



# NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 4 - NO. 1



ENGLISH EDITION



MARCH 2026

## PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF SANTIAGO SEBASTIÁN BENAVIDES AUCAPIÑA



*Fr. Santiago Benavides blessing Most Rev. Antonio Crameri at the conclusion of the Priestly Ordination celebration*

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#### PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF SANTIAGO BENAVIDES

Deacon Santiago Benavides was ordained priest by Most Rev. Antonio Crameri.

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#### THIRD CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We traveled across Ecuador bringing Christmas joy with our third Christmas concert.

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#### DIACONAL ORDINATION OF VÍCTOR REINO

Our brother Víctor Fernando Reino Quinde was ordained deacon.

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#### ADMISSIO AD ORDINES OF JESÚS ADRIÁN CORTE SINCHI

Our brother Jesús Adrian Corte Sinchi was admitted to Holy Orders.

## PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF SANTIAGO SEBASTIÁN BENAVIDES AUCAPIÑA



*Fr. Santiago Benavides with Most Rev. Antonio Crameri and the priests of the Vicariate.*

**O**n Saturday November 22, 2025, in the Cathedral of Esmeraldas, our brother Santiago Sebastián Benavides Aucapiña from Cuenca, Ecuador, was ordained priest through the laying on of hands by Most Rev. Antonio Crameri, Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas. The solemn Eucharist was attended by the National Team and brothers and sisters from his hometown of Cuenca, as well as from Quito and Esmeraldas, who joyfully joined together to accompany him with closeness and prayer at this important moment in his life and for the entire Church of Esmeraldas. With Santiago Sebastián are now 19 the priests ordained from our seminary.



*Fr. Santiago Benavides is vested with the chasuble by his godfather.*

**O**n the evening of November 22, Father Santiago Sebastián Benavides Aucapiña presided over his first Holy Mass at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Esmeraldas. Bishop Antonio Cramer and the National Team were present at the Eucharist, as well as several brother priests from different cities throughout the country who wished to join him. Members of various communities from Cuenca, Quito, and Esmeraldas also participated.



*Fr. Santiago Benavides during his first Eucharistic celebration.*

## **FIRST MASS OF FR. SANTIAGO BENAVIDES AT THE REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY OF SAINT PETER CLAVER**

**O**n November 26, Fr. Santiago Sebastián Benavides Aucapiña celebrated his first Mass at the Seminary with us. It was a very significant celebration for the entire community, marked by joy, gratitude, and the emotion of seeing our brother's vocational journey come to fruition. We pray that the Lord will always sustain our brother in his ministry, strengthen him with His grace, and make him a faithful instrument of His love for the people entrusted to him, renewing in each of us our generosity in responding to God's call.



*Fr. Santiago Benavides at the moment of the consecration during his first Eucharistic celebration at the Seminary.*

## MASS WITH THE RELIC OF SAINT JOSEPH BENITO COTOLEN- GO AND MONS. CRAMERI

**O**n November 27th, we celebrated a solemn Eucharist at the Seminary, concluding the visit of a first-class relic of Saint Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, Patron Saint of our house of formation. The celebration was presided over by our bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Crameri, himself belonging to the congregation founded by the Italian saint and we were accompanied also by three sisters of the Cottolengo spiritual family. It was a special occasion of grace and profound spiritual communion for the entire community.



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri at the beginning of the celebration and adoring the relic of Saint Joseph Benedict Cottolengo.*

**I**n his homily, Bishop Crameri emphasized the importance of *Deo gratias* in the Christian life, especially on the vocational journey. He reminded us that learning to give thanks to God at all times—in joys as well as in trials—is a fundamental attitude that shapes the heart of the disciple and disposes him to recognize the action of Providence in every circumstance of life. Inspired by the example of Saint Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, we were exhorted to live with childlike trust in God, abandoning ourselves to His will and recognizing that everything is His gift.



*Formators, seminarians and sisters in mission with Most Rev. Antonio Crameri and the relic of the Italian saint.*

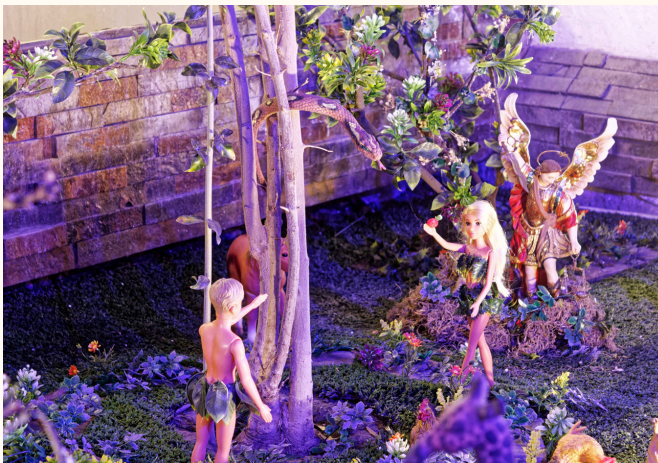
## VISIT OF CHILDREN FROM THE COMMUNITIES OF QUITO TO THE NATIVITY SCENE OF THE SEMINARY

**F**rom December 1st to 18th, we received the visit by the children from the communities of Quito, who came joyfully to admire the Nativity scene prepared in our house of formation. During these gatherings, we shared moments of prayer and fellowship, and together we sang Christmas carols, creating an atmosphere filled with Christmas spirit and joy.



*Seminarians with a group of children who visited the Nativity scene at our Seminary.*

**T**he Nativity scene presented, in a catechetical and visual way, some of the most important events in the history of salvation, following a path that helped to understand God's action throughout time. It began with the Creation and the fall of Adam and Eve, showing the promise of redemption; it continued with Abraham, highlighting the manifestation of God (theophany) and the sacrifice of Isaac as a sign of faith and obedience; then Moses' rescue from the Nile River and the beginning of the history of the chosen people. Subsequently, the central moments of the Gospel of Advent and Christmas were depicted: the Annunciation of the angel to the Virgin Mary, the Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, the dream of Saint Joseph, and the appearance of the angel to the shepherds. Finally, the journey culminated with the birth of Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem, with the adoration of the shepherds and the visit of the Magi.



*Garden of Eden recreated in our Nativity scene*



This experience allowed the children to understand, in a simple yet profound way, God's love manifested throughout history and culminating in the mystery of the Incarnation. At the end of each visit, a small fraternal meal was shared with them, creating a space of joy and fellowship that strengthened the bonds between the Seminary and the communities. For us, it was also a time of grace, as the children's faith and enthusiasm renewed our inner preparation for Christmas.



*Most Rev. Cramer giving a gift to each child who visited us.*

On the last day, our bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Cramer, also joined the children. He shared a special, fatherly moment with them, explaining in simple terms the true meaning of Christmas.



*Group of children contemplating the Nativity scene during their visit to the Seminary.*

We ask the Child Jesus to abundantly bless each of the children, their families and the communities that participated in these days, and that the mystery of his Birth may continue to illuminate our hearts with hope, faith and charity.

## VISIT OF THE SEMINARIANS OF THE PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE OF THE SAN JOSÉ SEMINARY

**O**n December 4th, we joyfully received at our Seminary the visit of the brothers who are in the propaedeutic stage of the San José Major Seminary of Quito, who were accompanied by their formator, Fr. Henry Asterio Rodríguez.

**A**fter celebrating the Eucharist together, we shared a fraternal dinner, strengthening the bonds of friendship and closeness among our formation communities.

**L**ater, our rector, Fr. Marco Pacciana, guided them on a tour of our formation house, explaining the meaning of the new aesthetic which imbues the different spaces of the seminary, as well as its spiritual and pedagogical significance within the formation process.



*Fr. Marco Pacciana presiding over the Eucharistic liturgy.*

**I**t was an enriching encounter for everyone, allowing us to share experiences, renew our spirits on the vocational journey, and give thanks to God for the work He continues to do in the lives of those called to serve Him in His Church. We invite everyone to remember these brothers in prayer, that the Lord may confirm their vocation, sustain them with His grace, and faithfully guide them on the path of discernment they are undertaking.



*Seminarians from the R.M.S. together with the seminarians of the propaedeutic year of the San José Major Seminary.*

## THANKSGIVING MASS FOR THE SERVICE OF THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO



*Most Rev. Andrés Carrascosa Coso along with the bishops and priests who attended the thanksgiving Eucharist.*

**O**n December 15, we attended the Holy Mass of Thanksgiving for the pastoral service carried out in our nation by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso, who has served in this mission in Ecuador for eight years. The Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral of Quito and was presided over by the Nuncio himself and concelebrated by numerous bishops of the country, including the Primate of Ecuador, Most Rev. Alfredo José Espinoza Mateus, Archbishop of Quito, and His Eminence Luis Gerardo Cabrera Herrera, Archbishop of Guayaquil.

**W**e joyfully join in this thanksgiving for the generous dedication with which Most Rev. Carrascosa Coso has accompanied the life of the Church in Ecuador, serving with closeness, missionary spirit and fidelity to the mission entrusted to him by the Holy Father.

**W**e offer our prayers wish him abundant spiritual fruits in his new mission as Apostolic Nuncio in Portugal. May the Lord richly reward all the good he has sown during these years in our Land.



*Most Rev. Andres Carrascosa giving the blessing to the parishioners.*



*Most Rev. Andrés Carrascosa presided over the Eucharistic liturgy.*

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Last December we embarked on a tour of various cities in Ecuador with the purpose of sharing the profound joy of the Birth of Christ in our lives through our Christmas concert.



*R.M.S. Choir during their performance at the Washington Ricaurte Municipal Theater (Macas).*

The tour began on December 5 in Ambato, continued in Quito, then in Guayaquil, Cuenca, Macas, Esmeraldas, Ibarra, finally culminating on January 9 in Loja, with a special concert at the Benjamín Carrión Mora Theater.

The choir was made up of seminarians, while the orchestra was made up of brothers from the communities of Quito and occasionally by some local brothers and sisters who joined us in the different cities, all under the direction of our maestro, Javier Santín.



*R.M.S. Choir during the concert in Guayaquil.*



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri attended the concert in Esmeraldas*

We give thanks to God for all those who made this evangelizing mission possible and for the abundant spiritual fruits it has surely borne in those who participated. We trust that the Lord will reward a hundredfold each one who collaborated with dedication and love. Glory to God for His faithfulness and for allowing us to live this beautiful experience of faith, mission, and communion!



*Most Rev. Nestor Montesdeoca attended the concert in Macas.*



*R.M.S. Choir during their performance at the Benjamin Carrión Mora Theater (Loja).*



*R.M.S. Choir during their performance in Esmeraldas.*



## CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN ESMERALDAS

**O**n December 28th, we participated in the solemn Eucharistic celebration marking the closing of the Holy Door, held at Christ the King Cathedral in the city of Esmeraldas. The Eucharist was presided over by our bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Crameri: this significant gesture marked the conclusion of the Jubilee Year in our local Church.



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri, along with several priests from the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas, celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy.*

**D**uring the celebration, we were invited to contemplate the profound spiritual meaning of this sign, remembering that Christ is the true door through which we enter into new life. As a seminary, we experienced this moment with recollection and gratitude, aware that passing through the Holy Door has been an opportunity for conversion, reconciliation, and inner renewal.



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri presides over the rite of consecration, the heart of the Eucharist.*

**T**his celebration was a special occasion to thank the Lord for the abundant graces received throughout the Jubilee Year and to renew our commitment to live our Christian and priestly vocation with greater fidelity. We ask God that the spiritual fruits of this time of grace may remain alive in our communities and continue to flourish in the life of the entire Church.

## DIACONAL ORDINATION OF VICTOR FERNANDO REINO QUINDE



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri presides over the moment of consecration, assisted by the newly ordained deacon Víctor Fernando Reino Quinde.*

**O**n January 31st, at Christ the King Cathedral in Esmeraldas, our brother Víctor Fernando Reino Quinde, from Cuenca, received diaconal ordination through the laying on of hands of our bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Crameri. The celebration providentially coincided with the feast of Saint John Bosco, which gave this event special significance, reminding us of the example of dedication and pastoral zeal of this great saint.

**B**rothers from Cuenca, Quito, and Esmeraldas joined us for this moment, uniting in prayer to share the Church's joy for the new ministry entrusted to our brother.

**W**e give thanks to the Lord for the gift of his vocation and ask that He strengthen him with His grace so that, configured to Christ the servant, he may faithfully and generously exercise the diaconal ministry he has received today, being a sign of charity and service to all. We also invite all the brothers to remember him in their prayers, that the Lord may always sustain him with His grace and that he may persevere faithfully on his vocational path and in the ministry he has begun today.



*Most Rev. Antonio Crameri embraces Victor after the laying on of hands and the consecratory prayer.*

## ADMISSIO AD ORDINES OF JESÚS ADRIÁN CORTE SINCHI



**O**n February 20, in the parish of Saint Rita of Cascia, in Quito, our brother Jesús Adrián Corte Sinchi, from Cuenca, received the Admissio ad Ordines, a fundamental step in his path of preparation towards the reception of holy orders. The Eucharistic celebration, attended by brothers and sisters from Cuenca, Quito, and Loja, was presided over by our bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Cramerí, and concelebrated by our formators as well as the pastor of Santa Rita's church and priests from Cuenca. It was an occasion of profound joy and thanksgiving.



*Most Rev. Antonio Cramerí admitted seminarian Jesús Adrián Corte Sinchi as a candidate on his path to Holy Orders.*

**W**e ask everyone to remember our brother Jesús Adrián in their prayers, that the Lord may sustain him with His grace, confirm his vocation, and faithfully guide him on the path to ministry.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

### KITCHEN RENOVATION



With joy and gratitude, we announce that our kitchen remodeling project has been completed. This has been made possible thanks to the generosity of all the benefactors who donated their time and resources. We want to express our gratitude especially for the valuable support of the "Los Andes" Company, as well as the commitment of Ezequiel Narváez and Faviola, Carlos Narváez and Gabriela, Cristian Carvajal and Andrea, Henry Bunces and Maribel, and Patricio Narváez and Isabel. A special thanks also to Reinaldo Hidalgo.



Let us pray for these brothers; we know with certainty that the Lord will repay them a hundredfold for supporting this project. This work will allow young men on the path to the priesthood to have suitable spaces for their integral formation, enabling them to live with the necessary dignity to prepare themselves as future pastors who, tomorrow, will serve the People of God with that same dedication and love.

## PENDING PROJECTS

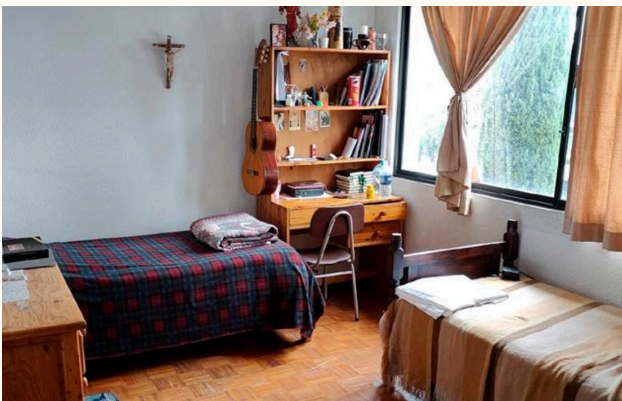
### ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT SEMINARIANS TO THEIR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES



**A**t the moment we only have one 5-passenger pickup truck and one 8-passenger van: the seminar currently has a total of 25 members and we expect more candidates in the future. We are looking for two 11-passenger minibuses and two cars to allow for the mobility of our formators.

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### NEW FURNITURE FOR THE SEMINARIANS' DORMITORIES



**T**he 12 dormitories of the seminarians need new furniture (beds, wardrobes, desks, shelves) in order to provide them with a more dignified stay, in line with the purpose of the new aesthetic of showing these young men God's paternal love.

## PENDING PROJECTS

### WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAND



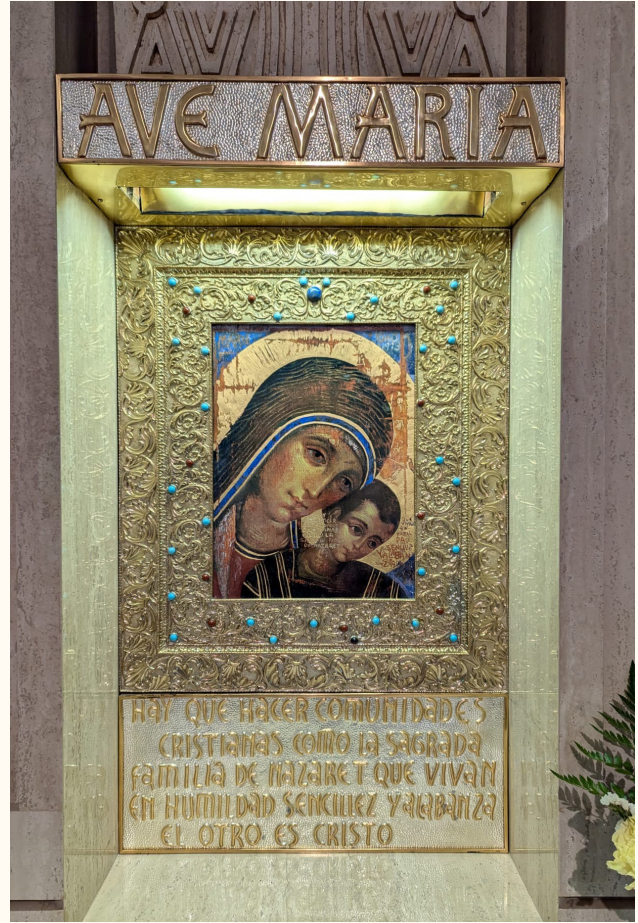
**W**e have continued our novena to Saint Joseph. We are certain that, through his powerful intercession, the Lord will grant us the land necessary for the expansion of our Seminary. The Lord is increasingly raising up vocations and the desire to have more space to accommodate more seminarians is becoming a true necessity. Therefore, we urge all our brothers and sisters to join us in prayer, asking the Lord, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to grant us this much-needed land so that we may continue to welcome and form those whom He calls to His service.

## PENDING PROJECTS

### INSTALLATION OF THE FRAME ON OUR ALTAR TO THE VIRGIN



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

With the desire to further foster our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a space has already been built to house her image and to honor her with hymns after the prayers of the Office of the Hours. However, the project aims to beautify this space by placing a suitable frame around the painting of the Mother of God, so that her image is presented with greater dignity and stands out within the Sanctuary of the Word. As can be seen, the painting is currently displayed simply: we ask anyone who would like to make a gift to Our Blessed Mother to help us complete this project.

## PENDING PROJECTS

### DORMITORIES FOR THE SISTERS IN MISSION



The bedrooms of the sisters who help us at the seminary are very small and need to be enlarged to give them a more comfortable and dignified stay. We hope to be able to start the remodelling very soon and for this we ask the help of anyone who would like to support this project.

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## CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



We want to build a chapel for the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament where seminarians can find a place for personal reflection and prayer separate from the spaces that are intended for liturgical prayer. We ask anyone who would like to participate in this project to support us.

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UPCOMING EVENT...

# GALA DINNER 2026

**Quito** | Thursday, May 21

**Cuenca** | Friday, June 12

**Guayaquil** ("Charity Dinner") | Sunday, July 05

*For more info visit [www.srmecuador.com](http://www.srmecuador.com)*



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



**WWW.SRMEECUADOR.COM**



## WANT HELP US?

THIS MISSIONARY SEMINARY LIVES MAINLY FROM THE PRAYERS, DONATIONS AND THE GENEROSITY OF MANY BENEFACTORS. EVERY CONTRIBUTION HELPS AND GOD WILL BLESS ALL THOSE WHO GIVE SUPPORT FOR THE TRAINING OF PRIESTS.



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