

Monthly magazine of REIBA  
Amazonian Intercultural Bilingual Education Network



## LOCAL REIBAS

In this NotiREIBA, we share some events that the Local REIBAs experienced in March 2026. We invite you to enjoy this good news from the Amazon region.

### REIBA SARRAPIA – COLOMBIA



Apostolic Vicariate: Inírida  
Amazonian indigenous people: Piaroa

In the community of Sarrapia, the local team's support continues to strengthen community bonds and promote holistic well-being.

Volunteer Luz Mercedes has been establishing a close and committed presence, focused on identifying needs and creating spaces for support and service.

In the educational sphere, a key initiative is the academic support provided to first and second-grade students, in collaboration with local volunteer and teacher Ruddy Fuentes. Through the use of various educational materials, the goal is to invigorate learning processes and facilitate a more participatory and meaningful education for the children (images 1 and 2).



Imagen 1



Imagen 3

At the same time, significant efforts have been made to work with the women in charge of the kitchens at the on-site and off-site dining halls. This support focuses on providing guidance on preparing healthier meals, promoting the inclusion of vegetables in daily diets in an appealing way (image 3).

## REIBA SAN BORJA - BOLIVIA



Vicariato apostólico: Reyes  
Pueblo indígena amazónico: Tsimane

During the month of March, the local REIBA San Borja team had a series of meaningful experiences.

One of the most important moments was the participation of the indigenous pastoral team in the Tsimane Grand Council, held on March 3 in the community of Horeb. This event, of profound social and cultural value, provided an opportunity to accompany the indigenous authorities and participating communities, sharing their spirituality and cultural richness in an atmosphere of dialogue and communion. (images 1 and 2).



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

We also strengthened ties with the local Church through meetings with members of religious orders. A formal presentation of the team's initiatives, particularly the REIBA proposal, was made to the team of priests at the San Francisco de Borja parish. Similarly, at the monthly meeting of priests, religious, and missionaries in the area, experiences, plans, and expectations for synodal work were shared, with a view to strengthening local and indigenous pastoral care by the year 2026. (image 4)

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Another significant moment was the participation in the ordination of three new priests in the Vicariate. Bishop Eugenio Coter expressed his enthusiasm and support for the initiatives being carried out in the region. (Images 5 and 6)

In the pastoral sphere, various initiatives were launched in the Atajado area, including support for the elderly and the sick, as well as the development of the Missionary Children's Movement and other religious activities. These initiatives aim to strengthen the life of faith and the community fabric centered on the mission, which is also linked to the shelter run by the missionary team.



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7



Image 8



Image 9

In addition, in collaboration with Cáritas San Borja, a training program was launched for young people from indigenous and rural communities, focusing on dynamic successional agroforestry. Eighteen young Tsimane' leaders participated in this initiative, embarking on a training journey centered on land stewardship and sustainable production. (Images 7 and 8)

Finally, progress was made in coordinating with the Menesian Brothers, consolidating a process that will strengthen educational training in the region. This joint effort aims to develop relevant pathways for teacher training, integrating a bilingual approach, the ecological calendar, and the revitalization of the traditional knowledge of the Tsimane' people, with a special focus on the Tacuaral del Mato community. (image 9)

## REIBA DICARO – ECUADOR



Apostolic Vicariate: Aguarico

Amazonian indigenous people: Waorani

The local team participated in a series of community, educational, and pastoral activities that strengthened life in the region and their commitment to the culture of the Waorani people.

On two occasions during the month, the REIBA volunteers—Martha Chávez, Yolanda Huamancondor, and Mariela Gutierrez—participated in community work parties. Martha and Yolanda, together with the women of the AYEBE Association, cleared land, planted chambira trees, and harvested huairuro—natural resources essential for making handicrafts that are part of the local identity and economy. Meanwhile, Mariela, along with Sister Marlene, joined a minga with university students from the Salesian University and the Crecermas Higher Technological Institute. During this event, they worked on the care and maintenance of fruit trees and ornamental plants, fostering the young people’s commitment to the environment and the care of nature (image 1, 2 & 3).



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5

In the area of education, workshops were held on the 4th, 25th, and 26th at the “Guardiana de la Lengua” Educational Center, where university students continue to serve as cultural ambassadors in the community. On this occasion, the workshop “Waraani Celebrations and Games” provided an opportunity to recall and revitalize traditional practices such as festivals, songs, dances, and knowledge related to the cultivation and preparation of traditional foods, such as chucula, chicha de chonta, and chicha blanca. (image 4 y 5)

In addition, on the 4th, 9th, 16th, and 23rd, these same facilitators accompanied students from the “Yachana Inti” School in conducting the Myths Workshop. This workshop helped strengthen Waorani culture among both young people and adults, while also reinforcing literacy in Waotededo and Spanish through fun activities. (image 6)



On Sunday, the 8th, a special event was held to commemorate International Women’s Day, which also served as a farewell for volunteer Martha. It was an occasion to honor the women of the community, featuring activities, singing and dancing, and a time of fellowship (image 7).



In the educational and artistic sphere, from the 9th to the 13th, guitar classes were held by volunteer Mariela, with the participation of college students and students from the “Guardiana de la Lengua” Educational Unit, thereby strengthening artistic expression and the creative use of time. (image 8)

At the church level, from the 16th to the 20th, Sister Marlene participated as part of the Ecuadorian delegation in the 6th General Assembly of CEAMA, strengthening coordination with church initiatives in the Amazon region. (image 9)



Subsequently, from the 19th to the 22nd, the SICNIE Assembly was held in Pompeya, bringing together Kichwa, Shuar, and Waorani representatives from the Apostolic Vicariate of Aguarico. This gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on the global, national, and local realities, as well as to evaluate commitments and plan for indigenous pastoral work. Waorani university students participated in this gathering, accompanied by Sr. Marlene and volunteer Yolanda (image 10.)



## REIBA AISHALTON - GUYANA



Diocese: Georgetown

Amazonian indigenous people: Wapichan

Ms. Marva Joy Hawksworth (Image 1) participated in the 6th General Assembly of CEAMA. At the assembly, Marva represented the lay faithful of Guyana, playing a prominent role throughout the entire assembly process.

During the Assembly, she played an active role in the discernment and listening teams, contributing to the analysis of the realities of the Amazon region and to the development of strategies for pastoral, educational, and cultural coordination, with a special emphasis on strengthening Intercultural Bilingual Education (IBE). (image 2)



Image 1



Image 2



Image 4



Image 3

As a result of this shared journey, and during an elective assembly, Marva was elected as the new vice president of CEAMA, representing the lay faithful throughout the Amazon region. (image 3)

Marva belongs to the Diocese of Georgetown, an ecclesiastical jurisdiction that encompasses the entire territory of Guyana and is characterized by its cultural and ethnic diversity. Currently, this diocese is under the pastoral guidance of Bishop Francis Alleyne (image 4), a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, who has fostered a Church committed to intercultural dialogue, social justice, and care for our common home.

## REIBA SAN ANTONIO DE LOMERÍO - BOLIVIA



Apostolic Vicariate: Ñuflo de Chávez

Amazonian indigenous people: Monkox Chiquitano

As part of the local church's work, a training workshop was launched for the Bolivian-German Brotherhood project, "Farming the Land in School Gardens," which focuses on the production of short-cycle vegetables.

The initial steps involved surveying, clearing, and preparing the land, as well as providing seeds. This process was carried out collaboratively, with the active participation of parents, teachers, and the administrative staff of the U.E. 13 de Junio school. (Images 1 and 2)



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

This initiative laid the groundwork for organized and sustainable work, with an estimated duration of five months. (Image 3)

With a view to institutional strengthening, a partnership is planned between REIBA and the Bolivian-German Brotherhood, integrating tools such as the ecological calendar knowledge matrix developed by the school's teachers during the previous administration. This integration aims to enhance local and technical knowledge.



## REIBA WIJINT - PERÚ

Apostolic Vicariate: Yurimaguas  
Amazonian indigenous people: Ashuar



In March, the Nuimiat Achuar Warush-Wijint Secondary School with Student Dormitory in Peru kicked off the school year with great joy and hope for continuing to educate new generations in learning environments that foster a sense of identity.

Sister Maruja (Local REIBA Coordinator) expresses her commitment to continuing to strengthen a bilingual intercultural education that values the students' own language, culture, and ancestral knowledge, shaping students who are proud of their roots and look toward the future.



## VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

Coordinator: Hna. Lisette Escárte, H.D.M

March saw two significant moments for the coordination team.

The first was the conclusion of the mission of volunteer Martha Chávez (from Mexico), who served and accompanied the Waorani indigenous people in Ecuador alongside the Lauritas Sisters since May 2024. We thank Martha for all the love, empathy, and attentive listening she offered to the Waorani people. May God guide and enlighten her new mission! (image 1)

The second significant moment was Sister Lisette Escárte's participation in the Workshop for teachers from the Amazonian triple border region (Colombia, Brazil, and Venezuela) as a member of the organizing team.

Among the team members, we highlight Sabrina Burgos (Fe y Alegría Colombia) and Getulio Gomez (itinerant team), with whom the preliminary guidelines were established to carry out the workshop with the aim of strengthening Intercultural Bilingual Education in the region.



Image 1



Image 2

We would also like to mention Alfonso Franco (former REIBA-G5 volunteer), who also participated as a REIBA representative and helped organize the three-day workshop. (Image 2)

## I.B.E COMMISSION – INTERCULTURAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Coordinator: Ana Gabriela Jimenez M.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

On Tuesday, March 17, during a session of the 6th General Assembly of CEAMA, Sr. Marbelis Monroy (general coordinator), along with Ana Gabriela Jimenez (EIB coordinator), had the opportunity to present REIBA to the Assembly's guests. (Images 1 and 2)

This session was very enriching for both parties, as the fruits of REIBA's work in the region were shared (image 3), both from the central coordination and through the experiences of the local coordinators present. Likewise, there was a genuine interest on the part of the guests in learning more about how REIBA collaborates with other networks to achieve greater impact.

Also present at the event were bishops and representatives from Porticus, Notre Dame, and the Dicastery for Human Development, among others. (image 4)

From the central coordination office, we hope this motivation remains alive, so that together we can continue to accompany our brothers and sisters in the Amazon region through pastoral care and formation.

## COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Coordinator: Ana Gabriela Jimenez M.

During the 6th General Assembly of CEAMA, REIBA, represented by Ana Gabriela Jimenez, was part of the communications team alongside Fernando Rueda (CEAMA), Gregory Radjiman (AECBishops–Antilles), and Emmanuel Nascimento Barroso (CNBB Regional North 1). This collaborative effort, enriched by the use of Spanish, English, and Portuguese, enabled the timely dissemination of the most relevant news from the Assembly across various digital channels.

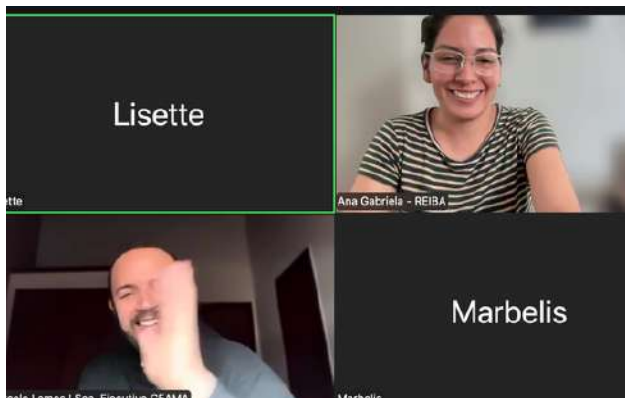


From the Communications Office, we reaffirm that networking not only increases our social media following but also raises awareness of the Church's work in a coordinated manner.

Let us continue to walk together in synodality and strengthen digital evangelization.

As part of the ongoing communication between CEAMA and REIBA, the central coordination team welcomed CEAMA Executive Secretary Marcelo Lemos to one of its weekly meetings in March.

During that meeting, important issues were addressed regarding both the coordination of the initiative and the strengthening of future external partnerships, which will help consolidate the support process for Intercultural Bilingual Education (EIB) currently underway in the region through REIBA's Thematic Training Workshops.





## 6th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CEAMA: A Synodal Path Toward a Church with an Amazonian Face

From March 16 to 19, the 6th General Assembly of CEAMA was held in Bogotá. More than 90 participants gathered at the CELAM facilities, including bishops, men and women religious, laypeople, representatives of Amazonian indigenous peoples, and guests from various Dicasteries.

This ecclesial gathering was experienced as a true sign of communion and synodality, where the diversity of faces and cultures reaffirms that the Amazonian Church does not walk alone, but in deep union with the entire universal Church. From the major cities to the most remote communities, we are all called to feel part of this shared mission, building together a living, accessible, and hopeful Church.

As a network linked to CEAMA, REIBA was represented by its general coordinator, Sr. Marbelis Monroy, and its communications/EIB coordinator, Ana Gabriela Jimenez.

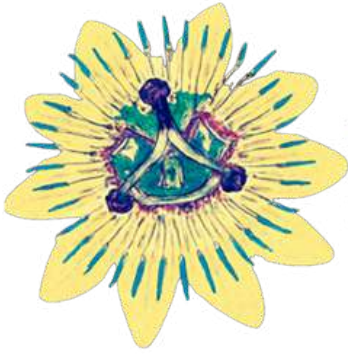


# NOTIREIBA

Amazonian Intercultural Bilingual Education Network



MARCH/2026





## PRESIDENCY OF CEAMA

The REIBA Central Coordination Office congratulates the new CEAMA presidency for the 2026–2030 term, composed of:

- Cardinal Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, OFM – President.
- Fr. Jesús Huamán Conisilla – Vice President representing the clergy.
- Sr. Sonia Pinho de Matos - Vice President representing religious life.
- Ms. Marva Joy Hawksworth - Vice President representing the laity.
- Mr. Juan Urañavi - Vice President representing indigenous peoples.

The Lord has been good to us, granting us a presidency rich in culture, hope, and the desire to be a voice and face for the Amazon, continuing the legacy of the outgoing presidency.

May the Lord always be the guide for each of them, and may we walk together, always finding the best way to strengthen evangelization in the region!



## **WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS AMAZON TRIPLE BORDER (COLOMBIA – BRAZIL – VENEZUELA)**

Over the course of three days (March 30, 31, and April 1), a workshop for teachers from the triple border region (Brazil – Colombia – Venezuela) was held in San Felipe (Puerto Inírida, Colombia). The goal of this gathering was to establish educational coordination in the Amazonian border region, as part of an effort to consolidate a collaborative working model between Fe y Alegría Colombia, REIBA, and the itinerant team in areas of high social, cultural, and geographical complexity, with the aim of strengthening the educational presence in scattered rural border communities. This is not merely a one-time training event, but a foundational moment to:

- Listen to the community.
- Recognize teaching experience.
- Deepen the pedagogical assessment.
- Design a basic plan for sustained support.

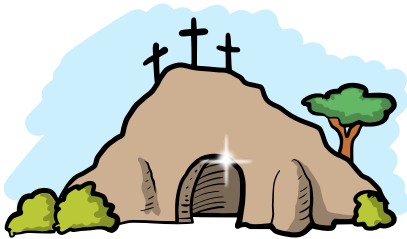


Sister Lisette Escárte, H.D.M., Sandra Robilliard, and Alfonso Franco were part of the organizing team representing REIBA at this workshop, which is so significant for the strengthening of the EIB.



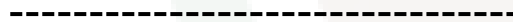
## HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL 2026:

### EASTER 2026



On Sunday, April 5, Easter arrives as a whisper of hope amid all we have experienced. It is a reminder that, even after the darkest days, light always returns. May each new dawn bring with it new opportunities, new beginnings, and the strength to move forward.

May this Easter fill your heart with peace, renew your faith, and inspire you to believe, once again, in the beauty of always starting anew with the help of our Lord..



THEMATIC TRAINING  
SESSIONS 2026

### START OF THE 4TH EDITION OF REIBA THEMATIC TRAINING SESSIONS

On Tuesday, April 7, we will begin the 2026 personalized consultations according to the schedules shared with each of the local REIBA chapters. We remind you of the importance of making progress to get the most out of this training!



### FORUM: AMAZONIAN YOUTH CONNECTED

On Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, two university students from the Waorani people—REIBA Dicaro and Ana Gabriela Jimenez (EIB coordinator)—will participate virtually in the PRE-FORUM “Amazonian Youth in Connection,” organized by the Society of Jesus —Brazil. It will be a space for listening to the diverse realities and youth experiences in the Amazon.



JESUÍTAS BRASIL

## POSTALES DE SEMANA SANTA EN MISIONES REIBA





## ¡¡ FELÍZ PASCUA DE RESURRECCIÓN !!

*Christ, our “victorious King,” fought and won his battle through trusting abandonment to the Father’s will, to his plan of salvation (cf. Mt 26:42). Thus he walked the path of dialogue to the very end, not in words but in deeds: to find us who were lost, he became flesh; to free us who were slaves, he became a slave; to give life to us mortals, he allowed himself to be killed on the cross.*

*The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clods, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat. It is even more like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and, filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense.*

*Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others.*

*Yes, Christ’s resurrection is the beginning of a new humanity; it is the entrance into the true promised land, where justice, freedom, and peace reign, where all recognize one another as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father who is Love, Life, and Light.*

## DONATIONS:

**You too can be part of the network by becoming a REIBA volunteer or supporting us with your donation. Any amount you can contribute goes a long way in helping REIBA's mission!**

### **With your support, we can:**

- Provide thematic training sessions (EFT) for teachers in Amazonian indigenous schools and community education leaders, with the participation of international experts.
- Strengthen the REIBA training program for new volunteer applicants, as well as for local REIBA teams.
- Contribute to the accompaniment and logistical support of our volunteers, both local, national, and international, in their mission locations.
- Reimburse interpreters to facilitate communication at REIBA meetings, considering that we work in Spanish, Portuguese, English, and various indigenous languages.
- Help finance annual visits to the territory by members of the central coordination team, with the aim of learning about the local reality of the communities and schools firsthand, and thus propose support actions in line with the needs of the Amazonian indigenous peoples.





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## VISIT OUR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA



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