



Río de Janeiro, January 14th, 2009
CPAL 09/01

Dear friends
"Pre-Forum Fé'namazônia"

I wish to present a very cordial greeting to all of you, the participants of the "Pre-Forum Fé'namazônia", a meeting which is taking place during these days, just before the 9th World Social Forum 2009 in Belém do Pará. A word of welcome and heartiest wishes for the success of this seminar and your participation in the WSF, an open space for citizens of the world, in view of a different world and the globalization of solidarity.

As chairman of CPAL – The Conference of Jesuit Provincials of Latin America, I joyfully supported, from its very beginning, the initiative of the Jesuits of the Amazon Region and the Social Justice Secretariat (Rome) to carry out this Pre-Forum, in preparation for the World Social Forum. The theme of this Pre-Forum is well chosen: the contribution of our faith, the faith of our people, to protect the life in the Amazon, a ecumenical approach on the common mission of defending and promoting the life of human beings and the life of nature in this vast region, so rich in biodiversity but so threatened in its very existence.

We are especially pleased by the fact that this event takes place in the Amazon Region, since CPAL has chosen this Region as a priority, as stated in our founding document "Principle and Horizon of our Apostolic Mission in Latin America". It is my hope that this Forum may attract attention to this strategic Region, so that it may count upon more and better resources to accomplish his projects.

The global crisis we are experiencing confirms our belief that another world is not only possible but necessary and urgent, as goes the motto of the WSF. This crisis emerged from an economic or financial basis, but it is basically ethical and moral, it is a crisis of vision and solidarity. We must mobilize our best spiritual energies and articulate them in movements and networks that can influence the decisions that affect the present and the future of life not only in the Amazon but the life of the entire planet.

May God enlighten your discussions and support your mission.

Best wishes,

Ernesto Cavassa, S.J.
Presidente CPAL