



Women
river of life
and Hope



CEAMA
ECCLESIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMAZON



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March 8 – International Women's Day

1 Setting the scene

Preparation of the circular altar on the floor, a sign of equality, sisterhood, and synodality:

- Large container with **water** (life, baptism, Amazon River).
- **Native seeds** (hope and future).
- **Amazonian flowers** (dignity and beauty).
- **Lighted candle** (Christ, light in the history of women).
- If possible: small map of the Amazon or CEAMA symbol.

Amazonian instrumental music playing in the background as the women arrive.

2 Welcome

A woman from the group says:

“ We gather today as Amazonian women, called together by the Spirit, like a river that flows and never stops. We are the memory of resistance, the prophetic voice in the Church, and the hope for our peoples. In the heart of the Amazon, we celebrate the life, dignity, and mission of women. ”

The central candle is solemnly lit.

3 Opening song

Chosen according to the region. It can be a song about:

- Women as bearers of life
- Mother Earth
- Hope
- Mission

(If possible, include an indigenous language).

4 Community sign “Seeds of rights”

Each woman approaches the altar, places a seed or flower, and proclaims aloud:

A right that we must continue to defend or conquer.

- Examples:
 - The right to live without violence.
 - The right to participate in the Church.
 - The right to land and territory.
 - The right to intercultural education.
 - A right that has already been won and for which we are grateful.
 - E.g.: The right to vote, to organize, to educate ourselves, to pastoral representation.

After each intervention, everyone responds: *“Like a seed in fertile soil, it will grow.”*

5 Listening to the Word

Admonition: “Those seeds and flowers we have just placed on the altar are our rights, our struggles, and our dreams. But for the seed to bear fruit, it needs to be watered and fertilized. Therefore, we now move on to Listening to the Word, the water that nourishes our resistance and our missionary commitment.

“Miriam sings after crossing the sea. Her song is born from the memory of a people who have been liberated. It is a woman's song, a prophetic song, a song that encourages us to keep walking” and “At the well, Jesus dialogues with a woman who is thirsty and full of questions. That encounter transforms her into a herald. From dialogue, mission is born.” Let us listen carefully.

First reading

Exodus 15:20-21 Miriam's song

Gospel

John 4:7-15. The Samaritan woman

Brief reflection (5 minutes):

- The Samaritan woman becomes a herald.
- We Amazonian women today are prophets, defenders of the territory, and builders of community.
- The living water that Jesus offers is also the power to transform unjust structures.
- CEAMA is called to listen to and fully recognize the voice and leadership of women

Questions for deeper reflection (15 minutes)

1. What “seas” have we crossed as Amazonian women, and what song of liberation are we called to sing today, like Miriam?
2. What experiences of struggle and resistance in the Amazon have become prophetic songs, like Miriam's?
3. What deep “thirst” do we recognize today in our Amazonian communities—thirst for justice, participation, dignity—and how does Jesus invite us to respond to it?
4. In what areas of the Amazonian Church do we still need to sit by the “well” to dialogue, listen, and break down cultural, social, or ecclesial barriers?
5. What concrete steps are we called to take so that our voice is heard and our mission recognized?

(These are read aloud slowly or handed out in writing to each participant. After each question, there is a considerable pause. Soft background music may be played.)
Moment of silence (A prolonged silence is allowed for personal reflection).

Spontaneous sharing (15 minutes):

This moment can be closed by saying together: “Lord, make us a song of liberation and a source of life for our Amazon.”

Song (selected in advance according to the region and in harmony with the Word)

6 Intercessory prayer

"Let us present our petitions to the Spirit, who makes us a source and presence in the Church. To each intention we respond: Common response: "Bless, Lord, the struggles and dreams of women."

- For indigenous women who defend life and territory.
- For women leaders in the Amazonian Church.
- For victims of violence and trafficking.
- For young women seeking opportunities and training.
- For grandmothers who are guardians of wisdom.
- For CEAMA, that it may walk with a feminine and synodal face.

Spontaneous intercessions may be invited.

7 Blessing of the water and gesture of gratitude

Prayer

"God of life, bless this water, sign of our baptism and of our Amazonian rivers. As we touch it, we remember that we are a spring of hope.

In this moment of gratitude, we contemplate Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is the river where all our struggles flow. Like Miriam, she sang of the liberation of the humble, and like the Samaritan woman, she brought us the Living Water that is her Son. Mary is the Amazonian woman par excellence: guardian of life, defender of the little ones, and mother of our synodal Church.

As we wet our hands, we give thanks to God for Mary and for all the women who, like her, have said 'Yes' to life in our jungle, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities.

Each woman:

1. Wets her hands.
2. Makes the sign of the cross.
3. Says aloud: "I give thanks for _____."

(You can name a significant woman in your life, in your country, or in the Church: a leader, a religious missionary, a defender of the land, a mother, a woman who paved the way for civil or ecclesial rights).

8 Closing song (chosen according to region)

“We say goodbye by singing to Mary. May she, the Mother of the Amazon, teach us to care for life with tenderness and to defend the land with courage. With her, we go forth like a river that transforms the earth.”

9 Sending forth and fraternal sharing

- The group coordinator may say: "May Miriam give you the courage to sing, may the Samaritan woman give you the freedom to dialogue, and may the Spirit make each of you a source of life for the Amazonian Church. **“Under Mary's mantle, let us go forth like a river that transforms the earth. May our voice continue to resonate in the Church and in our peoples.”**
- Sharing: Yuca, plantains, Amazonian fruits, chivé, or other local foods.
- A simple symbol is given: A small seed with a purple ribbon, or a handmade bracelet.
- With the phrase: **“You are a river of life and hope for the Amazon.”**





Message from the **CEAMA Women's Group**

In communion with the mission of the
Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon

Introduction (to be proclaimed by a representative)

Today, March 8, International Women's Day, we gather as women of the Amazon, daughters of this sacred land, defenders of life and servants of the Kingdom.

We are a river that flows amid challenges.

We are the memory of our ancestors.

We are a prophetic voice in the Church and in our peoples.

Inspired by Miriam who sings of liberation and by the Samaritan woman who proclaims living water, we reaffirm our vocation as women of faith, missionary disciples, and builders of justice.

We recognize

- The strength of indigenous women who defend their territory and culture.
- The wisdom of grandmothers who are guardians of memory.
- The leadership of so many women in our church communities.
- The pain of those who suffer violence, exclusion, or imposed silence.

We denounce

- All forms of violence against women.
- The structures that render our voices invisible in the Church and in society.
- The injustices that affect our Amazonian territories.
- The exploitation that threatens the lives of our peoples.

We commit ourselves as the CEAMA Women's Group to:

1. Strengthen the theological, pastoral, and sociopolitical formation of Amazonian women.
2. Promote real spaces for women's participation and leadership in the Church.
3. Accompany women who are victims of violence and exclusion.
4. Defend life, territory, and our Common Home.
5. Walk in synodality, building a Church with an Amazonian and feminine face.

Final community prayer (All together)

Lord of life,
make us a river that does not stop,
a seed that germinates in fertile soil,
a voice that proclaims justice,

hands that sustain hope.
May our Amazon flourish
with dignity for all women.

Amen.



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