

Prefect visits the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*

On 8th July in Lima (Peru) the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Card. Giuseppe Versaldi, presided at the inauguration of the new Rector of the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*, Dr. Carlos Garatea Grau, who had been chosen according to the University's Statutes and approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education, which is the competent Dicastery for Catholic and Ecclesiastical Universities throughout the world.

The Statutes of the University, in agreement with the Holy See, were signed and subsequently definitively approved on 1st July 2018. As the Cardinal said in his speech, these Statutes are the fruit of overcoming difficulties and lack of understanding that had existed between the two parties. Thankfully, since then, the climate of trust and collaboration has grown. This result, as the Prefect said, has allowed us to celebrate the inauguration of the new Rector, with the same spirit of trust and hope.

The criteria that must inspire Catholic universities when facing new challenges, according to the Cardinal, are the following: 1) the dialogue between faith and reason; 2) service not only to the Church, but also to the whole of society, so that the truly holistic progress of humanity is established, which eliminates injustice and exclusion; 3) the witness to charity that should permeate the University community starting from the example of those who have greater responsibility in Catholic Universities. Through these three essential elements, the Catholic identity of the University is demonstrated, avoiding, on the one hand, the defensive vision that prevents true dialogue and, on the other, the temptation to secularize the institution with what could be simply called as the relativistic and individualistic view of its mission. An example of true dialogue is the recent document published by the Congregation for Catholic Education on the question of Gender.