



ORDO PRÆDICATORUM
Curia Generalitia

Invitation to Preach the Gospel in the Amazon
Letter to the Provinces and Vice-Provinces of the Order

20 May 2025

Prot. n. 50/25/081 Mission_Amazon

Dear Brothers,

The **Holy See** entrusted to our Order the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado in the Peruvian Amazon more than a hundred years ago. In 1906, **Blessed Hyacinthe-Marie Cormier** gave the responsibility for this mission to the Province of Spain. In order to carry out the commission, the province established the Regional Vicariate of Santa Rosa de Lima. In 2017, as a result of the restructuring of the Order launched in 2010, the Order suppressed the Vicariate of St. Rose of Lima and entrusted the communities in the Amazon to the Province of St. John the Baptist of Peru.

For more than a hundred years, the Order has been a beacon of hope and transformation in the Amazon region, inspired by the commission “to preach the Gospel to all nations” (Mark 16:15). Since its inception, it has infused these principles, promoting the integral development of people and strengthening the spiritual life of native communities. With an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of the most vulnerable, the Order has worked tirelessly to improve their faith and quality of life, always respecting the cultural richness and natural environment that surrounds these communities.

Two years after making an unprecedented Apostolic Visit to Puerto Maldonado, Pope Francis reminded us that the peoples of the Amazon “... have the right to the proclamation of the Gospel, especially to that first proclamation which is called *kerygma* and which “is the main proclamation, the one that must always be heard again in various ways and that which must always be proclaimed again in one way or another” It is the proclamation of a God who loves every human being infinitely, who has fully manifested that love in Christ crucified for us and risen in our lives” (*Querida Amazonia* 64).

Pope Leo XIV, aware of the ecclesial reality in Peru as a missionary, and then as bishop of Chiclayo, will continue, as Pope Francis did, to promote a Church in the Amazon with an Amazonian face in line with the principles established in the Synod. The Holy Father, in his first message after his election on the 8th of May expressed his missionary commitment: “to walk together with you as a Church, united, ever pursuing peace and justice, ever seeking to act as men and women faithful to Jesus Christ, in order to proclaim the Gospel without fear, to be missionaries”.

The Order's mission in the Amazon is currently at risk due to a lack of human and material resources

In order to continue this important mission, the General Chapter of Tultenango (ACG 2022, 141-143), in continuity with the General Chapter of Biên Hòa, has exhorted the entire Order to *collaborate with human and financial resources*; and entrusted *the Socius for Apostolic Life and the Socius for Latin America and the Caribbean to help promote the Order's mission in the Amazon*. The *socii* visited the communities within the mission territory and promoted the first Amazonian Missions Meeting in Puerto Maldonado, with the active participation of the bishop of Puerto Maldonado, the provincial of the Province of San Juan Bautista del Perú, and members of the Dominican Family involved in the missionary territory and the Latin American region. This meeting resulted in a project with a vision until 2030, when we hope that, *with the participation of the Dominican Family, we will have reinforced the missionary presence of the Order in the Amazon and strengthened the local church of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado*.

The support of the entire Order is necessary to develop the mission

To our brothers of the Latin American and Caribbean region, organized through CIDALC - the collaborative organization of all the entities, I ask you to find concrete ways to support the project presented. As members of CIDALC, you have proven capable of carrying out common projects e.g., formation. I am confident that you will find creative and effective ways on how to respond to this call to preach in the Amazon, even in promoting the collaboration of brothers from other regions of the Order.

To our brothers in the regions of Europe-Canada, Asia Pacific, Africa, and the United States of America, I invite you to consider the mission of the Order in the Peruvian Amazon. I ask the regional *socii* to promote the attached project for the preaching of the Gospel in the Amazon to all the brothers and members of the Dominican family.

The specific support we hope to find in the Order for this mission

1. Human resources

The Order has charted a clear path with a project that has a well-defined vision until the year 2030. This vision focuses on the consolidation of the local church in the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado, on the strengthening of native communities, through evangelization, education, sustainable development and the care of creation. The presence of missionaries and volunteers will be key to achieving the objectives set. With an eye to the future, we remain committed to training local leaders, preserving natural resources, and respecting their rich cultural diversity, to ensure a legacy of hope and life for generations to come.

2. Economic resources

While the Order makes a special call for sending volunteers to serve directly in the missions, we also recognize that not everyone can participate in this way. For this reason, we extend the invitation to those who wish to join the mission from other fronts, to consider supporting this project with economic resources. Their contribution will be instrumental in ensuring that the mission continues to thrive by


funding educational programs, such as boarding schools, seminary, radio stations, transportation expenses for volunteer, and health care for all missionary personnel.

Financial and other forms of donations will be handled by the Province of San Juan Bautista del Perú. In the spirit of co-responsibility and transparency, a report on how the funds are used to advance the mission will be sent to donors and benefactors on a regular basis.

Attached is the document “Preaching Project in the Peruvian Amazon”, product of the collaboration among the representatives of our General Curia in Rome, the Apostolic Vicar of Puerto Maldonado, the Province of St. John the Baptist of Peru and some members of the Dominican Family in the region.

I would like to express in advance my gratitude to you for listening to this urgent call and for your generous commitment, both in sending human resources and in providing financial resources. The people of the Amazon cry out for our help. And let us remember that one of our confreres who responded to the call for missionaries in the Amazon was the **Servant of God** **fray José Álvarez Fernández, OP** (16 May 1890 – 19 October 1970), the *Apaktone*, whom the people deeply esteem for his dedication, pastoral zeal, and holiness.

Your brother in St. Dominic,


Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP
Master of the Order

PREACHING PROJECT IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

MISSION

We are the Order of Preachers made up of friars, nuns, sisters of active life, priestly and lay fraternities and youth movements that embody the commitment entrusted by the Holy See to build an Amazonian church of missionary disciples.

VISION

By 2030, with the participation of the entire Dominican family, we will have strengthened the missionary presence of the Order of Preachers in the Amazon and consolidated the local Church of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado.

Objectives

1. To participate actively in the formation of pastoral agents and seminarians.
2. To work actively in evangelization and accompaniment of Amazonian, urban, peasant and particularly indigenous ecclesial communities.
3. Lead the preaching on the Amazon through the media and new information technologies.
4. Promote the defense of Human Rights, indigenous peoples and the Amazon ecosystem.
5. To achieve the economic sustainability of the communities of the Amazon and the projects that support them.

STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 1: To participate actively in the formation of pastoral agents and seminarians.

LINE OF ACTION: ADVERTISEMENT - KERYGMA

1. A training program for pastoral workers (indigenous, Quechua and Amazonian)
2. A semester/annual collaboration with the seminar of 1 or 2 professors in charge of CIDALC.

STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 2: To work actively in the evangelization and accompaniment of Amazonian, urban, peasant and particularly indigenous ecclesial communities.

LINE OF ACTION: KOINONIA – COMMUNION

1. Maintain the following mission posts, three parishes: Puerto Maldonado, Quillabamba, Sepahua.
2. Two missionary, itinerant mixed communities in charge of the Province of St. John the Baptist of Peru and the Federation of Dominicans
3. A missionary community supported by the FRATERNITIES of the Council of Dominican Lay Fraternities of Latin America and the Caribbean (COFALC). To create a lay missionary fraternity for the Amazon that can welcome members of the entire Dominican Family with the possibility of participating temporarily or permanently in the mission.
4. An annual program for PROFESSIONAL volunteers in charge of Pío Aza or/and in charge of a renewed 'MISEMA'. (Lay Missionaries)
5. A volunteer program in the summer months and winter holidays run by the MJD.
6. A volunteer program in the summer months and winter vacations run by Dominican student friars and juniors (Federation – Province of St. John the Baptist of Peru)
7. Volunteer Program of friars and sisters of active life developed as an interprovincial collaboration (CIDALC – CODALC – ANOTHER ENTITY OF THE ORDER)

STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 3: To lead the preaching on the Amazon through the media and new information technologies.

LINE OF ACTION: KOINONIA

Maintain our radios and expand their presence through social networks and *streaming* services run by SODOMCO (Dominican Society of Mass Media).

STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 4: Promote the defense of Human Rights, indigenous peoples and the Amazonian ecosystem.

LINE OF ACTION: DIAKONIA

Consolidate the Quillabamba Human Rights Center (in charge of JPIC – Peru)

STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 5: Achieve the economic sustainability of the communities of the Amazon and the projects that support them.

That a Sunday be declared in which a collection is made for the Amazon (that a mission day be declared). Communication strategies for awareness-raising.

**NEEDS OF VOLUNTEERS AND MISSIONARIES REQUESTED BY THE DOMINICAN
PROVINCE OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA DEL PERU**

PROJECT	MISSIONARY NEED	WEATHER / POPULATION
Convent in Quillabamba. Alto Urubamba River.	There are seven friars. They ask for 3 lay people (2 social communicators for the radio and 1 catechist for the parish)	6 months min. Parish of mestizo and Andean population and Radio Quillabamba.
House in Koribeni. Alto Urubamba River. Pangoa Home & Boarding School	There are three friars, 1 friar is required to strengthen the community/mission and 1 married couple for the boarding school Requires 2 nuns for boarding school There is currently a laywoman in charge.	One year min. Mission post 20 native communities: (Matsigenkas), 20 Andean communities (Quechua). Educate and Evangelize.
House in Sepahua. Lower Urubamba River.	There are two friars and 1 friar is required to strengthen the community/mission They ask for 2 religious or 1 lay person 1/2 time for boarding school and 1/2 for radio	1 year min. Parish and radio: mestizo and native population. 6 months minimum.
House in Kirigueti. Lower Urubamba River	There is a mixed itinerant team (a friar and two Dominican nuns) 2 more friars are required.	One year min. Mission post 12 native communities
House in Timpía. Lower Urubamba River	There are two volunteers who coordinate with the itinerant team. They require 1 OP fraternity or 2 religious.	One year min. Mission post 8 native communities.
House in Shintuya. Alto Madre de Dios River.	There are two friars and 2 more friars are required to strengthen the community/mission.	One year min. Mission post. Mainly native Masco communities
House in Puerto Maldonado. Capital of	There are three friars and 2 more friars are required. One of them for parish priest.	One year min. Parish / Cathedral: mestizo population.

the Department of Madre de Dios.		
	REQUIRED: 8 friars, 5 or 6 lay people, 1 OP Fraternity, 2 or 6 religious.	

NEEDS OF VOLUNTEERS AND MISSIONARIES REQUESTED BY THE BISHOP OF THE VICARIATE OF PUERTO MALDONADO PERU

PROJECT	MISSIONARY NEED	WEATHER / POPULATION
Puerto Maldonado. Capital of the Department of Madre de Dios.	VAPM Communications Office and Radio Madre de Dios.	Six months minimum.
Puerto Maldonado. Capital of the Department of Madre de Dios.	Animator of the pastoral care of children, adolescents and youth. Promoter of catechetical activities and youth ministry.	A minimum of one year.
Quillabamba, La Convention, Cusco	Animator of Caritas Quillabamba.	2 years minimum
Quillabamba, La Convention, Cusco	Religious, laity, priests to attend to new pastoral areas.	1 year minimum
Intervicarial Amazon Seminar of Peru	Professors of philosophy and theology for the formation of future priests, deacons and lay ministries (according to the list of needs presented by the person in charge of regents of CIDALC)	3 months minimum (depending on subjects)
VRAEM	Lay people, religious, priests to attend to new pastoral mission areas in Quechua and Ashaninka communities.	1 year minimum