



Confederación Latinoamericana
de Religiosos - CLAR

Hagan todo lo que Él diga ;Ya es la hora!

**Open veins from Latin America and the Caribbean
MESSAGE**

We have begun the journey through Advent, anchored in hope and aware of the reality of the continent.

The contemplation of reality is an exercise that involves sharpening our ears, places us on a path, and prepares us to walk with our people as guardians of life, of human dignity, and of the common good.

In 1971, the Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano published the book entitled "The Open Veins of Latin America", in which he takes a tour of the history of the continent to portray the problems that make us brothers and sisters: political, economic, and social instability, and its painful consequences, visible in poverty, corruption, inequality, and dictatorships.

The reality of our peoples continues to impose on religious life, the challenge of listening and attending with our contemplative gaze to those situations that urge us to stand on the side of life, to continue to unravel and assume the prophetic dimension in response to the cry of God in the different persons and contexts (Cfr. HI CLAR).

From the conviction that **to contemplate mobilizes us to convert and to become engaged ourselves**, we invite you to set your eyes on the reality of our continent, to let its cries resonate, to make ours the care and concern for democracy, justice, freedom, and law.

It is a question of our intent TO SEE, as a condition for the Mystery of the Incarnation to happen.

TO SEE the social outburst that emerged in Guatemala whose recent trigger was the energetic popular rejection of the largest budget in its history, more than \$12 billion approved opaquely, illegally, and increasing external indebtedness. Besides this, the increase of more than \$2 billion compared to 2019 reduced the already meager social investment in education, health, infant protection and, in general, in combating poverty.

TO SEE social protests against the Cuban regime, in support of the San Isidro Movement. The cry for freedom that has led some to go on hunger strike as a measure of protest and which has enabled religious located in the territory to meet, reflect, pray together, and seek the paths to compromise.

TO SEE the social outburst in Peru because of the change of government. That immense mobilization of Peruvian society that managed to take out a government without citizen legitimacy. To recognize the abuses of force that were committed and threatened the right to mobilize.

TO SEE the situation of Venezuela, the people who continue to journey in search of better living conditions. So many men and women who resist in outrage. The social and political situation that is being lived in the face of the next election.

TO SEE the awakening of Colombia's protest, amid the ongoing mass massacres, the killings of social leaders, the injustice, and the efforts to weaken peace agreements.



Hagan todo lo que Él diga ;Ya es la hora!

TO SEE the passing of Hurricanes IOTA and ETA through our beloved Central America, the same ones that hit the Caribbean islands of Colombia, San Andrés and Providencia and that, by making landfall on the northeast coast of Nicaragua, have caused heavy rains, resulting in floods and landslides that threatened lives in areas of Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama. This reality lifts us up in gestures of solidarity, launching urgent response plans to help those affected.

TO SEE the abandonment of our dear Amazon, still forgotten and unprotected, without solution for its tragedy, now because of the effects of the pandemic.

**We are so greatly afflicted by so many of the realities
in our dear Latin America and the Caribbean!**

TO SEE reality, listening to the crying and accompanying our people leads us to realize that our continent keeps bleeding. But the sweat and blood that fertilize our land become fertile humus, from which new life will arise.

Today more than ever we must unite as Religious Life to once again fill our vats with the Word, with life and prophecy, holding in our heart, in this time of ADVENT, the heartfelt prayer of our prophet, Peter Casaldáliga:

Because I wait for Him, and because I hope
that, when we find Him, we will all see each other
restored by the first burst of sunlight
and the heart that is sure that we love;
because I don't accept that cold look
and I believe in the ember it hides;
because its solitude is also mine;
and all of me is one whole wound from which
some blood flows; and where it expects
a dead man, I proclaim spring,
having died with him even before my death;
because I learned to wait with hope
in spite of such abounding deception:
I swear to you, brother, sister,
I hope to see Him just as I see you.

Time and Waiting, 1986

With Mary, the woman filled with God, let us renew our hope during this special time when we are invited to raise our heads high because "liberation is coming".

*Presidency of the CLAR
Team of Theologians/Advisers of the Presidency
CLAR General Secretariat
Bogota, D.C., December 7, 2020
PROT: 3.1.1-03*