZF> - Last 30% scholarships available

Virtual Diploma in Synodal Parish Life

This program offers resources and practical guidance to promote the implementation of synodality in parish life.

Date: October 13 to November 7

Registration: <https://bit.ly/462Yog7>

50% scholarships - limited spaces available

Training and pastoral service for marriage annulment processes

If you accompany individuals experiencing marital crises or discerning the validity of their marriage, we invite you to enroll in the course: "Training and Pastoral Service for Marriage Annulment Processes."



Registration: <https://bit.ly/44DBmf3>

Format: 100% virtual and asynchronous

See the complete schedule of courses offered by Cebitepal

<https://bit.ly/4pDlrEr>

Upcoming meetings and activities

- October 1-3: Amazon Water Summit.
- October 7: Meeting of the Liturgy Commissions of the Episcopal Conferences.
- October 7: Rosary for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at CELAM headquarters.
- September 29 to October 5: Jubilee of Migrants.
- October 9: Launch of the process of developing the Latin American Manual on Pastoral Care for Addictions.
- October 15: Launch of the third chapter of the podcast La Vida pende de un hilo (Life hangs by a thread).
- October 13 to 18: Jubilee of Indigenous Peoples.
- October 15-16: Walking for Peace Assembly Meeting.
- October 23: Symposium Faith at the Frontlines of Climate Migration.
- October 24-26: Jubilee of Synodal Teams.
- October 26 to November 1: Catechesis Commission Meeting.
- October 27-30: Meeting of Cardinals to address the topic of the Memoirs of Saint Dominic.
- October 21-24: World Meeting of Popular Movements.

Episcopal Appointments (May–August)

- May 15: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Miguel Ángel Contreras Llajaruna, S.M., Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life of the Diocese of Callao and Superior of the South American District of the Marist Fathers, as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Callao (Peru).
- May 22: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Valter Magno de Carvalho, until now titular bishop of Giufi and auxiliary of the metropolitan archdiocese of São Salvador da Bahia, as bishop of the diocese of Ituiutaba (Brazil).
- May 22: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Antonio Emídio Vilar, S.D.B., until now bishop of the same See, as the first metropolitan archbishop.
- May 27: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Alexander Rivera Vielma, of the clergy of the metropolitan archdiocese of Mérida, until now Vicar General and pastor of San Miguel Arcángel del Llano, as bishop of San Carlos de Venezuela (Venezuela).
- May 28: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Raúl Martín, until now bishop of Santa Rosa, as metropolitan archbishop of Paraná (Argentina).
- May 28: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Alejandro Pablo Benna, until now bishop of Alto Valle del Río Negro, as bishop of Morón (Argentina).

- May 28: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Clésio Facco, S.A.C., until now parish priest of Santo Antonio de Santa Maria-RS, in the metropolitan archdiocese of the same name, as bishop of the diocese of Uruguaiana (Brazil).
- May 28: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Francisco Agamenilton Damascena, until now bishop of Rubiataba-Mozarlândia, as bishop of the diocese of Luziânia (Brazil).
- May 31: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Jorge Enrique Malpica Bejarano, of the clergy of the diocese of Zipaquirá (Colombia), until now episcopal vicar of the pastoral zone of Cristo Sacerdote and pastor of Nuestra Señora de la Salud de Chía, as bishop of Granada in Colombia (Colombia).
- June 6: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Ramón Alberto Rolón Güepso, until now bishop of Montería (Colombia), as bishop of Chiquinquirá (Colombia).
- May 12: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Jenrry Johel Velásquez Hernández, of the clergy of Comayagua, currently rector of the Cristo Sumo Sacerdote Major Seminary in Comayagua, as bishop of the diocese of La Ceiba (Honduras).
- June 18: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Dorival Souza Barreto Júnior, transferring him from the titular see of Tindari and the office of auxiliary of São Salvador da Bahia, as bishop of the diocese of Januária (Brazil).
- June 20: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency José Luis Cerra Luna, of the clergy of the diocese of Matamoros-Reynosa, until now Vicar General of the same diocese, as bishop of Nogales (Mexico).
- June 20: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Germán Humberto Barbosa Mora, of the clergy of the diocese of Enga-

tivá, until now episcopal vicar of the Vicariate of Our Lady of the Rosary in Suba and pastor of Madre de la Divina Gracia in Suba, as auxiliary bishop of the metropolitan archdiocese of Bogotá (Colombia).

- June 23: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Andrés Amaury Rosario Henríquez, of the clergy of the same archdiocese, as auxiliary bishop of the metropolitan archdiocese of Santiago de los Caballeros (Dominican Republic). Until now, he has been rector of the Preparatory School/Minor Seminary.
- July 2: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Pedro Cunha Cruz, currently bishop of Campanha, as bishop of the diocese of Nova Friburgo (Brazil).
- July 3: The Holy Father has appointed His Excellency Héctor David García Osorio, currently bishop of Yoro (Honduras), as bishop of Santa Rosa de Copán (Honduras).
- August 6: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Júlio Endi Akamine, S.A.C., until now coadjutor archbishop of the same metropolitan archdiocese, as metropolitan archbishop of Belém do Pará (Brazil).
- August 20: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Paulo Alves Romão, until now titular bishop of Calama and auxiliary bishop of São Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro, as bishop of Paranaguá (Brazil).
- August 21: Pope Leo XIV has appointed His Excellency Carlos Enrique Samaniego López, until now titular bishop of Cillio and auxiliary of the metropolitan archdiocese of Mexico, as bishop of Texcoco (Mexico).
- August 22: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Fr. Pedro Cesário Palma, O.F.M. Cap., until now parish priest of São

Francisco de Assis in the diocese of Umuarama, State of Paraná, as bishop of Jardim (Brazil).

- August 27: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Rev. Manuel Antonio Ruíz de la Rosa, of the clergy of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Santo Domingo, parish priest of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, as the first bishop of Stella Maris (Dominican Republic).
- August 28: The Holy Father has appointed His Excellency Engelberto Polino Sánchez, until now titular bishop of Vazari Didda and auxiliary of the metropolitan archdiocese of Guadalajara, as bishop of Tepic (Mexico).

Deaths (May – August)

- May 2: Monsignor Jorge Iván Castaño Rubio, CMF, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Medellín, Colombia.
- May 26: Bishop Antonio Juan Baseotto, C.Ss.R., military bishop of Argentina
- May 29: Bishop Roberto Gomes Guimarães, bishop emeritus of Campos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- June 1: Bishop Víctor Manuel Ochoa Cadavid, military bishop of Colombia.
- June 7: José Luis Mollaghan, Archbishop Emeritus of Rosario, Argentina.
- July 30: Adalberto Paulo da Silva, OFM Cap., auxiliary bishop emeritus of Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil.
- August 8: Monsignor Estanislao Esteban Karlic, Cardinal, Archbishop Emeritus of Paraná, Argentina.
- August 12: Monsignor Nel Hedye Beltrán Santamaría, bishop emeritus of Sincelejo, Colombia.
- August 12: Bishop José Willy Romélus, Bishop Emeritus of Jérémie, Haiti.
- August 13: Monsignor Cipriano García Fernández, OSA, Prelate Emeritus of Cafayate, Argentina.
- August 17: Monsignor Víctor Manuel Maldonado Barreño, OFM, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- August 29: Bishop Jayme Henrique Chemello, bishop emeritus of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Agreements signed

AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN MAY	
ENTITY/PERSON	PURPOSE
Franciscan Community of Santa Fe - Colombia	To jointly offer a diploma course in addiction prevention and listening.
Bishopric of San Isidro - Argentina	To train pastoral agents and spiritual advisors.
Conference of Major Religious Superiors - CRC - Colombia	For the implementation of project O18/CO/23 - Seeds of Development.
Apostolic Vicariate of Leticia - Colombia	Implementation of project O10 CO 23b - Renovation of the dining room and kitchen at the San Francisco del Loretoyaco boarding school.
Bishopric of San Isidro - Argentina	Training course for pastoral agents: Pastoral service for marriage annulment processes.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN JUNE	
ENTITY/PERSON	PURPOSE
Jesuit Service to Migrants - Society of Jesus - Argentina	Support for the implementation of community life plans for Afro-descendant migrant communities residing in Argentina, aimed at fostering their social integration.
Apostolic Vicariate of Pucallpa - Colombia	Execution of the project "Solar Panels for the San Rogelio Parish Polyclinic."

AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN JULY	
ENTITY/PERSON	PURPOSE
Center for Advanced Social Research - CISAV - Mexico	The completion of the research project "New agents restricting religious freedom in Latin America" (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the call for proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Center of the CELAM Knowledge Management Center in 2025.
Temporalities of the Catholic Church - Diocese of Puntarenas - Costa Rica	The research project "Investigation of the institutional and pastoral capacities of Catholic Church organizations defending the rights of migrants in Mexico and Central America to address changes in U.S. immigration policies beginning in January 2025." (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the Call for Proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Knowledge Management Center of "el Celam" for the year 2025.
Civil Association for Higher Studies, ACES (AUSTRAL University) - Argentina	The research project "Fair and inclusive energy transition in sustainable agriculture for integral human development. Guidelines from a humanistic gift economy perspective" (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the Call for Proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Knowledge Management Center of "el Celam" in 2025.
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC)	The research project "Fair and inclusive energy transition in sustainable agriculture for integral human development. Guidelines from a humanistic gift economy perspective" (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the call for proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Knowledge Management Center of CELAM in 2025.

<p>Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo - PUC-SP - Brazil</p>	<p>To carry out the research project "Strategic Rivalry between the United States and China in Latin America and the Caribbean: Economic and Geopolitical Impacts and Challenges for Regional Integration" (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the Call for Proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the CELAM Knowledge Management Center" in 2025.</p>
<p>Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina Foundation "Santa María de los Buenos Aires (UCA) - Argentina</p>	<p>To carry out the research entitled "Socio-political, economic, and environmental diagnostic study of Latin America and the Caribbean, in a scenario of persistent inequalities, environmental deterioration, weakening of democracies, and the rule of law in the region (2024-2025)"</p>

AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN AUGUST

ENTITY/PERSON	PURPOSE
<p>Catholic University of Manizales UCM - Colombia</p>	<p>Conduct the research project "Causes and consequences of human trafficking for sexual exploitation: a perspective from the pastoral work of the Adorers with their presence in the Andean region (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia)" (hereinafter "THE RESEARCH"), selected in the Call for Proposals issued by the Socio-Anthropological and Pastoral Observatory of the Knowledge Management Center of "CELAM" for the year 2025.</p>

To review and participate

CELAM, through its Communication Center, is making available recordings of the events and material produced during the period from May to August:

CELAM Series, 70 years sowing hope

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lSLpbYlNUOB-J9hcrvUQR8hs&si=Pj8sljWaWodZeV5v>

Podcast Life hangs by a thread

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lQHEjV5ViqZ-JmxUSsXmgKy-&si=kvDElt8YLtwxwbla>

Latin American Polyhedron

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lROkGN-tIVIOSi9iULE-svrU&si=zwWqlizOEa709N87>

2025 Jubilee Anthem Karaoke Challenge

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lQdyDok9ulv-FL2FIREi7ZzT&si=NGEFv5hBIL38-wBq>

Welcome Leo XIV, a Pope with a Latin American soul

<https://youtu.be/qUYYOE5WujM>

Special coverage of the Conclave

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjI1x2-2lRMKIzy-5dA9yOXOYcn7T2ot&si=-nVdf765jUdb0wON>

Virtual course “Water and Life in the Pan-Amazon Region: Resistance, Rights, and Hope”

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjlIx2-2lSZvPZ2XIYPq-icuePgHNj7i&si=Z2NOxfj7CPK1bQe6>

Press conference of the Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpjlIx2-2lT64SR-Gapy9OkWG-snf2i64>

Discussions

May

Launch of the Diploma Course in Justice and Peace

<https://youtu.be/PpmOGnbHBjI>

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: A View from Latin America

<https://youtu.be/yFqn2HOMeyM>

June

Discussion: Learning to listen, the first step in working with victims

<https://youtu.be/kkTKja8aENU>

Document launch: Socio-environmental cries for a jubilant Church

<https://youtu.be/Bkujrd3NObU>

Presentation of the book Decolonial Thought: Black People in Catholicism

<https://youtu.be/-i4UdbzDU3o>

Presentation of the study "Migrant Women in Latin America and the Caribbean"

<https://youtu.be/hZ-4M7UEHeo>

Conference: Protection policies, stable services, and welcoming victims

<https://youtu.be/J4PAWGkwbr4>

July

Presentation of document from Episcopal Conferences of America, Asia, and Africa

https://youtu.be/duO9rYa_eFY

Latin American ecumenical meeting concludes: Nicaea 1700 years

<https://youtu.be/zgluWIGCcSO>

Presentation of pastoral letter "He saw him, approached him, and cared for him"

<https://youtu.be/7pU3pquVf4E>

1st Colloquium of the Synodal Network for Socio-Pastoral Observation of CELAM

<https://youtu.be/94ljvUY7Fq8>

Mary Magdalene, first witness of hope

[https://youtu.be/7YokuD\]sqhk](https://youtu.be/7YokuD]sqhk)

Presentation of the Data Viewer on the Action of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://youtu.be/uc2dvOTlrBY>

Afro-descendant Women and Territory: Challenges of Visibility, Rights, and Care for Creation

[https://youtu.be/eug74\]2BHhc](https://youtu.be/eug74]2BHhc)

August

Launch of the SABER REPAM Platform

<https://youtu.be/rvAadQorB6I>

ADN Celam News Broadcasts

CELAM: 70 years walking together

<https://youtu.be/Ol5Sz6ujRZs>

Catholic universities in America at the forefront of caring for our common home

<https://youtu.be/2-X4s5fPBII>

This is how the Church moves forward: Global Educational Pact, Trinitarian anthropology, and the road to COP 30

<https://youtu.be/TP6HoBUKJFY>

Bishops of the continent celebrate 5 years of the Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon

<https://youtu.be/TYyILrs2Oc>

Theologians from Latin America and the Caribbean analyze the "synodalization" of the Church

<https://youtu.be/EqpOA-GLaCY>

CELAM brings together Catholic TV stations from across the continent and creates the ALMA audiovisual media network

<https://youtu.be/4hNqX72FMtk>

What is the future of Catholic TV in Latin America and the Caribbean?

https://youtu.be/C_pAh7OPK3Y

How was the new Network of Catholic Broadcasters of Latin America and the Caribbean formed? Find out here

<https://youtu.be/ZIvM7Ot23io>

Come and follow us

Connect to the ADN Celam ecosystem to stay informed about all activities, events, and actions for the entire Church in Latin America and the Caribbean

-  Our website: <https://adn.celam.org/>
-  Tik Tok: <https://bit.ly/4bEo9FW>
-  Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3lVr15U>
-  X: <https://bit.ly/3tZndok>
-  Instagram: <https://bit.ly/2QzDNg6>
-  YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3bHXwBO>
-  LinkedIn <https://bit.ly/3L5CQpB>
-  Email: prensa@celam.org

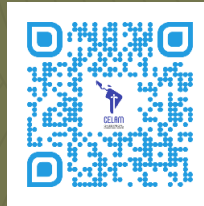
To stay in touch every day of the year,
we invite you to join our channels:

Whatsapp



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

Telegram



<https://n9.cl/eypdd8>