

PREPARATORY DOCUMENT

LIMA 2022



Dear CLM of America. After having to postpone our continental meeting for two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has punished the whole world so much, we return with enthusiasm to prepare a new continental meeting where we can meet the representatives of the CLM groups of America to dream and propose together a missionary path.

Since our international assembly held in Rome in December 2018, we have not been able to meet in person. Therefore, we believe that it will be a privileged moment of reflection and evaluation on the work done, where to share the difficulties encountered in carrying out the proposals, but also to exchange the many projects carried out. Sharing in this way good missionary practices. May all the good that our creativity and the inspiration received from the Master of the mission be shared to help us improve one another.

This meeting has already begun in some way with the joint formation offered by Father Dario to understand the American reality in which we move. Our missionary vocation is called to analyze the reality where we live and judge it in the light of the Gospel, the path of the universal Church and the agreements made as CLM in order to finally be able to propose our own ways of carrying out our missionary service as American CLM, keeping in mind our international service as CLM in the different continents, but at the same time contributing with our own characteristics.

This is a work where each and every CLM is called to contribute. The people who represent our groups will become spokespersons of the work that each community has been able to do previously. Without this previous work our Lima meeting will not make sense. And of course, if all the work we do in Peru is not then shared by the representatives, analyzed and put into practice in each of our countries, the effort we all make will not make sense either.

Let us make the most of the preparation, the meeting and the implementation of the intuitions that we will achieve together this coming September in Peru.

The coordinator, another CLM and the MCCJ advisor are summoned by each group. If the coordinator is unable to attend, another representative will be appointed.

We would like to propose that this meeting have three central axes:

- ❖ The CLM in the American context.
- ❖ The synodal journey in the Church and in the CLM movement.
- ❖ Our commitment in the CLM international agreements.

CLM IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT

As missionaries we are called to discern the signs of the times.

Only if we are able to understand the social, cultural, economic, political, educational, health, religious... environmental context that surrounds us, only if we are able to make a good diagnosis of the world in which we live, we will be able to make proposals to improve it.

An analysis that we invite you to make from a plural point of view. That is the richness that we have as lay people. We have the advantage of having different formative and professional backgrounds, accompanying numerous communities, with a plurinational perspective from each of our countries and also counting on our CLM brothers from other continents who help us to have a broader vision, as well as those who have served and are serving in other continents and transmit to us day by day a global reality to which we are called to respond. We must put this broad network at the service of the mission. We test the reality in our families, in the neighborhoods, parishes, schools, hospitals, agricultural associations, human rights associations, prisons, etc. For us, the difficult thing is not to go out and collect information but to be able to analyze it, synthesize it, systematize it and analyze it together in order to obtain the best possible diagnosis.

For this reason, in line with what we have already worked with Fr. Dário and trying to get someone from outside to help us during the meeting, we encourage you to make this analysis of reality.

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US TO REFLECT ON THE THEME.

- We ask you to bring to us what, in your opinion, are the challenges we have in our continent, as well as the opportunities that are currently opening up.
- And from this analysis we ask you to dream about the great challenges we are called to face as CLM America.

THE SYNODAL JOURNEY IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE CLM MOVEMENT

The People of God is called to Synod. Pope Francis invites the whole Church to question itself on synodality, a decisive theme for its life and mission because "the path of synodality is precisely the path that God expects from the Church of the third millennium" (Pope Francis).

Synodality is the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature. It is the walking together and gathering in assembly of the People of God, who are called together by Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. It should be expressed in the ordinary way of living and acting of the Church.

- **Learn from the experiences** and perspectives of others, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- **Discern the processes of seeking God's will**, enlightened by the Word of God and united in prayer.
- **Follow the paths to which God calls us**, toward deeper communion, fuller participation and greater openness to fulfill our mission in the world.

The objective of this time is that the Church can learn, from this synodal journey, what processes can help her to live communion, realize participation and open herself to mission.

The theme of the Synod is "**For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission**". These three dimensions are deeply interrelated. They are the vital pillars of a synodal Church. There is no

hierarchical order among them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two. There is a dynamic relationship that must be articulated taking into account the three terms.

- **Communion:** God brings together our different peoples, but with the same faith, through the covenant established by Jesus Christ. It is he who reconciles us to the Father and unites us to one another in the Holy Spirit. We each have a role to play in discerning and living out God's call to his people.
- **Participation:** The synod implies a call for the participation of all who belong to the People of God - lay, consecrated and ordained - to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another.
- **Mission:** The Church exists to evangelize. We can never concentrate on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the entire human family. This Synodal Process has a profound missionary dimension. The church is by nature and creation of God, Missionary.

Being in the CLM movement requires us to imitate our founder who responds to the proposal that the Church is making to us today. St. Daniel Comboni constantly lived these dimensions facing the challenges that the Church was placing in his time. Today Pope Francis also invites us to find new ways to make the Gospel present to people who do not know it or do not find the meaning of living it.

The proposal is to follow a synodal path where everyone's opinion is important. That is why, in the face of the challenges we are living, we are called, we are invited to be "Disciples and Missionaries in Departure" the sending that Jesus makes to the Church is for all the baptized who want to respond to his call. Therefore, we must reach agreements where we decide a common path together, living the joy of being on the way and not only to reach the goal. Because, when we reach the goal, we discover that the goal is another one, which implies to continue walking.

The continental meeting of the CLM will be this pause where we can see what we have walked since our international meeting, evaluate from the agreements we made, what is working for us, what we can improve, where we can continue walking. To be aware of what has been entrusted to us locally and internationally. To know that we are part of a movement that occupies everyone in order to be able to walk in harmony in the face of the challenges that the world presents us. So that all together we can identify the options where we all contribute what we have and a little more.

It is also a time to choose the people who will continue to represent us and motivate us to continue this growing, this is something that we must work from our group because the person who represents us is the one who will help us to interact in the times to come. So we must take this moment seriously and be aware of what it is to assume a service whether international or national, so the importance of choosing the person who has availability to do so, to carry the proposals of the group and that upon his or her return is able to lead and help us to carry out the agreements that we all decide. We are all important in this meeting, all the previous and subsequent work. We must reflect on the progress of recent years (both locally and internationally) and to what extent it has been due to the continental meetings and the international assembly. In this way we also put into play the way we organize ourselves, make agreements and carry them forward. To be capable of all the potentiality to which we are called as CLM at the international level.

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US TO REFLECT ON THE THEME.

- How do we CLM live the synodal path that the Church proposes to us (also at the internal level within the movement)? What proposal do you suggest that we can make that will help us to walk on this path of synodality?
- What do you consider to be at stake in the continental meetings? How do you suggest that the CLM transmit and assume the agreements we make in our continental and international meetings? What needs to be applied in your group to give continuity to the path we are following, taking into account what was agreed upon in the continental and international meetings? How should the dialogue among the CLM be improved to give an assertive response to the needs of the CLM movement and to our social reality?
- How can we improve our organization? What should we take into account when choosing the CLM who will serve in the group (coordination, secretariat, treasury, formation, communication, missionary animation, etc.)? How should those of us who do not have a specific service commit ourselves to the movement?

THE CLM INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

"**BEING HOLY AND CAPABLE**" implies systematizing proposals, jointly agreeing on service proposals, jointly analyzing the reality in order to co-responsibly give a response, both internally and externally.

"A community of communities that wants to be present wherever the Lord places us. Who wants to look around and not to settle down. That approaches these frontier realities, where others do not want to go, and becomes one with the people. Ready to leave one's country or to attend to these mission realities in their own country. Because the mission is not concerned with borders and geographical areas, but with people. A globalised world that needs a common response.

That is why we recognize, we shout, we pray: **One world, one humanity, one common response!**"

At the CLM International Assembly held in Rome in 2018, a series of [Proposals were agreed upon at the International level](#) (a document that should guide you in your evaluation), which expanded the Proposals taken at Maia 2012 by collecting in turn the Continental Proposals, resulting in 12 fundamental themes:

- 1) CLM family Composition
- 2) Structure and legal recognition
- 3) International communities (organization)
- 4) Financial self-sufficiency
- 5) The Common CLM formation
- 6) The spirituality of the Comboni Lay Missionaries
- 7) Living the Comboni Charism
- 8) Mission Ad Gentes and Inter Gentes
- 9) CLM Vocation Promotion
- 10) Communication
- 11) Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation
- 12) The Comboni Family

We consider that it is time for us to analyze in our current reality the progress we have made in the implementation of these, or if due to the changes we have experienced in the last two years we need to address new issues.

The CLM are present in 8 countries of America: NAP, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica (new group), Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, but at the same time we are a unit, a single movement, and that is why it is necessary to analyze the Agreements taken globally, since these are the basis on which we walk. Hence the importance of the groups participating in the discussion and contributing new experiences.

The Proposals taken at the international level in Rome 2018 should guide our actions at the continental level, adapting them to the reality of our countries and CLM groups.

We are aware that each group has its particularities, customs, ethnic groups, languages, etc., which is why there will be aspects of the Agreements that cannot be put into practice, or that do it in a different way. This is why it is important for each country to give its opinion. This will make us reflect and take a path together, but with our own differences.

The contributions that each country sends will be the heart of our Assembly, from these we will extract the updates that we see fit, hence the importance of the work of the groups.

FOR WHICH WE ASK YOU TO

- Read in your groups and underline what you consider most important, or what you consider is not applicable to your reality, and how you would do it.
- At the group level, work on the mission of the CLM at the local and international level, that is, within and outside our borders, taking into account the reality of each group during the last 4 years.
- Exchange experiences to see the commitments within each country according to their reality, challenges and current problems. The exchange of experiences will help the groups to grow, since there will be positive experiences, as well as not very positive ones, but from which we will learn.
- Directory. As agreed at our last continental meeting in Mexico, each country should bring a copy of its Directory (which it is important that it is up to date). [The CLM International Agreements Rome 2018](#) contain clear points that can guide us, always analyzing the particularities of each country.

As you can see, we believe that the participation of all the groups is really important and for this reason, prepare these three simple parts in advance to make the most of the meeting.

The opinion of the groups from the different countries will help us to recognize the successes as well as the difficulties, we will learn from these experiences, and thus put the Proposals into practice effectively.

We look forward to your contributions. We ask that each group send us in advance the report that they elaborate on these aspects so that later they can be added to the final minutes of the meeting, so that they can be read by the rest of the participants, CLM that cannot attend and be part of the history of our movement in the continent. We also encourage the groups to bring their updated directories, formation plans and any other documents they have produced in recent years that may serve as inspiration for others.

May the Lord bless you and may St. Daniel Comboni accompany you on this journey of preparation.

Coordinating team of the American CLM Committee.