



NEWSLETTER



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OCTOBER, 2025

THE SEMINARY PARTICIPATES AT THE GREAT JUBILEE OF YOUTH



Photo: Group of pilgrims visiting the chapel of the RMS in Rome during the Great Jubilee of Youth.

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MINISTRIES OF LECTOR & ACOLYTE

Our brothers Juan Andrés Roa Barragán and Rosmel Emiliano Olortegui Inca received lay ministries.

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GALA DINNERS 2025

Our three gala dinners this year have been a complete success. We thank God and everyone who has supported us in these events.

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GREAT JUBILEE OF YOUTH

In the summer we participated as a seminary at the Great Jubilee of Youth in Rome

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20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEMINARY

This year we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our Seminary

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE ELECTION OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV



Photo: Bishops and priests during the celebration in thanksgiving for the election of Pope Leo XIV.

On Sunday, May 18, 2025, we participated in the solemn Eucharist of thanksgiving for the election of Pope Leo XIV, which was celebrated in the Basilica of the National Vow in Quito. The celebration was presided over by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Andrés Carrascosa Coso, Apostolic Nuncio to Ecuador, and concelebrated by numerous bishops and priests, including the Primate of Ecuador, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Alfredo Espinosa Mateus, and our bishop, Monsignor Antonio Crameri.



Photo: (Left) His Excellency Archbishop Alfredo José Espinoza Mateus, Archbishop of Quito and Primate of Ecuador; (Center) His Excellency Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso, Apostolic Nuncio to Ecuador; (Right) His Excellency Bishop David Israel De la Torre Altamirano, Auxiliary Bishop of Quito

It was a moment of profound joy, in which we raised our prayers to the Lord for the new successor of Peter, praying that he may strengthen him in his mission to guide the Church.

MINISTRY OF LECTORATE AND ACOLYTE OF OUR SEMINARIANS

On June 10, 2025, we joyfully experienced the Eucharistic celebration during which two of our brothers, Juan Andrés Roa Barragán (Guayaquil) and Rosmel Emiliano Olortegui Inca (Callao, Peru), received the ministries of Lector and Acolyte respectively.



Photo: Formators and seminarians with our bishop during the Eucharist for the institution of the ministries.

The celebration was presided by Most rev. Antonio Cramer, Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas, who in his homily exhorted the candidates to live with fidelity and dedication these ministries that configure them more closely to the mystery of Christ, announcer of the Word and servant of the altar. With joy, the community of the Seminary and the Vicariate offered thanks to God for the journey of these brothers, signs of hope for the Church in Esmeraldas and beyond its borders.



Photo: (from left) Juan Andrés and Rosmel Emiliano



Photo: Rosmel Emiliano instituted as Acolyte.



Photo: Juan Andrés instituted as Lector.

May we all, united in faith, raise our prayers for Rosmel Emiliano and Juan Andrés, so that the Lord may sustain them in their vocation and make them faithful witnesses of his Gospel.

GALA DINNER 2025: QUITO

HONORING:



**MOST REV. ÁNGEL MAXIMILIANO
ORDOÑEZ SIGCHO**



**ENG. VICTOR MANUEL
VILLACÍS MEJÍA**

During the month of June 2025, we celebrated three unforgettable gala dinners in different cities across Ecuador, where we honored individuals who have shaped the life of the Church and our Seminary with their dedication and testimony. The first of these celebrations took place in Quito on June 5th, in the majestic Hacienda Villavieja, an environment that combined elegance and warmth, offering the ideal setting to honor His Excellency, Most Rev. Ángel Maximiliano Ordóñez Sigcho, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Quito, and Engineer Víctor Manuel Villacís Mejía, Founding Partner and CEO of Boonker Construcciones. The evening was marked by an atmosphere of gratitude, where faith and Christian commitment were intertwined with a deep appreciation for the support provided to the evangelizing mission of our house.



Photos: Fr. Marco Pacciana (Rector) and Fr. Jorge Padilla (Vice-Rector) present a plaque and a gift to Eng. Victor Manuel Villacís Mejía and his wife.



Photo: Fr. Marco Pacciana, Fr. Pablo Arias and Fr. Roberto Rodríguez present a plaque and a gift to Most Rev. Angel Maximiliano Ordoñez Sigcho.



GALA DINNER 2025: CUENCA

HONORING:



FR. JULIO CÉSAR VÁZQUEZ VEGA

Later, on June 20th, the celebration moved to the city of Cuenca, having as its setting the distinguished Quinta Lucrecia. In a fraternal and affectionate atmosphere, homage was paid to the Rev. Fr. Julio César Vázquez Vega, the first rector of our seminary. The atmosphere was filled with emotion and grateful remembrance, as we all recalled his generous service and dedication to the early days of priestly formation in Esmeraldas, which continues to bear fruit today.



Photo: Fr. Marco Pacciana and Fr. Pablo Arias present a plaque and a gift to Fr. Julio César Vázquez Vega



Photo: Fr. Julio (First Rector) with Fr. Marco Pacciana (current Rector of the RMS).



Photo: Seminarians and brothers and sisters of the communities during the Dinner.



Photo: Fr. Julio made a toast in his honor.



Photo: Fr. Julio with the sisters in mission at the RMS.



Photo: Seminarians with brothers and sisters at the Gala Dinner.



Photo: Fr. Marcelo Gómez, Pastor of San Roque, gave the blessing at the beginning of the dinner.

GALA DINNER 2025: GUAYAQUIL

HONORING:



FR. JULIAN BALLESTA ILLÁN

Finally, on June 29th, the gala dinner took place in Guayaquil, and was celebrated with a festive and friendly spirit. There, tribute was paid to Rev. Fr. Julián Ballesta Illán, current pastor of the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas. The evening was filled with joy and gratitude for Fr. Julián's tireless pastoral work, his closeness to the communities, and his witness of faith, which have left a mark on the lives of many faithful.



Photos: The RMS "San Pedro Claver" Formation Team presents a plaque and a gift to Fr. Julián Ballesta.

These three celebrations were an expression of communion, gratitude, and hope, highlighting the importance of journeying together as a Church, recognizing and valuing the dedication of those who generously and faithfully support the mission the Lord entrusts to us.

The *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary "Saint Peter Claver" expresses its most sincere gratitude to all who made these meetings possible, whether through their presence or through their material or spiritual support. The proceeds will be used for the new evangelization and the Seminary's projects. We invite everyone to join in prayer for these benefactors and collaborators, so that the Lord may reward them abundantly and continue to bless their generosity.



Photo: Fr. Julian sharing with the brothers who attended his tribute.



Photo: Brothers from different parishes in Guayaquil attended the Gala Dinner.



Photo: Father Julian giving thanks at his tribute.



Photo: His Eminence, Cardinal Luis Gerardo Cabrera, attended the Gala Dinner in Guayaquil..

GREAT JUBILEE OF THE YOUTH

With profound gratitude to the Lord, we wish to share the experience of faith we experienced during the months of July and August, when we had the chance to participate as a seminary in the pilgrimage that culminated in the Great Jubilee of Youth in Rome. Our itinerary took us to various cities in Italy, visiting places steeped in history, beauty, and holiness. After spending a few hours in Madrid, where we were able to visit Kiko's home—including his room where he had the vision of the Virgin Mary inviting him to form Christian communities like the Holy Family of Nazareth—and the *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary, our Italian journey began in Turin: here we visited the Chapel of the Holy Shroud, the Church of Mary Help of Christians, and the Small House of Divine Providence in Cottolengo.



Photos: At the start of our pilgrimage we visited Kiko's house in Madrid.

After spending a morning in Milan with its spectacular Duomo (Cathedral), our pilgrimage took us to Schio, where the body of Saint Josephina Bakhita is buried; then Venice, with its spiritual and artistic riches; Padua, where we venerated the relics of Saint Anthony; Assisi; Loreto, site of the Basilica of the Holy House; San Giovanni Rotondo, where the body of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina rests; Monte Sant'Angelo; Pompeii; Rome; Montefiascone and Bolsena; Florence; and Pisa, with its iconic leaning tower; Siena, the land of Saint Catherine; and Empoli, each with its own unique mark on our journey of faith. We made this pilgrimage with brothers and sisters of the Neocatechumenal Way, mostly young people from different communities in Quito and Guayaquil. With them, we shared songs, celebrations, exhaustion, and joy, experiencing the communion of the Church.



Photos: The group of pilgrims in the Chapel of the RMS in Madrid.



Photo: Jubilee pilgrims at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome, Italy.



Photo: Pilgrims next to the Roman Colosseum.



Photo: Pilgrims at the Vigil with Pope Leo XIV in Tor Vergata.





Photos: Seminarians with the Bishop of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo during the meeting in Tor Vergata.

The pivotal moment of our trip was our arrival at Tor Vergata, where we participated in the Great Jubilee of Youth. There, in an unforgettable prayer vigil, we accompanied Pope Leo XIV, who exhorted us not to be afraid to follow Christ with radicalism and joy. Hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world joined together in unity to praise the Lord and renew our faith under the starry sky of Rome. The following day, we joyfully participated in Holy Mass presided by the Holy Father, a culminating moment in which, as an ecclesial community, we celebrated the Eucharist in the unity of faith and the diversity of our origins.



Photos: Pope Leo XIV presided over the Eucharist of the Great Jubilee for Young People.

On Monday, August 4, we had the grace to attend the vocational meeting with Kiko Argüello, founder of the Neocatechumenal Way. More than 120,000 young people from 109 countries and five continents gathered to hear the Word, share testimonies, and discern the Lord's call. At the end of the meeting, with great emotion, we saw how 10,000 young men and women stood up, responding to the vocational call, ready to dedicate their lives to Christ in the priesthood or consecrated life. We too joyfully and humbly renewed our "yes" to the Lord, trusting in His mercy.



Photo: (From left) Kiko Argüello, María Ascensión Romero and Fr. Mario Pezzi, International Team Responsible for the Neocatechumenal Way.

We would like to thank sincerely all those who helped make this trip possible: benefactors, families, communities, and brothers and sisters who accompanied us with their prayers and generosity, especially all our brothers and sisters in Italy who welcomed us as they would have welcomed Christ himself and who have been so selfless in their generosity.

We assure all of you of our deepest gratitude and prayers, and we ask you to continue praying for us, so that we may faithfully respond to God's call for us and, one day, be shepherds after his own heart. May all this be for the glory of God and the good of the Church.



Photo: Group of pilgrims in Pisa, next to the famous Leaning Tower.



After the jubilee pilgrimage, we had a time of vacation as a seminary in Puglia, where we were welcomed by the brothers of Ginosa and Marina di Ginosa (TA) and Matera: a sincere thank you to all those who were so attentive to us and gave us the opportunity to experience some unforgettable days.



Photo: Seminary at the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



Photo: Seminary in Ginosa (Puglia), next to the "Thinking Tree".



Photo: Seminary in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.



Photo: The Seminary in Alberobello, (Puglia), visiting the famous "Trulli".

VISIT OF PILGRIMS FROM ESMERALDAS WITH FATHER LUIS VALERIANO



Photo: The Seminary joyfully welcomed the pilgrims.

On August 31st, we had the joy of receiving a visit from a group of pilgrims from the parish of San Martín de Porres in Esmeraldas, who stopped by on the way to Lima, Peru. We welcomed them with great enthusiasm, sharing a fraternal moment with them. Throughout their visit, we enjoyed an atmosphere full of camaraderie, shared experiences, and deeply thanked them for their effort and dedication on this pilgrimage, praying that the Lord continue to guide their path.

The group, accompanied by the Fr. Luis Valeriano, joined us in celebrating together Morning Prayer, in an act of praise and supplication to God, praying for our vocations and for the intentions of each of the pilgrims.



Photo: Celebration of Lauds with the pilgrims.

After the prayer, some of the seminarians guided the group through the Seminary facilities, explaining with catechesis the meaning and mission of each of the rooms they visited. Finally, we shared lunch together, enjoying a delicious meal and the warmth of the fraternity.

We pray to the Lord for these brothers and sisters who have visited us. May the Father's grace strengthen and encourage them in their mission, and may they continue to be witnesses of faith on their journey.



Photo: Pilgrims and members of the Seminary together at the end of the visit.

20 YEARS OF THE SEMINARY



Photo: Fr. Jorge Padilla presiding over the Eucharistic Liturgy.

On September 9, memorial of Saint Peter Claver, our patron saint, we celebrate with great emotion the 20th anniversary of our Seminary, a moment of profound gratitude for all that God has accomplished in our community over these years. During these years, we have seen 17 brothers been ordained priests, and recently, a deacon from our community was called to receive priestly ordination in November of this year, which fills us with hope and motivates us to continue faithfully on our vocational path. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by the Fr. Jorge Alberto Padilla Rodríguez, Vice-Rector, together with the Fr. Roberto Rodríguez Cruz, Prefect of Studies. We celebrated our beloved patron, asking for his intercession and example in our life of faith and vocation. This anniversary invites us to look to the future with hope, knowing that God continues to call generous young men to follow the path of the priesthood. We ask you to pray for us, that the Lord may continue to raise up new vocations in our Church and grant us the grace to respond faithfully to his call.



CONVIVENCE FOR THE SENDING OF SEMINARIANS PORTO SAN GIORGIO

This year, four of our seminarians had the opportunity to participate in the annual meeting of seminarians held in Porto San Giorgio, Italy. During this meeting, they had the grace to receive a word from the International Team of the Neocatechumenal Way: Kiko Argüello, María Ascensión Romero, and Fr. Mario Pezzi.



Photo: Seminarians who participated in the Convivence of the Beginning of the Year with Renato Mateazzi and Fr. Mario Pezzi.

NEW SEMINARIANS ARRIVE

In September, during the seminarians' convivence in Porto San Giorgio, the Lord gave our seminary a new brother, José Miguel Tapia Vega from Chile, who has already arrived at our seminar. Likewise, in August, five brothers from different regions of our country began the propaedeutic stage in our seminary: Juan Andrés Guanín Medina (Loja), Victor Manuel Cajas Morquecho (Loja), Jaime Antonio Cobacango Murillo (Guayaquil), Israel Eduardo Intriago Moncayo (Guayaquil) and Abraham Josué Avilés Bone (Guayaquil), who has been sent by lottery to the *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary of Pune, India.



ABRAHAM AVILÉS



JUAN ANDRÉS GUANÍN



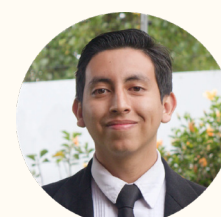
VICTOR CAJAS



ISRAEL INTRIAGO



JOSÉ MIGUEL TAPIA



JAIME COBACANGO

CHILDREN'S JUBILEE GROUP VISIT

On September 20, 2025, we had the joy of receiving a visit from a group of children from different parishes in Quito, who enthusiastically celebrated the Children's Jubilee. Their presence filled our formation house with life and hope, reminding us of the simplicity and purity with which we are all called to live the faith.



Photo: Children and their parents dancing at the Seminary.

After the welcome, we offered them a refreshment, and we were able to share moments of conversation, laughter, and fraternal closeness. Finally, we accompanied them on a tour of the different areas of the seminary, providing them with catechesis tailored to their age, explaining the meaning and mission of each room: the chapel, the library, the dining room, the Chapel and the Sanctuary of the Word. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to share with them our love of God and the meaning of our missionary vocation.



Photo: Pilgrim children receiving catechesis in the Sanctuary of the Word.



Photo: We serve a snack to the pilgrim children.

We concluded the day with a moment of prayer, in which everyone—children, parents, and seminarians—raised and offered thanks to the Lord for the gifts we had received. We thank God for allowing us to share this very special encounter. We pray for these children and their families, that the Lord may bless them and accompany them always, and that new vocations to the service of the Church and evangelization may arise from among them.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL VOW



Photo: We began our pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Vow.

On the morning of October 18, 2025, we made a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Vow, in the city of Quito. During the journey, we sang the Rosary in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering our prayers for peace in our country, for priestly vocations, and for the evangelizing mission of the Church. Upon arriving at the Basilica, we crossed the Holy Door on the occasion of the Jubilee, experiencing with joy and gratitude this sign of grace and reconciliation.

Then we had a profound moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in which, in silence and prayer, we offered our lives to the Lord, renewing our desire to follow him with fidelity and love. Finally, we visited the “Fr. Jimmy Arias Piedra” Nativity Scene, recognized as the largest in South America, marveling at its beauty and the message of hope it conveys. It was a morning of faith, fraternity, and encounter with God, which strengthened in all of us the commitment to live our vocation and serve the Gospel joyfully.



Photo: Seminary entering the Basilica.

VISIT OF THE FIRST COMMUNITY OF "SAN MARTIN DE PORRES", ESMERALDAS



Photo: Seminarians welcoming the brothers and sisters who visited the Seminary.

On October 26, 2025, we hosted the children and brothers of the First Community of San Martin de Porres of Esmeraldas. At their arrival, the atmosphere filled with fraternity and enthusiasm, reviving the communion we experience in the faith. During the visit, we showed the seminary, visiting the different spaces in which we lived, pray and study. We also share the occasions to spark the new aesthetics of the seminary, which will help us deeply take occasion to explain the New Aesthetic and spiritual significance for community life. Next, two of our seminarians offered a catechesis, sharing a reflection and inviting everyone to renew their own commitment to vocation and service in the Church. Before lunch, we recited the Midday Prayer together, a moment that reinforced the spirit of communion through all the present.



Finally, we shared lunch in a joyful and fraternal atmosphere, during which we sang a couple of songs. It was a simple but deeply meaningful day, which left us all with grateful hearts and renewed faith. We invite everyone to pray for the brothers and sisters of the First Community of San Martin de Porres in Esmeraldas, that the Lord may continue to bless their journey and strengthen their service in the Church.

INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS SYSTEM



We are happy to inform you that the solar panel installation project in our seminary has been completed satisfactorily. This important work marks a new step towards sustainability and common home care, allowing us to responsibly test the natural resources that God places in our power.



Photo: View of the completed solar panel project.

Furthermore, this project will allow us to significantly reduce electricity costs and guarantee the necessary energy support for various activities, especially academic ones, even during critical times. We are deeply grateful to God and His divine providence, which is always evident in the generosity of so many people who contribute to the formation of future priests. In particular, we express our sincere gratitude to our benefactors, whose generous support made this project possible. Their collaboration is a testament to their faith and love for the Church, which encourages us to continue serving with hope and gratitude.



The Aspotolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas

Is pleased to invite you to the Priestly Ordination of the Deacon:



SANTIAGO SEBASTIÁN BENAVIDES AUCAPIÑA

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 22ND**

10H00

**CATHEDRAL OF
CHRIST THE
KING**

"In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us first."
(1 John 4:10)



3rd CHRISTMAS CONCERT



RESERVE YOUR SEAT!



Ambato - Friday, December 5th
Quito - Sunday, December 14th
Guayaquil - Saturday, December 20th
Cuenca - Sunday, December 21st
Macas - Monday, December 22nd
Esmeraldas - Saturday, December 27th
Ibarra - Friday, January 2nd
Quinindé - Sunday, January 4th
Loja - Friday, January 9th



IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR SEMINARY,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



WWW.SRMEECUADOR.COM



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LIVES MAINLY FROM THE
PRAYERS, DONATIONS
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MANY BENEFACTORS.
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AND GOD WILL BLESS ALL
THOSE WHO GIVE SUPPORT
FOR THE TRAINING OF
PRIESTS.



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