

## Press Release

### REPAM Women's Thematic Forum, Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Assembly June 24, 2021

In the context of the listening process of the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean, Núcleo Mujeres of REPAM held today, June 24, the Thematic Forum of Women of the Pan-Amazonian Region.

It counted with the **live participation** through zoom of about **80 women** belonging mostly to the 9 countries that make up the Pan-Amazonian region, and other companions on the road that beats to the rhythm of the Amazon. Prior to this moment of live participation, a total of 173 women had the opportunity to participate in writing by answering a simple questionnaire. Today we reflected on the strength and importance of the feminine face of the Church in our region, and the need to make greater and stronger efforts to bring about changes in the structure of the Church, because without this, any new ministry that is created will reproduce clericalism.

We dream of a **circular, synodal**, intercultural, communitarian, prophetic, **missionary, Samaritan, allied and prayerful Church** that walks together with all its people, and addresses the real and structural difficulties that may affect them. In other words, we want a Church with the "mystique of the we" No. 87 EG. That is why we ratify a collective dream: "**We want a Church that is a discipleship of equals, a synodal Church, where verticality gives place to circularity**".

The invisibility of women is a breeding ground for violence. We claim the need for public recognition of our service, which we want to continue exercising from and as people of God. We are not interested in any power struggle, we simply want the service we have performed to be recognized and the possibility of proclaiming the word publicly, of preaching, to be definitively opened to us out of fidelity to the Gospel. The diaconate of women only needs to be recognized, because it is already exercised in the Amazon. If **only 3 out of 10 representatives in positions of responsibility are women** (mapping REPAM), it is urgent to strengthen the empowerment, the leadership and the various services and ministries which women can exercise in this region.

The presence of women's knowledge and sensitivity in all areas of formation throughout the Church, including seminaries, is essential. Therefore, we insist on the **presence of women in these spaces both as formators** and as those receiving formation, and in spaces of spiritual accompaniment and decision making. Content about women must be inexcusably taught by women and must be present in the curricula of all formations in the Church.

The women of Panamazonia are builders of the Church, and we renew our commitment on this journey towards the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean.

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