



V ASSEMBLY OF THE COMBONI LAY MISSIONARIES OF AMERICA

LIMA 2022

The representatives of the CLM of America (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, NAP and Peru) met for their fifth continental assembly on 5-10 September in Lima, Peru.

We are coming from a pandemic that has transformed the world. It has also been a difficult time for us and for our families and communities.

After these years we have had the opportunity to meet in Lima from the different American countries that make up our CLM movement. For all of us it has been an important life experience. A privileged moment to share our vocation and to allow the life experience of others to broaden our own missionary vocation.

Becoming aware of our American reality, conscious of how our history and spirituality as a continent are relevant and necessary for the world and the mission, we felt called to give of our poverty and to offer our missionaries in communities both inside and outside our countries.

We have experienced that interculturality is not only possible but a great richness for our missionary life. The contact with other brothers and sisters coming from different countries revives our own vocation, encourages us, excites us, reinforces our sense of belonging and co-responsibility with the progress of the movement and the commitments assumed in our last intercontinental assembly in Rome. That is why our motto has been: "*United for a synodal church at the service of the mission*".

As Comboni used to say, *it is with God above all that we must deal with every important and lesser matter of the Mission*. Therefore, we encourage all our CLM to remain faithful in prayer and committed in our CLM community.

We have spoken a lot about our own missionary specificity as CLM. We feel part of the same family that goes beyond our local groups and our countries, that is strengthened in our continent, but continues to expand in our international commitment in Africa, America or Europe.

We rediscover the beauty of our missionary vocation and feel called to serve in community. Our commitment to the Kingdom of God impels us to work on the frontiers of our Christian communities, encouraging the Church in its missionary responsibility and collaborating in the construction of a fair world. We consider as an essential part of our lay missionary specificity the care of the poorest and most abandoned, as Comboni said, and the care of our common home, to which Pope Francis encourages us.

This week has been a privileged moment to take up again our international agreements. The challenges are many and necessary, but only if we are systematic in our organization we will be able to take them forward.



Knowing and taking ownership of our CLM history and the work we have already done helps us to move forward in our groups. We have therefore taken the time to rediscover the tools we already have on our website and to discover the new work that is coming out at the international level, such as the *CLM Communication Guidelines* or the *CLM International Formation Guide*, which support us in our work. We encourage everyone to get to know all this wealth that we possess. These documents support us in developing our own plans for formation, communication, vocational promotion, search for resources, etc.

Reembracing our vocation, we reinforce our commitment not to be silent but to transmit the love, joy and passion of living the vocation of being CLM. Seeing the missionary needs that we have at national and international level, we commit ourselves to promote vocations, since there is no mission without missionaries, as well as to form them appropriately and support them through prayer and financial resources.

Therefore, we renew our commitment from our personal, family, community and national economies with the common CLM mission, our local common fund and the international common fund.

We must always improve communication among ourselves by sharing with everyone what we do and above all what we are. If we do not communicate no one will know.

And we want to do all this so that we feel not only part of this great CLM family, but also part of the great Comboni Family spread all over the world.

AND TO ADVANCE THE COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE IN ROME, WE PROPOSE:

- We will follow the methodology of see, judge, act, evaluate and celebrate.
- We will systematize the evaluation processes in the short, medium and long term according to the plans of each country. Sharing these evaluations with the American and Central Committee.
- Plan three on-line meetings for the CLM of the American continent during the next year, under the responsibility of the continental coordination team.
- Elaborate and implement a continental calendar that will make us responsible for the publication of information from each country on the international CLM website.

Lima, September 10, 2022

Participants in the V Assembly of the CLM of the Americas