



International
Academy
of Catholic
Leaders

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CATHOLIC LEADERS





Introduction	4
President's Letter	4
Executive Director's Letter	6
Section 1: About the International Academy of Catholic Leaders	8
About the Board of Directors	10
About the Academic Council	12
About the Executive Office Team	13
Section 2: Leadership for the Present and the Future	14
The Academy Around the World: Formation That Transforms	17
Reconnecting with Schools	19
Consolidation of New Initiatives and Strategic Openings	19
Schools of Leaders	20
Mexico	20
Dominican Republic	25
Colombia	26
Chile	27
Peru	28
United States	31
Costa Rica	32
Paraguay	33
Ecuador	34
2025 Training Programs	35
Section 3: The Jubilee Year at the International Academy of Catholic Leaders	38
10th International Diploma Program in Rome	40
Section 4: Spreading the Good News	46
Media Presence	48
Social Media	52
Instant Communication Channels	52
Newsletter	53
Section 5: Knowledge Accessible to All	56
Content and Publications	58
Testimonials	60

President's Letter

Dear friends of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders,

It is with great satisfaction that I present to you the 2025 Annual Report of the IACL. This has been a demanding year, marked by confusing moments that required us to pause, review our processes, and put our house in order. We did so calmly, without noise or drama, and with the firm conviction that the mission of the Academy deserved to be preserved.

Today, we can say—based on clear and concrete facts—that the institution has regained its stability and its sense of direction.

The work carried out over these months made it possible to restore internal life, consolidate the Board of Directors and the Academic Council, reactivate schools in different countries, and once again offer serious and consistent formation. Hundreds of students took part in in-person and virtual programs, partnerships with dioceses and universities were renewed, and we celebrated a particularly fruitful 10th International Diploma

Program in Rome. All of this shows that the Academy did not remain trapped in crisis, but rather knew how to face it and emerge strengthened.

I would like to express my particular gratitude for the work of our Executive Director, Lara Bersano. Her ability to organize, listen, accompany the schools, and sustain the day-to-day life of the institution has been decisive. Her efforts ensured that this stage was not limited to merely “maintaining” what already existed, but instead gave the Academy new momentum. What we see today in these pages—growth, stability, and a clear horizon—is due in large measure to her dedication.

It is often said that some institutions are reborn when everything seems lost. I do not usually resort to grand images, but it is true that the Academy has risen again with greater clarity than before—a phoenix rising from its ashes. Not because a new project was improvised, but because the founding spirit was faithfully recovered: to form leaders rooted in faith, committed to the common good, and capable of serving their communities.

I thank the members of the Board of Directors, the Academic Council, the local teams, the professors, and each benefactor who believed that this work was worthwhile. The Academy lives through the collaboration of many, and this year has demonstrated that powerfully.

This 2025 Annual Report is not a conclusion, but rather the starting point of a more orderly stage, one that is more conscious of what we are called to offer. Let us continue forward with serenity and with the joy of knowing that, after difficult times, the mission continues and grows stronger.

With appreciation,
Mario J. Paredes
President
International Academy of Catholic Leaders





Executive Director's Letter

Dear family of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders,

As I open the pages of this 2025 Annual Report, my heart is filled with gratitude. Gratitude to the Lord, who in His infinite providence allowed this time—both deeply challenging and profoundly fruitful—to become a season of resurrection for the Academy. Gratitude to every person who believed that this project could not disappear. And above all, gratitude to the hundreds of young people, priests, religious, and lay men and women who, week after week, kept this mission alive with their faith, commitment, and hope.

When I assumed the role of Executive Director in May 2025, the situation was critical. Funding sources had been exhausted, operations were nearly at a standstill, and many believed that the Academy's cycle had come to an end. Yet behind that appearance of finality, there was something deeper: a seed that was still alive. In those first days of work, I encountered that seed in the faces of our students, in the testimonies of our professors, and in the stories of transformation born through our schools. I understood then that God had not allowed this project to fade away, because it was still bearing fruit.

At that moment, I realized that my task was not to begin again, but to **believe again**. To believe that Catholic leadership is still necessary; that the integral formation of tomorrow's leaders is not a luxury but an urgency; and that the Church needs

men and women prepared to serve, to dialogue, and to transform temporal realities through faith. To believe that if the Lord had sustained the Academy for fifteen years, He would also accompany this new stage.

These six months have been a journey of rebuilding, prayer, and trust. It was not easy. There were sleepless nights, days of uncertainty, and many moments when the only certainty was God's faithfulness. Yet they were also months of abundance: renewed alliances, shared dreams, and an ever-stronger presence throughout the Americas and Europe.

Today, I can say that the Academy did not merely survive—it **was reborn**.

It was reborn in the more than **800 students** who attend our Schools of Leaders each week in different countries, from Mexico to Chile, from Argentina to the Dominican Republic.

It was reborn in the more than **2,000 participants** who, between May and December, took part in our virtual offerings: diploma programs, conferences, forums, and online courses.

It was reborn in every encounter, in every community, and in every classroom where the Social Doctrine of the Church was shared as a seed of the Kingdom.

During these months, we recovered the deepest meaning of our mission: to form leaders with a Christian spirit, capable of transforming society from within, without renouncing their faith.

We reorganized our internal structures, consolidated the Board of Directors once again with 12 members, and the Academic Council with 14 distinguished members, and implemented a sustainability plan that allowed us to regain our course. We also dared to dream again: we strengthened the network of Schools, forged new alliances with universities and dioceses, and began the path toward the **Tenth International Diploma Program in Social Doctrine of the Church**, to be held in Rome in October 2025.

Every step was guided by a single conviction: that leadership is not a privilege, but a form of service—and that such service only makes sense when it is born from an encounter with Christ. That is why behind every number, every program, and every activity, there are real people. Young men and women discovering their vocation. Women embracing their role in the Church with renewed strength. Priests and lay people preparing to serve their communities more fully. They are the true miracle of this season.

Over these months, I have seen how the Lord acts in what is small. I have seen how a meeting can become an opportunity for hope, how a volunteer can inspire an entire group, how a word spoken in faith can rekindle an entire project. I have come to understand that the Academy is much more than an institution: it is a space of communion, a laboratory of dreams where faith and action meet, and where each leader learns that the Gospel is not preached only with words, but with life itself.

As I write these lines, I think of all those who have sustained this journey: the members of the Board of Directors and the Academic Council, our

professors, our collaborators, our benefactors, and so many friends who have contributed time, ideas, and resources so that the mission might continue. None of you is a number; each of you is a face, a story, a “yes” that makes this daily miracle possible. To all of you, thank you. Thank you for walking with us through uncertainty, trusting that the Holy Spirit guides every decision, every step, and every rebirth.

This Annual Report is not merely an institutional record; it is a testimony of faith. It is proof that when the Lord desires something to live, He restores its breath. And we have witnessed this.

May this Annual Report, then, be an invitation to continue believing—to continue forming, serving, and dreaming together. For what began fifteen years ago as a small seed in the heart of the Church continues to grow today, illuminating the continent and preparing new generations of leaders to transform the world through faith.

With deep gratitude,
Lara Bersano
Executive Director
International Academy of Catholic Leaders





ABOUT THE
International Academy
of Catholic Leaders





Mission and Vision



The mission of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders is to form leaders from a Catholic perspective, rooted in the faith of the Church, in order to transform the social, political, and economic world in the light of the Social Doctrine of the Church.



Likewise, our vision is to form a new generation of Latin American Catholics with political and social responsibilities, so that they may transform the face of the continent in service to its peoples, in the light of the Magisterium of the Church and in view of the Jubilees of the Fifth Centennial of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the two thousand years of Redemption.

About the Board of Directors



The IACL is governed by a Board of Directors composed of distinguished cardinals and internationally renowned lay leaders, whose mission is to bring the values of the Gospel to society through their respective professional fields. Their impact has extended to diverse areas, promoting Christian leadership in public and community contexts.

This Board constitutes the **Academy's principal governing body** and is responsible for its direction, administration, and representation. Its functions include establishing strategic guidelines and overseeing compliance with the Academy's global mission in the various countries where it is present. Its members accompany, guide, and monitor institutional actions, ensuring fidelity to the founding spirit. The "International Academy of Catholic Leaders" is a nonprofit corporation (501(c)) of the United States, governed by bylaws in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.



2025

During 2025, the Board renewed its leadership. By unanimous vote, **Dr. Mario J. Paredes**—philosopher and Master in Religious Education with a distinguished international career—was elected President. Dr. Paredes has served as a presidential advisor, Vatican consultant, and leader within the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL), contributing a profound and committed vision to the formation of leaders in service of the Common Good.



President

Mario J. Paredes
Executive President of
SOMOS Community Care



**Cardinal
Christophe Pierre**
Apostolic Nuncio
to the United States



**Cardinal
Diego Padrón**
Former President of the
Venezuelan Bishops' Conference



**Alejandra Dobjanschi
de Segura**
President,
Cre-Ser Foundation



Rocco Buttiglione
Former Member of the
European Parliament



Rodrigo Guerra López
Secretary of the Pontifical
Commission for Latin America



Paola Binetti
Former Italian Senator



**Miguel Ángel
Rodríguez**
Former President
of Costa Rica



Executive Director
Lara Bersano Calot
Specialist in International
Public Leadership



Enrique Segura
Chairman of the Board
of the Smithsonian Institution
of the United States



Cristián Nazer Astorga
Senior Council Member,
Universidad Finis Terrae



**Luis Enrique
García Rodríguez**
Former President of CAF
Development Bank
of Latin America

About the Academic Council

The International Academic Council is a consultative and academic advisory body within the institutional structure of the IACL. This Council meets monthly and is composed of distinguished scholars of recognized international prestige. From diverse academic disciplines, its members continuously evaluate and refine the formative pathway, as well as the content, modalities, and levels of training offered by the Academy.



President

Juan Pablo Faúndez Allier
PhD in Philosophy,
University of Salamanca



Academic Secretariat

Claudia Zarzosa
Political Scientist, Antonio Ruiz
de Montoya University



Brother Álvaro Rodríguez
Former Superior General
of the Brothers of the
Christian Schools



**Fr. Fernando Montes
Matte SJ**
Founding Rector
of Alberto Hurtado
University



Ada Ferreira
Coordinator of the Vicentian
Latin American Family
Psychologists Fraternity



Daniel Ortega Pacheco
Former Minister
of the Environment
of Ecuador



René Zamora
Founder and Director of
the John Paul II Bioethics
Center in Havana



Marisol Pérez Tello
Former Minister
of Justice of Peru



Johannes Hügel
Head of the Ecuador
External Office, Konrad
Adenauer Foundation



Clélia Peretti
PhD in Theology, Specialist
in School Management
and Distance Education



Patricio Ventura Juncá del Tobar
Former Director of
the Bioethics Institute,
Universidad Finis Terrae



Emilio Inzaurraga
National Director
of Caritas Argentina



Alirio Cáceres
Advocacy Assistant for
Latin America and
the Caribbean, Laudato
Si' Movement



Flavia Palavecino
Former National Director
of Policies and Service
Regulation, National
Disability Agency



About the Executive Office Team

The Executive Office team of the IACL reflects the richness of a mission shared across countries, cultures, and vocations. This section presents those who, from different areas, sustain and project the Academy's formative work at the global level.



Carlos Morales
Director of Operations



Claudia Zarzosa
Academic Secretary



Karina Ruiz
Mexico Country
Coordinator



Adriana Sirito
Southern Cone Country
Coordinator



Cristiane Keitel
Brazil Country
Coordinator



Joaquín Eguiluz
Communications Consultant



Mónica Ayala
Europe Coordinator



Luís Rogério
Collaborator



Nelson Gutiérrez
IT



Denisse Angulo
Graphic Designer



Gustavo Flamerich
Events and Artistic
Coordination





LEADERSHIP

for the Present
and the Future







The Academy is an international formation center inspired by the call of Pope Francis. Founded in Chile in 2006, our Network of Schools of Leaders has expanded to 15 countries across the Americas and Europe, consolidating a global presence in service of forming leaders committed to the common good.

Over the years, this development has given rise to one of the principal pillars of our mission: the Schools of Leaders, now present in as many as 52 dioceses. These schools are a seedbed for future leaders, entrepreneurs, and agents of transformation, ready to place their leadership at the service of their communities, guided by the values of the Gospel and the Social Doctrine of the Church.

As Pope Francis (1936–2025) expressed during the audience granted to our Academy in 2019:

"I am pleased that the Academy of Catholic Leaders was born and is expanding across various countries of Latin America. I am pleased that you seek to be simultaneously faithful to the Gospel, plural in political terms, and in communion with your Pastors."

Pope Francis
Public Audience, March 4, 2019

The words of Pope Francis have inspired the creation of a broad network of **Schools of Leaders**, at the service of the Church and committed to promoting the Social Doctrine of the Church throughout the continent.

This process of expansion beyond Chile began in **2018** with the graduation of the first cohort of leaders in **Uruguay**, a country recognized as one of the most secular in the world, yet one that opened its doors to this formative proposal. From that pioneering experience, new schools were consolidated in countries such as **Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador**, among others, forming leaders who today transform their communities with a Christian vision and social commitment.

The Academy Around the World: Formation That Transforms

This year, we have been present in various cities around the world, continuing to promote the formation of **new Catholic leaders** at the service of their countries and communities, committed to advancing formation in the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Each territory represents a community committed to discernment, formation, and social impact rooted in faith. Year after year, the Academy accompanies leaders who seek to transform their realities with a Christian vision and public commitment.

The following map shows the **20 schools** that were active during **2025**, carrying out diverse formative activities, meetings, events, Catholic leadership training, and diploma programs.



Among the main activities carried out were seminars, formation schools, and other formative sessions. Below are the 2025 figures for the schools:

COUNTRY	SCHOOL	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
	Guayaquil	 297 participants, in person  330 participants, virtual
	Bogotá Engativá - Soacha Ipiales Pasto	 83 participants, in person  35 participants, in person  95 participants, in person  70 participants, in person
	Lima Pucallpa San José del Amazonas Arequipa	 102 participants, in person  50 participants, in person  270 participants, in person  40 participants, in person
	Talca	 60 participants, in person
	Asunción	 50 participants, in person
	San Francisco de Macorís	 500 participants, in person
	Quesada City	 32 participants, in person
	Azcapotzalco Chihuahua Iztapalapa Nezahualcóyotl Tlalnepantla Monterrey	 60 participants, in person  193 participants, in person  85 participants, in person  60 participants, in person  72 participants, in person  49 participants, in person
	New York	 200 participants, in person
	Toledo	 50 participants, in person

Strengthening the Academy's mission is inseparable from the vitality of our global network of schools. For this reason, and as a priority, we have initiated a deep process of revitalization and re-engagement with those sites that, due to various internal or external circumstances, had experienced a pause in their operations.

For the Academy, returning to these schools is strategic in order to strengthen and nourish our formative mission in key areas of the continent. Our objective is to fully reactivate their academic calendars and ensure that our programs continue to have an impact on local leadership.

Among the main schools with which we are actively renewing interaction and programming are:

- Valencia School 
- Teotihuacán School 
- Cuernavaca School 
- Guadalajara School 

Consolidation of New Initiatives and Strategic Openings

In parallel with revitalizing our existing base, the Academy has resumed crucial conversations to consolidate the opening of new schools in regions of significant strategic importance.

We are reinitiating dialogue with key stakeholders, bishops, Catholic universities, and social leaders in regions where conversations about possible openings had previously begun but did not reach the consolidation phase. The goal is to formalize these alliances and establish new centers of formation. Among the principal locations are:

- Tenerife 
- Buenos Aires 
- San Isidro 

We are advancing in diverse conversations with bishops and strategic actors in these locations to finalize logistical and programmatic details, with the aim of announcing their official opening soon and thus extending the reach of our mission.



SCHOOLS OF LEADERS

This year, marked by the Jubilee, we developed various Catholic Schools of Leaders throughout the continent, bringing hope and formation to new generations. Our mission has been reaffirmed in forming leaders capable of embodying and spreading the Social Doctrine of the Church in every corner of Latin America.

From the United States to Paraguay, passing through Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, we traced a path of commitment, formation, and active presence.

Below, we share some of the most significant milestones of this journey.



MEXICO



Catholic School of Leaders of Chihuahua

During this year, the Catholic School of Leaders of Chihuahua was consolidated as a space of formation, encounter, and transformation for young people and adults who seek to live their faith openly and place it at the service of their surroundings. Most importantly, it allowed leaders to believe in themselves, discovering that they can generate real change from their profession, their hearts, and their own hands.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **193 people**

Main programs:

- Meeting with Monsignor Javier Acero (2024), addressed to families of missing persons.
- Project Weaving Futures: Women Who Transform (2025), an encounter with young women in vulnerable areas.

- Second International Seminar for University Students (2025).
- NEXUS Congress Workshop (2025), in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry.
- International Seminar for Youth (2025), aimed at high school students.

Student testimonials:

- Enrique Carrera (22 years old): "The School helped me see that I don't need extraordinary qualities to serve."
- Joselin Mendoza (27 years old): "The Academy reminded me why I love my profession and helped me overcome my excuses."
- Natalia Montañez (25 years old): "I realized that living with privilege demands that I become a leader and bring Jesus to those who need Him most."

Catholic School of Leaders of Azcapotzalco



The Catholic School of Leaders of Azcapotzalco has centered its work on a personal encounter with Christ, bringing the Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC) closer to students through high-quality formation and living testimonies.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **60 people**.

Most relevant programs:

Throughout the formative cycle, six initiatives were developed that marked the life of the community.

Main programs:

- SDC workshop for diocesan priests.
- Leaders Working as a Team Workshop – Economic Forum with “E” for Hope.
- Lenten retreat.

- Reforestation in the Sierra de Guadalupe.
- SDC formation program for Colegio Concepción Cabrera.
- Annual formative itinerary.

Community impact:

- Reforestation in the Sierra de Guadalupe.
- Food distribution to people experiencing homelessness in the area surrounding the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Speaker testimonials:

- Gaby Maravilla, thanatologist: “My experience as a speaker was very enriching.”
- Alfredo Sánchez, philosopher: “My experience at the School of Leaders was wonderful.”





Catholic School of Leaders of Nezahualcóyotl

The Catholic School of Leaders of Nezahualcóyotl has consolidated itself as a recognized institution in Mexico City for its commitment to forming leaders from a Catholic perspective.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **60 people**.

Community impact:

- Installation of a community dining hall.
- PET material recycling program.
- Distribution of food packages to families in need.
- Collection center for supplies for those affected by heavy rains.

Academic recognition:

- Ongoing participation of Brother Andrés Govela Gutiérrez, Rector of La Salle University Nezahualcóyotl.
- Certification of studies by the Continuing Education Department.



Catholic School of Leaders of Iztapalapa



The Catholic School of Leaders in the Diocese of Iztapalapa has had as its main mission the formation of leaders committed to faith and social transformation. Through its formative programs, especially during the fourth and fifth cohorts, participants have been encouraged to discover their vocation to serve and to be inspired by individuals engaged in significant social work.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **85 people**.

Main programs:

- Integral formation of Catholic leaders.

- Encounters with social leaders and role models.
- Processes of pastoral and academic accompaniment.

Highlight event:

- Graduation scheduled for December 7, 2025.

Main contribution:

The formation of agents of change inspired by faith, capable of bringing their leadership into community and ecclesial life.





Catholic School of Leaders of Tlalnepantla

The most significant contribution of the Catholic School of Leaders of Tlalnepantla to the community was becoming a true seedbed for social ministry, forming committed and well-prepared work teams grounded in the Social Doctrine of the Church. Through this accompaniment, community sensitivity was strengthened, social justice was promoted, and service processes were consolidated that directly impact the lives and well-being of people.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **72 people**.

Social actions:

- Initiatives oriented toward the common good, justice, and solidarity.

Relationship with the diocese:

- Awaiting an audience with the Bishop to consolidate institutional ties.

Main contribution:

The formation of social ministry teams capable of implementing the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church through concrete actions.





DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Catholic School of Leaders of San Francisco de Macorís



The Catholic School of Leaders in the Diocese of San Francisco de Macorís has strengthened the foundations for future formation in Christian leadership in the region. Through the coordination between the Catholic Leaders Academy (ALC), the Universidad Católica Nordestana (UCNE), and the diocese, an environment of motivation and strategic orientation was created, directly benefiting ecclesial and educational communities.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **500 people**.

Main activities:

- Support for the diocesan gathering with the Cardinal of Uruguay.
- Internal strategic planning meetings.

- Official visit of the President and the Executive Director of the Academy.
- Participation in the International Diploma Program in the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Episcopal accompaniment:

Bishop Ramón Alfredo de la Cruz guides the School's work, empowering the management team.

Testimony:

"The Catholic School of Leaders is a space of profound evangelizing and social value, where faith becomes a driving force for personal growth and community commitment."





COLOMBIA



Catholic School of Leaders of Bogotá

The Catholic School of Leaders of the Archdiocese of Bogotá has provided formation in the Social Doctrine of the Church, fostering leadership at the heart of the Church and accompanying many individuals who seek to serve from their faith. This formative process has strengthened lay identity and promoted social commitment, linking the Church with public life.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **83 people**.

Formative cohorts:

- Two cohorts per year (March–May and August–October).
- Three levels: Catholic leadership, volunteer service, political participation.
- Seminar on Christian Social Thought in collaboration

with Universidad Minuto de Dios.

Institutional recognition:

The community recognizes the School's close ties with the Archdiocese and other institutional bodies, encouraging the lived experience of lay vocation with social commitment.

Highlighted events:

- Closing of the Seventh Formative Cohort.
- Launch of the Eighth Cohort.
- Planning of activities for the first semester of 2026.

Main contribution:

Investing in a new generation of believers committed to leadership inspired by the Social Doctrine of the Church.





CHILE

Catholic School of Leaders of Talca



During this year, the Catholic Leaders Academy of Chile resumed its activities. In partnership with the Juan Piamarta Foundation, a unique program was implemented for the formation of young people from the Maule Region. This program focused on developing leadership skills and pastoral formation, offering participants a comprehensive experience oriented toward social and ecclesial commitment.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **60 people**.

Main program themes:

- Social Doctrine of the Church, vocation, dialogue and civic friendship, human dignity, responsible use of social media.

Highlighted event:

- Closing ceremony scheduled for December 4, 2025, with the graduation of participating youth.

Main contribution:

Providing integral formation that strengthens young people's commitment to faith and society.





PERU



Catholic School of Leaders of San José del Amazonas

The Catholic School of Leaders in San José del Amazonas, linked to LUGAPE School and the Apostolic Vicariate of San José del Amazonas, has consolidated since 2023 a formative process that has transformed the lives of young people and the educational community. Its main contribution has been motivating students to become more proactive, responsible, and coherent, through close collaboration with parents and teachers. This effort has generated significant change in the community, strengthening values and promoting Christian leadership committed to society.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **270 people**.

Programs developed in 2025:

1. School of Formation for Student Leaders at LUGAPE School

A continuous program aimed at forming student leaders with Christian identity and social commitment, through formative sessions, activities, and personalized accompaniment.

2. Radio programs hosted by Prof. Luis Ernesto

Radio segments featuring student leaders and project coordinator Mario Diego Chávez Oyarce, highlighting activities and progress in the formative process and strengthening communication with the broader community.

3. Reflective and motivational talks in the student residence

Encounters with 200 young people supported by the Servants of Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament, focused on personal reflection, motivation, values formation, and emotional strengthening.

4. Meeting with parents of student leaders

A space for dialogue and awareness-raising to strengthen the family-school bond and accompany students' leadership development.

Ecclesial and community recognition:

The Servants of Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament have highlighted the positive impact of the School of Leaders, considering it an essential pastoral tool for strengthening young people's Christian identity. They note a renewed enthusiasm among students, who now participate more actively in parish, sacramental, and community life. For the Bishop and the ecclesial community, these fruits demonstrate that the formation provided transforms attitudes and motivates young people to live their faith more deeply.



Testimonials:

- **She Angy Meléndez Rodríguez**, 5th-year secondary student, LUGAPE School: “The School of Leaders is a very special space where I have been able to grow as a student and as a person. It has taught me that being a leader does not mean giving orders, but serving, listening, and accompanying. It is an experience that leaves a mark and motivates me to keep growing with humility and commitment.”

- **Aldo Samamé Ortiz**, Tutoring Coordinator: “The School of Leaders is one of the most significant formative spaces we have incorporated. It not only provides leadership tools and environmental awareness, but also strengthens students’ character, spirituality, and sense of responsibility. It is a valuable opportunity to transform lives and build a more united and conscious educational community.”

Main contribution:

The greatest contribution of the Catholic School of Leaders in Santa Clotilde – Río Napo, Peru, has been its ability to transform young people’s lives from within, helping them discover their dignity, their faith, and their responsibility toward the community. It breaks through the indifference often present in adolescents and encourages them to become agents of change within their families, schools, and communities.





Catholic School of Leaders of the Vicariate of Pucallpa

The Catholic School of Leaders of the Vicariate of Pucallpa was founded in 2024 at the initiative of Bishop Martín Quijano and under the coordination of Luis Ernesto Gutiérrez. Its mission is to form missionary disciples with a lay identity, capable of transforming social, political, and economic realities through the Gospel, preparing young people to become agents of change in various spheres.

In 2025, two programs were implemented: an adult school with **37 participants** and a school program for **students with 20 participants**. Both processes aimed to strengthen attitudes and skills for leadership consistent with the Gospel, deepen knowledge of the Social Doctrine of the Church, provide practical tools for transformative leadership, and present testimonies from public role models. The School consolidated itself as a

formative space for young people involved in pastoral groups of the Vicariate, such as choirs, catechesis, and confraternities.

Looking ahead to 2026, the School of Leaders plans new editions for adults and students, as well as joint initiatives with the Indigenous Pastoral Commission, the replication of ecology seminars, and social responsibility activities at the Salesian School of Pucallpa. Together with the School of Leaders of San José del Amazonas, it constitutes an inspiring project that responds to the call of Pope Francis, integrating human development, ecological awareness, Christian identity, and community commitment in the formation of Amazonian leaders.





UNITED STATES

Catholic School of Leaders of New York



This year we celebrated the Fourth International Seminar in New York City, hosted at Saint John's University. The gathering brought together more than 100 Latin American leaders for a day marked by formation, dialogue, and commitment to the Social Doctrine of the Church.

We were honored by the special participation of Monsignor Francisco Javier Acero, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Mexico, who accompanied the participants with his pastoral closeness.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **200 people.**





COSTA RICA



Catholic School of Leaders of Ciudad Quesada

The Diocese of Ciudad Quesada (Costa Rica) held a new edition of its Catholic School of Leaders, bringing together more than 32 lay participants from 11 parishes in a space of formation, encounter, and commitment. Throughout this sixth cohort, participants deepened key topics for the exercise of lay leadership, strengthening their connection to the Church's evangelizing mission and their service within local communities.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **32 people**.





PARAGUAY

Catholic School of Leaders of Asunción



This year, in the city of **Asunción**, the **second Catholic School of Leaders** was held, a formative initiative supported by **Cardinal Adalberto Martínez**. Participants successfully completed their formation process, strengthening their **community, political, and ecclesial** commitment, guided by the principles of the **Social Doctrine of the Church**.

projects, reaffirming their commitment to an active presence in social and ecclesial transformation, inspired by the common good and the dignity of the human person.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **26 people**.

Graduates presented their **final leadership**





ECUADOR



Catholic School of Leaders of Guayaquil

During this year, the schools in Ecuador achieved significant development in the area of formation, implementing a hybrid project that combined in-person and virtual activities. These activities were carried out within the Archdiocese of Guayaquil, where more than one hundred young people received formation in the Social Doctrine of the Church, strengthening their commitment to the common good.

Amid the national context of contingency, the

project consolidated itself as a space of hope and coordination, fostering meaningful encounters with civil society organizations. These experiences enabled participants to reflect on the role of Catholic leadership in contexts of social transformation.

Total participants in activities carried out during 2025: **600 people**.





During 2025, we developed a series of **formative activities in online format**, including seminars, lectures, and spaces for reflection open to our community of leaders. Among the most notable initiatives was the seminar **"From Francis to Leo XIV,"** in which we analyzed in depth the **transition from the pontificate of Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV**, addressing its implications for the Church and for Catholic leadership in today's world. This seminar, as well as all our programs, can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Among the milestones of the year, various virtual activities were carried out, which are detailed below:



1. Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Innovation: A Path of Hope



This year, a virtual conference on artificial intelligence and Christian ethics was held, with more than 140 participants from 14 countries. E. Wall, CEO of Almma.AI, offered a profound reflection on the human role of technology. The meeting promoted an integral formation that brought together faith, ethics, and digital development.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcrK_RIXu8o&t=8476s



2. International Seminar on Disability: Bridges of Inclusion

Facultad de Psicología y Psicopedagogía

Seminario Internacional de discapacidad *Puentes de Inclusión*

Profesionales a cargo: Gabriela Renault, Flavia Palavecino, Anna Paula Feminella, Grisel Olivera Roulet, Malochy Fallon, Mabel Lallama, Inoue Takashi, Lorena Velazquez, Wendy Barrantes, Marcos Kastelic y Lara Bersano.

Sábados 9/8,
16/8, 11/10 y 8/11
de 10.00 a 12.00
Plataforma
Zoom

The International Seminar “Bridges of Inclusion” was held as a joint initiative between the Universidad del Salvador (USAL) and the International Academy of Catholic Leaders. The event brought together more than 300 leaders from the Americas and Europe, committed to reflection and accompaniment of persons with disabilities, promoting their full inclusion in ecclesial life. With an interdisciplinary approach integrating pastoral, social, and academic dimensions, the seminar was conducted in monthly sessions through November.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ytjmr3W8rml&list=PLv-THepLOx1Y1KuvhFccp4IWHWxwnsj_T



3. Fourth International Women's Seminar: "Women and Hope in Today's World"



IV SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL DE LA MUJER

Mujer y Esperanza, en el mundo de hoy

Todos los sábados del 1 al 22 de marzo

PERPO DOCENTE

 ALEJANDRA SEGURA Directora de la Red Internacional Mujeres Líderes Católicas	 PAOLA BINETTI Santadora Italiana	 MARCELA CHAVARRÍA Doctora en Ciencias de la Educación por la Universidad de Navarra	 FLAMINIA GIOVANELLI Ex Subsecretaria del Pontificio Consejo Justicia y Paz	 ANNA BARANZINI Directora de la Empresa Luz I.R.P., dedicada a la Agricultura
 DIANA IBARRA Investigadora de la Universidad Panamericana	 ADA FERREIRA Psicóloga Hospitalaria y Profesora Universitaria	 ZAIRA HERNÁNDEZ Miembro del Grupo Interdisciplinario de Estudios Femenistas de la Universidad Panamericana	 MARÍA AGUSTINA RODRÍGUEZ Licenciada en Taramo y Especialista en Gestión Ambiental Sustentable	 NATHALIA OROZCO Artista Visual Mexicana

During this year, the Fourth International Women's Seminar was held under the theme "Women and Hope in Today's World," in virtual format. The activity brought together more than 140 participants from Latin America and Europe and featured presentations by distinguished international speakers such as José Antonio Lozano Díez, Fray Stefano Cecchin, and Paola Binetti. Organized in collaboration with the International Network of Catholic Women Leaders, the seminar fostered a deep reflection on women's leadership, hope as a social driving force, and the role of women in building more humane communities.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsdznByDmEY&list=PLv-THEpLOxI1ZXIXjtURrzMOoXqqqGAfpk





THE JUBILEE YEAR
at the International Academy
of Catholic Leaders





The Jubilee 2025, convened by Pope Francis under the theme “Pilgrims of Hope,” is an occasion of grace, reconciliation, and spiritual renewal. Initiated with the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter’s Basilica, this Holy Year invites the faithful to rediscover hope in the midst of a wounded world. Believers are called to make pilgrimage, receive the sacraments, and perform works of charity, thus obtaining the plenary indulgence. More than a liturgical event, it is a pastoral and social experience that promotes solidarity and justice. The Jubilee will conclude on January 6, 2026, as a sign of a Church on the move.

Tenth International Diploma Program in Rome

Each year, the Academy organizes the International Diploma Program in the Social Doctrine of the Church, a key initiative in the formation of a new generation of Catholic leaders who seek to transform reality from within their peoples. This process looks toward the great Jubilees of 2031 (500 years of the presence of Mary in the Americas) and 2033 (2,000 years of the Redemption).





Within the framework of the Holy Year, and together with the Pontifical University Antonianum and the support of Somos Community Care, the Academy convened the Tenth International Diploma Program, held in Rome from October 23 to 27, 2025. This year, the Diploma Program addressed the theme of Hope in a political key, exploring its perspectives, places, paths, teachers,

and witnesses. In a special way, discussion began on a Manifesto of Hope in its political dimension, as a contribution to a new humanism for our times. This edition brought together more than 80 leaders from different parts of the continent.





Opening Marked by Communion and Commitment

The inaugural session took place at the Fraterna Domus Retreat House, with the presence of Cardinal Diego Padrón, former President of the Venezuelan Bishops' Conference; Father Andrés Ramos, Director of the Office of University Pastoral Ministry of the Archdiocese of Madrid; and Lara Bersano, Executive Director of the Academy.

In his address, Cardinal Padrón underscored the role of the Academy as an instrument for forming a new generation of Catholics committed to social

transformation: "Power becomes service, and greatness is measured by the capacity to bow down." For his part, Father Andrés Ramos highlighted the Academy's mission as a blessing for the Church and society: "An organization created to serve, to be salt of the earth and light of the world."

Key Reflections of the Tenth Diploma Program

Throughout the Diploma Program, a series of thematic lectures offered a profound and up-to-date perspective on the challenges of Catholic leadership in the contemporary world:



- **Dr. Paola Binetti** opened the program with a reflection on bioethics and the dignity of human life, emphasizing the defense of life at all stages as a non-negotiable principle of Christian thought.



- **Dr. Shariff de los Santos and Mr. Ramón Tallaj** shared their experience in a presentation on leadership in healthcare and service, highlighting the role of the Catholic professional as a bearer of hope and consolation.



- **Former Minister Marisol Pérez Tello** delivered a presentation on public leadership and ecological awareness, inspired by the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, calling on young people to assume leadership committed to the care of our common home.



- **Friar Carlos Esteban Salto Solá** delved into Christian hope as the foundation of discernment and mission, recalling that Christ is the face of hope that guides all transformative action.



- **Brother Álvaro Rodríguez**, former Superior of the De La Salle Brothers, addressed the Social Doctrine of the Church in the face of new forms of poverty, calling for a transition “from egocentrism to ecocentrism” and for education in fraternity.



- In virtual format, **Alejandra Segura**, President of the International Network of Catholic Women Leaders, presented a vision of Marian feminism and reciprocity, proposing female ecclesial participation based on shared dignity and complementarity.



- **Cristian Nazer**, former Rector of Universidad Finis Terrae, closed the cycle with a reflection on the apostolic exhortation *Dilexit Te* of Pope Leo XIII, emphasizing that in the poor the face of Christ is revealed and that they are the ones who evangelize us.





Faith, Culture, and Communion in the Heart of Rome

Participants experienced moments of deep spirituality and cultural richness that strengthened their Christian identity and sense of community. Among the highlighted activities was a pilgrimage through the city of Rome, which included a visit to the Pontifical University Antonianum, the sponsoring institution of the Diploma Program. There, a space of academic and fraternal dialogue was shared, reaffirming the bond between intellectual formation and spiritual life.

Subsequently, a protocol visit to Vatican City took place, including a private audience with the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin. In a moving and close encounter, Diploma Program participants shared the realities of their countries, generating a deep and hope-filled dialogue about the challenges their communities face. In his message, Cardinal Parolin affirmed: "Today's world needs leaders who are passionate about Christ and about humanity." He also described the foundation of such leadership as "people of prayer, committed, and capable of going out of themselves to encounter others, especially those most in need."

Activities in Rome concluded with a Eucharistic celebration at Saint Peter's Basilica, held in the Choir Chapel and presided over by Cardinal Diego Padrón, as a gesture of communion, gratitude, and missionary sending.





Closing and Missioning

The Diploma Program concluded on October 27 with the graduation ceremony, marking the end of a transformative week that renewed the participants' commitment to a Church that goes forth, in service of the common good and of their communities.





Spreading the
GOOD NEWS





Media Presence

Throughout the year, the International Academy of Catholic Leaders had a strong presence in streaming media, consolidating this platform as a key tool for communicating its mission in today's context. Streaming has become a dynamic and accessible way to disseminate formative content, allowing the Academy to reach new audiences and strengthen ties with communities in different countries.

This communications strategy was reflected in appearances across both Catholic and secular media, generating significant impact on more than 480,000 people. Through interviews, live broadcasts, virtual conferences, and collaborations with digital channels, the Academy positioned its message within contemporary spaces of dialogue, reaffirming its commitment to forming Catholic leaders in service of the common good.

Portals

Throughout 2025, the International Academy of Catholic Leaders strengthened its visibility in the communications sphere, generating initiatives that became newsworthy milestones at the international level.

These dissemination spaces contributed to consolidating the Academy's public projection, reaffirming its commitment to forming Catholic leaders and its influence on the global debate on faith, culture, and society.

Our mission and activities were featured in various media outlets, reflecting the reach and relevance of our work.

Notable among them are:

1. Vatican News
2. Exaudi
3. Religión Digital
4. International streaming platforms such as Rome Reports



VATICAN NEWS DATA VATICANO IGLESIA MUNDO

Santo Vaticano Lengua: es



IGLESIA ... ITALIA CATELICA ... INSTITUCIONES Y PERSONAS ... SANTOS ... SANTIFICACION

Academia de Líderes Católicos y Universidad Antonianum convocan al X Diplomado Internacional en Roma

Formación y Fe en el Jubileo 2025: Las Actividades del Diplomado incluyen la Peregrinación a la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro.

VATICAN NEWS

Académico llevará la visión chilena a diplomado en Doctrina Social de la Iglesia a la Santa Sede

El académico chileno, experto en Doctrina Social de la Iglesia, será el encargado de presentar la visión chilena en el diplomado que se celebrará en la Santa Sede.



VATICAN NEWS

Diplomado Internacional: Liderazgo, Esperanza y Fraternidad desde Roma

El diplomado internacional se celebrará en Roma y estará dirigido por el papa Francisco. El programa incluye la formación en liderazgo, esperanza y fraternidad.



VATICAN NEWS

México fue la sede del Primer Campamento Internacional de Líderes Católicos

El primer campamento internacional de líderes católicos se celebró en México. El programa incluyó la formación en liderazgo, esperanza y fraternidad.



Exaudi NEWS

Home · Voices · Analysis · Interviews · Lee XV · Vatican · Church and World · Documents

Academia de Líderes Católicos Church and World 30 Jan, 2024 3 min

Formation and Faith in Jubilee 2025: The International Academy of Catholic Leaders and Antonianum University Announce the 10th International Diploma Program in Rome

Diploma Program Activities Include the Pilgrimage to the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica



Academia Internacional de Líderes Católicos

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITA ANTONIANUM

somos UNIVERSIDAD

ROMA, ITALIA.

VATICAN NEWS DATA VATICANO IGLESIA MUNDO



Seminario Internacional "Puentes de Inclusión": enfoque pastoral y social de la discapacidad

Organización por la inclusión de personas con discapacidad y la Academia Internacional de Líderes Católicos, se celebró el seminario internacional de enfoque pastoral y social de la discapacidad.

ROME REPORTS

Comienza a preguntar ahora

Parolin anima a los líderes católicos "a salir al encuentro de los más necesitados"



Web

In August 2025, we renewed our official website www.liderescatolicos.net, with the aim of offering a modern, intuitive, and user-friendly platform. The new site, developed in **WordPress** for its versatility and constant update capability, provides access to content in **Spanish and English**, thereby expanding our international reach and strengthening the Academy's mission.

We especially highlight the incorporation of **accessibility tools for persons with disabilities**, enabling us to provide a more inclusive experience fully aligned with the values of formation, dignity, and participation that we promote.

Likewise, our **social media** platforms have become a space for direct connection with students and alumni, fostering community and expanding the audience for our main milestones: **events with the Pope** and the **International Diploma Program**. These digital channels allow us to share content, encourage participation, and project the voice of the Academy worldwide.



www.liderescatolicos.net



The YouTube channel of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders is a key formative platform for those who wish to exercise leadership grounded in Catholic values. With more than 900 videos, it offers conferences, seminars, retreats, and interviews that inspire people to live their public vocation from faith, humility, and social commitment. Its purpose is to equip Catholic leaders to positively impact society through practical tools and deep

reflection. Each piece of content seeks to accompany those who aspire to transform their environment, promoting ethical, conscious leadership rooted in the principles of the Gospel.



www.youtube.com/liderescatolicos

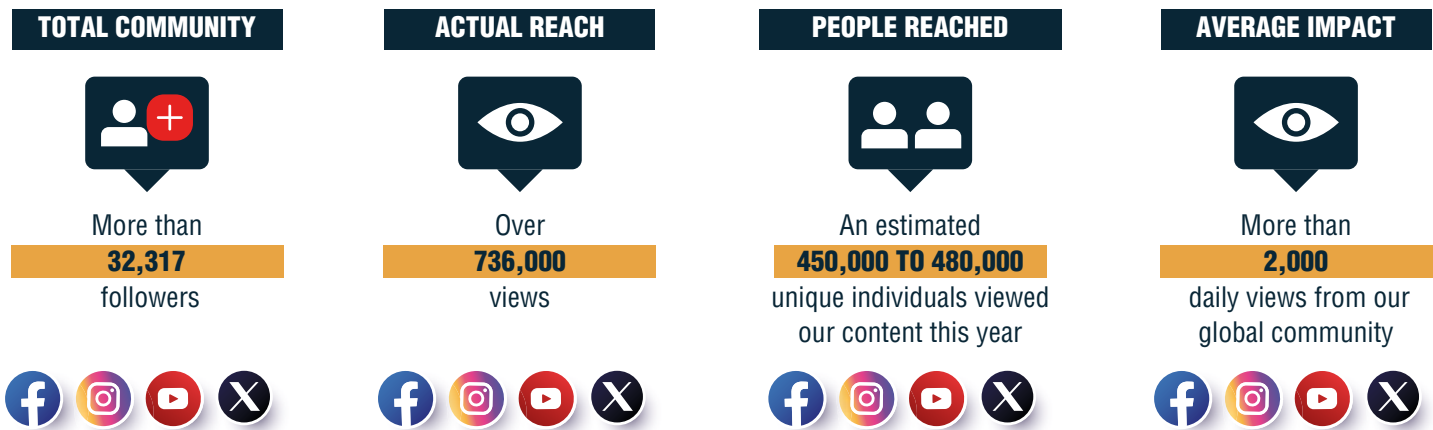


**Follow our
YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**



Social Media

During this year, we experienced significant growth across our social media platforms. Below are the most relevant figures corresponding to views recorded in 2025:



Instant Communication Channels

Since 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Academy of Catholic Leaders began exploring new ways of communicating and engaging with its students. From that experience to the present day, we have consolidated instant communication channels that allow us to maintain direct, agile, and close contact with our community.

Thanks to these tools, we now reach more than **6,000 people** through WhatsApp, strengthening interaction, participation, and a sense of belonging among students and alumni.



In 2025, the International Academy of Catholic Leaders incorporated the Substack platform as a new institutional communication channel. This tool allows us to distribute newsletters, columns, and reflections in a direct, bilingual format with global reach, strengthening connections with students, alumni, and partners in more than 15 countries.

As part of our digital communications strategy, the Academy sought a platform that would enable agile, **accessible publishing with international reach**. The choice of Substack responds to the need to:

- Consolidate a monthly institutional newsletter featuring news, reflections, and columns by our leadership.
- Offer an organized and permanent reading space, with a historical archive available for consultation.
- Expand the dissemination of our mission within a digital environment that connects with diverse audiences.



Features of Substack

Direct and free access: anyone can subscribe and receive content via email.

Interactivity: readers can comment on and share publications, fostering dialogue.

Versatility: allows the integration of columns, special reports, and reflections on current ecclesial and social issues.

Initial Impact

Since its launch, the newsletter has disseminated key content such as:

- Reflections on the apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* by Pope Leo XIV.
- Columns by our President Mario J. Paredes and Executive Director Lara Bersano.
- Testimonies from members of the International Academic Council and collaborators in different countries.



These contents have strengthened the Academy's international visibility and enabled us to reach tens of thousands of subscribers, consolidating a reference space for Catholic leaders in formation.

The use of Substack is integrated into our digital strategy alongside the website and social media, forming a communications ecosystem that:

- Connects with students and alumni.

- Expands the audience for our major events (encounters with the Pope and the International Diploma Program).

Reinforces the Academy's institutional identity in the digital world, aligned with our mission to form Catholic leaders for political, social, and economic life.



Subscriber Growth

From its launch in May through October 2025, the newsletter grew from **201 to 10,034 subscribers**—an **increase of 9,833 people**, representing approximately **4,892%** growth (nearly 50 times the initial base) in less than six months. This milestone reflects the growing interest in the Academy's formative and reflective content, as well as the effectiveness of Substack as a global connection tool.

The incorporation of Substack represents a significant step in modernizing our communications. It enables us to disseminate high-quality content, strengthen the international alumni community, and project the voice of the Academy within the global debate on faith, culture, and leadership.

www.liderescatolicos.net/newsletter/

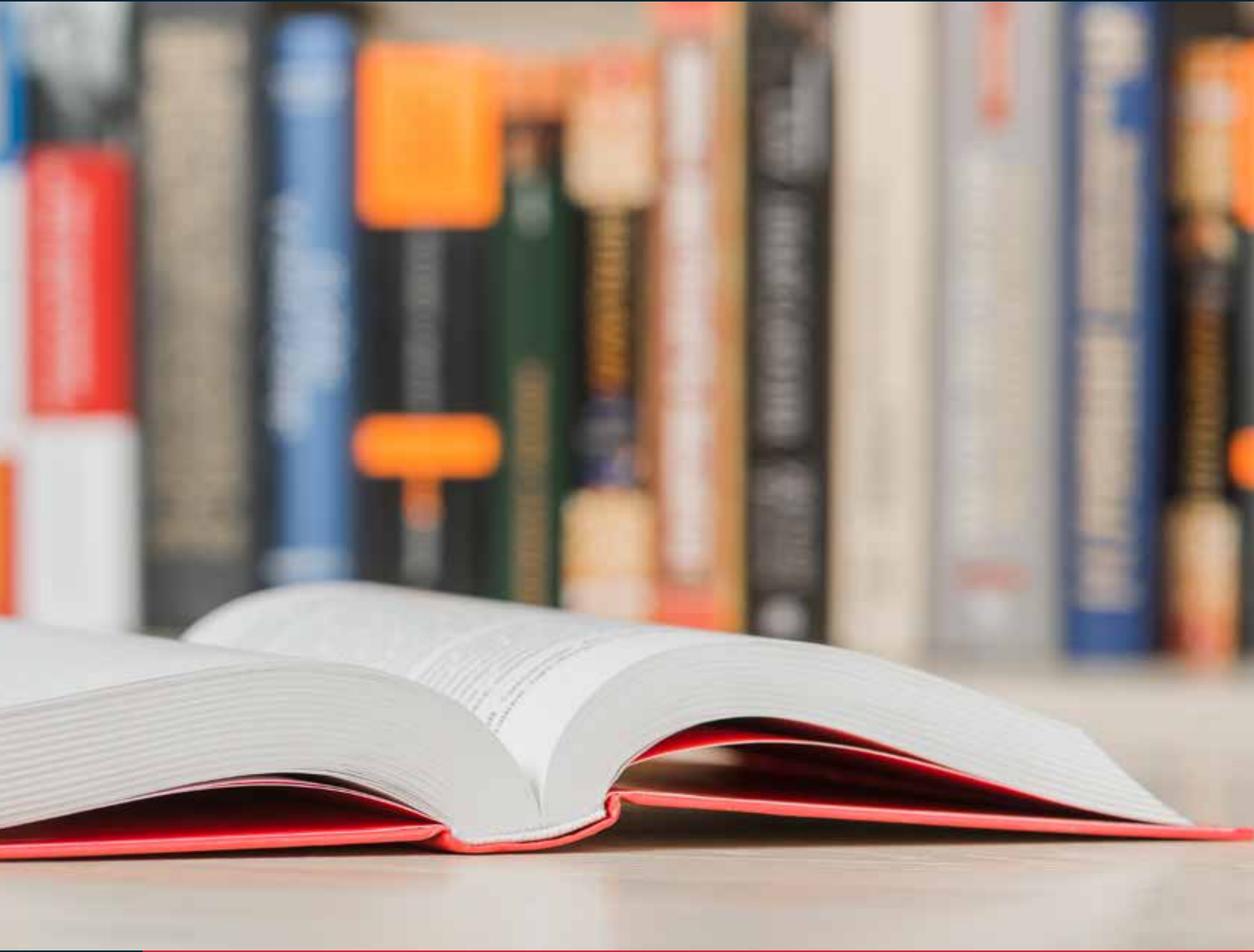




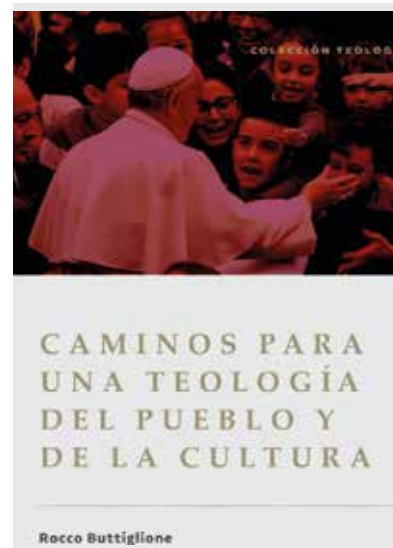
KNOWLEDGE

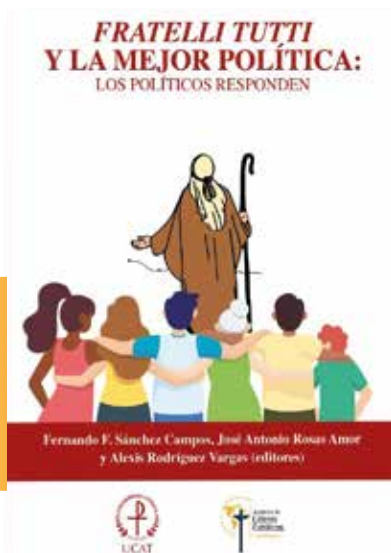
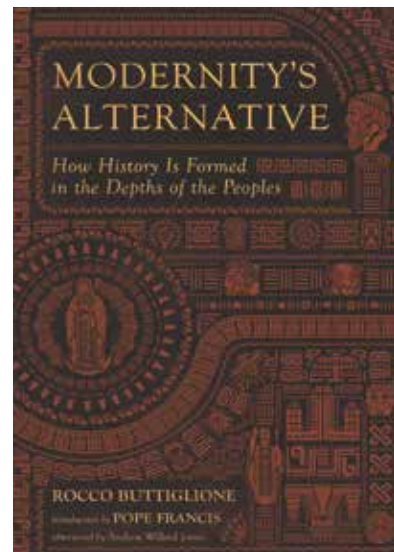
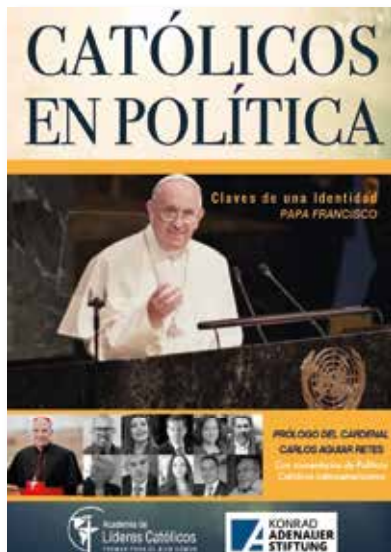
Accessible to All





Publications and academic articles constitute a fundamental pillar of the formative mission of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders, as they enable critical, rigorous, and innovative reflection on the major ethical, social, and political challenges of our time. Through research and intellectual production, the Academy promotes Catholic thought in dialogue with the social sciences, philosophy, and the Social Doctrine of the Church, in pursuit of integral human development and the comprehensive formation of leaders committed to the common good.





Testimonials



Pope Francis,
(1936-2025)

"I am pleased that the Academy of Catholic Leaders was born and is expanding across various countries of Latin America. I am pleased that you seek to be simultaneously faithful to the Gospel, plural in partisan terms, and in communion with your Pastors. In a few years, in 2031, we will celebrate the Fifth Centennial of the Guadalupean Event, and in 2033, the second millennium of the

Redemption. May God grant that from now on you may all work in the dissemination of the Social Doctrine of the Church, so that we may reach the celebration of these dates with truly concrete lay fruits of missionary discipleship."

Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Secretary of State, Vatican



"Dear brothers and sisters, without charity, our projects, ideas, and social actions—even when driven by good intentions—are like a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. Let us not forget that God is love (1 John 4:8), and that we can love because He first loved us. Love of God and of our

brothers and sisters is the foundation of the Social Doctrine of the Church and what distinguishes it from the activity of any other charitable institution or NGO."



Rodrigo Guerra,
*Secretary of the Pontifical Commission
for Latin America, has stated:*

"What the Academy of Catholic Leaders in Latin America seeks to do is, in an incredibly plural, diversified, broad, and generous way, to fulfill what the Gospel commands us: to truly be good news for all. And what Pope Francis teaches us: to affirm fraternity with everyone."



Juan Pablo Faúndez,
*President of the International Academic
Council of the Academy of Catholic
Leaders, invites us with firmness and
hope*

"I would call on all those who are part of this Academy to be visible and credible witnesses of the Good News in the social contexts where we participate—whether in the family, the university, schools, government... wherever we are contributing to the common good."





Enrique García,
Former Executive President of CAF

"The Academy, through its principles, guides leaders from the public and private spheres toward a culture of encounter. No to dogmatism, no to chronic systemic refoundationalism, no to trends that generate polarization."

Flaminia Giovanelli,
*Former Undersecretary of the
Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace*



"The Academy of Catholic Leaders is a wonderful experience of fraternal friendship at the service of the Church and the poor."



WE FORM LEADERS

to transform the world



WWW.LIDERESCATOLICOS.NET



ACADEMIA
LÍDERES CATÓLICOS



LIDERESCATOLICO



LÍDERES CATÓLICOS



LÍDERES CATÓLICOS



ACADEMIA INTERNACIONAL
DE LÍDERES CATÓLICOS