

Meeting of Regional Leaders

Santa Rosa de Cabal, Colombia, July 18-20, 2025

FINAL MESSAGE

The regional representatives of the JCoR in Latin America and the Caribbean have gathered to strengthen our collaborative work in the town of Santa Rosa de Cabal, surrounded by the ecological beauty of Colombia's Coffee Region and the cultural heritage of the Vincentian Fathers.

We have come from different parts of the continent: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, where religious and lay people linked to the JCoR promote social and environmental justice. We have been represented by the Council and the New York office, and encouraged by the coordinating team. At the end of the meeting, we would like to share what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at (cf. 1 Jn 1:1).

Starting from active listening, we have exchanged experiences, learned more about the different local realities, and at the same time, we have been enriched by a more global vision, shown by the international and regional journey of the JCoR. In an enriching discussion on “Faith and Justice for a Sustainable World” with civil society from the city and the region, we shared our experiences and lived an intensely synodal moment of listening and interiorization, which broadened our view of the local reality.

After discerning and weighing up the emerging conditions in each of the countries, we felt the pain of injustice, the cry of the poor, the cry of the Earth. We have allowed ourselves to be challenged by realities such as the climate crisis, migration, insecurity and widespread violence, corrupt governments, drug trafficking and drug use, the mental health of young people, unequal education, and the deterioration of the social fabric, among many other situations. At the same time, we look with hope to the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in our region.

We have also dreamed together: we want to be a Church committed to the cause of justice, standing alongside the poor, raising our voices in prophetic denunciation, following the call we have to build the Kingdom of God through service in our communities.

Therefore, we propose to encourage formation processes for religious life and charismatic families, with the platform “Faith and Justice for a Sustainable World,” which is about to be launched, the creation of materials, and the organization of webinars on the themes of justice, peace, and care for our common home. We want to promote workshops or face-to-face conferences, linking up with other organizations to join forces and create synergies from a synodal Church. We believe in the importance of communicating the stories and testimonies of those who, in following Jesus and the Gospel, give their lives in commitment to the people of God, being a light in the midst of darkness.

This meeting has also been an intercultural and fraternal experience; good news that we cannot and do not want to contain, but which is already flowing out and overflowing to reach more people.

Feeling a sense of fraternity and like seeds seeking to germinate, we thank the JCoR for its support, expressed in Kati Garrison, who gave us her international vision, confirming us beyond our borders. Thanks to all those who have made this unforgettable and irrepressible experience possible. We return to our countries with hearts full and the strength to continue on the path in a new way, strengthening the bonds that help us live as pilgrims of hope in our wounded and blessed world.

Mesoamerican Region:

- Sr. Maricruz Trigueros, Religious of the Sacred Heart (Mexico)

Andean/Amazon Region:

- Sr. Maura Aranguren, Religious of the Consolation (Venezuela)
- Mario Alexander López, Vincentian lay person (Ecuador)

Southern Cone Region:

- Sr. Valmi Bohn, Religious of Divine Providence (Brazil)
- Harving Vélez, Vincentian lay member (Colombia)

Caribbean and Antilles Region:

- Sr. Ana Selva, Piarist Sister (Cuba)
- Jean Carlos Castillo, Salesian lay member (Dominican Republic)



Coalición de Religiosas/os de la ONU por la Justicia

Región América Latina y el Caribe

International Team:

- Kati Garrison (Vice-Coordinator)

Continental Team

- Fr. Gabriel Naranjo (Coordinator)
- Angie Cita (Secretary)
- Deivis Rueda (Communications)