



## Programs 2011-2015 of the Department of Justice and Solidarity Description of the programs of the Department of Justice and Solidarity

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### PROGRAMS 2011-2015 Department of Justice and Solidarity

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### MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES

We feel challenged to discern the "signs of the times" in the light of the Spirit, to be faithful to the service of the kingdom announced by Jesus, who came so that we all have full life and communion. As responsible for the Department, we are aware of the situations of injustice and exclusion and the negative effects of globalization, which do not allow many people in our society to have access to an ever fuller life. This asks us to be attentive to the concrete reality that our peoples live to specify their deepest and most insistent claims. The fact of being disciples of Jesus requires us to look at the reality of the continent from the perspective of the believer, a perspective that recognizes the primacy of life and communion as gifts of the Lord. Our challenge, therefore, is to design pastoral responses capable of

generating processes of evangelization that defend and celebrate life, that life that creates new fraternal relationships of effective solidarity and that is founded on communion with God.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, in spite of important advances, the suffering of the victims of violence continues, the unjust situations of extreme poverty of many people and the gaps of social inequality continue to be an inhuman scourge. We are witnesses that the lives of so many, especially of the weakest, are not appreciated or respected. For many in these circumstances, life is meaningless and they feel relegated to the category of "surplus and disposable". Their claim to life is ignored in our societies that, laden with historical, structural and cultural traits of old or new birth, relegate life, without major problems, to contempt and oblivion.

We need to strengthen the still weak democratic processes that guarantee the recognition of the full rights and duties of all. States must ensure the longing for inclusion and full participation of all citizens, without prejudice or discrimination of gender, religious belief, social, cultural, racial or ethnic identity.

Today the earth itself is in danger because we live on a planet wounded by our aggressive and predatory relationship with nature. It is difficult for us to abandon habits so nested in our civilization, to look for alternatives that care for and favor "our common home". We can never forget that the Lord's covenant with all living beings is a resounding imperative to ensure the permanence of integrated life and interdependent on Earth (Gn 9,12).

Our commitment requires us to take care of the creation, expression of beauty and wisdom of a provident God; make works and build roads of solidarity with the most needy and helpless; passion for justice, which allows us to hope against all hope on the horizon of full life and full communion, gifts of the risen Lord.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Encourage, from the personal and community encounter with Jesus Christ and in the light of the Social Doctrine of the Church and the event of Aparecida, a renewed social pastoral attentive to the diverse threats to the life of our peoples and to creation, to announce the Good News of full life and communion for all, especially the poor, an announcement that entails a commitment to integral human development.

## FOUNDATION

Faith asks us to affirm the primacy of life as a gift from the Father who has loved us first (1 Jn 1: 1-4), who invites us to follow his Son, Jesus Christ, to welcome, in communion, the Good News of the kingdom and his gift of a full life for everyone

The gratuitous love of the Triune God is revealed in present-day history as divine love creator and provident of the cosmos that, through the mission of Jesus, free us

from personal and social sin and, through the gift of the Spirit, encourages those who seek the kingdom of God and his justice. Human history with its lights and shadows, its achievements and crossroads, becomes a "theological place" of encounter with the Lord, especially from the concrete situation of the preferred recipients of the kingdom, the poor or insignificant.

The concern for life and human dignity challenges our faith and the pastoral task because there are innumerable Latin American men and women who do not have the necessary conditions to respond to that dignity. The preferential option for the poor, implicit in the Christian faith as affirms Pope Benedict XVI and the Bishops in Aparecida<sup>43</sup>, a characteristic feature of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, invites missionary disciples to contemplate the face of Christ in the suffering faces of our brothers (Mt 25,31-46) and give testimony of the life of the risen one and of the gift of communion.

The Document of Aparecida reminds us that they, those who suffer, are the nucleus and the criterion that challenges the mission of the Church, its pastoral and our Christian attitudes<sup>44</sup>. From the Christian faith spring the concrete gestures of solidarity, defense of rights and sharing to achieve a dignified life for all. The Church is called to be a prophet of justice and peace in history, to bear witness to a full life, to be an effective sign of the Good News of the kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. We are called to be the Samaritan Church, "advocate of justice and defender of the poor" in the face of intolerable situations of human misery. Pope Benedict XVI calls us to the task of presenting a social catechesis capable of offering the gift of faith its consequences in all its fullness, which, if authentic, cannot be reduced to the individual sphere.

The Christian life is a permanent call to walk with the other, an invitation to welcome and give life to the dying (Lc 10,25-37) who are on the edge and excluded from the development of current society and the present history of Latin America and the Caribbean. To make concrete works and gestures in favor of these simpler brothers is to put into practice the beatitudes of the disciples, those who today put their trust in the hands of the Lord, seeking the kingdom and its gifts of full life and communion for all.

## PROGRAMS

Program 41: Dissemination and Training in the Social Doctrine of the Church  
Specific goal: promote the study and reflection of the Social Doctrine of the Church in relation to the great current challenges so that the social perspective of the Gospel is announced and lived with fidelity.

Step 41.1 Identify what is being done in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of research, dissemination, and teaching of the Social Doctrine of the Church, to seek synergies and coordination in projects concrete.

Step 41.2 Compile and order pedagogically the social teaching of the Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean, so that it may serve in research and pastoral work.

Step 41.3 Promote instances of updating and reflection for Bishops, from the Sacred Scripture and the principles of the Social Doctrine, to illuminate new situations that arise as current signs of the times.

Step 41.4 Collaborate with the Seminars and Faculties of Catholic Theology to impart the theoretical and practical teaching of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Step 41.5 Strengthen the teaching of the Social Doctrine of the Church in the University Centers through, among others, the training course offered by the ITEPAL and the dissemination of the publication the Teaching of the Social Doctrine of the Church in the University, Guide of the Professor, of CELAM - Konrad Adenauer Foundation, 2011.

#### Program 42: Human Rights, Social Equity and Peace

Promote a social pastoral that forms in human rights and that seeks the reduction and elimination of violence, injustice, systems that generate extreme poverty and social gaps between privileged and excluded sectors.

Step 42.1 Promote, with the Episcopal Conferences, the reflection and practice of human rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

Step 42.2 Strengthen the processes of reconciliation and peace with issues of justice, forgiveness, reparation, truth, and restoration of just relationships in Latin American and Caribbean societies in the post-conflict period.

Step 42.3 Collect positive pastoral experiences on the recovery of youth and gang violence groups for the sake of their reintegration into society and citizen security.

Step 42.4 Support public policies that combat the increase in drug trafficking in addition to pastoral initiatives and civil society that fight against drug consumption and promote the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Step 42.5 Find the means to control the proliferation of weapons that aggravate common crime.

Step 42.6 Maintain, for all these topics, a close link with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to share efforts and activities.

#### Program 43: Animation of the Social Pastoral – Caritas

Specific goal:

Strengthen the relationship between the Caritas of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Episcopal Conferences of the United States and Canada, to reaffirm the collaboration of the Bishops of the Continent according to the apostolic exhortation of Pope John Paul II *Ecclesia in America*.

Step 43.1 Maintain a close relationship and collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Secretariat of Caritas (SELACC) for projects related to this Department.

Step 43.2 Collaborate with SELACC in the reconstruction process in Haiti.

Step 43.3 Participate in the activities that the Episcopal Conferences of the United States and Canada conduct on those issues that involve Latin America and the Caribbean.

Step 43.4 Engage the Caritas Social Pastoral Societies of Latin America and the Caribbean to maintain joint work among them and close ties of collaboration with the Caritas of the North.

#### Program 44: Laic, Builders of the Society

Specific goal: Collaborate in the preparation of laic people, men and women, as missionary disciples in the world, favoring dialogue with society and its transformation and offering them specific training, so that they have a significant impact "in the vast world of politics, the social reality and the economy, culture, science, and the arts ».

Step 44.1 Affirm and better outline, in the light of the conciliar Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, the vocation and mission of the laic, men and women, called to holiness and to be responsible and builders of society.

Step 44.2 Deepen the previous step, compiling and evaluating the experiences of the specialized movements of laic people engaged in the construction of society (MIEC, Pax Christi, Pax Romana and others) and the political, economic, social and cultural experiences of other laic people, to advance in the structuring of a pastoral transformation of society.

Step 44.3 Encourage the dialogue of the laic with the social sciences, technology, art, and culture, to discern and proclaim the Gospel.

#### Program 45: Towards a Solidary Economy

Specific goal: Encourage the study and implementation of a solidarity economy that takes into account the control of corruption, the proper distribution of assets and the urgent needs of those who have little or nothing.

Step 45.1 Analyze, in the perspective of Christian ethics, the situation of governmental corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean, seeking its roots and

national and international connections, and identify valuable experiences in the fight against corruption.

Step 45.2 Give continuity to the process of micro-finance, self-financing, solidarity economy, and self-management so that under the framework of the Social Doctrine of the Church they continue to promote and accompany those good experiences carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Step 45.3 Advance reflections on monopolies, transnationals and international trade, and deepen studies on legitimacy, patents, intellectual property, and agricultural subsidies.

#### Program 46: Workers

Specific goal: Consolidate the pastoral work with a decided preferential option for the poor, a feature of the Latin American Church and the Caribbean called to be "advocate of justice and defender of the poor" before intolerable social and economic inequalities.

Step 46.1 Collect the experiences of the Christian communities of workers in specialized movements.

Step 46.2 Strengthen links with employers 'and workers' associations, to generate with the Universities and Training Centers fairer structures from the beginning of the Social Doctrine of the church.

Step 46.3 Support the Episcopal Conferences in the organization and / or strengthening of the pastoral care of the world of work, especially regarding informal workers and unemployed, through knowledge and use among other means of the Worker's Pastoral Guide.

#### Program 47: Concern and Care for Creation

Specific goal: Promote awareness of care for creation as a central element of the announcement of the Good News of a full life, which invites human beings to rebuild a harmonious, interdependent and integrated relationship with the whole cosmos.

Step 47.1 Promote dialogue between the different actors present in the extractive industries and hydrocarbons in search of fair, equitable and peaceful solutions.

Step 47.2 Find an alternative development model based on an ethic that includes responsibility for a natural and human ecology, based on the Gospel of justice and the universal destiny of goods.

Step 47.3 Promote reflections on the causes of climate change, global warming and increased the emission of toxic gases in the atmosphere, and search for viable energy alternatives.

Step 47.4 Collaborate closely with SELACC in cases of natural disasters.

Program 48: Concern and Care of the Amazon

Specific objectives: Alert about the depredation of the Amazon's natural resources and monitor their harmful effects on peoples' lives, climate, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Step 48.1 Collaborate with the local churches of the Amazon of the different countries, to defend the legal right of the peoples to be consulted before carrying out the concessions of natural resources.

Step 48.2 Support the original traditional societies so that their territories are recognized and legalized and their cultures and worldviews respected.

Step 48.3 Defend the lives of the most vulnerable in the face of the internationalization of the Amazon through the opening of inter-oceanic routes.

Program 49: Pastoral care of Health

Specific goal: Encourage and accompany the Pastoral Care of Health in its different fields of care, especially pastoral care with people living with HIV / AIDS, to share with them the Gospel of life.

Step 49.1 To deepen and assume the new vision and approach of the Pastoral Care of Health in Latin America and the Caribbean with its various dimensions, using the Health Pastoral Guide for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Step 49.2 Form solidarity networks with associations and health professionals, to favor the service to the poorest and promote a greater incidence of health policies in different countries.

Step 49.3 Promote a greater commitment of the Church and society in the approach of HIV / AIDS in the Continent and other emerging diseases, especially those caused by the dependence on drugs and alcohol.

Step 49.4 Coordinate all this pastoral work with the Pontifical Council for Health, integrating resources and efforts.

Program 50: Pastoral Care for Children

Specific goal: Collaborate with the Episcopal Conferences and other organisms of the Continent in the practice of solidarity, inclusion, and respect for the rights of children.

Step 50.1 Analyze and raise awareness about the situation of vulnerability in which children and adolescents are at social risk, exposed to multiple cases of abuse such as child prostitution and sexual exploitation in the world of tourism.

Step 50.2 Report child labor, especially in relation to mining activity.

Step 50.3 Encourage, where it does not exist, and accompany departments or sections of the childhood of the Episcopal Conferences, to develop punctual and organic actions in favor of the boys and the girls.

#### Program 51: Penitentiary Pastoral

Specific goal: Support the Episcopal Conferences to sensitize the society about the serious problems of the prison, in order to reject attitudes of rejection towards the detainees and to stimulate processes of reconciliation and communion among the inmates, influencing local and national policies, improving thus the citizen security.

Step 51.1 Strengthen the Penitentiary Pastoral, elaborating proposals with the participation of Catholic jurists of reforms to the Penal Codes, penitentiary laws and constitutional reforms that are being imposed in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Step 51.2 Collaborate, based on experiences in different countries, on the integral formation of Penitentiary Pastoral agents with creative methods of evangelization that humanize the prison system.

Step 51.3 Look for a closer connection with the areas of Pastoral of Human Mobility, Pastoral of Health and the Family, to strengthen the organic pastoral work with people lacking in freedom.

#### Program 52: Migrant Pastoral Care for Life and Communion

Specific goal: To contribute, in the light of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church, to the construction of a just, fraternal and solidary society that respects migrants, refugees and displaced persons as a sign and leaven of the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of life and communion.

Step 52.1 Strengthen the organization and the service of the Pastoral of the Migrant through the theological-pastoral reflection of the reality, the exchange of experiences and the attention to the migrants.

Step 52.2 Ecclesial and social impact on migration policies in order to help raise awareness and protect the dignity of the migrant population.

Step 52.3 Promote the faith and culture of migrants' lives, favoring solidarity, communion and fraternal dialogue with them and each other.

Step 52.4 Systematize and permanently communicate the actions and processes of the Migrant Pastoral.

#### Program 53: Itinerant Pastoral for Life and Communion

Specific goal: To be an evangelizing and supportive presence in the sectors of land and air transportation, gypsies and people of the circus, amusement parks, and



recyclers, safeguarding their dignity, their culture and basic rights.

Step 53.1 Promote the organization and the service of the Pastoral of the Itinerant, as well as the theological-pastoral reflection of the diverse realities of itinerancy.

Step 53.2 Act ecclesially and socially on roaming policies in order to help raise awareness and protect the dignity of itinerant people and families.

Step 53.3 Promote the faith and the culture of the itinerant life, favoring solidarity, communion and fraternal dialogue with them and each other.

Step 53.4 Systematize and permanently communicate the actions and processes of the Itinerant Pastoral.

#### Program 54: Apostleship of the Sea for Life and Communion

Specific goal: To meet the demands of the peculiar religious, social and human assistance needed by seafarers, rivers, and lakes, to accompany and strengthen their process of evangelization in a globalized world.

Step 54.1 Promote the Apostleship of the Sea through reflection on reality, the theological-pastoral and ecumenical dialogue, attention at Casas Stella Maris, exchange of experiences and strengthening of the organizational instances.

Step 54.2 Pastorally influence the protection of the dignity of seafarers.

Step 54.3 Promote the faith and culture of seafarers' lives, fostering solidarity, communion and fraternal dialogue with them and each other.

Step 54.4 Systematize and permanently communicate the actions and processes of the Apostleship of the Sea.

#### Program 55: Pastoral Care of Tourism for Life and Communion

Specific objective: Evangelize the world of tourism, to collaborate in the construction of cultural and religious dialogue, respect for local communities and the ecological environment, in the denunciation of sexual exploitation and the defense and promotion of the rights of the actors of tourism.

Step 55.1 Encourage the Pastoral Care of Tourism through the formation and training of pastoral agents, promoting their identity as missionaries of Jesus Christ.

Step 55.2 Incite ecclesially and socially to achieve the care of creation and policies that dignify the life and work of the population involved in the tourism sector.

Step 55.3 Pay special attention to the victims of the world of tourism, among them, children, adolescents, and adolescents subjected to exploitation and prostitution, typified according to the Palermo Protocol - as a crime of trafficking in persons.

Step 55.4 Rescue, preserve and promote, from the Ministry of Tourism, the cultural identity of local communities and their development possibilities, mitigating the negative aspects of tourism in ecosystems and local culture.

Step 55.5 Systematize and permanently communicate the actions and processes of the Pastoral of Tourism.