

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTORY
OF THE CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES**

Rome, January 2001

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INTRODUCTION

Our vocation in the Church as Claretians is essentially missionary. *"And so in the Church we have to manifest Christ's virginity, poverty and obedience in proclaiming the Good News"*¹. Our objective as followers of Jesus is to allow ourselves to be penetrated by the Spirit in such a way and to such an extent that *"it will no longer be we who live, but Christ who truly lives in us"*, because, as the Constitutions tell us, *"this is the only way in which we will become effective instruments in proclaiming the kingdom of heaven"*². In order to most effectively communicate the grace of the kingdom to others, we have to strive attain the full maturity of Christ³.

The person of Jesus is absolutely central in our missionary vocation. Christ is the Way by which we come to the Father and by which we can unite ourselves with Him, knowing his salvific plans and participating in the mission of His Son. *"From the union with Christ love for the neighbor flows and becomes effective for the the salvation of the world and the building up of the Church"*⁴. Thus impelled by the love of Christ, like our Founder, we can think of nothing but following and imitating Christ *"in praying, working, enduring and striving constantly for the greater glory of God and the salvation of humankind"*⁵ Prayer is a basic element in the disciple of Jesus.

In prayer we establish a dialogue of love and faith with Christ and with the Father, which makes us know and love them better and and accept more fully the demand of Jesus' mission. We cannot do more than Jesus did: proclaiming the kingdom in intimate communion with the Father, desiring and acquiring for all humankind *"the blessedness of the kingdom already begun here on earth"*⁶. Thus –as the Constitutions state - *"We who have undertaken Christ's Missionary work should also imitate his constancy in prayer and take to heart his recommendations and teachings on prayer without ceasing. For this reason, we should cultivate the spirit of adoptive sonship whereby we cry: "Abba, Father". Led by the light of faith, we should search for signs of his will in what happens in our lives, thus growing daily more responsive to our mission"*⁷.

St. Anthony Mary Claret, as Founder of our Congregation, received a charism from the Holy Spirit he could transmit to the members of the Institute. As Father of each one of us, he is the model and paradigm for all Claretians, and teacher of our special spirituality in the Church. The Claretian vocation is a personal vocation for radically living the Christian life. Our spirituality does not differ from the Gospel spirituality the Church follows, but emphasizes some aspects of it, applies them in special ways that help in living the entire Gospel and gives originality to our Christian life: *Whoever "professes the evangelical counsels finds special help in them for living the fullness of the mystery of Christ as also in the spirituality peculiar to the Institute and the apostolic dimension of the charism that corresponds to it"*⁸.

¹ CC 5.

² CC 39.

³ cf. CC 51.

⁴ PC 6.

⁵ CC 9.

⁶ CC 40.

⁷ CC 33-34.

⁸ VC 30.

Prayer is the expression of one's own faith according to one's own vocation. The Liturgy of the Hours, the public prayer of the Church, has us proclaim and meditate on the Word of God and respond to the Lord using his very own Word. As our Constitutions (n. 35) indicate, the Church *"offers the faithful a portrayal of the total mystery of Christ in the liturgy"* Thus it especially urges *"during sacred seasons and on feast days, we should try to attune our prayers to the spirit of the Church"*.

By virtue of our special vocation, certain aspects of the liturgy, like certain aspects of the life of Christ, will have greater resonance in our apostle's heart, as can be seen in the psalm-prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours that are proper to our Congregation.

No matter what the form, *"in order for liturgical piety to be the basis and source of a vigorous spiritual life, we need to be adequately instructed and able to easily understand its meaning and spontaneously express our personal piety through it"*⁹.

Nonetheless, the prayer activity of the Church and the Congregation is not confined to liturgical prayer. Rather, other forms of prayer are derived from it and lead into it. Our Founder indicates forms that are in keeping with the character of our missionary vocation and which have been adapted by Chapters and Superiors to various times and places¹⁰.

Despite all the contingencies of time and culture that have affected our charism, *"our acts of piety should express the characteristics of our Claretian spiritual heritage, in keeping with the guidelines of the Church. Among the characteristic elements inherited from our Father Founder, the following stand out: his Christocentrism, his Eucharistic piety, his love for the Word of God, his way of living Cordimarian sonship in close relationship with his missionary vocation, his devotion to the Apostles, and to the saints who were especially distinguished for their apostolic zeal"*¹¹.

*"As a frame of reference our spirituality must be rooted even more deeply in the perspective of mission. Our exigencies and options for evangelization form an integral part of Claretian spirituality. They shape it as a spirituality that is missionary, inculturated, prophetic, identified with the poor, and aimed at multiplying agents of evangelization. These same exigencies and options awaken within us attitudes of availability, exodus, itinerancy and docility to the Spirit"*¹².

*"The Claretian evangelizer should draw inspiration for his pattern of life from Mary, who listens attentively to the Word, ponders it in her Heart and commits herself actively to the interest of the Kingdom. Like Claret, Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit, conforms us to her Son, who is the living Gospel of God. She is our formation guide and director for the work of evangelization"*¹³.

⁹ PE 134.

¹⁰ cf VR 115; VC 42: *"of particular importance are Chapters or similar meetings, whether particular or general, in which each Institute should ... discern in the light of the Spirit an appropriate way of persevering and actualizing its own charism and its own spiritual heritage in different historical and cultural conditions"*.

¹¹ Dir 84.

¹² CPR 52.

¹³ MCH 150.

“Under the maternal action of Mary, we learn to accept the Word, to give it a body of commitment to life and to communicate it with the same readiness and generosity that she did. Under her protection we grow in brotherhood and acquire the strength of mind we need in difficult moments.

Looking to Mary, we realize that the change for which humankind yearns has already taken place in her, in a privileged manner, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified her and made her the Mother of God-with-us. Her womanly and motherly consciousness was fully evangelized.

Thje presence of Mary in the Claretian family should bring light and fruitfulness to our urgent and effective endeavors as missionaries and servants of the Word. She is the star of evangelization”¹⁴.

In 1955 the General Government approved a new edition of the Spiritual Directory in place of the one the Congregation had used since 1899. Fr. Schweiger, in presenting it, explains that it is a revised and amplified edition *"meant to faithfully respect our traditional practices and devotions, and also to respect healthy progress that benefits from the good and new things we find in our spirituality in order to add to the spiritual treasure house of the Congregation"*¹⁵. With the implementation of the directives of Vatican II and the special Chapter of 1967, this Directory fell into disuse.

In recent years traditional prayers of the Congregation have been published in various Organisms or on the occasion of special celebrations. “Claretian Prayerbooks” have proliferated everywhere. In its Plan of Action, the General Government considered advantageous *"preparing editions in different languages of the prayerbook and liturgical texts of the Congregation"*¹⁶. In preparing this prayerbook an abundance of material was gathered. It was deemed appropriate to include the rich teaching contained in our documents, as was done in the Directory of 1957, in regard to orientation and motivation. What resulted was more than a simple prayerbook and was better contained in a new “Spiritual Directory”.

This Directory is offered to the whole Congregation with the hope it will be useful for orienting and facilitating the prayer of the Missionaries, both personal and communal, from the ecclesial and charismatic presuppositions of our spirituality. While taking into account the most common practices that take place in our communities, it also offers certain practices that are found in different Rituals, not always taking place in communities.

Rome, 1 October 2000

¹⁴ MCH 151.

¹⁵ *Directorio espiritual de la Congregación de Misioneros Hijos del Inmaculado Corazón de María*, Madrid 1957, p. 5.

¹⁶ Area of spirituality, line 4, point 7.

I. CLARETIAN CALENDAR

JANUARY¹⁷

17.- Venerable Mother María Antonia París de San Pedro (+ Reus, 1885)

25.- Conversion de St. Paul

FEBRUARY

1. – Assassination Attempt at Holguín (Cuba, 1856)

4. – Death of Venerable Fr. Jaime Clotet, Cofounder (+ Barcelona 1898)

11.- Definitive Approval of the Constitutions (1870) and the Revised Ones (1982)

16.- Arrival of Archbishop Claret in Cuba (1851)

25.- Beatification of Father Claret (1934)

MARCH

16.- Beginning of the Triduum to St. Joseph

18.- Death of Fr. Esteban Sala, Cofounder (+ Barcelona 1858)

19.- Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Congregation

APRIL

25.- Servant of God Fr. Andrés Solá (+ Mexico, 1927)

¹⁷ This calendar only includes important dates for our Holy Founder, the dates of the deaths of the Cofounders and the Servants of God, the feasts of the co-patrons of the Congregation and of the saints that are included in the liturgical calendar, as well as the date of the death of Mother María Antonia París, foundress of the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (Claretian Missionary Sisters) because of the personal relationship she had to Fr. Claret.

29.- St. Catherine of Siena, Patroness of the Congregation

MAY

3. – Sts. Philip and James, Apostles, Patrons of the Congregation

7. - Canonization of St. Anthony Mary Claret (1950)

13.- Declaration of the Heroic Virtues of Fr. Jaime Clotet (1989)

14.- St. Matthias, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

14.- Death of Venerable Fr. Mariano Avellana (+ Carrizal Alto, Chile, 1904)

22.- *St. Joaquina de Vedruna*¹⁸

*Saturday following 2nd Sunday after Pentecost.- Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Titular and Patroness of the Congregation*¹⁹

JUNE

13.- Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Solsona, 1835)

15.- *St. María Micaela of the Blessed Sacrament*

29.- Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Patrons of the Congregation

JULY

3. – St. Thomas, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

16.- *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation (Vic, 1849)*

25.- St. James, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

27.- Servant of God, Fr. José M. Ruiz Cano (+ Sigüenza, 1936)

28.- Servants of God, Fr. Tomás Cordero and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Fernán Caballero, 1936)

¹⁸ Feasts in italics have an office and Mass proper to the Congregation.

¹⁹ Because of appropriateness or local tradition, the Solemnity of the Heart of Mary may be celebrated with the people on another date.

29.- Servants of God, Fr. Cándido Casals and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Barcelona, 1936)

31.- St. Ignatius of Loyola, Patron of the Congregation

AUGUST

1. – St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori, Patron of the Congregation

7. – Servants of God, Fr. José Arner and His Companions, Martyrs (+Vic, Spain, 1936)

13.- *Bl. Felipe de Jesús Munárriz and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Barbastro, 1936)*

13.- Servant of God, Br. Fernando Saperas (+ Tárrega, 1936)

13.- Servants of God Marceliano Alonso and His Companions (+Valencia, 1936)

17.- Servant of God, Br. Pedro Marcé (+ Santiago de Chile, 1927)

24.- St. Bartholomew, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

26.- Preservation of the Sacramental Species by the Holy Founder (La Granja, Segovia 1861)

27.- Founding of the Religious of Mary Immaculate (Claretian Missionary Sisters) in Cuba (1855)

SEPTEMBER

5. – Servants of God, Fr. Mateo Casals and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Province of Barcelona, 1936)

27.- Death of Fr. Manuel Vilaró, Cofounder (+Vic, 1852)

29.- Sts. Michael, Rafael and Gabriel, Patrons of the Congregation

30.- Servant of God, Fr. Francisco Crusats, First Martyr of the Congregation (+ La Selva del Camp, 1868)

OCTOBER

2. – Guardian Angels, Patrons of the Congregation

6. – Episcopal Ordination of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic, 1850)

7. – Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

- 14.- Servants of God, Fr. Joaquín Gelada and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Castro Urdiales, 1936)
- 15.- St. Teresa of Jesus, Patroness of the Congregation
- 16.- Servant of God, Br. Miguel Palau (+ Cervera, 1929)
- 19.- Servants of God, Fr. Jaime Girón and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Cervera, 1936)
- 21.- Beginning of the Triduum to the Holy Founder
- 23.- Fr. Mariano Avellana is Declared Venerable (1987)
- 24.- *Solemnity of St. Anthony M. Claret, Founder of Our Congregation*
- 25.- Anniversary of the Beatification of the Martyrs of Barbastro (1992)
- 27.- Death of Fr. Domingo Fábregas, Cofounder (+ Solsona, 1895)
- 29.- Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles, Patrons of the Congregation

NOVEMBER

- 3.- Death of Fr. José Xifré, Cofounder and 3rd Superior General (+ Cervera 1899)
- 5.- Commemoration of the Deceased Members of the Congregation, Families and Benefactors
- 11.- Servants of God, Federico Vila and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Torredembarra, 1936)
- 30.- San Andrew, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

DECEMBER

- 22.- First Approval of the Constitution by Pius IX (1865)
- 23.- Birth of Fr. Claret (Sallent, 1807)
- 27.- St. John the Evangelist, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

II. CLARETIAN PRAYERS

"Before we dutifully proclaim the Lord's Word, we should first listen to it in attentive meditation and also share it with our brothers so that we ourselves may be converted to the Gospel, become conformed to Christ and set afire with his love, the force that should impel us. Finally, in our prayers and petitions, we should intercede with God for the Church and for the life of the world.

In the first place, everyday we should wholeheartedly celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist, keeping close to Christ our Lord as he proclaims the words of life, offers himself for his brothers and sisters, honors his Father and builds up the unity of the Church. We should cherish conversation with Christ our Lord by visiting and worshipping him in the Holy Eucharist, as well as by faithfully offering daily prayer in the name of the Church"²⁰

Community prayer plays an important role in providing necessary spiritual support. Each member of the community has the right to be aided by the presence and example of other members in prayer. Each one has the privilege and obligation of praying with the others and participating in liturgy with them. This mutual help empowers us for living our missionary life²¹. When the Constitutions (n. 37) say that *"daily prayer, faithfully made, is a primary need for both the community and the individual missionary; therefore, it should be given priority in our life "* it is not making an arbitrary statement, but one that fulfills the purpose of being a sure guide for our personal fidelity.

This principle translates to mean that each missionary should dedicate himself to spending some time *"daily in mental prayer, an hour when possible, [and] in spiritual reading, especially from the Scriptures "*²² and that each community should devote *"every day ... a minimum of half an hour to prayer, preferably with the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours "*²³.

The Chapter of 1967 declared that the recitation of Lauds and Vespers or Compline should be community acts in every community²⁴. The Chapter of 1973 developed this idea and specified that the minimum demanded was the recitation of the "Liturgy of the Hours" or some other community prayer for the space of approximately half an hour. This Chapter urges *"going beyond the minimum the Constitutions establishes to be adequate "* and consider being *"aware of many fitting forms for manifesting and publicly requiring express acts of community or personal prayer "*²⁵.

There is a need to collectively express, through prayer, what our special charism is in the Church. Recovering traditional prayers or putting the essential elements of our vocation into a prayer form is a way to enrich our prayer life and an excellent teaching method for identifying with our charism and reaffirming our dedication to it.

²⁰ CC 34-35.

²¹ cf. Essential Elements, n. 30.

²² CC 37; cf. Essential Elements, n. 20.

²³ Dir 85.

²⁴ Cf. VR 121

²⁵ 2VR, appendix V, 3

At the conclusion of Lauds or Vespers, and the recitation of the Angelus or a Marian antiphon, it would be good, if possible, to recite some of the prayers which follow in this Spiritual Directory: *"the law of praying establishes the law of believing "*. So also these prayers serve to *"daily renew our resolution to advance in the way of the Lord "* (CC 52), to renew the special, charismatic way of our spirituality.

1. PRAYERS OF THE FOUNDER TO GOD THE FATHER AND TO CHRIST²⁶

1. O Lord, let everyone come to know
how good you are
and how close you are to them
that they may love and serve you with unwavering fidelity
for you are good and your mercy is infinite ²⁷ .

2. O Lord, may you be blessed for your providence
and the care you have always shown me wherever I have been²⁸

3. Because you are so good, my Father,
I want nothing more than to know your holy will
So that I may do it;
Nothing more than to love you
With all my heart
And serve you with all fidelity.
Father, give me the constant grace
To know what pleases you,
And the strength of will
To put it into effect
Amen²⁹ .

4. Blessed are you, Lord, for being so loving and merciful to me.
Make me love and serve you
And make all creatures love and serve you³⁰ .

5. O my God!
Grant me apostolic charity,
That I may do everything forcefully yet gently,
With meekness and love³¹ .

6. Jesus, give me the grace to imitate you faithfully
in practicing all the virtues.
With you I can do all things, and absolutely nothing without you³² .

7. My Lord, you are my love, my honor, my hope, my refuge.
You are my life, my glory, my goal, my Master, my Father, my love³³ .

²⁶ cf Aut 42.

²⁷ cf Aut 42.

²⁸ cf Aut 125.

²⁹ cf Aut 136.

³⁰ cf Aut 152.

³¹ cf Aut 383.

³² cf Aut 437.

³³ cf Aut 444.

8. Thank you, Lord for your kindness,
because you use every means to bring sinners back.
Blest be your providence, that always watches over me.
Now and forever I will sing your eternal mercy³⁴.

9. Here I am, Lord,
if you want make me an instrument to proclaim your kingdom.
Lord, let me eat in order to gain energy and serve you better;
Let me use the things of this world as needs require,
Let me study to know and serve you better and to help my brothers and sisters;
Let me rest to regain the strength I have used up and serve you better³⁵.

10. Lord, you are my love, my honor, my hope, my refuge.
You are my glory and my goal. My Master, My Father.
Help me to seek nothing more than you
Nor to know anything but your holy will and how to fulfill it.
I want you alone, and in you, by you and for you all other things.
You are more than enough for me.
Make me love you as you love me and as you would have me love you³⁶.

11. I want to love you, my God,
with all my heart, with all my being, with all my strength:
I consecrate to you my thoughts, desires, words and actions,
Whatever I have and whatever I can be.
Let me use what I have for your greater honor and glory according to your will³⁷.

12. Fire that forever blazes and never goes out,
love that forever burns and never grows cold,
embrace me that I may love you.
I love you, Jesus with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my strength.
O that I may love you more and that all may love you.
O that you might be loved by me and by all your creatures.
Most Holy Virgin, grant me the favor
That all may be saved and no one condemned³⁸.

13. Lord, as water is mingled with wine in the Eucharist,
So I want to unite myself to you and offer myself with you to the Most Blessed
Trinity³⁹.

14. I beg you, Lord, because of my human frailty,
To send me your Spirit to enlighten me and enkindle your love within me,
To guide me and lead me along the right path of Jesus Christ

³⁴ cf Aut 487.

³⁵ cf Aut 744.

³⁶ cf Aut 754-756.

³⁷ cf Camino Recto 76-77.

³⁸ cf EA 706.

³⁹ cf EA 549.

And of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and my mother⁴⁰ .

15. I believe, Lord, but let me believe more firmly.
I hope, Lord, but let me hope more surely.
I love, Lord, but let me love more ardently.
I repent, Lord, but let me repent more deeply.
I beg you, Lord, what do you want me to do?
Teach me to fulfill your will, for you are my God.
Give me an understanding heart in order to judge your people,
To distinguish right from wrong.
Father, give me humility, meekness,
Chastity, patience and charity.
Father, teach me goodness, knowledge and discipline.
Father, give me your love, together with your grace, and I will be rich enough.

My God, my Jesus, my all.
On the cross I have lived and on the cross I wish to die,
And from the cross I hope to come down,
not by my own hands, but by the hands of others,
after my sacrifice has been consumed.
God forbid that I should glory
Save in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world.
Amen⁴¹ .

16. *Exercise on the love of God:*
My God, be the God you are and have always been:
I find joy in whatever you are.
You have infinite power:
Be the all-powerful God you are.
You have infinite wisdom:
May you be praised;
Be the infinite wisdom you are.
You have infinite goodness,
Infinite charity, and infinite forgiveness.
Lord, be the infinite goodness,
Charity and forgiveness you are.
Lord, be the infinite mercy,
providence and generosity you are.
Lord, you are glorious and blessed without end;
Be as glorious and blessed as you are.

You, Lord, are Three and One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Three distinct persons and one true God;
Be three and one as you are.
You are our savior and glorifier

⁴⁰ Cf. EA 618.

⁴¹ Cf. Aut 655-658.

And that of all creatures, may you be praised.

You, Lord are universal Lord
Who are loved, praised and served by the angels
And the blessed in heaven and by the people on earth;
Be Lord of all,
And may all in heaven and on earth love,
Praise, and serve you without end.

Heart of Jesus, love God for me.
Heart of Mary, love God for me.
Heart of all the saints, love God for me.
All you choirs of angels, love God for me.
All creatures, love God for me.

Divine fire that always burns and is never extinguished,
Heart of Jesus, that always burns and never grows cold,
Make my heart always burn with the fire of divine love⁴².

2. PRAYERS TO THE HEART OF MARY

a) Prayers of the Holy Founder

17. Claretian Litany of Invocations to Mary⁴³

Holy Mary, Daughter of the Father - R/. Pray for us
Holy Mary, Mother of the Son
Holy Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit
Terminus and crowning of the Trinity
God's Delight
Most perfect work of God

Conceived in grace
In whom the omnipotence, wisdom and goodness of God shines
Conceived in grace, strengthened by grace and full of grace
Free of all stain of sin
Most illustrious and chosen creature
Purified and sanctified at her conception
Preserved from all guilt
Free from all stain of sin
Heir of heaven

Strengthened by grace
Raised to almost infinite dignity

⁴² cf. Camino Recto, Ejercicios de amor de Dios; lo que debemos pedir a Dios. Ed. 1930, p. 208.

⁴³ Taken from various writings of the Holy Founder.

Full of grace
Most pure and most loving
Raised to almost infinite dignity

Mother of God and of all people
Mother of God incarnate
True Mother
Spiritual Mother
Mother of Fair Love
Mother of Charity
Mother, Teacher and Directress
Mother of Piety and Mercy
Mother of the living
Gentle Mother
Mother, Teacher and Directress
Mother who received us from God as sons
Formatrix and Guide of apostles and missionaries
Mother and advocate of sinners
Mother, healing, strength and comfort

Dispenser of mercies
Channel of grace
Protectress of the weak
Polestar for navigators
Health of the sick
Courage of the dying
Rescuer of captives
Special advocate
Comfort of the afflicted
Polestar for navigators
Health of the sick
Courage of the dying
Dispenser of mercies
Stairway to heaven
Window on paradise

Queen and empress of heaven and earth
Queen of heaven and earth
Queen and mistress of grace
Heart of the Church
Heart of the Christian world

18. Virgin and Mother of God⁴⁴,
turn your eyes of mercy towards us
who are in this valley of tears,
and who are entrusted to you as your sons.
Help us to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom
With fidelity and courage

⁴⁴ Aut 154-156.

Because there are many opposed to him
Out of ambition for power, or desire for riches or lust for pleasures⁴⁵.
Make me ready to cooperate with your maternal role
In the apostolic mission.

19. God hails you, Immaculate Mary⁴⁶, Daughter of God the Father,
God hails you, Immaculate Mary, Mother of God's Son.
God hails you, Immaculate Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.
God hails you Mary, mother and advocate of sinners.
Blest are you among women.
You are the glory of Jerusalem,
The joy of Israel and the honor of your people.
You are the protectress of the weak,
Comfort of the afflicted, and polestar for navigators.
You are the health of the sick, the courage of the dying,
And the gate of heaven.
You are, after Jesus Christ, the blessed fruit of your womb,
All our hope.
O clement, O loving, O sweet and Immaculate Mary.

20. Mother of Divine Love⁴⁷

O Mary, my Mother, Mother of Divine Love!
I can ask for nothing more pleasing to you
Nor anything you are more ready to grant
Than the love of God.
Grant me this, my Mother and my love.
Mother, I am hungry and thirsty for love.
Help me, satisfy me need.
O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love,
Kindle in me the love of God and neighbor!

21. Missionary Son of Mary⁴⁸

O Virgin Mother of God,
you are well aware that we are yours sons and ministers,
formed by you
in the forge of your mercy and love.
We are like arrows poised in your mighty hand.
Release us, our Mother,
Against what opposes the kingdom of God.
Trusting in your protection,
We proclaim the Gospel
Armed only with the Word of God,
And the title of Sons of your Immaculate Heart.
Mother, yours will be the victory.
Amen.

⁴⁵ cf. CC 46.

⁴⁶ La Inmaculada victoriosa 3-4.

⁴⁷ Aut. 447.

⁴⁸ Aut. 270-271.

b) Prayers of the Congregation

21. Conformity to Christ⁴⁹

Lord our God,
Who chose the ever Virgin Mary
As Mother of your Son and our Mother;
Grant that, by faithfully dedicating ourselves to her maternal heart,
We may conform ourselves more fully to Christ
And imitate her cooperation in the saving work of her Son
Dedicating ourselves with greater generosity
To the apostolic mission of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel
In order to love you above all things
And help our brothers and sisters who are most in need
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

22. Litanies of the Virgin Mary

(based on the Constitutions)

O Mary, the Sons of your Immaculate Heart,
by your obedience of faith and your burning love
proclaim you Blessed,
and we call upon you:
- Mother of God and our Mother.
- Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord sent by the Father.
- Mother of the Word, made flesh by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Mother of the Son anointed to bring God's News to the poor.
- Foundress, Patroness and Titular of our Congregation.
- First disciple of Christ.
- Our model for the following of Jesus.
- First among the poor of the Lord.
- Handmaid consecrated totally to the person and work of your Son.
- Mother and Teacher of Missionaries.
- Formatrix of Apostles.

Let us pray:

O Mary, because we call ourselves, and truly are, the Sons of your Immaculate Heart,
We venerate you with love and confidence
And we give ourselves to You so that you may conform us to Christ
And thus cooperate with your maternal role in the apostolic mission.
Amen.

23 Self-giving to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God!
I dedicate myself as your son;

⁴⁹ CC 8.

And in the honor and glory of your purity,
I consecrate to you my body and soul,
My appetites and feelings,
And I beg you to grant me the grace
Of never sinning again. Amen.
Mother, behold your son.
Mother, behold your son.
Mother, behold your son.
In You, my sweetest Mother, I have put all my trust;
Let me never be put to shame. Amen.

24. Filial and Apostolic Prayer to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God!,
I dedicate myself as you son and servant.
I consecrate myself to your maternal love
That you may form Jesus in me,
The Son sent by the Father,
And anointed by the Holy Spirit
To proclaim Good News to the poor.
I place myself in your hands
That you might send me to all people,
Your sons and daughters and my brothers and sisters.
Let me reveal the Father to them.
Teach me to treasure the Word in my heart, as you did,
Until it transforms me into the Gospel of God.
Make me a docile instrument of your maternal love,
That I may engender new sons and daughters for the Gospel.

Mother, here is your son. Form me.
Mother, here is your son. Send me.
Mother, here is your son. Speak through me. Love through me .
Keep me in your Heart,
That having proclaimed the Gospel to others,
I may not be excluded from the kingdom.
In you, my Mother,
I have put my trust.
Let me never be put to shame. Amen.

25. Litanies to the Heart of Mary

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world.

God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God.

Heart of Mary – *Ever Immaculate*
Heart of Mary – *Full of grace*
Heart of Mary – *Blessed among all hearts*
Heart of Mary – *Most like the Heart of Jesus*
Heart of Mary – *That holds the covenants of God with humankind*
Heart of Mary – *Depth of humility*
Heart of Mary – *Throne of mercy*
Heart of Mary – *Furnace of divine love*
Heart of Mary – *Who loves the Father with a daughter's love*
Heart of Mary – *Who loves the Son with a mother's love*
Heart of Mary – *Who loves the Holy Spirit with a spouse's love*
Heart of Mary – *Sea of goodness and mercy*
Heart of Mary – *Whose desires advanced the salvation of the world*
Heart of Mary – *Who attains graces for sinners*
Heart of Mary – *Who faithfully preserves the words and actions of Jesus*
Heart of Mary – *Pierced by a sword of sorrow*
Heart of Mary – *Nailed to the cross with the crucified Christ*
Heart of Mary – *Alive with joy at the resurrection of Jesus*
Heart of Mary – *Filled with a new fullness of grace at the coming of the Holy Spirit*
Heart of Mary – *Comfort of the afflicted*
Heart of Mary – *Hope and sustainer of the Church on its journey to the Father*
Heart of Mary – *Help of the dying*
Heart of Mary – *Lap for God and for humankind*
Heart of Mary – *Font of perfect friendship*
Heart of Mary – *Forge of love that creates Jesus in us*
Heart of Mary – *Invincible rock of faith*
Heart of Mary – *Our Mother and Formatrix*
Heart of Mary – *Hope of the world*
Heart of Mary – *Dwelling place of God, filled with his glory*

26. Thanksgiving through the Heart of Mary⁵⁰

We give you thanks, Father most holy,
For giving the Virgin Mary a wise and docile heart,
Always ready to please you,
A heart renewed and humble,
On which you engraved the law of the new covenant;
A heart simple and pure,
That you made worthy for the virginal conception of your Son
And enabled to contemplate you forever;
A heart firm and ready
To courageously support the sword of sorrow
And to await, full of faith, the resurrection of your Son.
Give us a heart wise and docile, renewed and humble,

⁵⁰ Cf. Preface of the Mass of the Heart of Mary, in *Misal y ritual de la profesión de los Misioneros Hijos del Inmaculado Corazón de María*, Barcelona 1998, pg. 17.

Simple and pure, firm and ready,
That we may imitate her and cooperate more faithfully in your saving work.
Amen.

27. Dedication to the Heart of Mary

Mother of the Lord, Heart of Mary!
You who presided as Foundress
Over the founding of our Congregation,
Always be our inspiration
And the heart of our Congregation,
So necessary for contemplation and for new dreams.
In this world, so loved by the Father,
And so beset by unbelief and injustice;
Speak for us
And testify through our lives
To the message of the kingdom.
Mother of the Lord,
Pray that the Spirit, who impels us toward a new world,
Will come to us.
Mother, with your Heart
Pray for us!
Intercede for us!

28. Offering to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,:
I entrust myself to your maternal love
That you may make me a missionary
In the image and likeness of your Son, sent by the Father,
To proclaim Good News to the poor.
Teach me to believe, love and serve like you.
Make me generous and grateful
So that I may joyfully live
The gift of my missionary vocation.
Amen.

29. Heart of Mary⁵¹

Lord God,
You chose Mary ever Virgin
To be the Mother of your Son and our Mother:
Grant that we who faithfully entrust ourselves to her maternal heart,
May be more fully conformed to Christ
So that, impelled by his charity,
We may devote ourselves more generously
To proclaiming the Gospel to all people.

⁵¹ Opening prayer of the Mass of the Solemnity of the Heart of Mary, in *Misal y Ritual de la profesión* (Barcelona 1998) pg. 15.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

30. Mother and Teacher ⁵²

O Mary, Mother and Teacher of Missionaries,
Pray that we Claretians
May always bear the same spirit
As our elder brother, Jesus;
That we may know how to share “in Congregation”
Our life and mission,
And that we may be universal men,
With penetrating eyes and ears attentive
To the urgent cries of our world.

That as Sons of your Heart,
We may be men of mercy,
Tenderness, compassion and promptness
In proclaiming the Word,
Listened to, pondered, and made effective in our interior life.

That we may not cease to train ourselves to be open
To new missionary horizons
And to endue ourselves with the power of inculturation
So much a part of our Claretian charism.

That we may be docile and expert
In accepting what is different
And in living despite differences
Of origin, race, nationality, language, culture, family and age.

That the apostolic charity
That springs forth from the furnace of your Heart
May form us to recognize no barriers
And, at the same time, make us able
To make our daily work meaningful
In the various contexts
In which the Spirit places us.
Amen.

31. Invocation of Mary, Mother of the Church ⁵³

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
We entrust to you the entire Church.

Remember all your sons and daughters; make their prayer effective before God;
Preserve them solid in faith; strengthen their hope and increase their charity.

⁵² A. Bocos, “Toward a Renewed Missionary Commitment”

⁵³ Paul VI.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart the whole human race:
Lead them all to know the one true Savior, Christ Jesus;
Free them from the punishment for sin;
Grant the whole world true and lasting peace,
In justice, in freedom and in love.

And make the whole Church raise to the God of mercies
A hymn of joy, thanksgiving and rejoicing,
For the wonders the Lord has worked through you,
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

32. Ejaculations

- Sweet Heart of Mary
R/. Be my salvation.

- Heart of Mary
R/. Intercede for us.

Mary, Heart of the Church
R/. Pray for us.

Mother and Formatrix of Apostles
R/. Pray for us.

3. PRAYERS TO OUR HOLY FOUNDER

33. St. Anthony Mary Claret

Lord, our God,
You chose St. Anthony Mary Claret
To be the Founder of our religious family
And you set him on fire with your love,
So that he joyfully welcomed slanders and sufferings.
In your mercy grant that,
Holding firmly to his teachings,
We may proclaim your glory to the ends of the earth
And always seek with zealous care
The salvation of all peoples.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen⁵⁴.

34. To Our Holy Father Founder

Our glorious Father and Founder,
St. Anthony Mary Claret,

⁵⁴ Opening prayer from the Mass of St. Anthony Mary Claret, in Misal y ritual de profesión de los Misioneros Hijos Misioneros del Inmaculado Corazón de María, Barcelona 1998, pg. 24.

Who, by the ardent filial love your professed for the Most Blessed Sacrament
And the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Worked such great marvels in the Church
For God's glory and the salvation of souls:
Obtain for us the favor
That, burning with the same loves that you did,
And carrying on most effectively your evangelizing work,
We may deserve to live and die in this Congregation
As worthy Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Amen⁵⁵.

35. Our Father and Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret,
zealous apostle of the glory of God and the salvation of souls,
grant us the ardent charity that burned in your heart
that we may continue your apostolic work intensely and effectively .
Let us increase the number of your sons
in order to expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
and, at the moment of our death,
we may deserve to be called "faithful servants" of Christ and of the Gospel.
Amen⁵⁶.

4. FOR THE CONGREGATION

36. Prayer for the Day of the Founding

O Mary, Mother most holy,
You granted St. Anthony Mary Claret, our father,
A great love for the Lord
And an apostolic concern
For the salvation of all the peoples of the earth.

From childhood on, you led him
To deeper and deeper knowledge of the mystery of Christ.
Impelled by charity, he dedicated himself to proclaiming the Gospel.
He bore both hardwork and slander patiently,
And he sealed his life, in exile, with his blood.

In order to continue his work, and through your intervention,
He founded our Congregation and gave us his spirit.

Today, as we recall our origin in the Church,
We ask you, our Mother,
To make us his faithful sons
In the ministry of the Word.
May your heart continue to be for us

⁵⁵ Taken from the *Directorio Espiritual* (Madrid 1957) pg. 31.

⁵⁶ Based on the *Directorio Espiritual*, p. 453

The staff of our confidence;
That blesses with new vocations
This Claretian family you founded
And that gives persevering love for Jesus and for you
To all of us who call ourselves, and truly are,
Sons of your Immaculate Heart
And who work for the glory of God in the Church .
Amen.

37. Mother and Foundress of Our Congregation

O Virgin Mary, Mother and Foundress of our Congregation,
With the confidence that being Sons of your Immaculate Heart gives us,
We invoke you in order to confide to you the life and mission
Of all our brothers, your missionaries,
And our service of animation and communion to them.

In intimate union with you, we intone the Magnificat,
The song of the poor and humble.
We bless and glorify the Father with this song of praise and thanksgiving
That could only resound in your Heart
With an echo at once so profound and so embracing.

We want to listen to God's Word with you and hear it as you did,
Meditating on it diligently, living it and proclaiming it joyfully
Throughout all the world.
Form us in the forge of your mercy,
As you did Anthony Mary Claret, so that,
Conformed to your Son, the One anointed and sent by the Father,
We may preach Good News to the poor,
Bind up the wounds of broken hearts
And proclaim a year of favor from the Lord.

Mother of the Church and of all humankind,
Help us discover and make our own the urgent needs
For liberation and for redemption within people, within families,
Within structures of injustice and oppression.

In your kindness, welcome us as your Sons
And make us docile instruments of your maternal love.
Fill our hearts with burning love
To carry out boldly, courageously and joyously
The missionary service of the Word in the New Evangelization.

Queen of Peace, grant peace to this world
And watch over us and all who share the Faith
That we may always live so as to give glory
To the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

38. For Our Congregation

R/. Look down from heaven on our Congregation, bound to you, and come and visit
V/. Care for it, enrich it and lavish graces on it without measure.

R/. Lord, remember each one of us.
V/. Send us your light and your truth.

R/. Give us life that we may call upon your name.
V/. And carry out the mission of proclaiming the Gospel to all peoples.

Let us pray

We ask you, Lord
Through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
To free our Congregation from every evil
That, with a humble and generous spirit, like Claret,
We may dedicate ourselves to your plan for human salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

39. For Our Congregation

V/. Holy Mary
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Michael and all holy Angels
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Joseph
R/. Pray for us
V/. All holy Apostles
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Ignatius Loyola
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Vincent de Paul
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Teresa of Jesus
R/. Pray for us
V/. St. Catherine of Siena
R/. Pray for us
V/. All holy men and women, Saints of God,
R/. Pray for us
V/. Remember, Lord, your Congregation
R/. Which has been yours from the beginning
V/. May it fulfill its mission of proclaiming the Gospel
R/. So all people might be saved
V/. We ask you to come to the help of your servants
R/. Whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood

V/. Lord, save your Congregation
R/. Be its shepherd and guide it forever
V/. Have mercy on us, Lord
R/. Have mercy on us
V/. May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
R/. As we have placed our trust in you.
V/. Lord, hear our prayer
R/. And let our cry come to you
V/. The Lord be with you
R/. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.
We ask you, Lord
Through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
To free our Congregation from every evil
That, with a humble and generous spirit,
We may dedicate ourselves to your plan for human salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen⁵⁷.

5. CLARETIAN IDENTITY AND VOCATION

a) of the Holy Founder

40. Vocation Magnificat⁵⁸

Lord, our God, we bless you
For having chosen us
To be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of your Mother!

Most blessed Mother,
We praise you for the graciousness of your Immaculate Heart
And for having accepted us as your Sons!

Our Mother, make us respond to such great kindness;
That we may be, each day, more humble, more fervent
And more zealous for the salvation of souls.
Amen.

41. Meekness⁵⁹

O my God,
Give me a zeal that is discreet and prudent
That I may do everything
Strongly yet sweetly,
Meekly yet thoroughly.

⁵⁷ Taken from the Spiritual Directory (1957).

⁵⁸ cf. Aut. 492 - 493.

⁵⁹ cf Aut. 383.

I hope to act in all thing with a holy prudence,
Nurtured through study,
Strengthened by age,
Clarified through dialogue,
Perfected in daily experience.
Amen.

42. Mortification⁶⁰

O Lord,
I know that suffering, sorrow and work
Are the insignia of the apostle.
Aided by your grace I embrace them.
Help me, Lord.
I am ready to drink the cup of inner turmoil
And I am resolved to receive the baptism of outer pain.
So I say: "God forbid that I should glory
Save in the Cross on which you were nailed for me.
And I also ask you
That in every circumstance,
We may seek signs of your holy will in order to carry it out
And this way be every day more docile
To the plan of salvation you have for all humankind.
We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

43. Faithful Evangelizers

O Lord,
You mercifully decreed
That the Word be made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
Grant that we may treasure the Word in our hearts
That we may always be faithful servants
In proclaiming your Good News of salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

44. For Renewal of the Claretian Spirit

O Lord, renew in our Congregation
The spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father,
So that, filled and invigorated by it,
We may be strengthened to love what he loved
And to put into practice what he taught us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

45. Profession of Claretian Identity

⁶⁰ Aut. 427.

We believe that the Holy Spirit has called us together in the Church through St. Anthony Mary Claret so that, as a Congregation, we might be called, and truly be, Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We believe that the Father has called us together to live, authentically and meaningfully, the mystery and the apostolic mission of his Son in an evangelized and evangelizing fraternity.

It is he, not our projects, that makes us true disciples of Christ.

We want to make this love that shapes our fraternal life ever more meaningful in the Eucharist.

We believe that Mary is present at the beginning of our Congregation and exercises her motherhood by conforming our lives to Christ, her Son, in her Mother's Heart the apostles of the Congregation are formed. And her presence within us is the evangelizing impulse and merciful love that transforms and animates believers.

We believe that Fr. Claret was chosen and given to us by God as a prototype and model for missionaries at the service of the Gospel in the universal Church.

We believe that our common vocation and mission involves following, in perfect fidelity and in absolute availability, Christ in the Church, according to the Gospel demands lived by our Founder and Father, and transmitted through those who have gone before us.

We believe that the Spirit of the risen Jesus anoints us as prophets to proclaim the Good News to the poor, and, impelled by the same sacrificial and redeeming love, to embrace all we encounter along the way.

We believe that we have been called to be effective collaborators with the Supreme Pontiff and the Bishops in the ministry of the Word in order to extend the kingdom of God throughout the world. Thus, employing every means possible, we want to respond by paying attention to what is most urgent, opportune and effective.

We believe that the Congregation is the work of God and that Jesus and Mary will not abandon it, raising up vocations and imparting the Spirit to those who are called, so that, living in fraternity the same consecration and mission, we may carry on the witness of communion in the Church and make our evangelizing action more effective.

Lord, we believe. Increase our faith.

46. Memorial

A Claretian Missionary,
A Son of the Heart of Mary,
Is a witness to Christ
Who, on fire with love,
Spreads that love wherever he goes, enkindling in all

The liberating dynamic of God's love.
Nothing daunts him,
In difficulties he does not lose hope.
He accepts labor and hard work
For the sake of the kingdom
Paying no heed to being slandered.

He rejoices in the trials and persecution
He suffers in the name of Christ,
And in the Cross he finds strength.
He desires and seeks always
How to identify himself more intensely with Jesus Christ
In his prayer, his work, his suffering,
And in his ceaseless concern
For the glory of the Father
That is the life and salvation of humankind. Amen.

47. Prayer of the Claretian

O Lord, renew is our Congregation
And in each one of us
The spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, or Father.

Grant that we Missionaries,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
May be men on fire with love
And spreads it flames wherever we go.
That we may desire effectively and strive by all means possible
To set the whole world on fire with God's love.
That nothing or no one may daunt us.
That we may delight in privations,
Welcome work, embrace sacrifices,
Smile at slanders brought against us,
Rejoice in the torments and sorrows we suffer
And glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ.
That our only concern may be how to follow
And imitate Jesus Christ more closely
In prayer, work and suffering
And strive constantly and singlemindedly for the greater glory of God
And the salvation of souls.
Amen.

48. Thanksgiving for Our Vocation

O Mother, we thank you for the vocation we have received.
Grant us the grace to be faithful to it throughout our lives.

49. Definition of a Claretian Missionary

V/. Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, fill us with the spirit of love that we might be men who are on fire with love and spread its flames wherever we go.

R/. Amen.

V/. That we may desire effectively and strive by all means possible to set the whole world on fire with God's love.

R/. Amen.

V/. Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, fill us with the spirit of fortitude so that nothing daunts us, so that we may delight in provocations and valiantly welcome our apostolic labors.

R/. Amen.

V/. That we may joyfully embrace sacrifices, smile at slander, and rejoice in suffering.

R/. Amen.

V/. Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, fill us with the missionary spirit that animated Jesus, your Son, that our only concern may be to follow and imitate him in praying, working and suffering.

R/. Amen.

V/. And so that, like Jesus, we may strive constantly and singlemindedly for your greater glory and the salvation of humankind.

R/. Amen.

50. The Claretian and His Personal Spirituality⁶¹

Since we know that our mission as evangelizers cannot be understood or lived without a spirituality centered in the following of Jesus, the Son of God, considering ourselves his brothers, we entreat Him, saying:

Teach us to about our Father's business!

1.- Lord Jesus, you summon us to live our spirituality from the perspective of mission
- help us to make the demands and options involved in evangelization an integral part of our spirituality.

2.- Lord Jesus, you summon us to conform ourselves to you through a spirituality that is missionary, prophetic, inculturated and evangelizing
- awaken in us attitudes of availability, itinerancy, and docility to the Spirit.

3.- Lord Jesus, you call us to be ministers of the Word among your people in need of evangelization
- help us to make this a fundamental part of our prayer, meditation and contemplation.

4. Lord Jesus, definitive Word of the Father to his sons and daughters,

⁶¹ CPR 52 ff.

- nurture in us the attitude of finding our answers in the Word and of learning to interpret the events of our missionary service in light of it.

5. Lord Jesus, you underwent temptation,

- fortify our spirit so we will have nothing to do with mediocrity, hedonism, stagnation and routine.

6. Lord Jesus, Bread of Life that nourishes our identification with you,

- make the Eucharistic Mystery ever more alive in us and dispose us, like Claret, to confront the evils of our time.

7. Lord Jesus, you recommended and taught us to pray without ceasing,

- help us to commit ourselves more seriously to community and personal prayer.

8. Lord Jesus, you gave us Mary as Mother, Foundress of our Congregation and Model of discipleship,

- help us deepen the Marian dimension of our spirituality, living it and expressing it in concrete actions.

6. VOWS AND CONSTITUTIONS

51. Constitutions⁶²

Father, you have given us the Spirit
So we might follow Jesus Christ
And proclaim the kingdom among humankind
In the style of Claret and his disciples.

Help us to observe our Constitutions with all possible care,
For they are the Gospel path for us.

Grant us to listen to your Word with all docility, as your Mother did,
That we might be faithful Sons of her Heart,
And cooperate with her motherly role in the apostolic mission.

Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

52. You, Father⁶³

You, Father,
Have poured into our hearts
Love for you and our brothers through the Holy Spirit,
Who conforms us to Christ and builds up our communion.

We beg you that we may welcome this gift

⁶² CC 8.

⁶³ CC 10.12

So that our whole missionary life will be directed and permeated by this love
And we may attain, in our missionary community,
The personal fullness to which you call us.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

53. The Ministry of the Word

We give you thanks, O Lord,
Because you have deigned to grant us the gift of proclaiming the Gospel.
May that grace in us not be fruitless:

R./ Lord, make us fit ministers of the Word of God

Our special vocation among the people of God is the ministry of the Word through which we communicate the whole mystery of Christ to humankind,
- We ask you, Lord to grant us the spirit of service and dedication that we may fulfill the ministry you have entrusted to us in the Church with dignity and fruitfulness⁶⁴.

Motivated by apostolic zeal and the joy of the Spirit, reinforce us with every means and resource that we may persevere so that God may be known, loved and served by all,
- Lord, we ask you, in the words of our Founder, that we may know you and make you known, love you and make you loved, served you and make you served, praise you and make you praised by every creature⁶⁵.

The Missionaries, ardently desiring the justice of the Lord, must be strengthened to attain full maturity in Christ, so they may more effectively communicate the grace of the Gospel to others⁶⁶,
- Lord, we want to live what we preach; transform us completely by the Gospel, so we may be truly evangelized and be effective evangelizers.

54. Our Consecration⁶⁷

My God and Father,
Responding to your call
I want to strive more diligently
To do your will in all things.
With all my heart I want to dedicate myself to You,
Following Jesus, like the Apostles,
So that humankind may have life in abundance.
Impelled by the Holy Spirit
I renew my dedication to You, Father,
So that you may conform me to the image and likeness of Jesus, your Son.
Trusting in the motherly help of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I promise to live in this community of apostolic life

⁶⁴ CC 46.

⁶⁵ CC 40.

⁶⁶ CC 51.

⁶⁷ CC 159.

Chaste, poor and obedient,
Observing the Constitutions of our Congregation
With all possible care.
Anoint me, Father Most Holy, with the Spirit of sanctity
So that, in the service of the Word,
I may be faithful to the charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret
And attain the perfection of the commandment of love.
Amen.

55. Conformity to Christ⁶⁸

Father, we thank you for anointing us with your Spirit
And giving us a share in the fullness of Christ, your Son.

Blest are you for having called us to follow you
And to share with Jesus the work you entrusted to Him.
We ask you that, permeated by the Holy Spirit,
It may no longer be we who live,
But Christ who truly lives in us,
So we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the kingdom of heaven.

May we conform ourselves ever more closely to Him
In our missionary community,
According to our special charism in the Church.
He who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

56. Conformity to Christ⁶⁹

Let us pray to the Father who has anointed us with his Spirit and given us a share in the fullness of Jesus Christ, his Son:

Sanctify your brothers, Lord

- That we may allow ourselves to be permeated with grace, until it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us, so that we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the kingdom. Let us pray.

- That, anointed like Jesus, with an ardent love for the Father and for humankind, we may fortify ourselves by every means possible so that we may pursue the goal of God being known, loved and served by all. Let us pray.

- That we may give glory to God for all the gifts we believe we possess and that we may make them bear abundant fruit. Let us pray.

- That we may be ready to admit our faults and eeros, to ask pardon for them from our brothers and offer the them loving service, so that each of us is among the rest as one who serves. Let us pray.

⁶⁸ CC 39-45.

⁶⁹ CC cap. VI.

- That we may be strengthened to imitate the meekness enjoined by the Gospel as the sign of our apostolic vocation. Let us pray.

- That, as strangers and pilgrims, we may abstain from all evil desires and diligently guard our feelings, glorifying God and reflecting his holiness in our bodies. Let us pray.

- That those of us who are ill may bear their illness with humility and submission to the will of God, knowing that with their infirmity they are making up what is lacking in the Passion of Christ. Let us pray.

57. The Gift of Chastity⁷⁰

We bless you, Lord our God, for having given us
The gift of chastity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven,
By which we consecrate ourselves with our whole heart to the Father's business,
Imitating his Son, Jesus Christ,
And following the example of the Virgin Mary.

We ask you, Lord, to help us with humility
To control our natural desires,
To receive the gift of chastity with joy
And diligently cultivate it.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

58. Chastity⁷¹

Blest are you, Lord,
That, by the gift of chastity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven,
You manifest the power of your glory
In the weakness of our nature,
In order to encourage humankind to hope in the life to come.

Make the chastity we profess
Foster a new fraternal communion in Christ
And build a community not founded on flesh and blood,
But on your will.
And that, as a sign of perfect love,
It may become a special source of spiritual fruitfulness for the world
And inflame us with love for you and all humankind.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen .

59. Poverty⁷²

⁷⁰ CC 20.

⁷¹ CC cap. II.

⁷² cf Aut 363. 371.

Our Savior,
Who made yourself poor,
Who desired to be born in poverty,
You lived as a poor man and died in abject poverty.
Make us, your missionaries, learn the value of poverty,
That we may love and practice it as you taught us,
With words and deeds;
That, following the example of the Apostles,
We may leave all things and follow you in proclaiming the kingdom.
Amen.

60. You, Who Were Rich⁷³

You, who were rich,
Made yourself poor for our sakes
So that we might be enriched by your poverty.
Dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom,
You had no place to lay your head.

Let us share in your poverty,
So that we may remind all humankind of the good things of the world to come,
Living like Mary, the first among the poor of the Lord,
And like the Apostles who, leaving everything behind, followed you
Who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

61. Seeking the Kingdom of God Above All Else⁷⁴

We ask you, Lord,
That, placing our trust in You
And not in power or riches,
We may seek, above all else, the kingdom that belongs to the poor.
Amen.

62. Communion of Goods⁷⁵

Grant, O Lord,
That through our voluntary poverty
We may build a fraternal community
United in mind and heart
And may express it a communion of goods,
Spiritual and material,
With the poor and at your service.
Amen.

63. Poverty⁷⁶

⁷³ CC 23.

⁷⁴ CC 24.

⁷⁵ CC 24.

We give you thanks, Father most holy,
For having chosen us to manifest the value of poverty
And the blessedness of those who have no desire for riches.

Grant that our entire life and activity
May be informed by this spirit of poverty.
That we may be poor in fact and in spirit
And consider ourselves bound by the common law of labor,
Sharing the lot of the poor.
That our goods may be at the disposal of the others,
And that we may rejoice when we experience the effects of poverty,
Never doubting in your providence.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

64. To Do Your Will⁷⁷

To do your will, Father, you sent us your Son, Jesus.
Following the example of the most holy Virgin,
Who consecrated herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord
To the work of the Son,
We offer you, Lord,
The freedom of ordering our own lives
In order to be conformed to Jesus Christ,
Who obediently accepted even death on the Cross
And to unite ourselves in everything to your saving will.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

65. Sharing in a common vocation,
Lord, we want to seek your will together
To fulfill our mission in the Church.
Enlighten us to express the unity of love and mission in community
In order to foster the cooperation of all
For the good of the Church and the Congregation,
And make all of us, impelled by love,
Learn how to obey promptly and perfectly.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

65. Obedience⁷⁸

Father, we give you thanks
For giving us the sovereign freedom
To order our own lives,

⁷⁶ CC 25.

⁷⁷ CC 28-32.

⁷⁸ CC cap. IV.

Which we are now moved by the power of the Spirit to offer to you.

We give you thanks for having called us
To conform ourselves to your Son, Jesus Christ,
In his obedience even unto death on the Cross.

Blest are you for having given us, in Him,
A share in your saving will.

66. Lord, grant us,
to seek, know and do your will together
in order to carry out the common mission
we have in the Church.

Grant that, in seeking and fulfilling your will,
We may feel compelled to offer our help to our brothers
Through prayer, counsel and fraternal dialogue.

May our Superiors seek you will above all else,
And exercise their authority according to the Constitutions
And in a spirit of service,
Giving their lives for their brothers.

And that all of us may become used to obeying you,
Impelled by love,
Promptly and perfectly,
Submitting ourselves to the various human authorities for your sake.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

67. Grant us, O Lord, the gift of availability⁷⁹
to be sent anywhere in the world,
and to place all our energy at the service of any mission
that may be entrusted to us by the Congregation.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

68. Imitating the Prayer of Jesus⁸⁰

Almighty and eternal God,
Who have deigned to associate us with the missionary work of Christ,
Open our hearts
That we may be converted to the Gospel,
And give us constancy that we may imitate him
In his diligent prayer.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

⁷⁹ CC 32.31.

⁸⁰ CC 33.

69. Progress in Charity⁸¹

Merciful Father,
Grant that the love of Christ may compel us
With the same love you have for us
And, by the power of the Spirit,
May we disposed to die each day
For our brothers.
Make us, like strangers and pilgrims,
Abstain from all desires of the flesh.
May we keep careful watch over our emotions,
And may we rejoice in all adversities.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

70. The Love of Christ Impels Us⁸²

Father most holy,
Jesus Christ, impelled by burning love for You and for humankind,
Gave himself to his labors, to his passion, and even to death.
Grant us apostolic love and the joy of the Spirit
That we may strive
That all people may know, love and serve you,
And attain the blessedness of your kingdom.
Amen.

7. COMMUNITY

71. Prayer for the Community

We give you thanks, most holy Father,
For having joined us together in this community
From which you want us to proclaim your kingdom
Through a perfectly consecrated life
And a firm commitment to the service of the Gospel.

We want to proclaim, by all we are and all we do,
As true Sons of the Heart of Mary,
The marvels of your love among humankind.
Renew our resolve to become better each day,
To help each other in the following of your Son,
To follow the inspirations of the Holy Spirit,
And to work together to carry out the mission
You have entrusted to us in the Church.

⁸¹ CC 44-45.

⁸² CC 40.

Lord, never allow this good will
To weaken inadvertently
Through selfishness, routine or faithlessness.
Revive the faith and hope of this apostolic community
When inevitable differences become noticeable,
And open our hearts when forgiveness is needed.

Since we are aware of our weakness,
We ask you to keep us attentive to your grace:
That diligent meditation on your Word may renew us,
And that fraternal life together may encourage us
To give that witness of love the world needs in order to believe,
And that the needs and urgent demands of those who are most poor
May stimulate us to go out of ourselves
And makes us feel duty-bound to work for them tirelessly.

We entrust ourselves to Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
Model of the consecrated life,
That she may form us in her Heart
And make us follow the path of perfection and apostolic service
That St. Anthony Mary Claret, through his life and teaching,
Laid out for us in the Church and in the world.

Father, seal with eternal fidelity
What is now our most sincere aspiration.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

72. Fraternal Charity⁸³

We humbly ask you, Lord our God,
To make one in heart we who share the spirit
Of your servant Anthony Mary
That, living in harmony and mutual love,
We may be witnesses of your love
Among humankind.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

73. Prayer for My Community

Father, today I pray for my brothers in community.
That you may know them personally:
Know their full names, their virtues and their shortcomings,
Their joys and their sorrows, their strength and their weakness, their whole life story;
And that you may accept them as they are,
And that you may make them fully alive with your Spirit.

⁸³ Proper Missal CMF: Mases for Various Occasions: To Foster Community Life, opening prayer.

Lord, you love them
Not because they are good
But because they are your sons.

Teach me to truly love them, following the example of Jesus,
Not for their words or actions, but for themselves,
Discovering in each one,
Especially those who are weakest,
The mystery of your infinite love.

I thank you, Father,
For having given me brothers,
All of whom are a gift to me, a true sacrament,
A tangible and efficacious sign of the presence of your Son.

Give me the eyes of Jesus to contemplate them,
And give me his heart to love them unto the end,
Because I also want to be, for each of them,
A living sacrament of the presence of Jesus.
Amen.

74. The Claretian in the Process of Continuing Formation⁸⁴

We give you thanks, God our Father, for calling us to full maturity in Christ in order to more effectively communicate the Gospel to others, and we say to you:

Lord, form us in Jesus, your Son!

- 1.- That the Claretians will become personally convinced of the need for continuing formation in order to carry out our missionary vocation. Let us pray.
- 2.- That we will succeed in having our own personal formation plan and commitment to personal growth, in accord with the community and the demands of the place. Let us pray.
- 3.- That our formation, both initial and continuing, will be in keeping with our missionary charism and our preferred subjects and options. Let us pray.
- 4.- That each community will program times dedicated to formation and avail themselves of the resources of other communities and the local Church. Let us pray.
- 5.- That we may advocate serious and critical study of the local and world-wide situation in order to respond to their challenges from the perspective of our missionary charism. Let us pray.
- 6.- That ongoing formation will be included as part of our spirituality for living with the changes and evolution of our world and of the Church. Let us pray.

⁸⁴ CPR 66 ff.

7.- That continuous docility to the Spirit will convince us that it is always time to renew ourselves from our hearts. Let us pray.

75. The Claretian in the Missionary Community⁸⁵

Let us celebrate our love for our brothers and for God, who has poured out into our hearts the Holy Spirit to build up our communion. Let us pray to Jesus who is one with the Father and the Spirit, saying:

Help us to be one so that the world may be reborn!

- 1.- Jesus, you impel us to affirm the community dimension of our missionary vocation:
- 2.- Jesus, you encourage us to renew our communities as places where people can grow and develop:
- 3.- Jesus, you invite us to form deeper relationships among ourselves and to create and respect quality time for community interaction:
- 4.- Jesus, you teach us to recognize and esteem the charism and ministry of each of our brothers:
- 5.- Jesus, you have recommended fraternal correction:
- 6.- Jesus, you urge us to make our community more efficacious, using means like the plenary community meeting and the community project:
- 7 – Jesus you are the Good Shepherd, full of wisdom, strength and patience. Grant these qualities to Superiors in their service of animation in the community:

8. MISSION

a) of the Holy Founder

76. Apostolic Prayer⁸⁶

O my God and my Father!
May I know you and make you known;
May I love you and make you loved;
May I serve you and make you served;
May I praise you and make all creatures praise you.
My Father, grant that all sinners may be converted,
All the just persevere in grace,
And all of us attain eternal glory.
Amen.

⁸⁵ CPR 60 f.

⁸⁶ cf Aut. 233.

b) Other Prayers

77. Missionaries

Lord,
Who called us like the Apostles,
Make us fortify ourselves with every means and resource
To strive to make you known, loved and served by all humankind.
Give us a heart that is open
To loving all people without exception,
Procuring for them the blessedness of the kingdom,
Already begun here on earth.
May all the gifts we believe we possess,
Only give glory to You,
Making them bear fruit in abundance,
And let us remember our own limitations and defects,
Thus recognizing our total dependence on You.
May we express this conviction
In the way we work and in our relationships with others,
Being ready to seek pardon for our faults and failures.
May we seek to offer our brothers
The service of our love,
So that each of us is in the midst of the others as one who serves.

78. Faithful Evangelizers

O Lord,
You mercifully decreed
That the Word be made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
Grant that we may treasure the Word in our hearts
That we may always be faithful servants
In proclaiming the Good News of salvation to all humankind.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

79. For the Apostolic Fruitfulness of the Missionaries⁸⁷

Father of kindness,
You deigned to choose us and send us as You sent your Son, Jesus.
Grant us your Spirit,
Make us fitting ministers of the Gospel,
And grant us the power we need
To faithfully exercise our ministry for the salvation of humankind.

Lord, grant success to our labors,

⁸⁷ Taken from the Spiritual Directory, with modifications.

And let Christ, your Word, speak for us.
Bless us and help us
So that all may accept the Gospel
And love you more and more each day.

Never allow us, Lord, to offend you;
Preserve us from all danger and strengthen us with your grace.
Amen.

80. Claretian Mission⁸⁸

Father most holy,
You called Anthony Mary Claret to follow your Son,
And, impelled by love,
And he gave his whole life to the struggle for the kingdom.

Awaken in us his evangelizing spirit
In order to understand what is most urgent, opportune and effective
And carry out our mission of spreading the faith, docile to your Spirit,
And obedient to your will.

Animated, like Claret, by the power of the Spirit,
We also want to choose to champion the cause of the kingdom
And accept the risks involved in prophetic denunciation and commitment
That comes with our evangelizing mission.

We want to join ourselves with,
And share the anxieties, privations and hopes,
Of those to whom your send us.

And, as we profess that the Son is living among humankind,
We want to work to end disbelief, hatred, injustice,
Lies, oppression, loneliness, hunger, ignorance
And to meet so many other of love's demands that are the demands of the kingdom.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

81. Missionary Prayer

Father,
You poured out the gifts of the Spirit
On the Blessed Virgin Mary,
As she prayed with the Apostles in the upper room,
Make us persevere in prayer together with Mary, our Mother,
In order to bring to the world
The Good News of salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

⁸⁸ Cf MCH 172.

Amen.

82. For the Church

Lord Jesus,
Who, out of love for men and women,
Prayed for the faith of your disciples,
Interceded for sinners,
And suffered all human misery:
Receive the prayers we raise to you in behalf of the Church,
Listen to our prayers for the life of the world.
And admit all to the joy of your everlasting kingdom,
Where you live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

83. The Lord Present in Mission⁸⁹

Lord Jesus,
Your missionary mandate has scattered us throughout the entire world.
Today your Word of communion gathers us at this point where all paths cross,
Where encountering one another is encountering You,
Where loving one another is bearing witness to You,
Where kindling hopes is proclaiming your coming.

Like the Twelve,
We return to you from the pathways of mission,
Bringing into your presence the sorrow and humiliations of our people,
The cry of the poor you sent us to evangelize,
The hopes of the humble who have opened their hearts to your message
And that blossom everywhere in fraternity, in the Church.

Grant that, by celebrating and contemplating your Word,
We may learn how to discern, through faith, the signs of the times,
And to proclaim you as you are: the fullness of truth—ever new--,
In the midst of the ambiguities and countercurrents of this world.

May your risen presence among us
Banish discouragement and fear,
And make us choose, freely and courageously,
Your plan of life, justice and fraternity,
Where there are now works of destruction, oppression and violence.

Send us your Spirit
That, like Mary, your Virgin Mother,
He will create a new heart in us,
Burning with apostolic love,
Available to meet the challenges of the new evangelization,
Rich in deeds of love and service to those who are most in need.

⁸⁹ Fr. Gustavo Alonso CMF.

Make us instruments of communion and reconciliation
That, among the people to whom you send us,
The community of those who believe in You,
We may reveal your plan of salvation and glorify your name.
Amen.

84. Commitment to Mission⁹⁰

Let us celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ, who sends us as a Congregation along the world's pathways to raise up communities of believers. Choosing to be in the forefront of evangelization, desiring to renew ourselves each day as evangelizers, we say with confidence:

Lord, we are in your hands. Send us!

- 1.- That the Congregation may decisively take up the plan of revision of our positions and our apostolic works. Let us pray.
- 2.- That we may be aware that this mission involves the serious intention of being consistent in our lives as missionaries and realistic in the face of the challenges of our world. Let us pray.
- 3.- That we may help one another grow in personal availability in order to respond to the needs of the Congregation and the Province. Let us pray.
- 4.- That we may become convinced that renewal is not a momentary task, but an attitude, a lifestyle that demands Gospel renunciation of all that impedes our service to the reign of God. Let us pray.
- 5.- That, in the Province, we may give concrete forms to our missionary option for the poor, creating, in the future, a greater number of communities inserted among them. Let us pray.
- 6.- That in this process of revision, all of us may remember that people are the Congregation's greatest riches. Let us pray. ,
- 7.- That, in the Province, we may develop and implement a "project for evangelization" encompassing all our works, that has the characteristics of the Claretian mission. Let us pray.
- 8.- That, in our relationship to the universal Church and to local churches, we may come to exercise our Claretian role as prophets, at the forefront of evangelization. Let us pray.
- 9.- That, in this time of the laity in the Church we may commit ourselves to raising up lay evangelizers so they may assume the duties and responsibilities that are properly theirs in society. Let us pray.

⁹⁰ CPR 76 ff.

85. Promotion of Our Missionary Vocation⁹¹

With the joy of being sent by the Spirit of Jesus to proclaim the kingdom, sharing humankind's joys and hopes, let us ask the Lord Jesus to strengthen us to carry out our mission, imploring him:

Give us your Spirit to respond with love and faithfulness!

1.- Lord, aware that evangelization is our service to people, to the world, to the Church and to the building of the kingdom,

- grant that we may increase our missionary evangelization "in the style of the Apostles", attending to what is "most urgent, opportune and effective".

2.- Lord, your becoming human and living among us requires of us an inculturated evangelization,

- may we have minds and hearts open to the people we must serve, to be able to transmit the Gospel message in terms of their own cultural values.

3.- Lord, our Congregation is present in areas where gross inequities and injustices destroy human dignity,

- may we opt for a prophetic and liberating evangelization and through our life and our words may we bring the light of the Gospel in all its saving power,

4.- Lord, you made St. Anthony Mary Claret a man who perceived and proclaimed the plan of salvation in the concrete circumstances of his times,

- help us to be a sign and a force that liberates people from any kind of slavery that hinders their communion with God and others.

5.- Lord, along with the Church in our day, we have become aware again that the poor are the ones to whom our mission is primarily directed,

- we ask you that, in fidelity to our following you and to the Church, our evangelization may always be done from the perspective of the poor and needy.

6.- Lord, this preference for the poor demands that we revise our criteria, attitudes, structures, and especially our lifestyle,

- open us to you urgent call to change the ways we think and behave.

7.- Lord, the urgent need for evangelization in the Church today demands that we act on the sensitivity Claret had to promote evangelizers,

- may our evangelization multiply evangelizing leadership: priests, religious and laity.

86. We Want to Do Your Will

Our Father,

Father of kindness and mercy:

We are gathered here in the name of the love you have for us.

We praise you, we bless you, and we give you thanks.

⁹¹ CPR 73 ff.

We joyfully respond to the call you address to us in your Son
And, strengthened by the power of the Spirit,
We confidently say: "We want to do your will".
Give us clear vision, open minds and burning hearts
To understand and embrace the plans you have for us.

When we think about the mission you entrust to us,
We are well aware of the deep and constant demands we have to fulfill.
Increase our generosity and our hope
And open us to the most pressing needs of humankind.
May we discover how to express in our lives
The universal love of Jesus, his unconditional self-giving
And his complete forgetfulness of self
In carrying out his saving mission in the world.

Strengthen us in the truth; give us a thirst for justice
And make us effective peacemakers.
May we be a living force for communion in the pilgrim Church
And may we persevere in being witnesses of the sovereign power of the Risen Christ
In the midst of this people who suffers his passion for freedom.
May be responsible in all our actions and commitments,
And do not allow us, in proclaiming the Gospel, to seek our own self-interest.

Grant us, Lord, the apostolic love of St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father.
Teach us, like him, to always discern what pleases you,
What is just and what builds up the kingdom among humankind.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

9. FOR CLARETIAN VOCATIONS

87. For Vocations⁹²

Lord Jesus Christ, who said:
"Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest",
we humbly beg you
to deign to send them into our Congregation.
Infuse your Spirit into those you have chosen
And strengthen them in their vocation,
That they may proclaim your holy Gospel worthily and fruitfully.
May you call us, and may we truly be,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
May we love you with all our heart, in every word and action,
And never cease to praise you.
Amen.

⁹² Taken from the Spiritual Directory, with modifications.

88. Vocation⁹³

Lord, you who called the Apostles to be fishers of men,
Call new members into our Claretian Family
That they may be the salt of the earth and light of the world
And everywhere spread the love
That drove your servant, Anthony Mary.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

89. Prayer to Mary for Vocations

O Mary, our Mother,
You gave our Father, St. Anthony Mary Claret,
A great love for the Lord and an apostolic restlessness for the salvation of humankind.

You led him to know the fullness of the mystery of Christ
And, driven by love, he gave himself to proclaiming the Gospel.

He was patient in his labors and slanders
And confirmed his life with his blood and exile.

In order to carry on his work, he founded our Congregation and gave us his spirit.

Today, Mother, we ask you,
To make us his faithful sons in the Ministry of the Word.
May your Heart continue to be the staff of our confidence.
May you bless with new vocations this Claretian Family you founded,
And may you grant persevering love for Jesus and for you,
To those you call to be Sons of your Heart
And who work for the glory of God and the salvation of humankind.
Amen.

90. Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Vocations

O Immaculate Heart of Mary,
You gave St. Anthony Mary Claret
A great love for Jesus, your Son,
And inspired him to found this Congregation of Missionaries,
In order to save all people.
Bless this Claretian Congregation with new vocations,
And intercede before the Lord
That all the missionary Sons of your Heart
May persevere unto the end
In proclaiming the Gospel.
Amen.

⁹³ Opening Prayer. Claretian Missal.

91. Intercessions to Ask the Lord for Claretian Vocations

Lord, in order to continue the great work of St. Anthony Mary Claret in all the world
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Lord, in order to sanctify Christian peoples through preaching and other apostolic works.
- *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Lord, in order to bring the light of the Gospel to those who do not know you,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Lord, in order to assure the Reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Lord, that through the Immaculate Heart of Mary you will may always be done,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Lord, that society may be educated in a Christian way and that we may have a more just and humane society according to your will,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Jesus, first-born Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of all humankind,
- *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Let us pray:

Our Father,
You desire all people to be saved
And come to knowledge of your truth.
We ask you to send laborers into your harvest
And grant that they may proclaim your Word with confidence,
That the truth may be spread and shed its light
And that all peoples may know You, the only God.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

92. For Missionary Vocations

O God,
You desire all people to be saved
And come to knowledge of your truth.
Draw us to yourself as followers of your Son,
In the style of St. Anthony Mary Claret,
And send us into the field of the world
That we may preach your Gospel to every creature,
And your people, consecrated by the Word of Life,

And sustained by the power of the sacraments,
May journey on pathways of salvation and love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

10. FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

93. For Brothers Who Are Ill

V/. Lord, look with love on our brothers who are ill,
R/. That they may confidently hope in You.
V/. Aid them with your kindness
R/. Comfort their hearts and alleviate their sufferings.
V/. Father, hear their prayers and supplications
R/. And give them strength and peace to fulfill your will.
V/. As they lie in bed may they always remember you
R/. And as they lie awake may they meditate on You.
V/. Because you are their help
R/. May they always remain united with You.
V/. Remember, Father, all men and women who suffer
R/. Alleviate their sufferings and make us always feel linked to them, helping them and assisting them with our love.

Let us pray:

We ask you, Father of kindness, to alleviate the sorrow of our brothers who are ill,
Cure their illness, revive their hope,
Comfort and console them with your grace
So that, restored according to your will and mercy,
They may once again be incorporated into the life of the community and the service of
the Gospel.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(or):

Let us pray:

Father of goodness,
You desired that your Son should bear our infirmities,
In order to manifest the value of illness and patience.
Hear the petitions we now address to You
For our brothers in the Congregation who are ill
And grant all those who are forced to yield to sorrow, affliction or illness
The grace to unite themselves to the Passion of Christ for the redemption of the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(or):

Let us pray:

Lord, our God,
Savior of all those who believe in You,
Hear the prayers we address to you for our brothers in the Congregation
Alleviate their sufferings with the help of your mercy
So that, with their health restored, they may serve You in building the kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

94. For Our Brothers Who Are Ill⁹⁴

V/. Lord, save your servants
R/. Who hope in you.
V/. Send them your help from your Sanctuary
R/. and grant them protection from Zion.
V/. Be their rampart, Lord,
R/. Before the enemy.
V/. Grant them your strength
R/. On their bed of pain.
V/. Lord, hear our prayer
R/. And let our cry come to you.
V/. The Lord be with you
R/. And with your spirit.

Let us pray:

O God,
Always compassionate and forgiving,
Grant our petitions
That in your mercy you may graciously absolve us
And your servants who are ill.

(or:)

O God, staunch protector of human weakness,
Show the power of your aid to your servants who are ill,
So that, helped by your mercy, they may merit
to stand before the Church restored to health once more.

(or:)

We ask you, Lord,
That we, your servants, may always rejoice in health of mind and body.
By the intercession of Holy Mary, ever Virgin,
Free us from the sorrows of this world and grant us the joys of heaven.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

⁹⁴ Taken from the Spiritual Directory of 1957.

11. FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

95. Reading of the Necrology

It is recommended, in the recitation of Vespers, before the final prayer of the intercessions, to remember our brothers who have died on that date, reading their names from the Necrology.

96. Prayer for the Deceased Members of the Congregation

V/. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Y/. May they rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

V/. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R/. Amen

Let us pray.

O God, you sustain our hope of future happiness⁹⁵

In the Paschal Mystery of your Son.

We humbly ask you

That all who participate in our Claretian fellowship here on earth

And spend their lives spreading your kingdom,

May attain the joys of eternal happiness in the mansions of our heavenly home.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

⁹⁵ Opening prayer, Claretian Missal

III. DAILY PRAYER

97. *“Although the Liturgy is the center of worship and of the Christian life itself, liturgical action does not exhaust spiritual life (cf. SC 12). For this reason, each one of our members, although called by vocation to pray in common, should nevertheless, according to the recommendation of the Gospel, pray to the Father in secret. And furthermore, they should pray without ceasing (cf. SC 9-12). It was certainly a notable preoccupation of our Founder, from the beginning of the formation of our missionaries, that they develop an intense life of prayer (cf. Const. I, 120, 121). The spirit of prayer, and even prayer itself, which the Church requires all religious to practice assiduously (cf. PC 6), should be presented as a personal search for God, leading toward a greater interior supernatural knowledge of Christ, which they will later on provide for the People of God in their life and their words”¹*

“We will follow a rhythm of life that allows us to feel Life, to savor it and love it, from the standpoint of God’s love for his creatures, without letting ourselves be dominated by the dizzying search for results and over-efficiency”².

“In our prayers and petitions, we should intercede for the Church and for the life of the world”³.

“We should ... faithfully [offer] daily prayer in the name of the Church”⁴.

“Daily prayer, faithfully made, is a primary need for both the community and the individual missionary, therefore, it should be given priority in our life”⁵.

“We shall take care of personal and community prayer, as being presupposed for any missionary service”⁶.

“In its yearly plane, the community must provide a program for prayer and its periodic evaluation. It must assure for each individual an inalienable time for personal prayer and the ability to participate in community prayer”⁷.

“Every day, each community should devote a minimum of half an hour to prayer, preferably with the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. The fidelity and intensity of prayer that our Constitutions call for is strongly recommended to the conscience and inner control of each one of us”⁸.

“Each community should frequently review its own prayer life, its fidelity to the prescribed acts of piety, and the creation of a favorable environment for prayer.

¹ 1F 48.

² IPM 23.3.

³ CC 34.

⁴ CC 35.

⁵ CC 37.

⁶ IPM 23.2.

⁷ CPR 57; cf. 2VR appendix, 7.

⁸ Dir. 85-86.

The Superior will take responsibility for this community review, as one outstanding service of his mission to the community”⁹.

The Chapter of 1973 goes so far as to say that *“if a community or any of its members finds itself unable to make prayer habitually or for a long time ...they should seriously question their situation, asking whether it is really justified, or whether it is not, rather, a sign that they are caught up in a in a situation that should be studied and for which remedies should be sought either as to ill-advised goals and structures or to unrealistic forms of prayer. Such a situation would finally lead to questioning the very existence of the community or member as Claretian”¹⁰*

98.

1. Daily Community Acts

“While our Founder lived, the following acts were private in our Congregation: meditation, reading, examen, morning and night prayers. The following were community acts: visits after meals and later on the rosary which took place after the ascetical and mystical conference before dinner. During missions, morning and night prayers, as well as rosary, were community acts with the people”¹¹.

Today the recitation of Lauds and Vespers or Compline are normally community acts in our houses, according to the resolution of the Chapter of 1967, reaffirmed by that of 1973 and by the present Directory. Thus we implement the teaching of the Church that Lauds, as morning prayer, and Vespers, as evening prayer, are the double axis on which the whole daily Office revolves¹².

“Morning Prayer ... is intended and arranged for the sanctification of the morning. Saint Basil the Great gives an excellent description of its character in these words: ‘It is said in the morning in order that the first stirrings of our mind and will may be consecrated to God, and that we make take nothing to hand until we have been gladdened by the thought of God, as it is written: “I was mindful of God and was glad”, or set our bodies to any task before we do what has been said: “I will pray to you Lord, you will hear my voice in the morning, I will stand before you in the morning and gaze on you”¹³ Through Lauds the mandate of the Constitutions (n. 52) is fulfilled of renewing the decision “to walk in newness of life, setting our hearts on God” and committing ourselves to do “everything with an upright intention and true fervor of heart”.

Vespers is celebrated so “we may give thanks for what has been given us, or what we have done well during the day. We also recall our redemption through the prayer which we we send up ‘like incense in the Lord’s sight,’ and in which ‘the raising up of our hands’ becomes ‘an evening sacrifice’”¹⁴. Vespers also fulfills what the Constitutions¹⁵ indicates: “They have nothing except what they have received from God

⁹ Dir 93.

¹⁰ 2VR appendix, 7.

¹¹ 1 VR 115

¹² cf. SC 89^a; 100

¹³ General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, n. 38.

¹⁴ GILH, n. 39.

¹⁵ n. 64; cf. n. 41.

and for which they will have to render an account. Therefore, let them acknowledge the gifts they have received and, by putting them at the service of all people, let them see to it that these gifts bear fruit”

99.

2. Angelus and Marian Antiphons

After the recitation of Lauds, outside Eastertime, the Angelus is said.

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
(Hail Mary)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord
Be it done to me according to your word
(Hail Mary)

And the Word became flesh
And dwelt among us
(Hail Mary)

-Pray for us, Holy Mother of God
-That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our heart
That we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son,
Was made known by the message of an angel,
May, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(during Eastertime)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia,
The Son whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia
Has risen as he said. Alleluia
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia.

O God, who through the Resurrection of your Son
Have deigned to bring joy to the world,
We ask you to grant us
Through the intercession of his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
That we may attain eternal joy.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

After Vespers, the Angelus or some other Marian antiphon is recited.

After Compline, a Marian antiphon is sung or recited.

1. Hail holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope;
to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy towards us,
And after this, our exile,
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

2. Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
Gate of heaven, star of the sea
Assist your people who have fallen but strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
Yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
Have pity on us poor sinners.

3. Ave, Regina caelorum	(Hail, Queen of heaven,
Ave, Domina angelorum;	Hail, Mistress of Angels,
Salve, radix; salve, porta,	Hail, O Root, hail, O Gate
ex qua mundo lux est orta.	From whom the light of the world has come.
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,	Rejoice, O glorious Virgin
Super omnes speciosa;	You who are fairest of all,
Vale, O valde decora,	Farewell, O beautiful maiden,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.	Pray for us to God,)

4. We gather under your protection,
Holy Mother of God;
Let not our prayers be fruitless
That we address to you in our needs;
And most of all, free us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

5. *(for Sunday and Eastertime)*
Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia,
The Son whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia
Has risen as he said. Alleluia
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

3. Meditation

100. “ Without an intense life of prayer, without a continuous meditation on the Word of God, without frequent moments throughout the day in which personal prayer is sought and found, a true response cannot be given nor can one go out to encounter Christ, who comes to us in the Sacrament and who brings us to Him by faith ”¹⁶.

This principle translates that each missionary should spend time *"daily in mental prayer, an hour when possible, [and] in spiritual reading, especially from the Scriptures"*¹⁷.

*"Mental prayer disposes us to participate intimately and productively in the sacred mystery of the Eucharist and in the public prayer of the Church"*¹⁸.

*" Let us also listen to the Word of God in personal prayer in the events of history, in cultures and in the life of the people, in their silences and in their outcries "*¹⁹.

In St. Anthony Mary Claret meditation is primarily directed to fanning the flames of love and being filled with the Spirit: *"Thoroughly convinced that to be a good missionary it is both useful and essential to have love, I have searched for the hidden treasure..., I have studied the means to acquire it and discovered the following:...(4) making one's meditation well"*²⁰ . Another purpose of meditation, according to our Founder, is the strengthening of the will, to overcome the old self and be more disposed to generosity in one's self-giving to the Lord.

However the Saint proposes no particular method of meditation nor any way peculiarly his own.

4. Reading of the Word of God and Spiritual Reading

101. *"Before we dutifully proclaim the Lord's Word, we should listen to it in attentive meditation and also share it with our brothers, so that we ourselves may be converted to the Gospel, become conformed to Christ, and set afire with his love, the force that should impel us"*²¹.

*"They should pray to God unceasingly to make them fitting ministers of the divine Word, so that they may be able to spread his name and the kingdom of heaven throughout the world"*²².

¹⁶ 1F 50.

¹⁷ CC 37; cf. Essential Elements, n. 20; Dir 85.

¹⁸ PE 134.

¹⁹ SW 16.1.

²⁰ Aut 442.

²¹ CC 34.

²² CC 73.

“Along with the more and more intense, continuous and progressive study of the Word of God, in which are followed the fundamental lines of that history of salvation whose center and culmination is Christ,... [they] should make the Sacred Scriptures, following the example of our Father Founder, the preferred book of their spiritual reading, ... [dedicating] some space of time to it every day. They should assure that this is a period of the greatest recollection. Thus the Bible can become the basis of their daily meditations, and it will enable them to live what they believe and ... teach what they live”²³.

“Our Founder’s practice of daily and ‘vocational’ reading of the Bible, and our acceptance of it as God’s Word for us today, must be family traits that allow us to give constant proof that we are hearers-servants of the Word.

Let us daily practice listening to God’s Word in our reading of the Bible in the style of our Father Founder, and let us make the study of the Bible one of our central concerns”²⁴.

“Let us allow ourselves to be questioned by the Word of God and make an effort to respond to it, by overcoming mediocrity in our lifestyle, which is many times lacking in evangelical radicalism”²⁵.

“Give a relevant place, within a serious academic formation, to a ‘savored’ and exegetical knowledge of the Bible, and see to it that the Word, through ‘lectio divina’ and other kinds of reading ie one of the lynchpins of the whole process of formation”²⁶.

“In the depths of Mary’s Heart we discover and learn the way to listen. She received the Word in her Heart (cf. Lk 2,19.51)—the Word made history in the cry of the poor (cf. Lk 1,48-53). Claret presents Mary’s Heart to us as the blazing forge in which we are shaped as heralds of the Word. ... Let us develop our capacity for inner silence. In the light of the Word and the reality that challenges us, let us develop an attitude of prayer that will make us ‘contemplatives in mission’ (CPR 56)”²⁷.

102. The reading of Sacred Scripture from a Claretian perspective involves two stages: personal reading and community reflection:

1. Personal reading must involve:

1) Aids to achieve better assimilation of the **message of the Scriptural text**:

- *the literary level*: the text
- *the historical level*: taking into consideration the time to which the text refers and the time in which the text was written.
- *the theological level*: the religious message of the text

²³ 1F 52.

²⁴ SP 14.

²⁵ SP 13.1.

²⁶ SP 21.2.

²⁷ SP 15; 15.2.

2) Aids that invite us to a “vocational reading” of these Scripture texts, by means of what we call **Claretian resonances**. They endeavor to orient us to rediscovering in the spiritual and missionary experience of Claret and in the Tradition of the Congregation the echo of the message of the Scripture texts proposed for our consideration.

This Claretian approach to Scripture reading has these characteristics:

- a) Daily commitment to read the Bible as our Father Founder did so faithfully.
- b) Always going beyond the critical and textual level to achieve a “spiritual” reading: Claret discovered that the text was speaking to him and revealed his personal identity, his vocation and his mission.
- c) A reading from the perspective of service: it is a word to whose service one is dedicated and a word one must serve or present in ministry.
- d) A reading that makes certain basic elements explicit:
 - It is centered on Christology
 - It has a missionary orientation: it emphasizes Jesus as preacher, prophet and apostle.
 - It sheds light on historical reality and provides a judgment about it
- e) A reading that should be illumined not only by Claret’s lived experience, but also by the life and spiritual heritage of the Congregation.

2. For the community encounter participants are invited to share their reading of the Scripture text from these various perspectives⁹⁶:

- a) *the Scriptural perspective*: tries to help the group catch the full richness of the Scripture text
- b) *the Claretian perspective*: tries to motivate the group to recall the Claretian resonance of the Scripture text it is concerned with
- c) *the situational perspective*: its purpose is to help us be aware of the historical juncture in which we find ourselves:
 - in order to shed light on it from the perspective of the Word and to capture the word God is addressing to us in the situation itself,
 - that we “situate” our understanding of the Scriptural message that has a particular and renewed meaning for us today.
- d) *the existential perspective*: that invites us to reinterpret, in fraternal dialogue, our missionary identity in the light of the Word and to discern the most appropriate ways to follow up on the inspirations and challenges the Word presents us with.

It should involve these specific steps:

- One of the participants should be invited to invoke the presence of the Spirit, the others may add to this prayer;
- Then the text is read aloud while all participants follow along in their own Bible;
- A time is left for silence to interiorize the Word that has been heard;
- When it seems opportune, the one who leads or animates prayer invites the others to express what they Word has suggested to them;

⁹⁶ Word-Mission: Presentation of the project.

- In the next step, the group has to come up with some concrete application of that Word to the personal, community and existential situation in which the Word is being lived;
 - The encounter may be concluded with spontaneous petitions and the communal recitation of the Our Father.

104. Lectio Divina is not simply a method of reading Sacred Scripture, but a way of encountering God through the Bible itself. It is a privileged form of continuous and prayerful contact with Sacred Scripture, recommended by Vatican II (DV 25) and the General Chapter of 1991 (SP 21.2). Its most important stages are:

1^a Invocation of Spirit that He may make us know God's will expressed in the Scripture.

2^a Lectio: reading of the text, as many times as necessary, to move beyond reading with the eyes to reading and listening with the heart.

3^a Meditatio: thinking about the text to discover the meaning it contains.

4^a Oratio: if the prior phases were a matter of listening to God, now is the time to express the feelings the text gives rise to: thanksgiving, petition, praise, etc.

5^aContemplatio: is the culmination of the process. This is an attempt to turn God's gaze on the world and people in order to live reality more from within.

6^aCollatio: time to share the Word with our brothers.

7^aActio: formalizing the commitment that springs from the Word.

5. Rosary

105. *“As trusting sons, they should love and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose special concern is the formation of apostles”*²⁹.

*“As loving sons we should honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is associated with all her Heart in the saving work of her Son. Our honor for her should be expressed both in the liturgy and in such traditionally approved forms of Marian devotion as the Rosary”*³⁰.

*“Preserving a sound tradition of the Institute (CC 36), we should strive to say the Rosary ... individually when this is not done in community”*³¹.

St. Anthony Mary Claret said this about reciting the Rosary, whose devotion and spread earned him the mark of apostle in the 19th century: *“We can say the Rosary is a compendium of holy Faith, because it is made up of its principal mysteries. He who says it in its entirety, recalls and meditates on, in one day, what the Church celebrates in its feasts over the course of a year”*³².

²⁹ CC 73.

³⁰ CC 36.

³¹ Dir 87.

³² La Colegiala instruida, Barcelona 1863, p. 177.

After the announcement of each mystery and a Bible verse, there is a commentary from the Holy Founder³³:

The Joyful Mysteries (*Monday and Thursday*)

1. The Annunciation of God's Son (Lk 1:26-38)

The Word became flesh so that all flesh might be saved in Him.

In the Incarnation shines the immense glory of God and the destiny of humankind. One who looks for God and doesn't find Him is looking in the wrong place. God is in Mary: "The Lord is with Thee".

He became incarnate because zeal for God's glory and the salvation of souls was consuming Him.

With Incarnation, so stupendous and so worthy of our adoration, the Son of God not only saved human nature, but also ennobled it as much as was possible. In ennobling human nature, He ennobled all creation, because the human being is a synthesis of the whole of creation.

2. The Visitation of Mary to her Cousin, Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-46)

In every visit you make, imitate Mary. Edify with your witness and exercise charity. Remember: all the good you have done for your neighbor will be repaid one day by the Lord, just as if you had done it to the Lord Himself.

Believe it! Such a din of words is unnecessary. Speak by your example and your teaching will be effective.

We can and should love ourselves knowing Mary is on our side. She always sustains us by being a channel of grace and gives us strength and courage by being the Tower of David.

The world is like farmland. God is the Lord; Mary is the irrigation channel loved by God that makes it fertile. Mary is always between God and us, and sustains us with her protection.

3. The Birth of God's Son (Lk 2:1-20; Jn 1:14)

The human person without Christ would be as desolate as a world without sunlight. Mary is Mother of God. And it is from the depths of this sublime, incommunicable and singular dignity that the marvels of all her titles flow and develop.

Infancy is the time for sowing. Whoever desires to reap first must have sown in abundance.

If the root is holy, the branches will be holy.

What tongue could proclaim, what mind could penetrate, the sublime dignity to which the Virgin Mary was raised? Unique Virgin among virgins, chosen as Mother of God.

4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:22-35)

Look in the mother for the virtues in which she educates her son; don't look in the mother for the defects she corrects in him.

We will always live joyfully, if, abandoning ourselves in the arms of the Virgin Mary, our most affectionate Mother, we faithfully live God's will.

Learn from Jesus and from Mary how necessary it is to conform oneself to the dispositions and precepts of the Church. Mary and Jesus fulfill that to which they

³³ Taken from Franco Stano: Il rosario con San Antonio M. Claret, Palermo 2000.

are not bound. How do you think you can exempt yourself from that to which you are bound?

As the Cross precedes every procession, so humility precedes all the other virtues. True glory is like a shadow: it flees from those who seek it and accompanies those who flee from it.

5. Jesus, Lost and Found Among the Teachers (Lk 2:41-52)

Love is like a fire that reduces everything to fire. Whoever really loves Christ reduces everything to fire—what he does, what he says, what he thinks, what he suffers.

Like Mary and Joseph, we have to look for Jesus. And, as Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple, you also need to try to look for him in the temple.

With Jesus lost, neither Joseph nor Mary had any rest until they found Him, and as they found Him, so also will you.

Through Mary the prisoner regains freedom, the sick health, the depressed joy, the sinner pardon, the just perseverance.

In the Christian universe, Jesus is the mind; Mary is the heart.

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday and Friday)

1. The Prayer in the Garden (Lk 22:39-46; Jn 18:4-5)

Contemplate Jesus in the garden. He suffers sadness and agony. If you ask Him the reason for such great suffering, he will turn and look at you.

Take heart and trust. Tempests and hurricanes don't last forever. All of them are followed by the calm.

Two things light the road to sanctity: the effort to know God's will and the determination to fulfill it to the utmost when it is known.

Have you seen Christians rejoicing in the glory of the world? Take the name of Christ and, thus look to Christ.

Obedience and humility make Jesus victorious. From Him we learn obedience and humility.

2. The Scourging (Mt 27:27-32; Jn 18:38-40.19:1)

Naked and bound to a pillar, He, the Innocent One, He who has committed no sin, is cruelly scourged.

In sorrow saints are forged.

If it is certain that the innocent are called to suffer for a little while, it is also certain that they shine resplendently afterwards. It is also certain that, in the end, all humankind will bless His name.

We should imitate Jesus who always prayed for his persecutors.

One who lives in the spirit of Christ, discerns in adversity the instrument by which God wants to purify him.

3. The Crowning with Thorns (Mk 15:16-20)

All God's works are like roses. Each rose is surrounded by thorns, which tells us the one who does not want to suffer will never be able to rejoice.

When you feel persecuted, unappreciated, and slandered, be patiently silent, as Jesus was silent. Thus you will win the crown of glory.

Many think Christ is only a mock King and ignore His message. You recognize Him as the true King and live by the law of the Gospel.

I will build a chapel in the depths of my heart and in it, night and day, I will adore my King and my Lord.

Live everything in the presence of so great a King! And thus magnify everything, even the simplest and most insignificant ones.

4. Jesus Bears the Cross on His Back (Lk 23:26-32; Jn 19:17-18)

No one enters paradise without retracing the way of the Cross. Many want to follow Christ to Mount Tabor. But few want to follow Him up Calvary!

The Cross, which each of us is called to bear, has the purpose of loosening our attachment to the things of the world.

Because Jesus bore the Cross for us, it is just and right that each of us, in imitation of the Savior and out of love for Him, bears his own cross.

Working and suffering are the greatest proofs of love.

Love Him. You will thus dry His sweat and tears, help Him bear the Cross, accompany Him as Mary did, and never abandon Him again.

5. Jesus Dies on the Cross (Lc 23:33-34.44-46; Jn 19:26-30)

The Cross presents the Christian with a perfect compendium of Gospel morality.

No one has greater love than he who lays down his life for one he loves. Jesus gave His life for you. Consider well that He loves you—and how great is the love! And, if love is repaid with love, love Him and love Him truly.

The thought of death acts in life like a ship's rudder. Thanks to the rudder the ship avoids reefs and heads for port. Thanks to the thought of death the human person avoids the reefs of evil and reaches the port of salvation.

We all must refer ourselves to Christ. Christ is the cornerstone that unites the Old and New Testaments. He dies on the Cross with his arms open wide to welcome both the Old Law and the New Law of grace.

Because you know his courage, embrace the Cross and joyfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus, your Lord and Master.

The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)

1. Jesus Rises from the Dead (Jn 20:1-10; Mk 16: 9-14)

Christ leaves the shroud and the tomb and rises glorious and triumphant. He can die no more. What joy! What happiness!

What joy did Jesus not experience in body and in spirit when, risen, he recognized in the redemption of the human race the overwhelming fecundity of his obedience to the eternal Father!

All people are called to embark on and travel the path that leads to the glory of the resurrection. It is the path God Himself had shown us. It is called the path of love.

One who suffers for justice' sake best knows the magnificence of the Lord. And the light of the Lord will shine for all eternity.

We will see God in the immensity of His light and His truth. We will love God and our hearts will be immersed in his volcano of love; they will float in the volcano of his delights and gentleness. We will see God and our desire will be completely satisfied because we will be eternally and completely happy and free from all suffering and sorrow.

2. The Ascension of the Lord (Ac1:6-11)

On this earth one is only a pilgrim, a traveler. And as such one eagerly desires that the journey ends in a happy homeland. Certainly we have not been created for earth but for heaven, and heaven is our happy homeland.

Only Christ, only His mystery, can cure the sickness of humankind and its history; and it is thus an entire intellectual, moral and social drama.

Jesus is the Way shown us. And not only the Way, but also the Truth and the Life.

One is the Christ who has redeemed and sanctified us. One is the Christ who will glorify us if we have the strength to follow His way.

Jesus presents Himself to us, pilgrims in the Faith, as the model and love of God, of neighbor and of ourselves and He awaits us as the prize for our journey.

3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:19-23; Ac 1:13-14, 2:1-4)

The special work of the Holy Spirit is the sanctification of humankind. The Spirit, who is the Spirit of love, communicates holiness to human beings.

With the fire of his love, the Spirit consumes whatever impurities or stains there are in the person.

The Spirit turned ignorant and fearful fishermen into wise and great apostles, into valiant proclaimers of the Gospel.

The Spirit vivifies, sustains and sanctifies the entire Church.

If our duty is to live by God's will, then it is the Holy Spirit who makes us know it and gives us the means necessary to fulfill it.

4. The Assumption of Mary Body and Soul into Heaven (Lk 1:46-48; Ep 4:7-13; Col 3:1-4)

There is heaven in those who hope.

Imitate Mary. Be faithful to grace. Seek perfection. Never surrender. Don't look back. Pursue virtue. And you will be given a crown of glory.

Remembering Mary's Assumption should arouse in us great confidence and hope in salvation. In heaven we not only have our Father, we also have our Mother. And if she loves us so much on earth, how much more will she love us in heaven where love reigns?

Mary is, at one and the same time, the stairway and the door that opens in heaven, We must climb that stairway, we must knock at that door if we want to share in the glory of the Lord.

Grace raises Mary from earth to heaven. In Mary, God resides. Through Mary God's favors descend from heaven and through Mary our petitions reach heaven.

5. Mary Is Crowned Queen of the Universe (Rv 12:1-5.9-10; Lk 1:46-49)

Happiness lies in God alone. Whoever seeks it needs to seek it in God.

Humility, obedience, love and the other virtues earn Mary such great glory. The Church, enthralled, sings: The Mother of God is elevated in heaven above all the choirs of the angels and the saints.

There, at Christ's right hand, Mary is seated, crowned as Queen of heaven and earth. She sits there in love and power, Mother of humankind and of Christians for ever.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit crown Mary in heaven. And the Holy Virgin wants that same crown of glory to adorn each of her sons.

Mary is the Heart of the Church. As such, she absorbs God's grace and lavishes on the hearts of the faithful.

The Litany of Loretto

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us
God, the Father of heaven
Have mecy on us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world
Have mercy on us
God, the Holy Spirit
Have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, One God
Have mercy on us

Holy Mary
Pray for us
Holy Mother of God
Holy Virgin of virgins
Mother of Christ
Mother of divine grace
Mother of the Church
Mothe most pure
Mother most chaste
Virgin and Mother
Mother most holy
Mother most pure
Mother most amiable
Mother most admirable
Mother of Good Counsel
Mother of the Creator
Mother of the Savior
Virgin most prudent
Virgin most venerable
Virgin most renowned
Viridin most powerful
Virigon most merrciful
Virgin most faithful
Ideal of Holiness
Seat of Wisdom
Cause of Our Joy
Temple of the Holy Spirit
Honor of Our People
Model of Dedication to God
Mystical Rose
Strong as the Tower of David
Beautiful as a Tower of Ivory

House of Gold
Ark of the New Covenant
Gate of Heaven
Morning Star
Health of the Sick
Refuge of Sinners
Comforter of the Afflicted
Help of Christians
Queen of Angels
Queen of Patriarchs
Queen of Prophets
Queen of Apostles
Queen of Martyrs
Queen of Those who live their Faith
Queen of Virgins
Queen of All Saints
Queen conceived without original sin
Queen assumed into heaven
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
Queen of Peace
Lamb of God, who take away the sins
of the world
Spare us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who take away the sins
of the world
Graciously hear us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who take away the sins
of the world
Have mercy on us

V/. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God
R./ That we may be worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let us pray

.
We ask you, Lord that we, your
servants, may rejoice in continual health
of mind and body and, through the
glorious intercession of the Virgin
Mary, free us from sorrow in this world
and grant us the joys of heaven.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

IV. EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS

106. *“In the first place, every day we should wholeheartedly celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist, keeping close to Christ our Lord as he proclaims the words of life, offers himself for his brothers and sisters, honors his Father and builds up the unity of the Church. We should cherish conversation with Christ our Lord by visiting and worshipping him in the Holy Eucharist”⁹⁷.*

“They should wholeheartedly cling to Christ our Lord, especially in the mystery of the Eucharist, since they are planning to share in his life and ministry”⁹⁸.

“We should cherish conversation with Christ our Lord by visiting and worshipping him in the Holy Eucharist”⁹⁹.

“Preserving a sound tradition of the Institute (CC 36) we should strive ... to visit the Blessed Sacrament individually when this is not done in community”¹⁰⁰.

“Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, whether in the ciborium or in the monstrance, leads the faithful to recognize in it that marvelous presence of Christ and invites them to the union of heart with him that culminates in sacramental communion. Thus the worship in spirit and in truth that is required is appropriately promoted. One must assure in such expositions the worship of the Blessed Sacrament manifests, even in the external signs, its relationship to the Mass”¹⁰¹.

“During exposition, the prayers, songs and readings should be organized in such a way that the faithful may attend to prayer dedicated to Christ, the Lord”¹⁰².

“Before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for a prolonged period of time, some part of the Liturgy of the Hours may be celebrated, especially the major Hours. In this way the praise and thanksgiving paid to God in the celebration of the Eucharist are extended throughout the various hours of the day and the petitions of the Church are addressed to Christ and the Father in the name of the whole world”¹⁰³.

107.

1. Models of Celebrations

1.

- Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song
- Opening Prayer
- Reading from Scripture or the Fathers of the Church
- Responsorial psalm
- Homily

⁹⁷ CC 35.

⁹⁸ CC 61.

⁹⁹ CC 35.

¹⁰⁰ Dir 87.

¹⁰¹ *Ritual for Holy Communion and Eucharistic Worship Outside Mass*, n. 82.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, n. 95

¹⁰³ *Ibid.* n. 96.

- Silence
- Petitions and the Our Father
- Eucharistic song for reservation
- Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
- Final acclamation

2.

- Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song
- Silence
- Short reading of a Gospel passage related to the Eucharist
- Silence
- Sung Eucharistic antiphon (which can be repeated several times)
- Short reading of another Gospel passage related to the Eucharist
- Silence
- Sung Eucharistic antiphon (which can be repeated several times)
- Petitions and the Our Father
- Eucharistic song for reservation
- Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
- Final acclamation

3.

- Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song
- Opening Prayer
- Reading of a short Gospel passage relating to conversion
- Silence
- Prayers of petition for forgiveness
- Sung acclamation
- Reading of a short Gospel passage relating to adoration
- Silence
- Invocations of adoration
- Sung acclamation
- Reading of a short Gospel passage relating to thanksgiving
- Silence
- Invocations of thanksgiving
- Sung acclamation
- Our Father
- Eucharistic song for reservation
- Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
- Final acclamation

4. Recitation of Lauds or Vespers *before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for a prolonged period of time.*

- Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song
- Opening prayer
- Silence
- Opening invocation of the Hour
- Psalms

- Scripture reading
- Silence or homily
- Short response
- Benedictus or Magnificat with its corresponding antiphon
- Intercessions and Our Father
- Closing prayer
- Eucharistic song for reservation
- Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
- Final acclamation

2. Prayers to the Eucharist

- 108.** Grants us, Lord, our God,
 That those who believe and proclaim
 That Jesus Christ
 Was born for us of the Virgin Mary,
 Died for us on the Cross
 And is present in the Sacrament,
 May drink from this divine wellspring
 The gift of eternal salvation.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 109.** Grant, O Lord, our God,,
 that we may celebrate with fitting praises
 that Lamb slain for us
 and hidden in this Sacrament
 so that we may merit to see Him revealed in his glory.
 Through Christ, our Lord.
- 110.** O God, you gave us the true bread from heaven.
 Grant, we beseech you,
 That by the power of the spiritual food,
 We may always live in you
 And rise glorious on the last day.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 111.** O Lord, illumine our hearts with the light of faith
 and kindle in us the fire of love
 that we may adore in spirit and in truth
 the One we recognize in this Sacrament
 as our God and Lord.
 Who lives and reigns forever and ever.
- 112.** O God, you redeemed all humankind
 through the Paschal Mystery of Christ,
 who, in this Sacrament, offers Himself for His brothers and sisters.
 Grant that, by constantly venerating the mystery of our redemption,
 We may obtain its fruits
 And awaken in all people awareness of the presence of the Lord.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

113. Lord, may the Sacrament of the Eucharist,
fill our hearts with your love and apostolic zeal
to impel us to desire
that all people may know you, love you and serve you,
and obtain for themselves the blessedness of that kingdom
already begun here on earth.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

114. Lord, you have made us sharers in the one bread and the one Spirit.
Grant, that, united to you like the branches on the vine,
We may be one with you in building up our communion
And in recreating the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

115. Lord Jesus, you completely identified yourself with those who suffer
and you said to us
“come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will refresh you”.
Make us one with those who suffer infirmity, sorrow, injustice and oppression.
We come into your presence
that you may inflame us with your love
until we rejoice in our sufferings
and glory in your Cross.
You who live and reign forever and ever.

116. Lord, who through the Paschal Mystery
effected human salvation,
grant that we may adore You present here in the Sacrament
and faithfully proclaim what we now venerate.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

117. Lord Jesus,
set us on fire with the faith
that moved so many preachers of the divine Word
to embrace with consummate joy
poverty, sacrifice and self-denial
in order to spread your kingdom.
We ask this, united in our hearts to You,
Who are present in the mystery of the Eucharist we now venerate
And whose life and ministry we share.
You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

3. Scripture Readings

118.

Readings may be taken from those here, or from the Lectionary (Votive Mass for the Eucharist) or from the Ritual for Holy Communion and Eucharistic Worship Outside Mass).

- A) Ex 24: 3-8 This is the blood of the covenant the Lord shares with us
- B) Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a He fed you with manna, that neither you nor your ancestors had known
- C) Ac 2:42-47 They were of one heart and held everything in common
- D) 1 Co 10:16-17 As the bread is one, so we who are many form one body
- E) 1 Co 11:23-26 Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord.
- F) . Lk 24:13-35 They recognized him in the breaking of the bread
- G) Jn 6:24-35 They who come to me shall hunger, they who believe in me shall not thirst
- H) Jn 6:51-59 My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

4. Prayers of Petition and Invocations

119.

These are offered as models which may be adapted or added to.

1. Prayers Asking for Pardon

- a.
 - For not listening, with assiduous contemplation, to the Word we must proclaim
R/. Lord, have mecy
 - For not living our faith, and for not trusting in You who chose us as instruments, as fragile and weak as we are, to confound the strong
 - For lack of commitment in ministry to others, and for not making what we do a work of the community
 - For not giving ourselves completely to the work of the Gospel, and for not deepening the meaning of intuition, availability and catholicity.
- b.
 - You who were rich became poor to enrich and save us. *Lord, have mercy.*
 - You devoted yourself entirely to the things of the Father and preached the Good News of the Kingdom. *Christ, have mercy.*
 - You, who died and rose for our salvation, are seated at the right hand of the Father. *Lord, have mercy.*

120. 2. Invocations of Adoration

- a.
 - You who have given us the Eucharist as a memorial of your death and resurrection
R/. We praise you, Lord.
 - You who every day seat us at your table and offer us the bread of your Word and your Body
 - You who have desired to remain among us under the sacramental species of bread and wine.

b.

- Christ Jesus, Son sent by the Father and anointed by the Spirit
- Christ Jesus, who proclaim the words of life
- Christ Jesus, who offer yourself for your brothers and sisters
- Christ Jesus, who build up the unity of the Church.

121. 3. Invocations of Thanksgiving

a.

- For having granted us the gift of following Jesus in communion of life
R/. We thank you, Lord
- For calling us to the perfection of the Father
- For feeding us with the Word of Life we must proclaim

b.

- For the gift of the Eucharist that is the sign of unity and the bond of love
- For sending us to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Lord so all humankind can be saved through Him
- For being able to recognize you in this Sacrament and in those suffer sorrow, injustice and oppression

V. RECONCILIATION

122.

Even though through baptism we have been incorporated into the Paschal Mystery of Christ, and have received the grace of our missionary vocation, while we live in the world we are not exempt from temptation and falling into sin. The Constitutions remind us that “we ... *undergo many temptations*” as did our Lord (n. 53). On these occasions, “*we must stand loyally by Christ, who is still being put to the test in us*” (ibid.).

“Temptations can be an obstacle to advancing in holiness of life. In order to overcome them, we should avail ourselves of the following means: manifest our temptations and difficulties to those who can help us, resist temptations promptly; examine our main spiritual weakness and strengthen that area through meditation, prayers and acts of virtue. As long as a temptation lasts, we should not make any change in our way of life nor add any new resolutions or proposals. Meanwhile we should not omit or lessen our regular spiritual practices, but rather, we should increase and prolong them”¹.

Sin disrupts our personal relationship with God and disturbs and debilitates the community.

123.

1. Recognizing Our Own Faults and Fraternal Correction

In order to effectively promote spiritual progress, the Constitutions invite us to recall our own sins and defects, and even confess them to our brothers and ask pardon from them². They even urge us to desire and ask to be corrected and to receive the corrections from our brothers gratefully³, as well as to admonish someone we see acting in an improper way, first in private, with love and humility, and through the Superior if “*immediate action should be taken for his own good or that of others*”⁴. So that “*he may follow more surely in the way of the Lord*”, one should welcome and comfort the repentent brother and “*imitating the goodness and kindness of Jesus*” reach out our hand to those who have fallen for any reason, in order to “*with our works ... let them know that all is forgiven and forgotten, that they are still vital and efficient members of the community, which does not so much dwell on the past as looks to present and the future*”⁵.

124.

2. Examinations of Conscience

¹ Dir 143.

² CC 41.

³ CC 54.

⁴ CC 55.

⁵ Dir 49; cf. CC 55.

The Holy Founder recommends making an examination of conscience twice a day: *“The examination of conscience, according to the mind and practice of our Holy Founder, is carried out concretely at two basic times: towards midday, when it mainly has the character of mental prayer, and at night, when it has the character of a general review of the day, and can be joined to the recitation of Compline”*⁶.

Examination Regarding the Constitutions

1. Do we continually thank God for his love, for our vocation to follow Christ in communion of love and to preach the Gospel to every creature according to the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret (4)?

2. Do we listen with docility to the Word of the Lord that we have to proclaim in order to be converted to the Gospel ourselves and conform ourselves to Christ, set on fire with the love that must impel us (4.34)?

3. Is our missionary life ruled and informed by the love of God and our brothers, poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (10.40)? Do we continually work together to build up the community? Do we forgive (16)? Do we bring peace everywhere we go (17)?

4. Do we love chastity as a gift from God, receive it joyfully, and cultivate it diligently (22)?

5. Are we personally available and do we have our things at the disposal of the others, of the Congregation, and of the poor (25)? Are we truly poor in spirit and in fact (26)?

6. Do we obey the Lord, impelled by love, promptly and perfectly, submitting ourselves to our brothers for His sake (31)? Do we offer our help to others through prayer, counsel, and fraternal dialogue in seeking and fulfilling God’s will (29)?

7. Do we give priority in our life to daily prayer (37)? Do we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary as her loving sons (36)? Do we celebrate the Eucharist with all our spirit (35) and the sacrament of Reconciliation (38)?

8. Do we strive to have the same thoughts and feelings Jesus had (39)? Are we humble enough to acknowledge our own dependence on God in order to offer loving service to our brothers (41)?, Are we meek (42)?, Do we practice mortification until we rejoice in adversity (43, 44)?, Are we patient (45)?

9. Do we recognize the Lord in those who suffer and offer them effective help? Are we in solidarity with those who suffer illness, injustice or oppression, bearing all things for their sake (44)? Do we share humankind’s hopes and joys,

⁶ Dir. 90.

especially those of the poor? Do we seek to transform the world according to God's plan (46)?

10. Do we foster a sense of availability and catholicity by renouncing everything we have become accustomed to and going anywhere in the world with an open spirit (48)?

11. Do we ardently desire the Lord's justice, strengthening ourselves to attain the full maturity of Christ (51)? Are we watchful so we do not fall into temptation (53)? Do we effectively promote progress in knowledge and virtue through personal and community discernment and fraternal correction (54, 55, 56)?

12. Do we know, esteem and observe these Constitutions in order to progress in the way of the Lord and in service to the kingdom of God (58.4)?

125.

3. Sacramental Celebration of Penance

Since sin is not merely an individual matter, but involves the Church at the same time, reconciliation is not only an invisible relationship between God and the sinner, but also, by God's will, involves a visible relationship with the Church. The reconciliation of the sinner with the Church is the principal effect of the sacramental celebration of penance, and the visible sign, the way and instrument of reconciliation with God. Our divine life is inseparable from our sacramental life. This relationship between personal conversion and the sacramental life, between the individual aspect and the community aspect, stands out in the Constitutions: *"We should frequently celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which both symbolizes and perfects our spirit of constant conversion to God. For in virtue of this Sacrament, we are reconciled with the Church, which we have wounded by our sins, and with Christ, who knew no sin. Thus we too die to sin"* ⁷.

"The periodic personal and community celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, besides bringing us to acknowledge our own sinfulness, will spur us on to accept the dynamic movement of God's powerful Grace" ⁸.

126.

4. Model and Materials for a Communal Penance Celebration Without Sacramental Confession

1.- Introduction

C. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

C. Grace and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us life and washed away our sins with his blood.

A. Blessed are you, O Lord.

⁷ CC 38.

⁸ CPR 55.

C. My brothers, if we have sinned, let us not be disheartened, because we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the expiatory victim for our sins and those of the whole world. Let us dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of salvation and let us be reconciled with God so that all the gifts he has given us may bear fruit in abundance and we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the kingdom of heaven¹⁰⁴

2. Liturgy of the Word

a) *One may choose some of the following readings and responsorial psalms or other appropriate texts:*

Dt 5:1-3,6-7,11-12: Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Is 1:10-18: Cease to do evil, learn to do good.

Ez 36:24-28: I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you

Bar 1:15-22: *Hear, O Lord and have mercy for we have sinned against you.*

Ps 50: 12-13,14-15,18-19: *O God, create in me a pure heart.*

Rom 6:3-9: Let us walk in newness of life.

2 Cor 5:17-6:2: He has reconciled us to himself and made us ministers of reconciliation.

Ep 4: 23-32: Renew your minds.

Ep 5:1-14: Walk in love, as Christ loved us.

Mt 5:1-12a: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Mt 22:34-40: On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

Mt 25:31-40: As often as you did this to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it for me.

Mk 12:28b-34: What is the greatest commandment?

Jn 13:34-35; 15:10-13: I give you a new commandment.

Jn 15:9-12: Remain in my love.

b) Homily or shared reflection or reading of some text from the Fathers or from the Magisterium.

3. Penitential Liturgy

C. My brothers, let us confidently ask God, our Father, compassionate and faithful, to accept our repentance for our sins and to grant us his mercy.

During some period of silence, one can make an examination of conscience regarding the Constitutions, using the questions in the previous section, or offer these petitions for pardon or other spontaneous ones. After each one Kyrie eleison is sung or said.

- You have called us to follow Jesus by professing the evangelical counsels but we often live according to the logic of the world and have not avoided things detrimental to our spiritual life or apostolic witness¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰⁴ CC 44 and 45.

¹⁰⁵ CC 57.

- You wanted your Son, Jesus Christ, to identify himself completely with those who suffer. You invite us to recognize Him suffering in them and to offer them effective help, but we have not been in solidarity with those who suffer illness, injustice or oppression¹⁰⁶.
- You have poured out into our Hearts through the Holy Spirit love for you and our brothers, but we have not let this love rule and inform our missionary life¹⁰⁷.
- You have sent us to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of the Lord until he comes, but we have not done this by all means possible nor fostered the sense of intuition, availability and catholicity our mission requires¹⁰⁸.

C. Having been reconciled with the Father, let us offer pardon and peace to our brothers.

The sign of peace is exchanged; while this is going on Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est may be sung.

4. Conclusion

C. Let us sing now the mercy of the Lord, whose name is holy.

Singing of the Magnificat or the Our Father.

C. Prayer:

Father of mercy you have called us, not because of what we do, but because of your sovereign will, and have justified us in your Son, Jesus Christ. May the good work you have begun in us be brought to fulfillment on the day of Christ Jesus. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A. Amen.

Blessing and dismissal.

¹⁰⁶ CC 44.

¹⁰⁷ CC 10.

¹⁰⁸ CC 46 and 48.

VI. OPENING AND CLOSING OF MEETINGS

127.

As a general rule, community meetings begin and end with a prayer, either one of those below, or one from section I of this Directory, addressed to the Heart of Mary, our Holy Founder, or for one of the purposes for which the meeting is being held.

1. Opening

128. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V/. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created

R/. And you will renew the face of the earth.

O God,
You have illumined the hearts of the faithful
By the light of the Holy Spirit;
Grant us always to be docile to this same Spirit,
That we may ever be truly good
And rejoice in his consolation.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

129. Lord, as we gather in your name,
We want to be in your presence,
Grant us a spirit of dialogue,
Illumine our minds with the light of truth
And strenghten our fraternal sprit
That we may always seek and do your will.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

130.

Antphon:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst,” says the Lord.

Let us pray:

God, our Father, your Son promised to be present
Whenever we gather in his name:
Make him present among us here,
So that we express the communion of life and mission
Of the whole Institute,
So may we walk in all diligence
-In obedience to the Spirit
And with complete fidelity to our missionary charism-,
In the state of our missionary life,
And once it is known,
May we move with carefully
-with united feeling and desire-

toward appropriate renewal.
Through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

131.

We are here, Lord,
Gathered in your name and desiring to spread your kingdom.
May the Holy Spirit you have sent into our hearts
And that keeps your presence alive among us,
Show us what we should try
And what way we should go
So that, strengthened by your grace,
We may put your plans into action.

Be who you are, O Holy Spirit,
The inspirer and animator of our discernment.
Teach us to listen to others,
To let ourselves be illumined by their light;
Teach us to propose and not to impose;
Give us balance.
Free us from the blindness of those who always have to be right,
From favoritism and from total acceptance of persons.
Unite us to you that we may never stray from the truth.
Amen.

132.

Father of goodness,
Look upon this community gathered in your name
To share fraternity and dialogue on the truth,
Grant it may discover the demands of the Gospel with greater clarity
In order to be light for the world and salt for the earth.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

2. Closing

133.

Father of goodness,
We thank you for this encounter
In which we have shared our dreams and disillusionment,
Our projects and our problems,
Make us always respond efficaciously
To our vocation and mission in the Church,
Following the example of Claret, our Father.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

134.

Lord, we thank you

For this community encounter,

For your kindness and your presence among us,

With a fraternal spirit

Make us of one mind and one heart in order to be a community
evangelized and evangelizing.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

VII. RETREATS AND SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

135.

“Spiritual exercises, retreats, courses, assemblies and other organized encounters should make it a priority to encourage and direct each Claretian toward a knowledge and, above all, a deeper living of his spirituality, according to his proper state in the Congregation”¹

1. Monthly Retreat

136.

“Each month we should set aside a day for recollection during which we can reflect on our own vocation and renew within us our hope of the glory to come, so as to be better prepared for the Lord’s coming”².

“Each month the community dedicates a day to spiritual renewal. This can be done in different ways, in keeping with the different conditions of each house (CC 52). Concrete arrangements for the date and timetable of this day of recollection belong to the local superior, after hearing from his community.

On this day there should be a meditation on a theme of our missionary life, a talk and an examination that might be in the form of a community review of life. Whenever possible, there should be a concelebrated Mass or some other Eucharistic act”³.

In any case, “each community should frequently review its own prayer, its fidelity to the prescribed acts of piety, and the creation of a favourable environment for prayer. The superior will take responsibility for this community review, as one outstanding service of his mission in the community”⁴.

2. Spiritual Exercises

137.

“Each year we should make a retreat with all due care”⁵.

According to the Directory (n. 92), the exercises normally should be held outside one’s place of work, in a climate of silence and retreat. Forms of retreat other than the Ingantian Exercises are permitted.

No matter what the form, the objective the exercises had for our Founder should not be forgotten: to grow in awareness of one’s own vocation in order to respond to it; to grow in awareness of mission in order to offer oneself to it with availability; and to grow in awareness of the calibre of missionary life demanded by our vocation.

¹ CPR 58.

² CC 52.

³ Dir 91.

⁴ Dir 93.

⁵ CC52.

The one making the exercises, according to Fr. Claret, should leave the exercises on fire with apostolic zeal, with the force of a bullet, of a locomotive, or of a steamship. Thus, according to the traditional practice in the Congregation, the exercises begin and end with the recitation of the *Veni Creator*; at the end there is a meditation on the coming of the Holy Spirit.

138.

The Opening of Spiritual Exercises

1. *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Mentes tuorum visita,
Imple superna gratia,
Quae tu creaste pectora.
 Qui diceris Paraclitus
Altissimi donum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis, charitas,
Et spiritalis unctio.
 Tu septiformis munere
Dígitus paternae dexteræ,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
Sermone ditans guttura.
 Accende lumen, sensibus,
Infunde amorem cordibus,
Infirma nostri corporis,
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,
Pacemque donis protinus:
Ductore sic te praevio
Vitemus omne noxium.
 Per te sciamus da Patrem,
Noscamus atque Filium,
Teque utriusque Spiritus
Credamus omni tempore.
 Deo Patri sit gloria,
Et Filio, qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito
in saeculorum saecula. Amen.

2. Prayer of Our Holy Founder at the Opening of Exercises

139.

O Virgin Mary, my Mother,
You had the comfort of seeing the Apostles and the disciples
Gathered in the Cenacle
And the ultimate pleasure of seeing all of them
Filled with the Holy Spirit.
My Mother,
I have the grace of being able to make these exercises
Under your direction.
With every confidence I ask you
To obtain for me all the graces I need
To make them well.
Strengthen my determination to make everything I know
Be for the greater glory of God and the good of my soul.
My Mother, help me and protect me now and forever.
Amen.

VIII. FEASTS OF THE CONGREGATION

140. *“Let them take the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Christ, as their Mother and Teacher”¹⁰⁹.*

“As loving sons we should honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is associated with all her heart in the saving work of her Son. Our honor for her should be expressed both in the liturgy and in such traditionally approved forms of Marian devotion as the Rosary”¹¹⁰.

“As a traditional expression of our piety, the novena to the Heart of Mary and the triduum to our Holy Founder should be celebrated in common. In this same sense other devotions, such as the Marian Month and the triduum to St. Joseph, are recommended. These should be performed with simplicity and draw their inspiration from the liturgy”¹¹¹.

1. NOVENA TO THE HEART OF MARY

141. *“We must strengthen the Marian dimension of our spirituality by living and expressing, in keeping with the culture of the people we serve, the kind of relationship with Mary that our Constitutions ask of us. For us, she is our Mother, the one who inspired the Congregation, our model in the following of Christ and in our association with his saving work, the first disciple of Christ, and the one whose special concern is the formation of apostles”⁴.*

142. Celebration with the People

1. If the novena is a separate act, it should include the elements presented below, using the models for a celebration of the Word or some other form proposed below.
2. If the novena to the Heart of Mary is joined to the celebration of the Eucharist, and if the liturgical calendar permits, it is most appropriate to use one of the forms in the Missal of “Masses for the Virgin” and its corresponding Lectionary, and to talk about Mary as the subject of the homily.
3. In preparing the novena, one should first specify the themes or core ideas that prayer will revolve around.

143. Celebration in the Claretian Community

It is most appropriate to respect the sense and development of each celebration and not mix liturgy with pious exercises or what is contained in them¹¹². Thus the novena is not made within the recitation of Vespers, but before or after them, although it may substitute for some pious exercise like the Rosary.

¹⁰⁹ CC 61.

¹¹⁰ CC 36

¹¹¹ Dir 88.

⁴ CPR 59.

¹¹² Cf. John Paul II: *Vigésimus quintus annus* (1989) n. 18.

~~In the appendix there is a complete novena to the Heart of Mary. Here some materials are presented that each community can use in organizing this novena.~~

(new)

The themes proposed here for this novena are taken from the titles applied to Mary in the texts of our Congregation, especially in the Constitutions¹¹³.

1. Listening to the Word (IPM 20)

Introduction

Mary is the virgin who listens, who welcomes the Word of God into her heart. Listening to and welcoming the Word is the precondition and the path to her divine motherhood. As the Fathers of the Church said: "Mary, filled with faith, conceived Christ first in her heart and then in her womb".

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, open our hearts and our minds so that as we listen to your Word we may welcome it with the docility with which the Virgin Mary received it into her heart. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- James 1,19-25: *Docilely accept the Word that has been planted and is able to save you*
- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 118: 105-112):

A lamp to my feet is your word,
A light to my path.
I resolve and swear
To keep your just ordinances.
I am very much afflicted;
O Lord, give me life according to your word.

R/. A lamp to my feet is your word

Accept, O Lord, the free homage of my mouth.
And teach me your decrees.
Though constantly I take my life in my hands,
Yet I forget not your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me,
But from your precepts I have not strayed.
Your decrees are my inheritance forever;

¹¹³ In the appendix there are some materials the community may use to put together the novena.

The joy of my heart they are.
I intend in my heart to fulfill your statutes
Always, to the letter.

- Lk. 11: 27-28: *Happy those who hear the Word of God and keep it*

Points for Reflection:

- Mary is a woman who reflects on and tries to understand the events of history in order to become aware of what the Lord wants. She does not remain passive: her attitude of docility becomes active collaboration in the Incarnation of God's Son.
- The Church listens, welcomes and reveres the Word of God, and in its light examines the signs of the times, interprets and lives the events of history. Thus throughout the centuries the Church has worked at delving into and deepening its insight into the Word
- What Mary did and what the Church carries on should be operative for each Christian: welcoming the Word, trying to incarnate it in one's life and understanding it more and more.
- Like Mary, who meditates of God's Word and confronts events with it, so the Christian needs to do a "sapiential" reading his or her own life and of human history, begging the Spirit for the prophetic gift of interpreting the will of God and collaborating in his project for human salvation.
- "The epoch-making change and cultural pluralism that we see in the Congregation encourage us to ask ourselves about the most fitting way to live our following of Jesus in chastity, poverty and obedience " (IPM 21).
- "The Church exhorts us to fulfill our prophetic service (cf. VC 73) and asks us to *cultivate* an in-depth experience of God; to *discern* in the light of the Spirit, the challenges of our time; and to *translate* them with courage and daring into options and projects that are coherent with both our original charism and with the demands of the concrete historical situation (cf. VC 73). We need, then, 'a solid spirituality of action, seeing God in all things and all things in God' (VC 74)" (IPM 22).

Intercessions

Let us pray to God our Father, who wanted his Word to become flesh in the womb of Mary and let us say to him:

Be it done to me according to your word.

- We ask you, Lord that your Church may proclaim the Good News of salvation to all people.
- Give the ministers of your Word the courage to incarnate it in their lives.
- That your Word, Lord, may illumine and guide our steps into the way of peace.
- Give us the ability to listen to our brothers and sisters and to open ourselves to their needs.
- Make us attentive to the signs of the times in order to discover in them your will and make us courageous in translating it into options and projects of evangelization.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, your Mother brought forth the Word because she first conceived it in her heart, and proclaimed a prophetic Magnificat because she has first believed. Let us, like her, welcome your word with a docile heart and make us bear fruit a hundredfold. Your who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

2. The First Disciple of the Lord (CC 61).

Introduction

Mary “was the first disciple of the Lord” the Constitutions tell us (n. 61). She welcomed the angel’s announcement, and day by day remained faithful to her promise. Accepting God’s will, she not only engendered God’s Son, but also lived united with Him, with the attitude of a disciple, and followed him along the roads of Palestine and even up Calvary, sharing with Him the sorrow of his passion and death on the cross.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, you do not desire sacrifices and burnt offerings, and yet you have given us a body. We say to you, like Jesus, like Mary: “Here we are, O God, we come to do your will”. Accept our intention to fulfill your will within our Congregation. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- Ga 6:14-18: *God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*

- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 90):

You who dwell in the shadow of the Most High,
Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
Say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust.

R./I trust in you, my refuge and my God.

For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler,
From the destroying pestilence.
With his pinions he will cover you,
And under his wings you shall take refuge;
His faithfulness is a buckler and a shield.

“Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
With length of days I will gratify him
And will show him my salvation”.

- Lk. 2: 33-35: *A sword will pierce your heart*

Points for reflection:

- The answer to the Lord is not given once and for all; joyful adherence to his call takes shape day after day. Nothing is clear from the very beginning: only constancy in faith brings to fulfillment the loving plan the Father has for each of us.
- Mary, at the invitation of the angel, agrees to be the mother of the Messianic King, but she does not know how this will be carried out or how this royalty will be expressed. In Simeon’s prophecy, the Messiah appears as the Servant of the Lord who will fulfill his mission by the sacrifice of the cross. And Mary will feel her heart pierced by a sword of sorrow in her mission as the mother of Jesus, when she has to go into exile in Egypt, when she experiences the loss of her Son in Jerusalem, and in following her Son up Calvary.
- In the words of the Council, Mary “advanced in the pilgrimage of the faith and faithfully preserved her union with her Son even unto the cross ” (LG 58). It was not easy for Mary to believe: she encountered a Son in all his vulnerability, a Son misunderstood, persecuted and condemned. She had to take a “leap of faith”, trusting only in God’s Word.
- Mary traveled the road all people travel. In due time she reached perfection. Human beings, since they cannot see all of life at once and fulfill it once and for all, have to keep repeating their self-offering to the Lord over the course of time, renewing it again and again.
- "The act of love on which the vows are founded has to be spontaneous, free of coercion; but in the idea of perfect love an element of perfect self-giving that is total and perpetual necessarily enters in. The sincerity of this commitment obliges us to remain faithful even when the initial fervor has worn off. Moreover, profession represents the indissoluble bond that unites Christ to the Church and must be a witness in the face of all the contingency and lack of security of modern men and women " (VR 44).
- "The prophecy of ordinary life, which is frequent among us, is what makes possible that great prophecy of extraordinary moments. It is shown in prayer as an expression of friendship with God; in an incessant search for his will; in relationships marked by tenderness, happiness of life, compassion, faith in others and service " (IPM 24). "We will inculcate in our missionaries, from initial formation on, a conviction of the need to live ongoing formation as a process that lasts all their life long, and of the suitability of their carrying out their own personal plan of formation " (IPM 34.3).

Intercessions

My brothers, let us pray to God our Father, through Christ and with Mary’s intercession, that we may remain faithful on our journey of faith. And we ask:

Make us faithful to your will, Lord, through the intercession of Mary

- Grant that the Church may always stay united to Christ, following the example of the Virgin Mary.
- Help all consecrated people to fulfill your will, taking up the cross every day with joy and hope.
- Comfort those who live far from home and native place and help them in their labors.
- Strengthen the sick, the imprisoned, and those who suffer for the sake of the faith or justice.
- Sustain us in our commitment to be faithful to our vocation in little things in order to be worthy of your promises.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Under the protection of the Virgin Mary, Lord grant us the courage of heart we need in difficult times and joy in the following of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

3. Our Model for Following Jesus (CC 20, 23, 28)

Introduction

As our model for following Jesus (cf. CC 20, 23, 28), we find the inspiration for our missionary vocation in Mary (cf. MCT 150).

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, receive the hopes and sufferings, the joys and hardships of each day in the following of Jesus. May your Spirit encourage us to be faithful to listening once more to your saving Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- 1Cor.7: 32-35: *I want you to be free of all concerns...in order to devote yourselves more worthily and assiduously to the Lord.*
- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 33):

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
The lowly will hear me and be glad.

R/. Those who seek the Lord lack for nothing

Glorify the Lord with me,
Let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me
And delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
And your faces may not blush with shame.
When the afflicted man cried, the Lord heard,
And from all his distress he saved him.

Fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
For nought is lacking to those who fear him.
The great grow poor and hungry;
But those who seek the Lord want for no good thing.

- Jn 2:1-12: *Do everything He tells you*

Points for reflection

- In the Hebrew Bible, God forsakes the Temple to live among human beings. Mary inaugurates God's saving presence among people, become temples of God. Consecrated by the action of the Spirit, Mary responds to God's call with her word of self-offering, of belonging to Him, of serving his salvific plans with complete availability.
- Mary invites everyone to obey Christ, joyfully following Jesus on the path of celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven, consecrating ourselves to God in order to be more available for his salvific plan. By completely belonging to God and by totally giving herself to God, Mary is the supreme example of perfect consecration (VC 28).
- Claret, when he presents the "pen-picture" of the missionary, the identity of the Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, emphasizes as the starting point the kind of love that burns to the point that one thinks of nothing other than how to follow and imitate Christ in procuring the glory of God and the salvation of people (cf. CC 9).
- The consecrated life, by profession of the vows, makes present the lifestyle Jesus himself adopted and proposed to his disciples and that was first embraced among us in faith by the Virgin Mary (CC 5). This consecrated life that we thus assume in imitation of Jesus Christ and following Mary's example (cf. CC 20, 23, 28), has as its primary objective "making visible the marvels God does through the frail humanity of the people He has called" (VC 21) and gives prophetic witness to the primacy of God and future good (VC 85).
- In the same way as Mary's virginity did not separate her from human needs, the vow of chastity is not one not to love, but to love more: more intensely and involving more people with a love that is pure, fraternal, free and eternal.

Intercessions

Brothers, let us call upon the Lord our God who has given us the supreme rule for our life of following Jesus as proposed in the Gospel.

Lord, may your Mother's example stimulate us in following Jesus.

- That the Virgin Mary, supreme example of perfect consecration, may help all Christians give themselves to the service of God and people according to their particular vocation.
- That all believers give primacy to God in their lives and not be carried away by this world's values.
- That the witness of consecrated people may challenge those who live far from the Lord and sustain them in the path of grace.
- That many may recognize in religious profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, a privileged way of holiness and come to follow it.
- That Mary's presence in our Institute may always encourage us to live consecrated to God in the common life through profession of the evangelical counsels and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you have given us in Mary an example for our missionary life and an image of our future glory. Grant to those who even now are pilgrims in this world the grace to love you above all things and to give witness to the resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen:

Closing Song

4. First Among the Poor of Yahweh (CC 23)

Introduction

God chooses weak human beings to perform mighty works: creating the universe out of nothing, making poverty wealth through his grace, making great things come from little things. Mary, the first among the poor of Yahweh (CC 23) discloses this plan of God to us.

Opening Song

Opening prayer

Lord, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. In Mary we recognize your fidelity to the promises you made to our ancestors. Open our eyes and our minds to recognize your intervention in us who, because of our poverty, can only hope in You, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- 1 Cor. 1: 26-31: *God has chosen the weak of this world to confound the strong*

- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 69):

Deign, O God, to rescue me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let them be put to shame and confounded
Who seek my life.

R/. My God, come to my help

But may all who seek you
Rejoice and be glad in you,
And may those who love your salvation
Say ever, "God be glorified!".

But I am afflicted and poor;
O God, hasten to me!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, hold not back!

- Lk. 1: 46-55: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*

Points for Reflection

- God has chosen the poor and the despised of this world to confound the strong. What is the reason for this most paradoxical choice? First, these are people who have given up relying on themselves and recognize the gratuitousness of salvation. But it also because God loves the poor, those who are deprived of everything and have to trust in God's providence. These are the ones who will inherit the Kingdom of heaven.
- Mary belongs to the world of the poor because of her modest economic circumstances, as we see in the offering she makes at the presentation of her Son in the Temple (Lk. 2:24), but also because, by her attitude of poverty, she places herself at the head of the poor of Israel who wait for and welcome salvation (Zp. 3:14-18).
- By professing poverty, "we live and prolong in the Church the poverty of Christ himself, who, being rich, became for our sake 'so that we might be enriched by his poverty' (PC 13). By practicing it in a real and effective way (cf. PC 13) we conform ourselves to the redeeming love of Christ, by which he humbled himself and assumed the condition of the poor and human suffering in order to save us " (PE 75).
- Our Founder "in order to imitate Christ and the Apostles...had no wish to possess anything. He looked for no material reward for his apostolic labors. He lived on alms and enjoyed ministering to the simplest and humblest people. He never relied on worldly power or display. By living and acting in poverty, he wanted to show his opposition to the increasing materialism which began to develop during his time and to prevent the needy from

raising objections to the value and authenticity of his ministry. No material interest was ever apparent in any of his enterprises--only the desire to further the spread of the Gospel and to reach the widest possible circles with his influence " (PE 76).

- "It costs to be poor and to find the road to poverty. We are convinced that our ministry only acquires great prophetic power when the Word we proclaim is backed up by our apostolic poverty, an authentic option for the poor, an economy in solidarity, and our own hard work. The market economy in which we are immersed obliges us to constantly rethink our economies and our lifestyle " (IPM 25).

Intercession

Let us ask God our Father to hear the cry of those who put their trust in Him and give them what they need to serve Him with freedom of spirit, and let us say to Him:

Lord, may we always seek your Kingdom and your justice.

- God you kept your word and brought your people Israel into the Promised Land.
- Provident God you fed your people in the desert.
- God you wanted your Son to become poor in order to make us rich
- Saving God, you chose Mary, first among the poor, as the Mother of your Son.
- Merciful God you have promised the Kingdom to the poor.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, our God, you allow us, like the Virgin Mary, to share the poverty of Jesus Christ. Grant that our life and activity may be permeated by the spirit of poverty and that by sharing our goods with the needy we make credible the Gospel of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

5. Totally Dedicated to the Person and Work of Her Son (CC 28)

Introduction

Mary "by embracing with her whole heart and without any stain of sin God's saving will, consecrated herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son " (LG 56). Moved by the Holy Spirit, we also want to dedicatedly hand ourselves over to Him.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, we ask that, nourished by her love, stimulated by her example, supported by her prayer, the Virgin Mary may help us serve Christ in our brothers and sisters

and to work tirelessly for Kingdom. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- Rom 14: 7-9: *Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's* (or Ga 2:19-20: *It is Christ who lives in me*)
- Responsorial Psalm (Ps.115):

I believed even when I said:
"I am greatly afflicted";
when I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable".

R/. I will fulfill my vows to You, O Lord.

How shall I make a return to the Lord
For all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will pay
In the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
In your midst, O Jerusalem.

- Lk. 2: 41-51: *Did you not know I had to be about my Father's business?*

Points for Reflection

- The Virgin was not a merely passive instrument in God's hands, but cooperated in the salvation of humankind with faith and freely-given obedience. St. Irenaeus says that "by obeying she became the source of her own salvation and that of the whole human race". Thus, in the same way as Eve was associated with Adam's fall and is the "mother of death", Mary is associated with Christ in the moment of redemption, and is the "mother of life".
- Mary was united with her Son in all the decisive moments of her life, from the moment of the Incarnation up to Calvary, at the foot of the cross, offering to the Father the sacrifice of her Son and her own sacrifice, as a contribution to our salvation. She also had difficulty understanding the demands of the faith: thus Mary did not understand what her Son was trying to say when they found him in the Temple in the midst of the teachers, but "she preserved all this in her heart".
- By baptism we are united with Christ, we become his property in order to belong to no one else but Him. That means assuming an attitude of obedience toward the Father, renouncing the right to conduct our lives

autonomously, or following the dictates of the flesh. The obedience of faith takes the form of a sacrifice of personal autonomy, but it is above all giving oneself to the love of Christ as a self-emptying of one's own nature.

- As missionaries we conform ourselves to Jesus Christ, who became obedient even unto death. We have no other road than that of Jesus and Mary: to be totally united to the Father's saving will, remembering that there is no obedience without love and without the firm decision to extend his passionate and benevolent love to the world.
- Our mission is that of "proclaiming the full mystery of Christ", according to the special vocation we have received, which is carried out by proclamation but also by means of the clear sign of one's own life and by commitment to transform the world according to the Beatitudes. This means, for us, being sensitive to what is most urgent, opportune and effective, but also involves total availability and the sense of catholicity, i.e., being open to all sides, all peoples and all ways of life.

Intercessions

Let us call on God our Father, who has called us to conform ourselves to his Son Jesus Christ who became obedient even unto death on a cross. Let us say to Him:

Lord, may your Mother form us in the image of Jesus.

- Lord, You desire that all people come to knowledge of the truth and be saved. Illumine them with the light of faith.
- Lord, may the Pope, the bishops and all the ministers of the Church proclaim the Gospel by their words and their holy lives.
- Lord, stir up abundant vocations of special consecration, especially in our Congregation, so that your mission of salvation may continue in the world.
- Lord, grant that the Sons of the Heart of Mary may grow in your love that we may be impelled to obey you promptly and perfectly and be available to proclaim the Gospel.
- That all those who have lost their faith or who live as if they had none return to the Church.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, you wanted to associate your work of redemption with the Virgin Mary and you have also granted to us the gift of following Christ by proclaiming the Gospel. Grant that we may use every means possible to extend the Good News of the Kingdom throughout the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

6. Mother of Christ (CC 36) and Our Mother (CC 61)

Introduction

"Conceiving Christ, giving birth to Him, nurturing Him, presenting Him to the Father in the Temple, suffering with her Son as He was dying on the cross, Mary cooperated in a unique way by obedience, faith, hope and burning love, in the restoration of the supernatural life of souls. For this reason she is our Mother in the order of grace " (LG 61). Her motherhood endures without ceasing in the economy of grace (cf. LG 62).

Let us celebrate our Mother with the love of sons and make her mission our own: to give Jesus to the world.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, as you were dying you gave your Mother to us as our Mother in order to continue in us the mission she did along with you. Grant that She may form us to be configured in your image, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- Ac 1:14; 2: 1-4: *They persevered in prayer... in the company... of Mary, the Mother of Jesus* (or: Rom 8: 14-17: *The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God*)

- Responsorial Psalm (Ps.102):

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits.

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
Slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
He will not always chide,
Nor does he keep his wrath forever .

As a father has compassion on his children,
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed;
He remembers that we are dust..
Bless the Lord, all his works,
Everywhere in his domain.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

- Jn. 19: 25-27: *There is your Mother*

Points for Reflection

- We look to the Virgin Mary to verify the Christ of our faith. Mary guarantees for us that Jesus is truly human and truly divine by virtue of her

virginal motherhood. The act of faith does not orient us toward an ideal, but toward a person: Christ—not a fantasized, idealized Christ, but the true Christ, the Son of the Virgin Mary. To affirm that Mary is the Mother of the Lord is to affirm that God has become one of us in order to save us.

- From being the Mother of Jesus, Mary becomes his disciple in order to receive from Him later on a universal motherhood. When her physical motherhood seems to end with the death of Christ, He expands the heart of Mary so that she can be the mother of all humankind. Mary goes from being the Mother of Jesus to being his disciple and from there to being the Mother of the human race.
- Mary is present at the birth of the Church and, assumed into heaven, she continues to exercise a salvific influence in behalf of the People of God. By grace she shares in the condition of the Risen Christ; freed from material limitations, she can be present to Christians everywhere at every moment of history, and she collaborates in the communication of divine life to human beings. She is our Mother in the order of grace.
- Our Father Founder recognized in the revelation of Jesus on Calvary the role of the Virgin in his life as disciple and apostle through the actions of accepting her spiritual motherhood—Mother, there is your son—and dedicating himself to her love and service. “Most Blessed Mother, may the courtesy of your Immaculate Heart, in accepting us as your Sons, be praised a thousand times! Mother, make us cooperate with such kindness by becoming daily more humble, fervent and zealous for the salvation of souls” (Aut. 493).
- The Congregation felt the same desire to recognize what the Mother of Jesus means for it and manifested it in its own dedication and consecration. “Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart, we accompany her in love and trust ” (CC 8) and we dedicate ourselves “in special service to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in order to fulfill the aim for which this Congregation has been established in the Church”, we say at our profession (CC 159).
- As Mother, the Heart of Mary makes it possible for God through his Spirit to conform us to Christ and his mystery. One who trusts himself to Mary as her son awaits configuration to Christ through her role as mother.

Intercessions

Let us ask the Lord that his Mother may help us with her protection:

Make us worthy sons of her heart.

- Lord, protect the Holy Father and all the shepherds of the Church so that they may be faithful to their mission of giving us Jesus.
- Bless our parents and all those who started us on the road of faith and missionary life, helping us to know and love Jesus.
- Grant the gift of love to the parents of families so that they may know how to transmit the love of Christ.
- Sustain widows, protect orphans, comfort the sorrowing and all those who live alone, increase the hope of the aged and the dying.
- Grant that we may experience the constant protection of Mary, your Mother and ours, and conform us totally to You.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for having given us your Mother as our Mother. Grant that we may welcome her with all our heart and always behave as worthy sons of her Heart. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

7. Formatrix of Apostles (CC 73)

Introduction

"As Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, She forms us in the forge of her mercy and love and makes us instruments of her maternal love for humanity in the exercise of our apostolic service " (Dir. 34). We entrust ourselves to Her and place ourselves in her hands.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, we humbly ask you that the Virgin Mary may be our Mother, Teacher, Formatrix and Directress and that we may always behave as worthy sons of hers. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- 1 Cor 4: 1-2; 14-15: *Through the Gospel I will beget you for Christ*
- Responsorial Psalm (Ps.36):

Trust in the Lord and do good,
That you may dwell in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
And he will grant you your heart's requests.

R/. Trust in the Lord and follow his way.

Commit to the Lord your way;
Trust in him, and he will act.
He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
Bright as noonday shall be your vindication.

The salvation of the just is from the Lord;
He is their refuge in time of distress.
And the Lord helps them and delivers them;
He delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
Because they take refuge in him.

- Lk. 2: 39-45: *She went with haste to the hill country...and greeted Elizabeth*

Points for reflection

- Mary, once she has received the Spirit at the announcement of the angel, feels the need to go to others. She hurries to bring the Good News to the poor: with haste, with no delay, because she feels the urgency of proclaiming the kingdom of God (cf. Lk. 10: 4).
- But along with this purpose of proclaiming the Kingdom and bringing salvation, Mary feels the need to be with her cousin Elizabeth because she knows she needs help and she hurries to meet her. The exercise of love, sensitivity to the needs of others is also seen in the initiative she takes at the wedding reception in Cana when she perceives the couple are close to running out of wine and indicates: "Do whatever He tells you".
- Whoever does not understand that the gift of God has to be proclaimed to others and does not turn this into praise and adoration, remains silent. Knowing we are Sons of the Heart of Mary impels us to proclaim the marvels of God—those he worked in Mary and those He is also working in us.
- Like our Holy Founder, we know we are formed in the forge of Mary's Heart. By her motherly action, Mary "forms us as true and authentic missionaries and apostles, as she formed Jesus as missionary of the Father and as she formed Claret the apostolic missionary. More specifically, by her motherly action Mary forms us, through an internal process, as ministers of the Word, as evangelizers to extend the Kingdom of God throughout the world. She is also the godmother who accompanies us as we grow in faith " (PGF 99 c).
- We are missionaries in order to prolong in the world and over the course of time the motherly role of Mary in the apostolic mission (CC 8), in proclaiming the full mystery of Christ. "Assumed into heaven, She has not given up this saving mission (motherhood in the economy of grace), but with manifold intercessions She continues obtaining for us the gifts of salvation. With her motherly love She cares for the brothers and sisters of her Son, who are still on pilgrimage and find themselves in danger and anxiety " (LG 62). "The presence of Mary in the Claretian family should bring light and fruitfulness to our urgent and effective endeavors as missionaries and servants of the Word. She is the star of evangelization " (MCT 151).

Intercessions

Formed in the forge of her Heart, through the intercession of the Heart of Mary, let us pray to the Lord for all those who await a word of hope and salvation.

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That our dedication to the Lord may grow through the motherly action of the Virgin and may be nourished by her example.
- That the formators in the Congregation may know how to transmit and infuse a deep love for Christ and Mary.

- That from the beginning of our formation as Claretian missionaries we may know how to find in the Heart of Mary inspiration for our own life and choices.
- That by letting ourselves be guided by Mary we may know how to translate and proclaim the mystery of Jesus into human, understandable language.
- That our Cordi-Marian spirituality may help us persevere in our vocation and exercise our apostolic ministry with generosity.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, blessed are You for having called us to be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Grant that we allow ourselves to be formed in the forge of her love in order to be servants of your Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

8. With All Her Heart (CC 36)

Introduction

The Heart of Mary is nothing more than another title for the Virgin Mary. It is a way of emphasizing the interiority of the Virgin, her motherly love, her attitude in relationship to Jesus and to ourselves, her sons. In her Heart we find welcome, understanding and tenderness.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Enkindle in us, Lord, the love that inflamed the Heart of Mary so that we may love You above all things and may love our neighbor as You have loved us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- 1 Cor 12: 31-13:13: *If I have not love, I am nothing*
- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 26):

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
Of whom should I be afraid?

R/. I will seek your face, O Lord.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks;
Your presence, O Lord, I seek
Hide not your face from me.

Show me, O Lord, your way,
And lead me on a level path,
Because of my adversaries.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
Be stouthearted and wait for the Lord.

- Lk. 2: 15-20: *Mary treasured all these things in her heart and the shepherds went back praising God for what they had seen and heard.*

Points for Reflection

- The Holy Spirit descended on Mary and created in her a new heart, the “new heart” promised by the prophets and that impels her to proclaim the Good News. The prophets continually reproach the people of Israel for the infidelities, their hardness of heart, their breaking of the covenant established with the Lord. They announce a new covenant, through which the Lord will remove his people’s “heart of stone” and will give them a “new heart”, a “new spirit”.
- In the Hebrew Bible the heart is not so much the seat of affectivity but the organ of discernment, that directs the will, desire, moral conduct. The heart of stone is hard, rebels against God’s will and is incapable of accepting it, while the new heart, from within the person, enables him or her to obey God by a free and voluntary act. Thus we see it in Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Beginning with novitiate, the time of initiation into the missionary life, we should discover in Mary the mother and formatrix that Jesus has given to his disciples, joyfully welcoming her as one of our most precious possessions. And we should recognize her in the symbol of her heart, with all the richness this symbol has in the Bible and in our spiritual tradition. Looking at Mary, we are called to respond affirmatively to the Spirit, without yielding to self-centeredness, to close-mindedness about God and people. Through Mary’s influence we learn to give ourselves to the service of God and our brothers and sisters without reservations, with generosity.
- But devotion to the Heart of Mary helps us also discover the spiritual demands of consecration to the Father, associated with Christ, in the enterprise of the salvation of humankind. “The figure, the image of the Heart of Mary is in the Missionary Son; that idea is the foundation for his soul, in his mind, in his imagination, in his heart, in his emotions, in his words, in his missionary activity” (N. García, Piety, Col CC 658). Without Jesus and Mary one cannot embody the definition of the missionary proposed by our Father Founder.
- The Church, in its apostolic labor, is fixed on Her who bore Christ...The Virgin was, in her life, the exemplar of that motherly love it is needed in order to animate all those who, in the apostolic mission of the Church, cooperate in human rebirth" (LG 65). "Our prophetic lifestyle receives a distinctive imprint from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of the Congregation. She teaches us that without heart, without tenderness, without love, there is no credible prophecy" (IPM 20).

Intercessions

With the tenderness and love of Mary's Heart let us present our petitions to the Lord for the Church and for the world.

Lord, give us a new heart.

- Lord, we pray for the Church that it may always be at the service of the evangelization of the peoples.
- Lord, we pray that all people of good will may be sensitive to your call.
- Lord we pray for the poor, the marginated, those who find themselves alone, those who are afflicted or who are tempted, that they may hear a word of comfort and find a remedy for their problems.
- Lord, we pray that you will raise up in the Church and in our Congregation priests, missionaries, catechists and committed lay people who show, with their words and with their life, your love and kindness to all people.
- We pray that you will grant to us who call ourselves and who truly are the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary a heart like our Mother's so that we may conform ourselves more and more to Jesus Christ and truly proclaim his Good News.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, enkindle in our hearts the fire that ceaselessly burned in the Heart of Mary so that, animated by the same things she loved, we may spread that fire wherever we go and lead all people to love and serve You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

9. Foundress and Patroness of the Congregation (CC 8)

Introduction

"The living of our Cordi-Marian sonship provides us with a special dynamism to fulfill the kind of being and mission that define the Claretian religious [in the Church] " (2VR 7f). The founding of our Congregation is attributed to Mary: we acknowledge her as our Mother, Teacher, Directress and Formatrix.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, grant that we who acknowledge the Virgin Mary as our Mother and Patroness, may feel her motherly presence and the stimulus of her example and may we experience her intercession in our lives each day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- Rom 10: 9-18: *Faith in the heart leads to justification. But how can they believe unless there is someone to preach to them?*

- Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 22):

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul.

R/. Your rod and your staff give me courage, O Lord.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
That give me courage.

You spread the table before me
In the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
All the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
For years to come.

- Lk. 1: 46-55: *My soul glorifies the Lord...All generations will call me blessed.*

Points for Reflection

- "All generations will call me blessed". Mary is proclaimed blessed because God has been pleased to look upon her and to take her out of the anonymity of her life, raising her to a state where all people recognize her as loved and saved by God. They recognize that God has done great things in her. Mary receives the praise of Christians but she deflects them toward the source of her greatness, who is God her Savior. This is what her mission is: to bring people to God.
- Mary's presence at Pentecost is not an accidental presence, but a very significant one: it explains the motherhood beloved by Jesus, which consists in imploring the gift of the Holy Spirit and in cooperating in the supernatural rebirth of the human race.
- Our Father Founder stated categorically that the Virgin Mary had founded the Congregation. When he relates his supernatural experience at the moment of the foundation, he is aware that he was acting by an internal force that he attributed to Mary: he knew he was her instrument. Mary thus raises up in the Church an instrument that, born of the Holy Spirit, continues her maternal mission in the Church of giving birth to Christ in the heart of each

person. Thus, through our apostolic mission, we collaborate with the mysterious motherly role of the Virgin Mary.

- Pope John Paul II recalled this peculiarity of our spirit, which in our Father Founder constantly appears with outstanding power: "It must continue to be your way of being and feeling. I refer to your clear awareness of being a Son of the Heart of Mary and being an instrument of salvation in Her hands. You know perfectly well that this awareness of Marian sonship is at the root, not only of the apostolic activity of the Holy Founder, but also, and in a specific way, that it is what cements together the very foundation of your Institute. Throughout your history, this characteristic of Marian sonship has always remained an important element of your spirituality and evangelizing activity. Never let it weaken" (John Paul II at the 20th General Chapter, Rome 1985).

Intercessions

Let us entrust the life and mission of our Institute to the Heart of Mary, our Patroness and Foundress, and let us say:

Lord, bless our Congregation through the intercession of the Heart of Mary.

- Lord, strengthen the missionary force of the Congregation in Africa, in its dedication to initial evangelization, in promoting inter-religious dialogue, in seeking solutions for social needs, and in forming laity and catechists.
- Lord, keep the eyes of the Congregation in Latin America and the Caribbean open in order to courageously confront the challenges of that reality, to live and work with the poor and excluded, to promote and defend life.
- Raise up abundant vocations in North America who can care for the many immigrants who are seeking a better life and form laity according the Gospel by all possible means, especially through the social communications media.
- Lord, bless the work that is developing in Asia on behalf of the poor and marginated, in dialogue with other religions, in formation of agents of evangelization, especially religious.
- Lord, grant great success to the ministry of educating young people, of creating living and united Christian communities, of forming leaders, lay and religious, for the popular evangelization that is being given impetus in Europe.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

O God, you never cease to work marvels for your Church and you raised up St. Anthony Mary Claret to found our Congregation by the special intervention of the Virgin Mary. Grant to our Institute stability, vigor and great success in its apostolic labors. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

(to appendix)

~~144. Materials for the Novena to the Heart of Mary~~

2. TRIDUUM TO OUR HOLY FOUNDER

149. Celebration with the People

- a. If the triduum is a separate act, it should include the elements presented below, using the models for a celebration of the Word or some other form proposed below.
- b. If the triduum to our Holy Founder is joined to the celebration of the Eucharist, and if the liturgical calendar permits, it is most appropriate to use one of the forms in the Votive Masses for Particular Needs and their corresponding Lectionary, and dedicate the homily to the topic or core idea chosen for prayer that day

150. Celebration in the Claretian Community

It is most appropriate to respect the sense and development of each celebration and not mix what is contained in them. Thus the triduum is not made within the recitation of Vespers, but before or after them, although it may substitute for some pious exercise.

The materials for this triduum are divided into 3 days (or cores), each one of which has 3 sections (I, II, III). This allows for making 1) the triduum as it is given here with all the elements, 2) a selective triduum using only one section for each day, or 3) a novena (using one of the 9 sections each day).

Each community can adapt the contents according to customs or the people's way of thinking¹¹⁴.

FIRST DAY

The Claretian Experience of God as Father

Introduction

The basic attitude that shapes the spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret and to which the life of every Claretian must conform is the profound experience of God as Father.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, open our minds and hearts to recognize the great love you have for us so that our whole life may be devoted to praising your glory. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I

¹¹⁴ The appendix contains material each community can use in organizing the triduum.

Commentator: *A major consequence of our awareness of being beloved sons of the Father and of his providence is seeking always and in everything the glory of God, loving Him above all things.*

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:1-12: *He has blessed us with every kind of blessing in order for us to praise the glory of his grace*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 106)

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
For his kindness endures forever.
Thus let the redeemed of the Lord say,
Those he has rescued from the hand of the foe,
And gathered from all the nations:
From the north and the south, from the east and the west .

R/. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness,
And his wondrous deed to the children of men,
Because he satisfied the longing soul,
And filled the hungry soul with good things.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness,
And his wondrous deeds to the children of men,
Let them make thank offerings
And declare his works with shouts of joy.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: *St. Anthony Mary Claret is conscious of the love and providence of God that has so often saved him from danger and has granted him special graces (cf. Aut 42, 125, 136, 327). Starting from his experience, he exhorts us to love God above all things:*

“Since you call God Father (as so He is), behave like a good son. Be afraid to cause him the slightest displeasure and strive to please Him in all things, as Jesus Christ has taught us.

... Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your powers and with all your understanding.

God is loved with one's whole heart when nothing is loved that offends God, when nothing is said that God has forbidden. God is loved with one's whole heart when He is loved with all one's affection, with no other love mixed in, or, if one loves something else, it is only for God, either because God has commanded it or because it is something that leads to and helps us love God.

God is loved with one's whole soul when one uses one's soul to love more, since the soul has three powers: memory, understanding and will. One uses memory to recall the temporal and eternal evils which God has preserved one from or from which God has delivered one. One also recalls the good

things God has given, both corporal and spiritual, and the temporal and eternal things for which one hopes. Thus, filled with gratitude, one can do no less than praise the Giver of these goods. With the understanding one meditates on who God is and who the human being is, what benefits one has received or is waiting to receive. In this meditation the fire of God's love is enkindled in the person, as the prophet king says.

(St. Anthony Mary Claret: Ascetical Letter, in *Escritos espirituales*, BAC 1985, p. 116 f.)

Silence (*one recalls the proofs of God's love and providence in one's own life*)

Intercessions:

- Father, you have created us to know, love and serve You ,
Lord, may You be blest forever.
- We depend on You for everything and we have nothing we have not received from You,
- May we always and everywhere procure your greater glory because with You we can do everything and apart from You, absolutely nothing.

II

Commentator: *Seeking the glory of God in all things is being about the Father's business, as Jesus was, and always doing God's.*

Scripture Reading: Jn. 7: 16b-18: *He who wants to fulfill God's will...seeks the glory of the One He has sent.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 118: 89-96)

Your word, O Lord, endures forever;
It is firm as the heavens.
Through all generations your truth endures;
You have established the earth, and it stands firm:
According to your ordinances they still stand firm;
All things serve you.

R/. Your word, O Lord, endures forever.

Had not your law been my delight,
I should have perished in my affliction.
Never will I forget your precepts,
For through them you gave me life.
I am yours, save me,
For I have sought your precepts.

Sinners wait to destroy me,
But I pay heed to your decrees.
I see that all fulfillment has its limits;
Broad indeed is your command.

Claretian Reading:

Commentator: *St. Anthony Mary Claret unconditionally accepts the Father's will. To fulfill it in everything is the expression of his grateful, filial love:*

“How good you are, my father! Let me serve you always with fidelity and love. Give me your constant grace to know what pleases you and the willpower to put it into effect. My Lord and Father, I want nothing more than to know your holy will, so that I may do it; nothing more than to love you with all my heart, and serve you with all fidelity. My Mother—Mother of Fair Love—help me! (Aut. 136).

Silence

Intercessions:

- That we may have no other concern than to be about the Father's business,
May you name be sanctified, O Lord
- That we may seek only to fulfill your will in the Congregation,
- Grant us the will power to work for what pleases You.

III

Commentator: *Filial love for the Father made St. Anthony Mary Claret work tirelessly for the salvation of the people, his brothers and sisters, so that, through grace, humanity might become one great family of God.*

Scripture Reading: Jn 17: 1-10: *I have given you glory upon earth by finishing the work You gave me to do*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 95)

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
Announce his salvation, day after day.

R/. Proclaim his salvation day after day.

Tell his glory among the nations;
Among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
How great is the Lord, and highly to be praised
Awesome is he, beyond all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,
But the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty go before him;
Praise and grandeur are in his sanctuary.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,

Give to the Lord glory and praise;
Give to the Lord the glory due his name.
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

Claretian Reading:

Commentator: *As a beloved son of God, St. Anthony Mary Claret wanted to seek nothing else than that God might be known, loved and served by all. Thus he consecrated his life to working for the glory and spread of the God's Kingdom:*

“You know that people nearly always do whatever it is they do for one or another of the following reasons: (1) for gain or money, (2) for pleasure, (3) for fame. I have not come to preach a mission in this town for any of these three reasons. Not for money, because I don't want a penny from anyone and I won't take one. Not for pleasure, for what pleasure could I get from wearing myself out from early in the morning until night? ... Maybe I do it for fame? Hardly. You must be well aware of the calumnies I'm exposed to. One person may praise me, but another makes all sorts of charges against me, as the Jews did against Jesus ... I have no mere earthly aim but a far nobler one. My aim is make God better known, loved and served by everyone. If only I had all human hearts, with which to love God! My God, people do not know you! If they did, you would be far more loved than you are!... Another of my aims is to prevent all sins and offenses that are being committed against God ... How, then, could I do enough when I see God offended and outraged? If you saw your father being beaten and stabbed, wouldn't you run to defend him? Wouldn't it be a crime for you to look on indifferently at you father in such a plight? Well then, wouldn't I be the greatest criminal in the world if I didn't try to prevent the outrages that people are perpetrating against God, who is my Father?”
(Aut. from nn. 200-204).

Silence

Intercessions:

- That all people may know You, the true God, and your Son Jesus Christ, *O Lord, may your Kingdom come to us.*
- That all your ministers and evangelizers may feel impelled by love,
- That, following Claret's example, we may love our brothers and sisters with the same love with which God loves them.

Closing Prayer

My Lord and Father, that I may know You and make You known, that I may love You and make You loved, that I may serve You and make You served, that I may praise You and make You praised by all your creatures. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

SECOND DAY
Conformity to Christ

Introduction

The spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret is Christcentric. “The primary element in the vocation of our Holy Founder is complete consecration to Jesus Christ in order to follow Him and imitate Him as closely as possible in His evangelical life and in the manner of His Apostles, working and suffering to lead people to the glorification of the Father. This eagerness to follow Christ closely led him not only to imitate His conduct but also to assimilate His spirit in the intimacy he enjoyed as the Son , as in the outpouring of energy to which his zeal for the glory of the Father impelled him” (PE 13).

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, You have the words of everlasting life. We have known and believed that You are the Holy One of God. Increase our little faith so that we may always follow after You, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

I

Commentator: For our Father Founder Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son sent by the Father, made flesh of the Virgin Mary, anointed by the Spirit. The Church experiences and commends itself to Mary’s motherly love in order to be united more closely with Jesus (cf. LG 62). Thus we accept her motherly role so that she may form Jesus in us, as she did in St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Scripture Reading: Ac. 2: 22-23, 32-33: *God accredited Him with signs and wonders...and He received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 106):

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
Make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord.

R/. Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord.

Look to the Lord in his strength;
Seek to serve him constantly.
Recall the wondrous deeds that he has wrought,
His portents and the judgments he has uttered.

When they were few in number,
A handful, and strangers there,
Wandering from nation to nation,
He let no one oppress them,

And for their sake he rebuked kings:
“Touch not my anointed,
and to my prophets do no harm”.

Claretian Reading:

“I am ever more deeply impressed at the thought of Jesus moving from town to town, preaching everywhere—not just in big cities, but in little villages and even to a single woman. When He spoke to the Samaritan woman, He was tired and thirsty from traveling, and the moment was as inconvenient for Him as it was for the woman. From the very beginning I have been thrilled by the preaching style of Jesus, his likenesses and parables. And how He was persecuted! He was a sign of contradiction, persecuted for his teaching, his works and his very person. Finally, they took his life amid affronts, torments and insults, making Him suffer the most shameful and painful death imaginable I strove to imitate Jesus who tells all of us: ‘Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls’. As I constantly thought on Jesus—in the crib, in the carpenter’s shop, on Calvary. I meditated on his words, his sermons, his actions; on the way He ate, dressed and traveled from town to town. I took courage from his example and would ask myself, ‘How would Jesus act in this case?’ Striving to imitate Him filled me with contentment and joy because I was pleased to think that my model was also my Father, my Master and my Lord” (Aut. 221-222, 356).

Silence

Intercessions:

- Jesus, Son and the One sent by the Father,
Have mercy on us.
- Jesus, Son of Mary,
- Jesus, anointed by the Holy Spirit,

II

Commentator: *St. Anthony Mary Claret, so deeply in love with Jesus, sought always to imitate Him in his evangelical life in the style of the Apostles, but above all he managed to assimilate his spirit.*

Scripture Reading: Ac 1:12-15, 21-22: *One who lived with us the whole time Jesus lived with us should be named as witness with us to his resurrection.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.112):

Praise, you servants of the Lord,
Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Both now and forever.
From the rising to the setting of the sun
Is the name of the Lord to be praised.

R/. Praise the name of the Lord

High above all nations is the Lord,
Above the heavens is his glory.
Who is like the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high
And looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
From the dunghill he lifts up the poor
To seat them with princes,
With the princes of his own people.
He establishes in her home the barren wife
As the joyful mother of children..

Claretian Reading:

Commentator: Our religious life presupposes a total self-giving to God supremely loved. St. Anthony Mary Claret with his own example—based of the lifestyle of Jesus and Mary—shows us how we have to live: leaving everything like the Apostles to follow Jesus in proclaiming the Gospel, thinking only about serving Him and his greater glory:

“Seeing that the Lord, out of sheer good will and no merit on my part, was calling me to stem the torrent of corruption and cure the ills of a moribund society, I thought that I should dedicate myself to studying and gaining a thorough knowledge of the maladies of this social body. I did so, in fact, and found that this world is nothing but the love of riches, the love of honor and the love of sensual pleasure... I believed that this dreadful giant, which worldlings call all-powerful, had to be confronted with the holy virtue of poverty. So wherever I encountered greed, I countered it with poverty. I had nothing, wanted nothing, refused everything. I was content with the clothes I had on and the food that was set before me. I carried all I had in a bandana. The contents of my luggage were a full-year Breviary, a sheaf of sermons, a pair of socks, an extra shirt—nothing more...

I always remembered that Jesus had become poor Himself; He chose to be born, to live and to die in the utmost poverty. I thought of how Mary, too, had always wanted to be poor. And I thought, too, of how the Apostles left everything to follow Jesus Christ. Sometimes the Lord made me feel the pinch of poverty but only for a short time. Then He would console me with whatever I needed, and the joy I experienced in feeling poverty was so great that the rich could never enjoy all their riches as much as I enjoyed my beloved poverty” (Aut. 357, 359, 363).

Silence

Intercessions:

- That we may embrace the poverty proposed by Jesus and the example of Mary as a gift to consecrate us to the things of the Father.
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
- That, by sharing the poverty of Jesus and like the Apostles who left everything and followed the Lord, we may remind everyone of the good things of the world to come.

- That, like Mary, totally consecrated as handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son, we may be united in everything to God's saving will.

III

Commentator: *Being identified with the redeeming sacrifice of Christ, the Eucharist, the sacrament of the sacrifice and the presence of Christ, was of supreme importance in the spiritual and apostolic life of St. Anthony Mary Claret.*

Scripture Reading: 1Cor. 11: 23-26: *Every time you eat this bread, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.39):

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,
But ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts and sin-offerings you sought not;
Then said I, "Behold, I come;
In the written scroll it is prescribed for me.
To do your will."

R/. The Lord has redeemed us with the blood of his Son

O my God, you are my delight,
And your law is within my heart.
I announced your salvation
In the great assembly;
I did not restrain my lips,
As you, O Lord, know.

Claretian Reading:

Commentator: *The Constitutions tell us that in the Eucharist we are united "to Christ our Lord as He proclaims the the words of life, offers Himself for his brothers and sisters, honors his Father and builds up the unity of the Church" (n. 35). They embody nothing more and nothing less than the experience of St. Anthony Mary Claret:*

"On August 26, 1861, at 7:00 in the evening, while I was at prayer in the Church of the Rosary at La Granja, the Lord granted me the great grace of keeping the sacramental species intact within me and of having the Blessed Sacrament always present, day and night, in my breast. Because of this I must always be very recollected and inwardly devout. Furthermore, I must pray and confront all the evils of Spain, as the Lord has told me.

1862. On May, 11, 1862, at 6:30 in the evening, while I was in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament at the palace of Aranjuez, I offered myself to Jesus and Mary to preach, exhort, labor, and suffer even death itself and the Lord accepted my offering.

My Father, take this poor heart of mine and devour it as I do You, so that I may be changed totally into You. At the words of consecration that substance of bread and wine are changed into the substance of your body and blood. Almighty Lord,

consecrate me; speak over me the words that will change me totally into You” (Aut 694, 698, 756).

Silence

Intercessions

- Lord, You are the bread that gives life.
Lord, give us this bread.
- Lord, You are the bread broken for our salvation.
- Lord, You are the bread we share and which makes us one

Closing Prayer

Lord, You invite us to share your life and your mission. You give us your body to eat. Grant that we may desire nothing other than your will and that, by loving You as You love us and as You desire that we love, we may desire only to live through You and for You and that You may be more than enough for us. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

THIRD DAY
A Missionary Impelled by Love

Introduction

St. Anthony Mary Claret felt called by the power of the Holy Spirit to be consecrated entirely to Christ and to preach the Gospel. He perfectly synthesized his mission and his evangelical life. He lived dedicated to mission as his own way of giving himself to God, of living united to Christ and the Church. And in his mission he discovered the need to live evangelically, imitating the life of the Lord and of the Apostles, totally giving up himself and and being dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, impart to us the Spirit which you granted to our Father, St. Anthony Mary Claret, so that with this gift of your grace we may enrich the life of the Church and make its mission in the world more fruitful. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I

Commentator: *Sent.*

Being missionaries implies having a clear awareness of being sent. It is a grace that is received, and as such is not effected by one's own initiative, but only by obedience to the One who sends. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sent his Apostles. The mission Jesus received from the Father is the same one He entrusted to his Apostles. The success of the mission cannot be attributed to the one sent; it is the Lord who makes it bear fruit.

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3: 5-9; 4:1-2, 6-7: *We are co-workers with God.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.36):

Trust in the Lord and do good,
That you may dwell in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
And he will grant you your heart's requests.

R/. The just will see the saving power of God.

Commit to the Lord your way;
Trust in him, and he will act.
He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
Bright as the noonday shall be your justification.

Trust in the Lord and wait for him.
The salvation of the just is from the Lord;
He is their refuge in time of distress.
And the Lord helps them and delivers them
Because they take refuge in him.

Claretian Reading:

Commentator: *St. Anthony Mary Claret, a missionary by vocation and by conviction, understands as something basic that being sent by his superiors guarantees that he is not acting on his own but in obedience to God's will:*

“Other bishops often asked my own bishop to let me preach missions in their dioceses. As long as he granted their requests, I would go, for it was my inflexible rule never to preach in any church or diocese except at the express command of my bishop, for two weighty reasons. First, because it meant I would be acting out of holy obedience, a virtue that is so pleasing to God that He rewards it instantly. In acting thus I was assured of doing God's will and of being sent by Him, not by my whim. Besides I could see God's blessing in the results that were forthcoming. The second reason was one of convenience. Because there were so many demands for my services from far and near, I could satisfy them all by saying, ‘I'll be very happy to go if my bishop sends me’. Thus they would leave me in peace and arrange things through him, so that it was up to him to send me.

I had come to realize that a missionary should never thrust himself into an assignment. He should offer his services to the bishop, saying, ‘Here I am, send me’. But he should not go until his bishop sends him, because when he is sent, it will be God's sending. All the Old Testament prophets were sent by God. Jesus Christ himself was sent from God; and Jesus in turn sent his Apostles. As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Aut 194-195).

Silence

Intercessions:

- Lord, grant us the dispositions we need in order to be able to be sent where we may be needed.

Lord, make us fitting ministers of your word.

- Lord, grant us the trust we need in order to exercise in your name the ministry you may entrust to us through the Congregation.
- Lord, grant us the grace to entrust ourselves to Mary, Formatrix of Apostles, that we may make your name known to the world and spread the Kingdom of heaven throughout the earth.

II

Commentator: *Apostle Out of Love.*

“As a profoundly supernatural activity, the true apostolate is an exercise of faith, hope and the love that the Holy Spirit pours out into the faithful sons and daughters of the Church (cf. AA 3). For a faithful carrying out of ministry it is indispensable to live intimately in union with Christ, Savior and Shepherd, especially through the fruitful celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice and a frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance” (PE 31).

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12: 31—13: 1-3, 8.13: *If I have not love, I gain nothing.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.130):

Lord, my heart is not proud,
Nor are my eyes haughty;
I busy not myself with great things,
Nor with things too sublime for me.
Nay, rather I have stilled and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child on its mother’s lap

R/. Lord, I seek You with simplicity of heart.

O Israel, hope in the Lord,
Both now and forever.

Claretian Reading:

“The same Holy Spirit, by appearing in the form of tongues of fire above the Apostles on Pentecost, showed us the truth quite clearly: an apostolic missionary must have both heart and tongue ablaze with charity. One day the Venerable Avila was asked by a young priest what he should do to become a good preacher. His ready answer was, ‘Love much’. And both experience and the history of the Church teach us that the greatest preachers have always been the most fervent lovers.

In truth, the fire of love acts in a minister of the Lord in much the same way that material fire acts in the engine of a locomotive or a ship: it enables them to move the heaviest cargo with the greatest of ease. What good would either of these two machines be without fire and steam to move them? None at all. What good is a priest who has finished all his studies and holds degrees in theology and canon and civil law if he lacks the fire of love? None at all. He is no good for others because he is like a locomotive without steam. Instead of being a help, as he should, he may

only be a hindrance. He is no good even for himself. As St. Paul says, "If I speak with human and angelic tongues as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal (Aut. 440-441; nn. 442-444 may also be read).

Silence

Intercessions:

- Lord, help us live firmly and constantly united to Christ, according to our charism, as it is proposed in the Constitutions.
Lord, make us hungry and thirsty for your love.
- Lord, let us grow in apostolic love in order to love You and to love our brothers and sisters as You love us.
- Lord, make us experience the joy of the resurrection in order to go out to all the world, impelled by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

III

Commentator: *Detached and free for mission.*

The missionary, as a follower of Jesus and associate in the work of redemption, must never forget the Lord's words: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up the cross" and "whoever loses his life for my sake for the Gospel will save it".

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:1, 7-12: *We bear in our body the death of Jesus.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.6):

O Lord, reproach me not in your anger,
Nor chastise me in your wrath.
Have pity on me, Lord, for I am languishing;
Heal me, Lord, for my body is in terror.
My soul, too, is utterly terrified;
But you, O Lord, how long?

R/. Lord, save me by your mercy

Return, O Lord; save my life,
Rescue me because of your kindness.
For among the dead no one remembers you;
In the nether world who gives you thanks?

Depart from me, all evildoers,
For the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
The Lord has accepted my prayer.

Claretian Reading:

“I resolved that in my outward being I would be modest and recollected; that in my inner being I would be continuously and fervently absorbed with God; that in my work I would be patient, silent and long-suffering. I proposed, furthermore, to fulfill the law of God and the Church exactly, as well as the duties that God demands of my state; to do good to all; to shun sins, faults and imperfections; and to practice the virtues.

In all life’s disagreeable, sad and humiliating events I always remind myself that they come from God’s hand, for my betterment. And so, as soon as I think of it, I manage to turn to God in silent resignation to his holy will, remembering that our Lord said not a hair can fall from my head unless it is the will of the Heavenly Father, who loves me so much.

I believe that everything comes from God and that God expects of me the tribute of suffering patiently for his love’s sake every injury to my body, soul and honor. I believe that I do the most for God’s greater glory when I hold my tongue and suffer like Jesus, who died on the cross, deprived of everything.

Doing and suffering are the greatest proofs of love” (Aut 419-420; 423-424).

Silence

Intercessions:

- Since we glorify and bear God in our bodies, grant us, Lord, to control our emotions and be frugal in the use of things.

O Lord, your cross is our glory.

- Increase our faith, Lord, so that we may be able to rejoice in every adversity.
- Help us, Lord, to give our lives for our brothers and sisters and to be united with all those who suffer illness, injustice and oppression so that all may attain salvation.

Closing Prayer

Lord, grant us the faith that inflamed the Prophets, the Apostles and the Martyrs so that we may be able to embrace, with a joyful spirit, poverty, self-denial and sacrifice in order to spread the Reign of Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

4. 151. ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION

Triduum of Preparation

First Day

Missionaries in the style of Claret

Opening Song

Greeting The Lord, who has called us to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Anthony Mary Claret, be with you.

Prayer Lord, pour out the spirit You gave to St. Anthony Mary Claret on us whom You have called to follow Jesus in the Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Mt. 28:16-20: *Go and make disciples of all nations.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 116):

Praise the Lord, all you nations;
Glorify him, all your peoples.

R/. Lord, may the light of the Gospel illumine the entire world.

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.

Reflection: MCT 51-53

Intercessions:

- For having chosen us to be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
We give you thanks, O Lord.
- For having given us St. Anthony Mary Claret as our Father and example,
- For the witness of the faith and fidelity of so many of our brothers who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Gospel, even unto the shedding of their blood,
- For the spread of the Congregation over the course of its history and throughout the length and breadth of the whole world,
- For all the Institutes and members of the Claretian Family who share the charism and mission of St. Anthony Mary Claret,

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Father of kindness and mercy,
We praise and bless You
For having raised up in the Church
The charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret
And for having founded our Congregation.
We humbly beg You
To send new workers to our Congregation,
And impart your Spirit to those You have chosen.
Strengthen all of us in our missionary vocation,
And grant that, impelled by Christ's love,
As true Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
We may proclaim to all peoples the Good News of the Kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

* * * * *

Second Day

Missinaries in Communion with the Church

Opening Song

Greeting May the Lord, who has made us in the Church strong helpers of the Bishops in the ministry of the Word, be with you.

Prayer Lord, may your Word and the teaching and example of St. Anthony Mary Claret impel us, with all our might, to serve in the building up and growth of the Church. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Rom. 12: 3-13:

We have different gifts according the grace we have been given

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 121)

I rejoiced because the said to me,
“We will go up to the house of the Lord”.
And now we have set foot
Within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R/. Lord, may peace be with all.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
Prosperity in your buildings.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good.

Reflection: MCT 140-141 (*or: PE 9-10*)

Intercessions:

- For not being open enough to the universal Church and to the particular Churches whom we serve,
Lord, have mercy.
- For our failures in love and obedience to our Bishops and for not having been strong collaborators with them in the ministry of the Word,
- For our lack of openness to the priests, religious and lay people who work in our particular Churches,

- For not having sufficiently offered the riches of our charism to particular Churches,
- For being blind to the manifestations of the Spirit in the Church communities in which we are inserted,

Our Father

Closing Prayer*(as on the first day)*

Closing Song

* * * * *

Third Day

Missionaries Living in Communion

Opening Song

Greeting May the Lord, who called us and gathered us together through the Spirit to be part of the family of our Congregation under the influence and example of St. Anthony Mary Claret, be with you.

Prayer Gathered into one community in order to collaborate in the ministry of the Word, Lord grant that we may pool our personal gifts for the service of the common mission. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Jn. 15:12-17: *I have chosen you to go forth and bear fruit*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.132)

Behold, how good it is, and how pleasant,
Where brethren dwell at one!

R/. We are one in the love of the Lord

It is a dew like that of Hermon,
Which comes down upon the mountains of Zion,
For there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
Life forever.

Reflection: MCT 130-133

- Intercessions** - For the Congregation and each of the Claretian Missionaries, that they may form one community of witnesses and heralds of the Gospel,
Hear us, O Lord.
- For all those called to Claretian missionary life that they may respond generously to the Lord and collaborate in the universal mission of the Congregation according to their own vocation,

- For those among us who are ill and aged that, by praying and suffering for the Church, they may share in the mission of the Congregation with hope and joy,
- For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and have shared in the Claretian fellowship that the Lord may welcome them into the community of saints and the elect,
- For all of us, that we may always work together in building community and find in it our complete personal fulfillment,

Our Father

Closing Prayer(*as on the first day*)

Closing Song

***** *to appendix*

151.

3. PATRON SAINTS OF THE CONGREGATION

154.

"Our worship is especially joined with that of the heavenly Church, in the first place by our communion with, and commemoration of, the Blessed Virgin Mary, but also of St. Joseph, St. Michael and all the holy Angels, the Apostles and other saints who, because of their truly missionary spirit, are our traditional Patrons: St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Teresa of Jesus, St. Catherine of Siena "¹¹⁵.

"Other devotions, such as the Marian Month and the Triduum to St. Joseph, are recommended. These should be performed with simplicity and draw their inspiration from the liturgy "¹¹⁶.

Co-Patrons. Claretian References

St. Joseph

On May 7, 1865, at 3:00 in the afternoon, the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, Jesus told me to be very devout to St. Joseph and to approach him with confidence (Aut. 831).

St. Catharine of Siena

Charity urges and impels me, it makes me run from town to town, shouting...I often ask God, as St. Catharine of Siena did: "Lord, let me stand at the gates of hell and stop anyone from entering, by telling each of them, 'Where are you going, poor fool? Turn back! Make a good confession and save your soul. Don't come here, to be lost for all eternity!'" (Aut. 212).

Peter and Paul

¹¹⁵ CC 35.

¹¹⁶ Dir. 88.

Love in a man who preaches the Word of God is like fire in a musket...We can see this in the case of St. Peter, who walked out of the upper room afire with the love he had received from the Holy Spirit, with the result that through just two sermons he converted 8,000 people, three in the first and five in the second (Aut. 439).

But the zeal of St. Paul has always awakened my deepest enthusiasm. He went from place to place, a vessel of election, carrying the teaching of Jesus Christ!" (Aut. 224).

James and John

The Lord wants me and my companions to imitate the Apostles James and John in zeal, chastity and love for Jesus and Mary (Aut. 686).

St. Michael and the Guardian Angels

I never forgot to invoke St. Michael and the guardian angels—especially my own, and those of the kingdom, the province, the city in which I was preaching, and of each individual present (Aut. 268).

I have had visible knowledge of the protection of the holy guardian angels (Aut. 269).

St. Teresa of Jesus

This year I reread the works of St. Teresa of Jesus, and the Lord blessed this reading with great gifts of knowledge. How good the Lord is! Since he foreknew the great trials I would have to undergo, He forearmed me with great insights and spiritual help (Aut. 797)

155. Prayer to St. Joseph *(based on the Spiritual Directory)*

Blessed Joseph ,

By the love which kept you united to the Virgin Mother of God

And by the fatherly love with which you cared for the Child Jesus,

We humbly ask you to look with kindness on the family of your Son,

Acquired by his blood, and with your help aid us in our needs.

Keep us from all error and every kind of sin;

Help us in our struggle against the power of evil,

And defend the Church of God against all adversity;

Protect each one of us,

That, by following your example and sustained by your help,

We may live in holiness,

Die piously and attain eternal blessedness.

156. Litanies to St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, hear us

Christ, graciously hear us

God, the Father of heaven *have mercy on us*

God the Son, Redeemer of the World
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, One God
Holy Mary *pray for us*
St. Joseph
Illustrious Descendant of David
Light of the Patriarchs
Spouse of the Mother of God
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin
Teacher of the Son of God
Diligent Defender of Christ
Head of the Holy Family
Joseph most just
Joseph most chaste
Joseph most prudent
Joseph most strong
Joseph most obedient
Joseph most faithful
Mirror of Patience
Lover of the Poor
Example for Workers
Honor of Family Life
Guardian of Virgins
Support of Families
Comfort of the afflicted
Hope of the sick
Patron of the dying
Protector of the Holy Church
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world – *spare us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world – *graciously hear us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world – *have mercy on us*

V/. The Lord made you master of his household

R/. In charge of all his possessions

Let us pray. O God, in your ineffable providence you chose St. Joseph as husband of Mary, the Mother of your Son. Grant, we implore you, that we who venerate him on earth as protector may deserve to have him as intercessor in heaven. You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, blessed Joseph,
We come in our need
And we invoke your patronage with the Virgin Mary, your spouse.
By the holy love that united you with Mary, the Mother of God,
And by your fatherly care of the Child Jesus,
Look kindly on the people that Christ won by his blood,
With your aid help us in our needs.

Guardian of the Holy Family,
Protect the Church from the evils that scourge the world,
And give us by your favor strength in the fight against evil.
Help us to live holy lives,
To die in God's peace,
And to attain eternal blessedness in heaven.¹¹⁷

Prayer to St. Joseph

O St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus,
Most chaste spouse of Mary,
You completely fulfilled your duty in life,
Supporting with the work of your hands,
The holy Family of Nazareth.
Protect with your favor those who call upon you.
You know our dreams, our anxieties and our hopes:
We come to you,
Because we know we will find a protector in you.
You also experienced temptation and weariness:
But your spirit, filled with deep peace,
Exulted with joy at the intimacy with the Son of God who had been entrusted to you
And with Mary, his Mother.
Help us to understand that we are not alone in our work,
To know how to discover Jesus working along side us,
To welcome Him with grace and guard him faithfully as you did.
And obtain for us the grace that our Congregation
May be completely sanctified in love,
In patience, in justice and in love of good.
Amen.¹¹⁸

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Joseph, chaste spouse of Mary
And Davidic father of the Messiah.
Blessed are you among men
And blessed is Jesus, the Son of God entrusted to you.
St. Joseph,
Patron of the universal Church and of our Congregation,
Keep our communities and our families
In peace and divine grace
And help us at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Holy Father, you chose St. Joseph
For a singular duty
And granted him the graces necessary
To carry it out in the home in Nazareth.
Grant also to us
The graces we need
To be faithful in carrying out

¹¹⁷ Leo XIII

¹¹⁸ John XXIII

Our ministry
According to the spirit and charism of the Congregation.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Material for a Triduum to St. Joseph

1) Scripture Readings

2 Sam. 7: 4-5^a, 12-14^a, 16 *The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.*
2 Sam. 7: 25-29: *Faithfulness to the promises.*
Wis 10: 9-12: *Wisdom guides the just.*
Mt. 1: 16,18-21: *Joseph did what the angel of the Lord commanded him.*
Mt. 13: 54-58: *Isn't he the son of the carpenter?*
Mt. 25: 14-21: *Reliable and faithful servant, enter into the banquet of the Lord.*
Lk. 2: 41-51a: *Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow*
Lk. 12: 35-44: *This is the faithful and caring servant.*
Rom. 4:13,16,18, 22: *Hoping against hope, he believed.*
Hebr. 11: 1-16: *The faith of the holy Patriarchs.*

2) Psalms

Psalm 20: 2-8, 14
Psalm 14
Psalm 91
Psalm 111
Psalm 112
Psalm 127
Psalm 145

3) Supplementary Readings

JOSEPH, BELIEVER IN THE PROMISES

“I will make you father of many nations”.

The words that God addressed to Abraham, already old and childless, the liturgy applies to St. Joseph, who had absolutely no descendants according to the flesh; and we, as we reflect on the events of his life, can fully appreciate why the liturgy makes this accommodation. The reason is that, after having been a special instrument of Providence for Jesus and Mary, especially during Herod's persecution, St. Joseph continues to exercise his providential and “fatherly” mission in the life of the Church and of all people ...

As you look at St. Joseph from your special perspective as consecrated people, you see reflected in his virginal chastity and his spiritual fatherhood the highest ideals of your vocation. He teaches you the love of recollection and prayer, generous fidelity to the commitment you have assumed before God and the Church, selfless dedication to the community where Providence has placed you, however small and insignificant it may be. In light of his example you can learn and appreciate the value of all that is humble,

hidden, of that which without show or noise has decisive effects, in the soundless depths of the heart...

“He will say to me: You are my father”. Like St. Joseph, you also call on the heavenly Father with assiduous and fervent prayer and you will experience, as he did, the truth of the Psalmist’s words: “He will enjoy my favor forever and my covenant with him shall endure” (*John Paul II, Homily in Termoli, 19 March 1998*).

JOSEPH, THE JUST MAN

The Church was born and exists so that the promise, once made to Abraham, can be fulfilled in the world. The Church is linked in its very beginnings—the fulfillment of the world’s hope—also with the faith of Joseph of Nazareth.

What emanates from his whole figure is faith, the faith truly inherited from Abraham. His faith is the most perfect counterpart to that of Mary of Nazareth. The two of them—Mary and Joseph—are united by this wondrous bond. In the eyes of the world their bond is one of marriage. In the eyes of God and the Church, they are wed in the Holy Spirit.

Joseph of Nazareth is the “just man”, because “he lives the faith totally”. He is holy because his faith is truly heroic.

Scripture says little about him. There is no record of any word spoken by Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth. Nevertheless, even without words, he shows the depth of his faith, his greatness.

St. Joseph is great in the spirit. He is great in the faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the living God.

He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in promptly accepting the truth contained in the word of the living God—welcoming it and carrying it out in love.

Thus Joseph of Nazareth becomes a truly wondrous witness to the divine mystery. He becomes a servant of the Tabernacle that God chooses for himself on earth in order to carry out the work of salvation.

(John Paul II. Homily in Livorno. 19 March 1982).

THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

“What you do, do with all your soul, as serving the Lord. Serve Christ the Lord”.

How can we not see in these words the program and the summary of the whole life of St. Joseph, whose witness of generous dedication to work the Church proposes for our reflection ...?

St. Joseph, the just man, spent a great part of his life working, at the carpenter’s bench, in a humble village in Palestine—a life like that of many other men of his times, committed like him to the same hard work. And yet a life that was so outstanding and

worthy of admiration, which leads the Church to propose it as the exemplary model for all the workers of the world.

What is the reason for this distinction? It is not difficult to see. His life is directed toward Christ, who makes all St. Joseph's hard work worthwhile. The presence of the Incarnate Word in the home in Nazareth, the Son of God and the Son of his wife, Mary, gave Joseph the reason to go back to the carpenter's bench day after day to earn what was needed to sustain his family by the sweat of his brow. Truly "everything he did", Joseph "did for the Lord" and did "with all his heart".

(John Paul II. At Regina Coeli Prison . 1 May 1982).

157. To the Co-Patrons of the Congregation

Through the intercession of our Holy Patrons, in which our Holy Founder saw an example of life and apostolate, let us pray to God, the Father of goodness:

- Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, who welcomed with her whole Heart the saving work of Christ, grant us, Lord, the strength we need to struggle against the powers of darkness, armed with the two-edged sword of God's Word. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
- Through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, we ask you, Lord, to convert sinners, and to grant us serenity in suffering and meekness in adversity. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Through the intercession of St. Michael and all the Angels, we ask you, Lord, to grant your protection to all ministers of the Gospel, that they may grow in perfection and fight effectively against the power of the Evil One, Let us pray to the Lord.
- Through the intercession of the Apostles, called to be with your Son and to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, grant us assiduousness in our trying to be with the Lord and authenticity in our witness to the Gospel. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Through the intercession of St. Alphonsus Liguori, grant us, Lord, humbleness of heart, poverty of spirit and obedience to your holy will. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Through the intercession of St. Ignatius Loyola, we ask you, Lord, for rest from our labors so we may seek you in solitude and assistance to communicate your love to our brothers and sisters, so that sinners may be converted, the just may persevere in grace and be perfected by it. Let us pray to the Lord.

- Through the intercession of St. Teresa of Jesus, reveal, Lord, your divine secrets to us and grant us sensitivity “to see how many souls may be lost”, so that in their salvation may be our concern, our desires, our tears and our petitions. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Through the intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, O eternal God, turn your eyes of mercy, like the Good Shepherd, on your many lost sheep who, although outside the fold of the Church, are yours, since you have purchased them with your blood. Let us pray to the Lord.

In the words of our Holy Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and through his intercession, let us pray together:

My God and Father, that I may know you and make you known,
 That I may love you and make you loved;
 That I may serve you and make you served;
 That I may praise you and make all creatures praise you.
 My Father, grant me,
 That all sinners may be converted,
 That all the just may persevere in grace
 And that all may attain eternal glory.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

162. Letanía a santos evangelizadores y de la Familia Claretiana

Señor, ten piedad - Señor, ten piedad
 Cristo, ten piedad - Cristo, ten piedad
 Señor, ten piedad - Señor, ten piedad
 Cristo, óyenos - Cristo, óyenos
 Cristo, escúchanos - Cristo, escúchanos
 Dios Padre celestial
 - ten misericordia de nosotros
 Dios Hijo, Redentor del mundo
 - ten misericordia de nosotros
 Dios Espíritu Santo
 - ten misericordia de nosotros
 Trinidad Santa, único Dios
 - ten misericordia de nosotros
 Santa María
 - Ruega por nosotros
 Santos ángeles de Dios
 San José, esposo de María
 Santos Pedro y Pablo
 Santos apóstoles y evangelistas
 Santo Domingo de Guzmán
 Santos Ignacio de Loyola y Alfonso de Ligorio
 Santas Teresa de Jesús y Catalina de Siena
 Santa Micaela del Santísimo Sacramento
 Santa Joaquina de Vedruna
 Santa María Jesús Sancho

Beato Felipe de Jesús Munárriz
Beato Juan Díaz Nosti
Beato Leoncio Pérez
Beato Sebastián Calvo
Beato Pedro Cunill
Beato, José Pavón
Beato Nicasio Sierra
Beato Wenceslao María Clarís
Beato Gregorio Chirivás
Beato Secundino María Ortega
Beato Javier Bandrés
Beato José Brengaret
Beato Antolín María Calvo
Beato Tomas Capdevila
Beato Esteban Casadevall
Beato Eusebio Codina
Beato Juan Codinachs
Beato Antonio María Dalmau
Beato Juan Echarri
Beato Pedro García Bernal
Beato Hilario María Llorente
Beato Ramón Novich
Beato José Ormo
Beato Salvador Pigem
Beato Teodoro Ruiz de Larrinaga,
Beato Juan Sánchez Munarriz
Beato Manuel Torras
Beato Manuel Buil
Beato Alfonso Miquel
Beato Luis Masferrer
Beato José María Amorós
Beato José María Badía
Beato Juan Baixeras
Beato José María Blasco
Beato Rafael Briega
Beato Luis Escalé
Beato José Figuro
Beato Ramón Illa
Beato Luis Lladó
Beato Miguel Masip
Beato Faustino Pérez
Beato Sebastián Riera
Beato Eduardo Ripoll
Beato José Ros
Beato Francisco María Roura,
Beato Alfonso Sorribes
Beato Agustín Viela
Beato Francisco Castán
Beato Manuel Martínez Jarauta.
Beato Jaime Falgarona

Beato Atanasio Vidaurreta
Beata Madre Patrocinio Giner
Cristo, óyenos
- Cristo, óyenos
Cristo, escúchanos
- Cristo, escúchanos
Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo
- Te piedad de nosotros

4. THE MARTYRS OF BARBASTRO

158. *(Opening prayer of the Mass for Martyrs)*

God, our Father,
you gave Felipe de Jesús Munárriz and his companions,
the grace of fidelity to their missionary vocation
by following Christ to martyrdom,
and you made them witnesses to perfect charity
in forgiving their persecutors:
grant us, through their intercession,
the grace to persevere steadfastly in faith,
and in sincere charity
that we may love Christ in all our brothers and sisters.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

159. Martyrs of Barbastro

God, our Father,
In the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro you have given us
A model of fidelity to the cause of Jesus,
Of love for the Heart of Mary and for the Church,
Of loyalty to our brothers and forgiveness of our enemies,
Grant that we may follow their example
In living faithfully and joyfully in our Congregation
And in proclaiming the Gospel
For the glory of God and the salvation of all humankind
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THE MARTYRS' WAY OF THE CROSS

Besides the Scripture texts, offered for reflection are writings of the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro and the testimony of Pablo Hall and Atilio Parussini, the Argentine Claretians who shared imprisonment with the Martyrs until 13 August 1936.

FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

At that time: “ The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedrin, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death. They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand. Finally two came forward who stated, ‘This man has declared, “I can destroy God’s sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.”’ The high priest rose to his feet and addressed him, ‘Have you no answer to the testimony leveled against you?’ But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him, ‘I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is you who say it. But I tell you this: Soon you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven’. At this the high priest tore his robes: ‘He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? Remember, you heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?’ They answered, ‘He deserves death!’” (Mt 26: 59-66).

In our time: One of the Martyrs writes: *"We have not been found to be involved in any political cause. And although we have not been given any kind of trial, we are all content to die for Christ, for His Church and for the faith of Spain. For the Martyrs, Manuel Martínez CMF"*. And the militiamen themselves confess: *"We do not hate you personally; we hate your profession, your black habit, the cassock, that filthy rag: take off that rag and you will be like us and we will set you free ". "We are killing your because you're fanatics and hypocrites and don't want to take up arms to fight for the people "*.

* Let us pray

Lord, You were abandoned by everyone and found no one to testify on your behalf. Show us the vulnerability of God that is offered to people, help us to accept the salvation that comes from your humiliation and your silence and bring good out of evil. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES UP THE CROSS

At that time: “Finally, when they had finished making a fool of him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucifixion” (Mt. 27: 31). “Carrying the cross by himself [Jesus] went out to what is called the Place of the Skull” (Jn. 19: 17).

In our time: Ramón Illa writes: *"We have been in this jail since July 20th. The whole community is here...Eight days ago they shot our reverend Father Superior and some other Fathers. Happy they, and happy we who will follow them. I wouldn't exchange my jail for the gift of working miracles, nor my martyrdom for the apostolate, which has been my life's dream. ...Thanks be to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen"*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, grant that your blood will not be fruitless in us, that we may be healed by your wounds, that we may find in them the courage and freedom to love You above all things and to serve You wherever and however You determine. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

In that time: Jesus falls the first time: “Do me justice, O God, and rescue me from these deceitful and impious people” (Psalm 43)

In our time: Fr. Juan Díaz Nosti spoke to the seminarians an hour before they were arrested, encouraging them, in such uncertain circumstances, *"to greater prayer, to tranquillity and peace: that we may throw ourselves into the arms of Providence, that what God may send us will be the best thing for us; that if we are imprisoned, it will be a great glory to suffer persecution for justice' sake, to suffer for God, and if it comes to the supreme moment of giving ourselves up to death, what joy, what glory, what honor to give our lives for Christ, to die for our ideals! "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, give us a living faith, like that which inflamed the Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs, and that moved so many preachers of the divine word to embrace poverty, self-denial and sacrifice in order to spread the Kingdom of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

In that time: “There were also women present who had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee. Among them was Mary, his Mother” (Mk. 15: 40).

In our time: Several Martyrs wrote to their mothers, like Salvador Pígem *"Mama, don't cry. Jesus asks me for my blood; I am going to shed it out of love for him. I will be a martyr; I'm going to heaven. I will be waiting for you there "*. And Agustín Viela: *"The most they can do is kill us out of hatred for God. Then we would be martyrs, and could there be any greater glory for a mother than to be able to say that her son died for God and for the Immaculate Virgin? Please don't be too upset or saddened by what they may do to us, rather rejoice in seeing your son persecuted for the sake of God "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, You have loved enough to give us your own Mother as our Mother. By the intercession of the Heart of Mary, grant that we may experience the power of your love and that we may accept, as She did, being sharers in, and instruments of, your saving action on behalf of all people. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

FIFTH STATION: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

In that time: “As they led him away, they laid hold of one Simon the Cyrenean who was coming in from the fields. They put the crossbeam on Simon’s shoulder for him to carry along behind Jesus” (Lk. 23: 26).

In our time: *"Since I won't be able to go to China as I had wished,"* confessed Rafael Briega, *"I heartily offer my blood for the missions in China and I will pray for them from heaven "*. And Ramón Novich and others repeated that *"since we will not be able to exercise the sacred ministry on earth, working for the conversion of sinners, we will, like St. Therese of the Child Jesus, spend our heaven doing good upon earth "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, you have bidden us to take up your cross and share your fate. Encourage us in our struggles so that we in turn may strengthen others with the courage we have received from You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

SIXTH STATION; VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

In that time: “So marred was his look beyond that of human appearance“(Is. 52: 14).

In our time: The Martyrs wanted to reproduce the image of Jesus, his feelings, his love, his forgiveness, as Esteban Casadevall told Pablo Hall before he was set free: *"I die content. I am happy, like the Apostles were because the Lord allowed them to suffer something out of love for Him before they died. I confidently hope that the Lord and the Heart of Mary will carry me promptly to heaven. With all my heart I forgive those who hurt us, persecute us and will kill us, and with Jesus Christ, dying on the cross, I want to say to the eternal Father: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'. Their leaders and the hatred they have for us are blind. If they knew what they were doing, they certainly wouldn't do it. We have already prayed for their conversion. I feel truly sorry for them and from heaven I hope to obtain that God will open their eyes to see how things truly are and be converted. Frankly I have no difficulty forgiving them. Just think what good they are doing for me, despite the hatred they have for me!...Tell Fr. General that I am going to die content in the Congregation of Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that I confidently hope for the fulfillment of the promise made by the Most Holy Virgin to those who die within the Congregation "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, You have called us to represent in the Church the same kind of life Jesus chose for Himself, bearing witness to the Gospel. Grant that we may have the same feelings that Jesus Christ had, that made him empty Himself and take on the form of a Servant and who now lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

In that time: Jesus falls the second time. “I am powerless, I have lost everything. Darkness enfolds me and I am lost. Who can raise me up? Why does he who is coming to save me delay so long? “(Jer 8,18-23).

In our time: Fear of wavering, suspicion of his weakness, especially plagued José M^a Blasco, despite his having written: *“I pray that when this little paper is found it will inform my family that Mr. José María Blasco died a martyr on July 25th, shedding his blood for Jesus Christ, in Barbastro. Signed: José M^a Blasco”*. He was afraid of his very fear, insecurity, terror over a catastrophic weakening. Pablo Hall says the Martyr *“thought that, in conscience, before he risked becoming an apostate, he should or would flee, or at least try to. ‘if I could do it without failing in my obligations or causing scandal’”*. What seemed a weakness ended up being his greatness, as St. Paul said “When I am weak, then am I strong”. *“In the final days he was as animated as any of them and his fear had gone out of him ”*.

* Let us pray.

At the times when our confidence fails or when we experience our limitations, Lord, make us remember that you choose weak and fragile instruments to confound the strong so that we place all our trust in you and await from You, above all, the ability to carry out our mission well. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS COMFORTS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

IN THAT TIME: A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him (Lk. 23: 27).

In our time: Ramón Illa writes to his sister Rosario in 1932: *“May the Child Jesus bring peace and the abundance of grace; above all his peace, that peace of his, since it seems He will not allow us to enjoy the peace this world gives. I believe it is well done: yes, we await great things. The Church weeps like a widow, but she crowns us, her chosen sons, the religious, with the greater blessing of those who are persecuted. God may also want them to don the purple of martyrdom. We are not of the world, and thus the world persecutes us. Many times I have thought about it, and it almost makes me want to ask our Lord for persecution”*.

* Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You offer us the consolation of the faith as we share in your sufferings. Help us to be united with those who suffer and give hope to the fallen to make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ in behalf of his Body, the Church. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

In that time: Jesus Christ “though he was in the form of God...emptied himself and took the form of a slave...He humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross”(Phil. 2: 6-8).

In our time: Pablo Hall, relating his last conversation with the Martyr Esteban Casadevall, recounts that: *"We said good-by and that was the first time he broke into tears...But he quickly recovered his composure and, making a slight effort, said: Well, I mustn't cry "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, help us to be on guard not to fall into temptation and to progress effectively in following You and grant that we may always count on the aid of our brothers in order to be faithful to the spirit of the Founder and to attain perfect love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

In that time: They divided his garments and cast lots for his tunic (Jn 19: 24).

In our time Luis Masferrer said: *"...They will hurl insults at us, they will mistreat us and try to take away our holy fear of God, the safeguard of our soul, and the love of our Mother, who guards the fear of God in our heart: but in the end they will not be able to do it. They will kill us, shoot us, hack us to pieces if they want, but their ignoble end must not be achieved...I for my part have determined to always and everywhere wear like a badge on my chest my consecration to my sweet Mother, signed in my blood, and I will allow no one to take it from me "*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, help us, in imitation of Jesus Christ, to be truly poor in fact and in spirit, sharing the condition of the poor, and make us joyful in experiencing the effect of poverty without doubting your Providence. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

In that time: "[The soldiers] crucified Jesus...It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him" (Mk. 15: 24-25). "It was now around midday, and darkness came over the whole land until midafternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'. After he said this, he expired" (Lk. 23: 44-45).

In our time with profound compenetration with Christ and solidarity with those who suffer, the Martyr Juan Sánchez Munárriz said: *"With a heart filled with holy joy, I confidently await the supreme moment of my life, martyrdom, which I offer for the salvation of all the poor people who have to breathe their last breath on the day on which I pour out my blood in order to remain faithful and loyal to the divine Commander, Jesus Christ. I forgive with my whole heart all those who, voluntarily or involuntarily, have offended me. I die content. Farwell until heaven. Juan Sánchez Munárriz"*.

* Let us pray.

Lord, your cross is a scandal to some, folly to others. From it You show us your love and You offer us your forgiveness. We thank you for having revealed that this is the sign of God's power and wisdom. Grant that we may rejoice in all adversity until we can say: 'God forbid that I should glory save in your cross, O Jesus, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world'. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

In that time: Jesus died alone on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?...Then Jesus, uttering a loud cry, breathed his last" (Mk. 15: 34-37).

In our time: Our Martyrs wrote in their Testament: *"We all die happy, with no regrets or misgivings. We are all praying God that the blood that falls from our wounds will not be shed in vengeance, but will rather transfuse your veins and stimulate your growth and expansion throughout the world. Farewell, beloved Congregation. Your sons, martyrs of Barbastro, salute you from prison and offer you our sufferings and anguish as a holocaust to expiate for our failings and as a witness to our faithful, generous and everlasting love".*

* Let us pray.

Help us to love you, Lord, with all our heart, with all our being, with all our strength. Accept our thoughts, desires, words and actions, both that we have had and that we may have. May we use what we have for your greater honor and glory according to your will¹¹⁹. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

In that time: Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene" (Jn. 19: 25).

In our time: Our Martyrs sang with total conviction this traditional song of the Congregation:

Perhaps you may see me lying on the ground,
The last of my blood pouring forth ay!
Then look instead at my forehead
And see emblazoned there the ideal.
And what ideal?
For You, my King, to shed my blood.

By chance you may, as I lay alone and bleeding,
Hear my last weak moan ay!
Jesus then will I have conquered
And will have fulfilled my ideal.

¹¹⁹ cf. *Camino Recto* 76-77.

And what ideal?
For You, my King, to shed my blood.

Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven,
Grant me you sweet consolation
When in the battle your faithful soldier
Falls embracing his ideal
And what ideal?
For You, my Queen, to shed my blood.

* Let us pray.

Lord, give us the strength we need for our missionary life to keep growing and for our ministry to be more fruitful day by day, united to Christ who proclaims the word of life, who offers Himself for his brothers and sisters, honors You and builds up the unity of the Church. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

In that time: Joseph of Arimatea laid the body of Jesus in a tomb that had had been hewn of out of the rock (Mk. 15: 46).

In our time: The Martyrs expressed their faith in the final victory this way: *"Long live the Congregation: holy, persecuted and martyred! Live immortally, beloved Congregation, and as long as you have sons in prison like those you have in Barbastro, never doubt that your destiny is eternal. I would have wished to fight among your ranks, blessed be God! Faustino Pérez"*. Rafael Briega also addressed a final message to the Congregation that is filled with hope: *"Rejoice, beloved Congregation, because 58 of your sons are entering the heavenly Congregation, pure as lilies and on fire with the love of God and love for the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary "*.

* Let us pray.

Animated by your Spirit that raised You up from among the martyrs, Lord Jesus, we want to make you present, by the power of your word and the humility of our self-giving, wherever people live without hope due to the absence of God, hatred, injustice, loneliness, suffering or oppression. You who are always with us and who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

God, our Father, in the Martyrs of Barbastro You have given us a model of fidelity to the cause of Jesus, of love for the Heart of Mary and the Church, of loyalty to one's brothers and of forgiveness of one's enemies. By their intercession grant us to imitate their example in the faithful and joyous life of our Congregation and in proclaiming the Gospel for the glory of God and the salvation of all. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

166. Oración a la Mártir M. Patrocinio Giner RMI

5. PETITIONS FOR BEATIFICATION/CANONIZATION

160. God, our Father,
you have carefully chosen
all the Sons of the Heart of the Virgin Mary
and have willed some of them to be outstanding examples of virtue.
Make the Church fruitful by their glorification
and make them models for us to imitate.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

161. O Lord,
you desire the sanctification of all those you have called to the Congregation,
grant that those who have followed most closely in the footsteps of our Holy Founder
and have valiantly confessed the Christian Faith,
may be glorified here on earth and numbered among your saints in heaven.
Amen.

162. Lord you want all those you have called to our Congregation
to be saints,
grant that our brother missionaries
who have followed most closely in the footsteps of our Holy Founder
and who have given their lives in service to the Gospel,
may be glorified here on earth and numbered among your saints in heaven.
Through Christ, our Lord.

163. Lord, our God,
you have chosen as Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
and have made resplendent some of our brothers
as examples of special sanctity in the missionary life,
deign to enrich the Church and make it fruitful by their glorification,
and make each of us, following their witness to the Gospel,
ardently work at seeking in all things
your glory and the salvation of all humankind.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

IX. PROFESSIONS AND RENEWAL OF VOWS

164.

In the Ritual proper to the Congregation there are texts for the acceptance of novices, first profession, renewal of vows, perpetual profession and celebrations of the silver and golden jubilees of profession.

It has been the tradition in the Congregation, at the end of spiritual exercises, to renew profession as an act of devotion ¹²⁰. It must be remembered that *“the liturgical rite only deals with renewal of vows that have the force of law. Within religious families it has become the prevailing custom to renew vows as an act of piety. This can be done in different ways, but it should not be done publicly at Mass since it is essentially a private devotion”*¹²¹.

165. Formula of Profession³

In answer to God's call, I.....,
Desire to seek his glory more earnestly,
To devote myself to him more fully
And to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did,
In the ministry of Salvation throughout the world.

Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered here,
(*through your hands....*)
I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, his Son
And I offer myself in special service
To the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
In order to fulfill the aim
For which this Congregation has been established in the Church.

Therefore, I vow to God chastity, poverty and obedience forever
And I promise to live in the community of apostolic life
Of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
According to its Constitutions, which I will observe with all possible care.

Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to be witness to my profession.
Pray for me, that in serving God and the Church
I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and that I may reach the
perfection of charity.
Amen.

Another formula for private renewal of profession may be found in appendix 3.

¹²⁰ cf. Spiritual Directory 1957, pg. 86.

¹²¹ Order of Religious Profession, February 1970, n. 7

³ CC 159.

X. WHEN A MISSIONARY IS ILL OR DIES

1. During Illness

166.

“Since Christ suffered for us and left us an example, we should bear our own illness and suffering with submission to God’s loving will, realizing that through our infirmity we fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. Let us, then, show great patience when we are ill or lack anything because of our poverty. In this way we will preach to others through the witness of our life.

*When any of us is gravely ill, he should also unite himself more closely to Christ through the Sacraments of the Sick and offer his life to God for the salvation of all people, placing all his trust in the One who is our resurrection and our life”*¹²².

*“We should treat our sick brothers with special love, as members of the suffering Christ, and should gladly visit and help them”*¹²³.

*“We should all show special love for our brothers who are ill, as members of the suffering Christ. We should gladly visit them and help them, seeing Christ in them. Superiors and those entrusted with the care of the sick, on their part should make sure, with all diligence and charity, that our sick brothers are provided with everything they need either to recover their health or to bear their illness with the serenity of spirit and Christian patience”*¹²⁴.

There are some prayers for our sick members in part 7 of chapter II -“Claretian Prayers”- of this Directory. One can also use those contained in the Ritual for the Anointing of the Sick, or, if the rubrics permit, celebrate the Mass for the Sick or for the Dying.

When someone is gravely ill, the Sacrament of Anointing should be administered. This should be done in community, if possible, as the Ritual indicates, in order to manifest the ecclesial dimension of the sacrament, since the presence of the community is company, comfort, and intercession. Its presence is, above all, a sign: if the Christian is saved by being part of the People of God, then the hour of attaining salvation is also lived within the pilgrim people who commend him to his share of glory that already awaits him in heaven. The Church, the community, prays for the sick member and with him, to help him overcome anxiety in facing death, uniting his death to that of Christ, whose death conquered ours, and to accept it with hope of life in heaven and resurrection¹²⁵.

When death is imminent, the commendation of the soul is done:

¹²² CC 45.

¹²³ CC 18.

¹²⁴ Dir 52.

¹²⁵ cf. Ritual of the Anointing of the Sick, nn. 74 and 83.

2. Commendation of the Dying to God

167. Short Forms:

- Who can separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom 8:35).
- In life and in death we are the Lord's (Rom 14:8).
- We have a home that lasts forever in the heavens (2Cor 5:1).
- We are always with the Lord (1Thes 4:17).
- We will see God as He is (1Jn 3:2).
- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul (Ps 24:1)
- The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 26:1).
- I believe I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living (Ps 26:13).
- My soul is thirsting for the living God (Ps 41:3).
- Even though I walk through the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are at my side (Ps 22:4).
- I solemnly assure you: This day you will be with me in Paradise ((Lk 23:43).
- The Lord says, "I am going to prepare a place for you and I will come back to take you with me" (Jn 14:2-3).
- All who believe in the Son have eternal life (Jn 6:40).
- Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit (Ps 30:6a).
- Lord Jesus, receive my spirit (Ac 7:59).
- Holy Mary, pray for me.
- St. Joseph, pray for me.
- Jesus, Joseph and Mary, assist me in my agony.

168. Prayers (from the Ritual for Pastoral Care of the Sick, n. 200)

1. Go forth, Christian soul, from this world in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you.

May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.

2. I commend you, my dear brother, to almighty God, and entrust you to your Creator. May you return to him who formed you from the dust of the earth. May holy Mary, the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.

May Christ who was crucified for you bring you freedom and peace. May Christ who died for you admit you into his garden of paradise. May Christ, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you as one of his flock. May he forgive all your sins, and set you among those he has chosen. May you see your Redeemer face to face, and enjoy the vision of God forever. Amen.

3. Lord Jesus, Savior of the world, we pray for your servant N. and commend him to your mercy. For his sake you came down from heaven; receive him now into the joy of your kingdom. For though he has sinned, he has not denied the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but has believed in God and worshipped his Creator who made all things, and desired to be totally of God and dedicate himself entirely to the kingdom¹²⁶.

4. *When death has occurred, the following is said:*

¹²⁶ Dir 102.

V/. Saints of God, come to his aid! Come to meet him, angels of the Lord!

R/. Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.

V/. May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;

May angels lead you to Abraham's side.

R/. Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.

V/. Give him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him forever.

R/. Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.

Let us pray:

Lord, we commend to you N., your servant. In this world he has died, may he live with you forever. In your mercy and love, blot out any sins he has committed through human weakness and fulfill his hope in you who are our resurrection and our life¹²⁷. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

3. When a Missionary Dies

169.

At the wake the Rosary may be recited or some kind of community prayer for which we offer some elements for a celebration of the Word:

Elements for a Celebration in the presence of the Body of a Missionary

- **Introduction Setting the Mood and Explaining the Reasons for This Celebration**

The one who presides addresses the community in these, or similar, words:

Our celebration, in the presence of the body of our brother N, is a way of expressing our fraternal communion and of fulfilling the precept of the Lord: "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you". Love brings us now to pray for our brother who has shared his life with us and has dedicated himself to the service of the Gospel. We are going to pray that the Lord will receive him into the kingdom which he has proclaimed. The Word of God is going to enlighten us and strengthen our faith and our hope.

- **Choosing of Certain Symbols and Their Explanation**

Next some of the symbols placed in the area where the body is laid out may be explained:

- The Paschal candle, symbol of the Risen Christ, our hope;
- The Word of God, of which he has been made the minister to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Christ;
- A vessel of holy water, that recalls baptism, by which he has died and risen with Christ;
- the Constitutions, that have been the norm and guide for the life of our brother;

¹²⁷ CC 45.

- incense, as recognition of the “good odor of Christ” (2Cor 2:15) that, despite his sins or deficiencies, our deceased brother has diffused by his consecrated life and his ministry;
- an image of the Heart of Mary (or the deceased’s rosary), to whose service he has been dedicated by his profession in order to be conformed to the mystery of Christ and to cooperate in her maternal office in the apostolic mission (CC 8).

- **Song and Prayer**

All may sing or recite Psalm 22, “*The Lord is my shepherd*” and conclude with this prayer—or another appropriate one—prayed by the presider:

Let us pray.

Hear, O Lord, in your kindness, our prayers by which we now implore your mercy for your servant N., whom you have called from this world. Deign to lead him to a place of light and peace so he may have a place in the assembly of the saints. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

or:

Lord, you have granted our brother N. the gift of following Christ in communion of life and of proclaiming the Gospel¹²⁸, as a Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Allow him now to share forever in your glory, with Mary and all the saints who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

- **Reading of the Word of God**

One may choose one or several of the readings given here, or of those that are found in the Order of Christian Funerals. If several are read, they are interspersed with psalms or other appropriate songs.

- Wis 3:1-9: He received them as sacrificial offerings.
- Wis 4:7-15: An unsullied life is the attainment of old age.
- Is 25,6a,7-9: He will destroy death forever.
- Dan 12:1-3: Those who sleep in the dust will awaken.
- Ps 24:6-7bc,17-18,20-21: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- Ps 102:8 ,10,13-14,15-16,17-18: The Lord is kind and merciful.
- Ps 129:1-2,3-4ab,4c-6,7-8: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
- Rom 5:17-21: Where sin has reigned, grace will abound.
- Rom 6:3-9: Let us walk in newness of life.
- Rom 8:14-17: Sharing in his sufferings is a sign that we will share in his glory.
- Rom 14:7-9.10b-12: In life and in death we are the Lord’s.
- 1Cor 15:20-24a,25-28: Through Christ all will come back to life.
- Mt 5:1-12a: Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great.
- Mt 25:31-40: Whenever you did this for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.

¹²⁸ CC 4

- Lk 23:44-49: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
- Jn 6:37-40: He who believes in the Son has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.
- Jn 11:17-27: I am the resurrection and the life.

- **Prayer of the Faithful**

One may use the following prayers or others, either spontaneous or taken from the Order of Christian Funerals.

Let us pray to Christ, the Lord of Life who, risen from the dead, is seated at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for us.

- Lord Jesus, you have proclaimed that those who share in your own blessedness are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for justice, the merciful, the single-hearted, and the peacemakers¹²⁹. Grant that our brother N. may now live the promise of salvation in all its fullness. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you sent our brother N. to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Jesus¹³⁰ in this world; let him now share your glory. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you have called on us to forgive everyone with a generous heart, if we have some cause for grievance against them¹³¹. Forgive now the faults of our brother N. who has been committed to you throughout his life and let him rejoice in your infinite mercy and love. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you gave your life for the salvation of all and you are our resurrection and our life¹³². Receive into your kingdom our brother N., those who have gone before us marked by the sign of faith, and all who have left this world in your friendship. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you have the words of everlasting life, help us to grow in faith, live it with hope and be faithful to our vocation¹³³. We pray to the Lord.

- **Conclusion**

All say the Our Father together and the prsider concludes with this prayer, or some other appropriate one:

O God,
 By the Paschal Mystery of your Son
 You give us the hope of our resurrection,
 We humbly beg you
 That our brother N.,
 And all those who share in our Claretian fellowship
 May attain the joy of eternal life.
 Through the same Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

¹²⁹ CC 4.

¹³⁰ CC 46

¹³¹ CC 16

¹³² CC 45

¹³³ CC 62

- Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
- *And let perpetual light shine upon them*
- May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
- *Amen*

The Salve Regina or some other Marian hymn is sung.

4. Funeral Rites

170. *“When a missionary dies, we should celebrate the last rites with devotion, fraternal love and simplicity. We should remember all our brothers who have gone before us in the service of the Gospel, commending them to the Lord with the prescribed prayers, especially the celebration of the Eucharist. We should show the same reverence and respect for our departed parents and for deceased collaborators of the Congregation”*¹³⁴.

“When a missionary dies, he will be buried at the place of his death and the funeral rites will be celebrated according to the prescriptions of no. 19 of our Constitutions. The following suffrages are to be offered on behalf of the deceased:

- a) *For those who have died in the Congregation, either as professed members or as novices:*
 1. *Sixty Masses for each deceased member of the respective community. If the members of the community cannot celebrate them, they should have them celebrated through the provincial or general Mass collector.*
 2. *One Mass on the first death anniversary of each deceased member of the respective community, if possible in a community concelebration.*
 3. *Four yearly Masses in each community for the deceased members of the Congregation in general.*
- b) *An annual Mass in each community for the deceased parents of its members.*
- c) *When the father or mother of one of our missionaries dies, three Masses will be said for them in the community in which any of their sons reside.*
- d) *For our deceased benefactors, an annual Mass will be offered in each community*¹³⁵..

The Congregation’s liturgical calendar established 5 November as the commemoration of all the deceased of the Congregation. If it falls on Sunday, the commemoration is transferred to the next day. The texts from the Missal and Lectionary or those proper to the Congregation may be used.

¹³⁴ CC 19.

¹³⁵ Dir 54.

XI. PRAYERS FOR THE CHAPTER

171. *From the date of the circular letter of convocation onwards, the capitular period proper begins, during which the prayers assigned by the General or Provincial Superior, as the case may be, must be said* ¹

It is fitting that the assigned prayers include an invocation of the Holy Spirit, of the Heart of Mary and of our Holy Founder. Without prejudice to what may actually be assigned by the Superiors, some models for prayers are given here.

1. Before the Chapter

See and add nn. 179-180 new: Veni Sancte Spiritus and Veni, Sancte Spiritus ¿?

181. Litany of the Holy Spirit

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Father almighty,	Forgive us
Jesus the Son, Redeemer of the world	Save us
Spirit of the Father and the Son	Sanctify us
Holy Trinity, one God	Hear us
Heavenly Spouse of the Virgin Mary	Come to us
Source of all good	
Font of living water	
Spirit of love and truth	
Spirit of wisdom and knowledge	
Spirit of counsel and fortitude	
Spirit of mercy	
Spirit of humility and chastity	
Spirit-Consoler	
Spirit of grace and prayer	
Spirit of peace and humility	
Spirit-Sanctifier	
Spirit who guides and governs the Church	
Gift of God Most High	
Spirit who fills the universe	
Spirit of adoption of the children of God	

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

Send us your Spirit

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

Fill us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

Give us the Spirit of wisdom and piety

Let us pray.

¹ Dir 386 c.

Father of mercies, grant that your divine Spirit may enlighten us,
in flame us, sanctify us
that it may permeate us and bring forth a harvest of good works.
Through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

172. Prayer for the Chapter

Spirit of God,
Sent by the Father in Jesus' name,
You infallibly aid and guide the Church,
Pour out on the chapter the fullness of your gifts.

Gentle Teacher and Consoler,
Illumine the minds of the Chapter members,
Make this Chapter bear fruit in abundance,
New vigor in the pursuit of holiness and apostolate,
Especially in spreading the light
And the power of the Gospel among humankind.

Sweet Guest of our souls,
Strengthen our minds in the truth,
Dispose the hearts of all to obedience
So that the final resolutions of the Chapter.
May find generous welcome and full compliance;

Renew in our Congregation,
And, in each one of us,
The spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father.

Grant us that,
Gathered as one family in intense prayer,
Around the Heart of Mary, our Mother,
We may always procure only
The greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.
Amen.

173. Intercessions for the Chapter

Let us glorify the Father who has called us in his Son, Jesus, to share the missionary life and let us say to him:

Grant us the anointing of your Spirit.

In recalling the gift of our vocation to a missionary Congregation,
- we ask You that the members of the Chapter, guided by the Spirit, may seek to be faithful to the proclamation of the kingdom.

Called to follow Jesus, the One sent by the Father,

- we ask You to anoint us with the same Spirit in order to give witness to the Resurrection.

Strengthened by the living memory of St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Holy Founder,
- we ask You that the Chapter may seek the glory of God, the sanctification of the missionaries and the salvation all humankind.

Impelled by the love for God and for our brothers that you have poured out into our hearts,

- we ask You to grant that we may build new communities with a common missionary project in order to proclaim and live the Gospel.

God, our Father,
Through the intercession of Mary,
Mother and Foundress of our Congregation,
Send us your Spirit
To make us feel driven, like your Son, Jesus,
By love for You and for humankind,
So we might have eyes that penetrate and ears that are attentive
To the demands of the world,
And that we remain united despite our differences,
Gathered together in this missionary community
And carrying out the mission we have received
Through St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

2. At the Beginning of the Chapter and Its Sessions

174. Nothing is prescribed regarding this. The Constitutions of 1924 (I, 51) indicated the General Chapter began with a day of retreat and each session began with the invoking of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Patron Saints of the Congregation. The same could be said of the Provincial Chapter.

It is very common to have the Chapter begin with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and invoking the intercession of the Heart of Mary and the Holy Founder.

At the beginning of the sessions some of the prayers from the second chapter of this Directory could be used.

3. Before the Election of the Provincial Superior

175. On the day of the election of the Superior, according to the Constitutions of 1924 (I, 55) the Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated, the Litany of the Saints recited, and the Co-Patrons of the Congregation, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoked.

There may be a prayer vigil on the eve of the election or celebration of the Eucharist in honor of the Holy Spirit.

Immediately before the election, there is an invocation of the Holy Spirit (using the hymn *Veni Creator, Spiritus*¹ or another appropriate hymn), the Heart of Mary and the Holy Founder.

4. Thanksgiving After the Election of the Provincial Superior

176. After greeting the new Superior, the Chapter members may gather in the chapel for the Act of Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity, if the Superior is taking office immediately², and sing the *Te Deum* or the *Magnificat*.

5. At the Closing of the Chapter

177. If the Chapter ends with the Eucharist, and if the rubrics permit, the texts for the Votive Mass of Thanksgiving may be used. There also can be a service of the Word with the theme of thanksgiving and acceptance of the commitment to support the resolutions of the Chapter.

¹ n. 138.

² cf. Dir 443 and 446.

XII. TAKING OF POSSESSION BY THE SUPERIOR

178.

“Formal taking of possession is prescribed only for the office of Superior.

If he is elected, notification and publication of his confirmation suffices, if it is necessary. If the corresponding major government appoints him, it suffices that the document of of appointment be read to the community.

The taking of possession should be completed by making a profession of faith (can 833.8; CC 94), the handing over and acceptance of all books pertaining to government and administration... ”¹.

179.

1. At a Service of the Word

1. Opening Song

2. Greeting by the Presider (*in these, or similar, words*):

The grace of God our Father, who has called us in Christ and has gathered us in this community of apostolic life for service to the People of God, be with you.

3. Prayer:

O God, you have set up our community for living in communion and carrying out the one mission of your Son. Hear our prayers and grant that we may grow in love for you and our brothers, so that, under the guidance of the one who is the sign of communion and the bond of charity in our community, we may unite our thoughts and actions in order to carry out the mission you entrust to us in serving the People of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

4. Reading of the Constitutions (nn. 102-105) and the Decree of Appointment

5. Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity

I, N., faithfully endorse and profess each and every one of those things contained in the creed of the faith, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of everything visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, born of the Father before all ages: God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with Father, by whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven. By the working of the Holy Spirit he was conceived of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was

¹ Dir 359.

crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered, died and was buried. He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

I also firmly believe in everything contained in the Word of God, either written or transmitted by tradition, and what the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed, through a solemn judgment or through the ordinary and universal Magisterium.

I accept and firmly hold, in the same way, each and every one of the things contained in the teachings on faith and morals proposed by the Church in a definitive way.

I adhere, moreover, with religious obedience of both will and intellect to the doctrines enunciated by the Roman Pontiff or by the College of Bishops when they exercise the authentic Magisterium, even though they do not have the intention of proclaiming them by a definitive act.

I, N., designated legitimately as Superior of this Community of, promise and swear, in the presence of God by whom I must be judged, to faithfully discharge my office with God's help, and to safeguard with all diligence the secrecy to which I am obliged by my office.

So help me God and these Holy Gospels on which my hand rests.

Community of day month..... year

6. Reading of the Word of God

One may choose one of the following texts or another that is appropriate:

2Cor 5:14-20: The service of reconciliation he has entrusted to us

Eph 4:1-6: He strengthens us to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the bond of peace

Eph 4:11-16: The diversity of gifts for building up the Body of Christ

Phil 2:1-4: Be united in spirit and at peace; always consider others superior to yourselves

Mt 20: 25-28: The one who would be great among you must serve the rest

Mk 9: 33-37: Who is the greatest?

Jn 15:9-17: You have not chosen me, I have chosen you

7. Psalm

One may choose one of the following or another, or an appropriate song:

Ps 22: The Lord is my Shepherd

Ps 33: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7. 8-9, 19 and 23: Taste and see how good the Lord is

Ps 83: 3-4, 5-6^a and 8^a. 11: Happy are they who dwell in your house, O Lord

Ps 88: 4-5, 21-22, 25 and 27: I will forever sing the mercies of the Lord

Ps 99: 2, 3, 4, 5: We are his people, the sheep of his flock

8.Short Homily by the new Superior

1. Intercessions (*one may take them from here, choosing one of each letter*):

- a. That our Superior may exercise his authority according to the Constitutions, and that he may give his life for his brothers in a spirit of service.
- a. That the Lord will grant his grace to our Superior so that, in communion with his brothers, and he may seek God's will in everything and be given the strength to fulfill it.
- a. That our Superior may promote the collaboration of all the members of the community in everything for the good of the Church and the Congregation.
- b. That the Lord will keep our community united in mind and heart so that world may be recreated in Christ.
- b. That all members of our community will offer their aid to the new Superior and their brothers through prayer, counsel, and fraternal dialogue, seeking the will of God.
- b. That we may be concerned for one another, making a mutual effort to fulfill the precept of the Lord to love another as He has loved us.
- c. That the local government going out of office may receive from the Lord the reward it merits for its dedicated service to the community.
- c. That the members of the local government going out of office will always find us grateful, recognizing their dedication, and always be enriched by God's loving blessing.

9.Our Father

10.Closing Prayer

11.Blessing

12.Marian Antiphon or Song

180.

2. At the Recitation of Lauds or Vespers

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. After the opening invocation, the secretary of the community reads nn. 102-105 of the Constitutions and the document of appointment.
3. Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity (*see above*).
4. The singing of the hymn and the recitation of the psalms follows.
5. After the short reading, the new Superior addresses some words to the community in which he expresses the meaning of his ministry in the community.
6. In the intercessions, before the prayer for the dead, there may be a special prayer for the new Superior, the community and the government going out of office (*see above*).

181.

3. At the Celebration of the Eucharist

1. If the liturgical calendar permits, one may use the Votive Mass for the Heart of Mary, for Fr. Claret or for the Community, from the Missal proper to the Congregation. The readings can be of the weekday, of the votive Mass or some other texts that deal with the ministry of government in the Christian community.
2. After the greeting, the secretary reads nn. 102-105 of the Constitutions, and the document of appointment.
3. The Superior makes the profession of faith and the oath of fidelity (*see above*).
4. The celebration of the Eucharist continues in the usual way.
5. After the readings, the new Superior gives the homily, based on the Scripture readings and explaining the meaning of his ministry in the community.
6. In the Prayer of the Faithful there may a special petition for the new Superior, the community and the government going out of office.
7. It would be appropriate for the Superior to personally give the sign of peace to each of the members of the community.

XIII. CANONICAL VISITATION

182.

The canonical visitation is an “*extraordinary act of government serving to strengthen the bond of unity in the Congregation and to direct its life and mission toward its goal*”¹.

The Constitutions mandate that the Visitor take part in the daily life of the brothers, listening to them with openness and convoking a plenary meeting of the community².

Traditionally the visitation begins with a prayer service at which the visitation is declared officially open and its purposes are recalled. At the end of this, or at some other time, it is appropriate for the community to gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

It is most appropriate for the reading of the sections of the Constitutions related to the visitation at its opening, as well as the reading of the Minutes at the closing of the visitation, to be done at a community meeting.

I. Opening of the Visitation

183.

1. At a Service of the Word

1. Opening Song

2. Greeting by the Visitor:

The grace of God our Father, who brings us to full maturity in Christ by the power of his Spirit so that we may communicate the grace of the Gospel to others, be with you.

He may then go on more spontaneously to say how happy he is to be able to share with the brothers their daily life, their works and their hopes and difficulties.

3. Reading of the Word of God

(The readings below may be used, or some other appropriate one chosen:)

2Cor 5:20-6:2: Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation

Phil 3:7-16: Let us go forward from where we are

Lk 1:39-47: Mary went in haste and greeted Elizabeth

Lk 24:13-35: Didn't our hearts burn within us when he explained the Scriptures to us?

4. In a short homily the Visitor comments on the Scripture text and further specifies the meaning of the visitation in our Congregation.

¹ CC 128.

² CC 129.

5. The Visitor invites the community to pray:

When we make our profession, we ask our brothers to pray that, in our service to God and to the Church, we may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and attain perfect charity¹³⁶. And the Church exhorts us to base our earnest search for vigor in our missionary life on the Constitutions¹³⁷. Thus, at the beginning of this canonical visitation, that attempts to stimulate our minds and wills to fidelity¹³⁸, in the light of the Constitutions we ask this grace from God who has called us.

(the petitions that follow may be used, or others appropriate at the time)

- We ask that the love of God and of our brothers that has been poured out into our hearts by the Spirit may not cease to build up our community and govern and inform our missionary life¹³⁹
- *“Make us effective instruments to proclaim the kingdom of heaven”*
- May our missionary life be incarnated in the community we form and, united as brothers, may we share the community’s mission however we can¹⁴⁰
- In missionary community, may we pursue the fullness of personhood to which we have been called through community prayer, family life and sharing in the orderly operation and governance of the community¹⁴¹
- Let us pray that, in the ministry of the Word that is our special vocation in the Church, we may share the hopes and sorrows of all people. May we foster the sense of intuition, availability and catholicity in our mission and may the Lord give us the strength and fidelity we need to fulfill it¹⁴²
- That we may develop our charism in service to the Church and the world, truly incarnated in the conditions and needs of the local Church and the world around us¹⁴³
- Let us pray that the Lord will grant us, during the visitation, the grace to renew our intention to progress in the way of the Lord¹⁴⁴, open to the observations, recommendations and pastoral suggestions given us by the Visitor¹⁴⁵.

Others may be added

6. Concluding Prayer, recited by all:

O Lord, renew,
In our Congregation and in our community,

¹³⁶ CC 159.

¹³⁷ CC 158.

¹³⁸ CC 128.

¹³⁹ CC 10.

¹⁴⁰ CC 102; 13.

¹⁴¹ CC 12.

¹⁴² CC 46.

¹⁴³ CC 14.

¹⁴⁴ CC 52.

¹⁴⁵ CC 131.

The spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father,
so that, filled with that spirit and invigorated by it,
We may be strengthened to love what he loved,
And put into practice what he taught.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

7. Blessing

8. Closing Song

184.

2. At the Celebration of Lauds or Vespers

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. The Visitor addresses the community, commenting on the Scripture reading and explaining the the meaning of the canonical visitation.
- 3 The recitation of the Hour proceeds as usual.
- 4 In the intercessions (at Vespers, before the prayer for the dead), there may be a special petition for the fruitfulness of the visitation (*which may be chosen from among those in Model 1*).

II. Closing of the Visitation

185.

1. At a Service of the Word

2. Opening Song
3. Greeting by the Visitor

Blessed by God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us the gift of following Christ in communion of life and in proclaiming the Gospel to every creature.

R./ *Blessed by the Lord forever*

4. Reading of the Word of God
(*Those below, or other appropriate readings, may be used*):

Dt 26:16-19: Observe these statutes with all your heart and all your soul

Mt 5:13-16: You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world

Mt 5:17-19: I have come, not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it

Mt 7:17-27: Not everyone who says to me "*Lord, Lord*" will enter the kingdom
of heaven

Jn 15: 1-10: The one who remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit

5. Short Homily

6. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition (*other appropriate prayers may be substituted*)

1. We thank you, Lord, for calling us to collaborate with Christ in the work you have entrusted to Him;
- grant us your spirit to contemplate Him diligently and imitate Him through the vows and virtues in this missionary community according to our proper charism in the Church.
Blessed be the Lord forever.
2. We thank you, Lord, because your Son, impelled by ardent love for You, his Father, and for all people, dedicated Himself to working even unto death;
- grant that we, moved by apostolic zeal and the joy of the Spirit, may love all humankind and desire and procure for them the blessedness of the kingdom already begun here on earth.
3. We thank you, Lord, because we share a common mission according to the gifts and talents of each individual, and for gathering us into the same community;
- help us to seek together and come to know your will in order to carry out our common mission according to the distinct circumstances of the times, of places and of people.
4. We thank you, Lord, for beginning this good work in us and, with your providence, bringing it to fulfillment on the day of Christ Jesus;
- we ask you, that in carrying out our mandate and in fulfilling our duties, we may contribute all our individual energies.
5. We thank you, Lord, because you have made us your image and members of the Body of Christ;
- may we grow in practicing all the virtues, responding with thanks and friendliness to all corrections and recommendations we receive, and always offer our pardon and peace to the others.

Others may be added.

7. Our Father

8. Concluding Prayer

We humbly beg you, Lord, our God,
To make of one heart
All who follow the spirit of your servant, Anthony Mary
So that, in the harmony of mutual love,
We may testify to your love in the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

9. Blessing
10. Closing Song

186.

At the Celebration of Lauds or Vespers

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. Short Homily
3. In the intercessions (*at Vespers, before the prayer for the dead*) there may be a special intercession for the fruitfulness of the visitation (*which may be taken from those given in Model 1*).

XIV. BLESSINGS

187.

1. Blessings at Meals

Feasts of the Virgin Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of your Mother
You changed water into wine at Cana in Galilee,
Bless this food which we are about to eat,
And grant that we, who remember the Virgin Mary today,
May place ourselves, as she did
At the service of your plan of salvation for all humankind.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

St. Joseph (19 March, 1 May)

The Lord loved him because he was a just man
And rewarded him a hundred-fold for his labor.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

O provident God, You confided your only-begotten Son and his Mother, Mary,
To the the faithful care of St. Joseph
Bless this bread, made by the sweat of our brow,
And grant that we may work without ceasing to extend your kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Feast of the Heart of Mary

We give you thanks, Lord, and we bless You
For the priceless gift of being called, and truly being,
“Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary”.
Blessed be the Lord, forever.

Lord, our God,
You have deigned to call us together in this Congregation
Making us sons of the Immaculate Heart of your Mother.
Grant that we may intensely live our filial piety toward Mary
And bless us who are now gathered around this table
At which we express and share our fellowship.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Catherine of Siena, Co-Patron (29 April)

We praise you , Lord, because in St. Catherine of Siena
You show us your power and your wisdom.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
You made St. Catherine of Siena
Burn with love for You and for the Church.
As we bless the food we are about to eat,
Grant that we may always remain in your presence
And be agents of communion in your Church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Feasts of the Apostles, Co-Patrons
*(3 and 14 May, 29 June, 3 and 25 July, 24 August,
21 September, 28 October, 30 November, 27 December)*

1. Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, sent to bear witness to the Father.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, may you be blessed by the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands:
May we remain faithful in your holy service
In our community of apostolic life.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

2. We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because you prolong your presence and your Word in the world
by means of the Apostles.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, you send us as your sent the Apostles
To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
Bless this food we are about to eat
And make us fit ministers of your Word, tireless apostles of your kingdom.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

3. Lord Jesus, you were hoped for by the prophets
and proclaimed by the apostles and evangelists:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, out of love for the Father and for your brothers and sisters,
You dedicated yourself to working even unto death
And made the Apostles witnesses to your life and resurrection.
Bless this table and give us the joy of your living presence among us.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

4. Lord Jesus, you called your Apostles
so they might be with you and so that you might send them out to preach:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, you have entrusted your Apostles
With going out to the whole world and preaching the Good News,
And you have called us to a life of apostolic perfection.
Bless our table and allow us to share one day in the banquet in your kingdom.
Where You live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

On the Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation (16 July)

Blessed are you, Lord for having raised up in the Church
Our Congregation of Missionaries.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
For your greater glory, our sanctification and the salvation of all humankind
You founded our Congregation by the special intervention
Of the Virgin Mary through St. Anthony Mary Claret.
We thank your for the food you bless us with today;
Grant us to be more faithful to your call every day,
According to our missionary charism in the Church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Ignatius Loyola, Co-Patron (31 July)

We glorify you, O Lord, and we praise you
For giving every good gift to those who love You.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God, you raised up St. Ignatius Loyola in your Church
To extend thr glory of your name throughout the whole world:
Bless this food and give us a hunger and thirst for justice
To extend your greater glory throughout the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Co-Patron (1 August)

The saints are the friends of God
Who bear witness to Him by their holiness of life.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
You made St. Alphonsus Liguori
A wise and zealous preacher of your Word:
Pour out your blessing upon us

In our sharing of the food prepared for us
As a sign of our common faith and our mission.
May we also share with the needy
Your holy Word and the goods with which you bless us.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessed Martyrs of Barbastro (13 August)

Lord Jesus, you have allowed us to be baptized with your own baptism
And have given us the power to drink the cup the Father has given you
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, you have given the gift of faith to the prophets and apostles,
And to the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro,
The generosity of their dedication to you even unto martyrdom:
Strengthen our bodies with the food we are about to eat
And infuse us with strength we need to always live the faith
And our dedication to serving You.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

**Sts. Michael, Rafael and Gabriel, and the Guardian Angels,
Co-Patrons (29 September, 2 October)**

With the choirs of angels we praise you, O Lord, and we bless You:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God, You always show us your providence.
Bless our table, the sign of your generosity to us.
And grant that we may never lack the help of those who serve You in heaven
So that we may also praise for all eternity.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Teresa of Jesus, Co-Patron (15 October)

Our spirit thirsts for you, O Lord, like a dry, weary land without water.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

O God, you raised up St. Teresa of Jesus in your Church
And through her have shown us the way of perfection:
Grant that we may desire no other bodily nourishment
Than the daily bread of your Word and your Body
So that we may efficaciously desire our sanctification
In proclaiming your kingdom according to our charism in the Church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Anthony Mary Claret, Our Founder (24 October)

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus,
The Son sent by the Father.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, bless the food we are about to eat
And fill us with the same spirit
That animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father,
So that, impelled by it,
We may always be ready to proclaim your kingdom
And give our lives for our brothers and sisters.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

188.

2. Blessing of a New House of the Congregation

C.: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A.: Amen.

C.: May God, the origin and source of all holiness, who has called us like the Apostles and granted us the gift of following Christ in communion of life¹, be with you.

A.: And also with you.

Greeting (in these or similar words) and Opening Prayer:

C.: Where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, there is Christ in their midst. We are going to bless this house, in which will live those gathered together by love for Christ and for their brothers², with the purpose of representing in the Church the virginity, poverty and obedience of Christ dedicated to the preaching of the Gospel³. We implore the kindness of Him from whom all good gifts come and entreat Him to bring the good work begun by Him to a fruitful outcome⁴, as we, like Jesus, seek in everything, and use every means possible, that God may be known, loved and served by all⁵. May our fellowship always be nourished with common prayer and be fostered by a family lifestyle, simple and open. May each one who lives here collaborate according to his own vocation in the ministry of the Word and attain the fullness of personhood to which we are called⁶.

Let us pray.

O God, you are ever active in our desires and our works. We bless You because, in our pilgrimage here on earth, you have granted us the gift of yearning for your courts. Grant, we beg You, that the missionaries who are going to dwell in this house may live in intimate communion and friendship with Christ the Evangelizer⁷, and by their

¹ CC 4.

² CC 10.

³ CC 5.

⁴ cf. CC 51.

⁵ CC 40.

⁶ CC 12.

⁷ Dir 94.

affability, joy of spirit and modesty, show forth your presence in the world⁸. May they know how to discern, in the light of the Spirit, the challenges of our times and translate them, with courage and boldness, into options and projects consistent with our charism and the demands of our moment in history⁹. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A.: Amen.

Reading of the Word of God (one of these, or another appropriate text, may be used):

- Heb 13:1-3;5-7; 14-17: We have no permanent city here on earth
- Jn 1:35-42: They satyed with Jesus that day

Intercessions

Christ the Lord promised to remain in the midst of his disciples until the end of time. Let us pray to Him with humility and trustful love:

- *Lord, stay with us.*

You were made flesh of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit and you desired to dwell among us. We gratefully welcome You into our home.

You desired to live humbly in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Help us always to adopt in this house an austere lifestyle, sharing the lot of the poor¹⁰.

You promised to be in the midst of those gathered in your Name. Turn our eyes toward those your love has gathered into one family.

You, who had nowhere on earth to lay your head, have animated our life and our apostolate with the spirit of poverty. May our goods always be at the disposal of others¹¹

You promised to receive into everlasting dwelling places those who receive you with kindness in the person of the guests. Teach us to recognize You in our brothers and sisters and to welcome with fraternal love those who come to our community¹².

Blessing Prayer

O God, inspiration and author of every holy desire,

Kindly hear our prayers

And grant all who dwell in this house

The grace of your kindness;

May this be a place where, constantly,

Your Word is listened to in assiduous contemplation and treasured in the heart,

A fraternal life is lived that makes our missionary service of the Word more credible¹³,

The hopes and joys, the sadness and anxieties of all people are shared

And the mission of the community is carried out of proclaiming the life, death and resurrection of the Lord until he comes again¹⁴,

So that we may win as many people as possible for Christ¹⁵.

Who lives and reigns with You forever and ever.

⁸ Dir 95.

⁹ Dir 103.

¹⁰ Dir 63 and CC 26.

¹¹ CC 25.

¹² CC 17.

¹³ Dir 36.

¹⁴ CC 48.

¹⁵ CC 42.

Amen.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ,
You assured those who profess the evangelical counsels
That they have a dwelling place prepared for them in heaven.
Keep under your protection
This house we now bless,
So that those who live in it,
May maintain the bond of fraternal love,
In an attitude of generous service to You and their brothers.
May they bear witness to the Gospel by their lives,
And desire and procure for all people
The blessedness of the kingdom already begun here on earth ¹⁶.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

(The celebrant sprinkles those present, and the house, with holy water while an appropriate song is sung.)

Blessing

O God, you have granted us to dwell in this house,
Guard us from all internal and external disturbance,
Fill us with the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret
And give us perseverance and fidelity
In the service of God and the Church and allow us to attain the gift of perfect charity¹⁷.
Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
All of you present here
In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Or:

May God , the Almighty Father,
Bless you,
So that in this community you may find
Constant impetus toward the perfection of charity ¹⁸
Amen.

May Christ the Lord
Dwell in your hearts through faith
And sustain your missionary commitment
To transform the world by your missionary service of the Word¹⁹.

¹⁶ CC 40.

¹⁷ CC 159.

¹⁸ Dir 139.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
Live with you and be with you,
While you remain united in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus²⁰
Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
All of you present here
In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

3. Blessing of Those Who Are Sent to Proclaim the Gospel

189. At a Service of the Word

After an opening song, there is a greeting and opening prayer:

C.: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

C.: The Lord who called you like the Apostles and sent you to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom²¹, be with you.

T.: And also with you.

C.: My dear brothers: By participating in this celebration, you are restoring in a certain way what the primitive Church did when, filled with joy, it sent some of its sons and daughters to other people to help their brothers and sisters in the faith or those who did not even know Christ.

The sending of these brothers and sisters to different places, motivated by the needs of the Church, strengthens the bonds that unite us to those particular churches as our prayer will now show.

Let us pray.

O God, you want all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. Look at the vastness of the harvest and send workers so the Gospel may be proclaimed to every creature. May your flock, gathered together by the Word of Life and sustained by the power of the sacraments, journey along the paths of salvation and love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Reading of the Word of God (a reading may be chosen from the lectionary for the Votive Mass for the Spread of the Gospel).

Before the reading of the Gospel, the missionaries are presented to the faithful, saying, for example:

¹⁹ Dir 94.

²⁰ Dir 48; cf He 1,14.

²¹ CC 4 y 46.

From (or associated with) our Institute of Claretian Missionaries, impelled by love and obedience, these men (and women) are leaving to preach the Gospel:

- Father (Brother, Student) N. assigned to N.
- Mr. (Mrs., Miss) N., (doctor, catechist, etc.) going to N.

After the homily, the missionaries rise and approach the celebrant.

Intercessions and Blessing Prayer

Let us call on God, the merciful Father, who anointed his Son with the Holy Spirit to proclaim Good News to the poor, to bind up broken hearts and to comfort the afflicted. Let us say with confidence:

Lord, may your people always praise You.

- Merciful and eternal God, you want all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. We thank you for giving the world your Son as its Teacher and Redeemer.
- You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to evangelize the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and announce a year of favor. Grant that God may be known, loved and served by all, and that all may rejoice in the blessedness of the kingdom already begun on earth²².
- You have called all people out of darkness into your wonderful light. Grant that, by imitating Jesus' preference for the poor, answering the call of the Church and following the example of our Founder²³, we may be fit ministers of the Word in order to spread the kingdom of heaven throughout the world²⁴.
- Give us upright and sincere hearts to listen to your Word and grant that we ourselves may be converted to the Gospel and be on fire with the love of Christ that must impel us²⁵.

We praise You, O God, and we bless You,
Because, according to the ineffable plan of your mercy,
You sent your Son, made flesh of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit,
And anointed Him with the same Spirit to evangelize the poor
And fill them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
In order that He might complete the work of our redemption,
He founded the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation
And sent the Apostles and others²⁶
To preach the Gospel to every creature,
As they went throughout the entire world²⁷.
We ask you now, Lord,
To look with kindness
On these, your servants,

²² CC 40.

²³ Dir 114.

²⁴ CC 73.

²⁵ CC 34.

²⁶ CC 3.

²⁷ CC 4.

Who are being sent to proclaim the mystery of the Cross of Christ and the glory of the Lord²⁸.

With your mighty arm, Lord guide their footsteps,

Give them faithfulness and courage in the face of those who oppose the kingdom of God²⁹,

So that weariness or discouragement may not overwhelm them.

May they, who are, by their vocation, hearers and servants of the Word³⁰,

Be empowered to see the presence of the Spirit in the peoples to whom they are sent³¹
Father, deign to pour out the Holy Spirit into their hearts

So that, by being all things to all people,

They may draw many people to You,

So that they may praise You unceasingly in the holy Church.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Giving of the Cross

O Lord, Father of holiness,

You made your Son's Cross

The source of all blessing

And the origin of every grace.

Deign to bless + these crosses

And may those who bear them for everyone to see,

Permeated by your Spirit,

Win as many people as possible for Christ³².

Who lives and reigns with You forever and ever.

Amen.

The missionaries approach the celebrant who gives them the cross, saying:

Receive this sign of Christ's love and our faith;

Preach Christ, and Him crucified,

And carry the Cross throughout the world in service of the Gospel

In order to glorify the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit³³.

Amen.

Conclusion (Final Blessing)

O God, in Christ you have shown us your truth and your love.

Make us messengers of the Gospel

And witnesses to your love in the world.

Amen.

May Jesus the Lord, who promised to be with his Church

²⁸ Dir 97; cf. 2Cor 4:10.

²⁹ CC 46.

³⁰ Dir 144.

³¹ Dir 112.

³² CC 42.

³³ Ritual of Profession n. 78.

Until the end of the world,
Guide you steps and confirm your words.
Amen.

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you,
So that, as you travel the highways of the world,
You may proclaim the Gospel to the poor
And heal the broken-hearted.
Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
All of you present here
In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

190. At the Celebration of the Eucharist

On solemnities, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, the Mass of the day is said. On Sundays of Christmastime, of Ordinary Time, on feasts and memorials, either the Mass for the day or the Votive Mass for the Spread of the Gospel is said.

Before the Gospel, the missionaries are presented and the celebrant says to them:

Announce the Gospel that is proclaimed in this house of the Lord
By your words and actions
To invite all people to convert to the Faith,
Or to renew their life in Christ
And help them to bring it to perfection³⁴.

After the homily, the prayer of blessing and the giving of the cross is done as above (n. 189). The Mass continues as usual.

³⁴ CC 47.

XV. APPENDICES

1. OTHER TEXTS

191. Another version of the Filial and Apostolic Prayer to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God,
I dedicate myself as your son.
I entrust myself to your motherly care
That you may form Jesus in me--
Jesus, the Son sent by the Father,
And anointed by the Holy Spirit
To proclaim Good News to the poor.
Teach me to treasure the Word in my heart, as you did,
Until it transforms me into a living Gospel.
Ask the Spirit to empower me
That I may bear witness to Christ among humankind.
Fill me with your motherly love
That I may reveal the Father to them
And make them feel the joy of being sons and daughters of God
In the fraternal communion of the Church.
Mother, here is your son. Form me.
Mother, here is your son. Send me.
Mother, here is your son. Speak through me. Love through me.
Watch over me that, after preaching the Gospel to others,
I may not be excluded from the Kingdom.
In you, my Mother,
I have placed all my trust.
Let me never be put to shame. Amen.

192. Novena to the Heart of Mary

193. Triduum to Our Holy Founder

194. Formula for Privately Renewing Profession (either by individuals or communities)

Having recognized the gift the Lord has granted to me
Of following Christ in communion of life
And of going out to all the world and proclaiming the Gospel to every
creature¹⁴⁶,
Irenew my dedication to God
In order to be consecrated by Him¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁶ CC 4

Through the profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience,
 With the purpose of seeking in everything the glory of God,
 My own sanctification and the salvation of all the people of the world¹⁴⁸,
 According to the charism of this Congregation of Missionaries
 Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
 As it is set forth in its Constitutions¹⁴⁹.
 I also dedicate myself to the Blessed Virgin Mary
 With filial love and trust
 In order to be conformed to the mystery of Christ
 And to cooperate with her maternal role in the apostolic mission¹⁵⁰.
 Strengthened by fellowship and mutual prayer,
 I commit myself to the intention of pursuing, in this community of apostolic life,
 The fullness of personhood to which I have been called
 And to sharing in it the Congregation's mission
 In the ministry of the Word¹⁵¹ at the service of the Church¹⁵².
 May He who began this good work in me,
 By my fidelity to the spirit of Sr. Anthony Mary Claret¹⁵³,
 Bring it to fulfillment on the day of Christ Jesus¹⁵⁴.

195.

2. FAVORITE SCRIPTURE TEXTS OF OUR HOLY FOUNDER

- Dt 6:2 ff.: keep this so you will be happy and prosper
- Is 41:8-17: you are my servant; be not afraid for I am with you
- Is 61:1-2: The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me
- Ez 3: 17-19: You have made me watchman over the House of Israel
- Mt 10:5-15: Jesus sent them after giving them these instructions...
- Mt 11,28-29: come to me, all you who are weary
- Mt 16:24: if anyone wishes to come after me
- Mt 22:36 ff.: what is the greatest commandment of the Law?
- Mk 10:14-16: let the children come to me
- Mk 10:43-45: he who would be greatest among you must be your servant
- Mk 16:15: Go out to all the world and proclaim the Good News
- Lk 2:48-49: Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?
- Lk 4:18: the Spirit of the Lord is upon because he has anointed me
- Lk 9:58: the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head
- Lk 12:51: seek first the kingdom and all other things will be given you besides
- Jn 14:23: if anyone loves me, he will keep my Word
- Jn 18:11: Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?
- Jn 20:21: as the Father has sent me I also send you
- Ac5:41: they left full of joy that they had been judged worthy of suffering for Him

¹⁴⁷ CC 5

¹⁴⁸ CC 5

¹⁴⁹ CC 73

¹⁵⁰ CC 8

¹⁵¹ CC 12

¹⁵² CC 14

¹⁵³ CC 159

¹⁵⁴ CC 52

- Rom 8:35 ff.: Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
- 2Cor 3:6: He made us qualified ministers of a new covenant
- 2Cor 5:14: the love of Christ impels us
- Gal 1:15 ff.: He called me by his grace to announce Him to the Gentiles
- Ga 2:20: it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me
- Ga 6:14: God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ
- Eph 6:11-12: clothe yourselves in the armor of God
- Col 1:24: I make up in my flesh what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ
- 1Tim 4:6: if you teach these things, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus
- 2Tim 2:10: I bear with all this for the sake of those whom God has chosen
- 2 Tim 4:2: Proclaim the Word in season and out of season
-

196.

3. TEXTS ON OUR CHARISM

- Aut 489: *“I talked with a number of priests whom the Lord had given the same spirit that motivated me. These were Frs. Esteban Sala, José Xifré, Domingo Fábregas, Manuel Vilaró, Jaime Clotet. I, Antonio Claret, was last of all. And, indeed, they were all better educated and more virtuous than I so that I felt happy and content to consider myself their servant”.*
- Aut 490: *“On 16 July 1849, after we had gathered together in the seminary with the approval of the bishop and the rector, we began our own Spiritual Exercises, which we followed with all exactness and fervor. Because 16 July is the Feast of the Holy Cross and of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I based my words on those words of the 22nd Psalm: ‘Your rod and your staff give me courage’ (v.4). alluding to the devotion and confidence we should place in the holy Cross and the Blessed Virgin Mary and applying it also to the project that was beginning. We left those Exercises full of fervor, bound and determined to persevere, and, thanks be to God and Mary, all have persevered. Two have already gone to the glory of heaven, enjoying God and the reward of their apostolic labors and praying for their brothers”.*
- Aut. 491: *“Thus we had begun and thus we continued, living together strictly in community. All of us were going out regularly to work in the sacred ministry”.*
- Aut 494: *“I tell myself: A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love, who spreads its flames wherever he goes. He desires mightily and strives by all means possible to set the whole world on fire with God’s love. Nothing daunts him; he delights in privations, welcomes work, embraces sacrifices, smiles at slander and rejoices in suffering. His only concern is how he can best follow Jesus Christ and imitate Him in working, suffering and stiving constantly and single-mindedly for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls”.*
- Aut 609: *“I often wondered how it was possible for so much peace, joy and harmony to reign for so long a time among such a large group. I always ended up by*

saying the same thing, 'This is the finger of God'. This is a singular grace God has given us in his infinite mercy and kindness. I know that God was blessing the efforts we were putting forth when He gave us such a special grace".

- Aut 686: *On 24 September, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, at 11:30 in the morning, the Lord gave me an understanding of another passage in the Apocalypse (10:1): 'Then I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow about his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. In his hand he held a little scroll that had been opened. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land [first in his diocese of Cuba and later in other dioceses], and then he gave a loud cry like the roar of a lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices too'. Here come the sons of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It says seven, but seven is an indefinite number, meaning all. They are also called thunders because of their love and zeal, like that of Sts. James and John, who were called the sons of thunder. And the Lord wants me and my companions to imitate the Apostles James and John in zeal, chastity and love for Jesus and Mary".*
- Aut 687: *"The Lord told me both for myself and for all those missionary companions of mine, 'You yourselves will not be the speakers; the Spirit of your Father (and of your Mother) will be speaking in you'. So true is this that each one of us will be able to say, 'The Spirit of the lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted".*
- Letter of Our Holy Founder to the the Apostolic Nuncio (Vic, 12 August 1849):
- *"Seeing the great lack of apostolic preachers of the Gospel in our Spanish territory, and the great desire the people have to hear the Word of God and the many requests from all over Spain to have someone come to their cities and people to preach the Gospel, I am determined to form a group of some few zealous companions and train them so we can do for others what I cannot do by myself".*
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Bishop José Caixal
"The Missionaries continue to be quite well and they couldn't move any more quickly than they are. We are very busy from 4 in the morning until 10 at night. We go about our business in such a way that, like an unbroken chain, one activity is linked to another. Our activities are mental and vocal prayer, the Divine Office, conferences, catechizing, preaching, hearing confessions, morality, mysticism and asceticism. There are internal and external conferences. In the internal ones we are the chosen ones, and we are seven, and we do exercises in all the virtues, especially in humility and charity, and in this school we live in community a life truly poor and apostolic. Fifty-six ecclesiastics take part in the external conferences and some of them leave as very outstanding preachers. Some have asked to live with us, but were are proceeding very carefully and examining their physical and moral condition. It is necessary to proceed with caution in these matters, because a mangy sheep would infect all the others".
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Madrid, 7 May 1858):

“It is true our Congregation is very small; but it doesn’t matter. It is more important to be few, very strongly united and fervent, than to be many and divided. In time we will increase”.

- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Madrid, 30 November 1858):
“Let us ask the heavenly Father to send laborers, because, it is true, the laborers are few and the harvest great both within Spain and outside it ... Remember well what the Divine Master said to the Apostles and, in them to us ... ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and everything will be given to you besides’ ... Don’t stop admitting those you consider fit because of their knowledge and virtue and who you feel will be useful, even though they are young and are not all ordained. Also you don’t want there to be more than 12 priests, both young and old, in a house, in honor of the 12 Apostles. You have to do what beekeepers do: form new hives, until there is one in each diocese, and then you need to send them out to foreign nations.
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, 13 July 1859): *“The enemy has a great fear of these Constitutions, and thus he has persecuted us so much. Let us be faithful in observing them and God will always make things turn out to our benefit”.*
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. Jaime Clotet (Madrid, 1 July 1861):
*“Tell [the missionaries] to read the Rule or the Constitutions very often and faithfully observe them.
I see in history that religions later extended beyond the kingdoms in which they were founded to other parts of the world. Then why shouldn’t ours at least extend throughout this one kingdom?”.*
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Rome, 20 August 1861):
*“I see you are asking me how to extend the Congregation, and it seems good to me that it at least spreads to the interior of Spain—but there may be greater needs. ... Meanwhile tell my dearly beloved brother Missionaries to be enthusiastic and to work however they can so that God and the Blessed Virgin Mary may be pleased. I have such tenderness for the Priests dedicated to the missions that I would give them my blood and my life. I would kiss their feet a thousand times. I would make their beds, cook their meals, and go out searching for a morsel so they might eat. I love them so much when I consider that they work so that God may be known and loved more and more, so that souls may be saved and not condemned. I don’t know how I feel ... as I’m writing this I have to lay down my pen and wipe my eyes ... O Sons of the Immaculate Heart of my most beloved Mother!... I want to write to you and I can’t because my eyes are filled with tears. Preach, and pray for me.
Farewell, dear brother: here’s the little note you wanted for each of the Missionaries to copy and carry with them”.*
- Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Rome, 16 July 1869):
“It’s been 20 years since Jesus and Mary began our Congregation, and it has endured up to now when the Lord has permitted this persecution we are undergoing—not to wipe it out, but to increase and extend it. Remember what I said to you last year when the revolution started: that it would be for the

Congregation, like snow is for a planted field. The snow doesn't kill the wheat but makes it revive. So it will be with the revolution: it will not kill the Congregation, but revive it and make it take root more and more, The members will become more perfect and bear more fruit. How? Let's see ... Each individual will keep the Rule and Constitutions more perfectly. This is the will of God for your sanctification.

Look at no. 63 (c. 16) of the Constitutions and reflect on what it says: Catechize the little ones, the poor and the unlearned ...

As Superior General, when circumstances permit and you think it appropriate, you might appoint one or two members who are well-read to conduct a school for children like the Christian Brothers do in so many places in France, Italy, etc., and do so well. I think they're the ones who do the most good in the Church and from whom much can be hoped for.

This special mission has likewise been confided to the Congregation in Spain by God and the Blessed Virgin I don't mean to imply by this that everyone should occupied with these schools. I mean to say that should begin little by little. Be careful to appoint ones you see are eager to do it or who ask to do it.

*These schools will grow in accord with how faithfully they respond to grace. God and the Blessed Virgin will see there are those who can work in this area without losing sight of their primary objective. One must do this and not omit that (*Haec oportet facere, et illa nom omittere*)”.*

Letter of our Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré (Rome, 16 November 1869):

“They say America is a vast field and very fertile, and that in time many more souls will go to heaven from there than from Europe. This part of the world is like an old vine that doesn't bear much fruit; America is the young vine”.

Account by Fr. Clotet:

Six good priests in the humble room of a seminarian, with no furniture other than a rickety table, a statue, and two wooden benches, cast off household items that need repair. They are seriously discussing how to realize the great enterprise they have dreamed of for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. For the prudent people of this world it would seem no more than the expression of some good intentions ... Truly, those beginnings were so humble that no one there that day could foresee the wondrous results that meeting was to have.

... At 3 in the afternoon we were meeting in that place in the seminary. Before beginning the opening of the Exercises, Fr. Anthony Claret said, “Today a great work is beginning”. Fr. Manuel Vilaró, replied, smiling and laughing, “What can we do; we're so young and so few?”. “You'll see –replied the Servant of God- if we are young and few the power and mercy of God will shine all the more resplendently”.

Truly, those beginnings were so humble that no one there that day could foresee the wondrous results that meeting was to have, but as the Founder said: “Today a great work is beginning”. One of them smiled, thus expressing the nervousness that arose when they considered the difficult circumstances they were in. When the Father saw it, he turned toward him and said prophetically: “You don't have to believe it; you'll see it”. And we have seen it come to pass.

The Congregation began functioning by calling fervently on the Holy Spirit, and placing itself under the protection of Jesus and Mary. This happy idea was suggested by the Founder. For the text of this homey little chat he was having with us, he used the historic words: “Your rod and yoiur staff give me courage” that

was being used for the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and the Triumph of the Holy Cross celebrated on that day. He applied it to the newborn Congregation, whose spirit and orientation began to take shape that afternoon”.

Account by Fr. José Xifré:

“The founders began with formal Exercises lasting 10 days during which they kept absolute silence, fervor and recollection. During these days our Father Founder directed all the acts himself, preaching twice a day, performing many acts of humility and mortification that were very edifying. He spoke about and proposed the kind of apostolic life, both privately and publicly, the Missionaries should observe. During these Exercises he also proposed practical means for the spiritual and intellectual life that later would be used by the Missionaries when they were at home, and even when they were away on preaching assignments”.

Account by Fr. Jaime Clotet:

“They should be poor in appearance, dissociated from worldliness, and simple and obedient. In the three conferences they had while they were in the house, they heard instructions that would give them the docility of true children, hanging on the words of their Teacher. Their delight was in serving one another at table and even in the meanest duties. They had neither servants nor coadjutor Brothers, making up for this lack themselves with their holy imitation, especially during the illness of one of them that happened a short time later ... The effects of the love they had for Jesus and the protection his Most Holy Mother gave them were visible and admirable”.

... Some time later, having mastered the technique of ministry and appropriately practicing virtue, our Fathers went out to give missions and exercises, so afire with zeal that the results their labors produced everywhere are indescribable. Speaking about this years later, the Most Rev. Fr. Domingo Costa, a Dominican missionary in California wrote: ‘It seemed like these Fathers walked out of the Cenacle. I saw it. It was just like Pentecost”.

Account of Fr. Jaime Clotet:

“In imitation of our beloved Father Founder, we went on foot, even though the villages to which were sent were many hours away. We received neither money nor an equivalent for our apostolic works. In some villages we were not guests in the rectory but in some other house that was shown us so that we would be freer and we would ask to follow our rule as if were home. We lived on alms, or else on frugal food of the kind that the people spontaneously brought us. At the end of the mission we distributed what was left over among the poor”.

Letter of the Martyrs of Barbastro to the Congregation:

“Beloved Congregation: the day before yesterday, the 11th, six of our brothers died with a generosity befitting martyrs. Today, the 13th, twenty more have won the palm of victory. And tomorrow, the 14th, the remaining twenty-one of us expect to die. Glory to God! Glory to God! How heroically your sons have borne themselves, beloved Congregation! We are spending the day encouraging one another for martyrdom, and praying for our enemies and our beloved Institute. When the moment comes for them to designate the next victims, we all feel a holy serenity and an eagerness to hear our own names called, so that we can join the ranks of the chosen. We have been looking forward to this moment with generous

impatience. When it came for those already chosen, some of them kissed the ropes that bound them, while others spoke words of pardon to the armed mob. As they drove off in the van towards the cemetery, we could hear them shouting, 'Long live Christ the King!' The angry mob answered, 'Death to him! Death to him!'—but nothing intimidated them. They are your sons, beloved Congregation, these young men, surrounded by pistols and rifles, yet they have the calm courage and daring to cry out 'Long live Christ the King!' on their way to the cemetery.

Tomorrow the rest of us will go, and we have already chosen the passwords we will shout, even as the shots are being fired: to the Heart of our Mother, to Christ the King, to the Catholic Church, and to you, the common Mother of us all. My comrades tell me that I must begin the 'Vivas' and then they will respond. I will shout at the top of my lungs, and in our enthusiastic cries you will be able to discern how much we love you, beloved Congregation, since we will carry the memory of you even unto those deep regions of suffering and death.

We will die happy with no regrets or misgivings. We all die praying God that the blood that falls from our wounds will not be shed in vengeance, but will transfuse your veins and stimulate your growth and expansion throughout the world. Farewell, beloved Congregation. Your sons, martyrs of Barbastro, salute you from prison and offer you our sufferings and anguish as a holocaust to expiate for our failings and as a witness to our faithful, generous and everlasting love. The martyrs of tomorrow, the 14th, are fully aware they die on the Eve of the Assumption. And what a special awareness it is! We are dying because we wear the cassock, and we are dying on precisely the same day we were invested in it.

The martyrs of Barbastro greet you, as I do, the last and most unworthy of their number, Faustino Pérez CMF.

Long live Christ the King! Long live the heart of Mary! Long live the Congregation! Farewell, beloved Institute. We are going to heaven to pray for you. Farewell! Farewell! .

3. OTROS TEXTOS

Materials for the Novena to the Heart of Mary

a. Models

a) First Model

- Introduction and Entrance Song
- Prayer
- The Word of God:
 - Scripture Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - Homily
 - Silence and Personal Reflection
- Reading of Other Texts (Documents of the Church, like *Vita Consecrata*, or of the Congregation –Constitutions or Chapter Documents, a reading from the Fathers, etc.)
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Petitions
- Closing Prayer and Hymn to the Heart of Mary

b) Second Model

- Introduction and Entrance Song
- Invocations to Mary
- Presentation of the first theme for prayer
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Petitions or Recitation of the “Hail Mary”
- Song
- Presentation of the second theme for prayer
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Petitions or Recitation of the “Hail Mary”
- Song
- Closing Prayer and Hymn to the Heart of Mary

c) Third Model

- Entrance Song
- Greeting by the presider
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Brief pause for Silence or Shared Reflection
- Invocations to Mary and the recitation of the “Hail Mary” after each one
- Closing Prayer and Hymn to the Heart of Mary

145.

b. Invocations for the Novena to the Heart of Mary

One can use some of the litanies composed by our Holy Founder, those based on the Constitutions, those to the Heart of Mary or the Litany of Loretto⁵. The following are some others:

1.
 - Happy are you, Mary, who have believed
 - Happy are you, Mary, because the Lord is with you
 - Happy are you, Mary, because the Spirit has overshadowed you.
2.
 - Blest are you, Daughter of the Father
 - Blest are you, Mother of the Son
 - Blest are you, Spouse of the Spirit
3.
 - Father. for Mary, the exemplar of one who welcomes and lives the Word
We praise and bless you
 - Jesus, Son of God, for Mary, who generously cooperated in the work of our redemption
We praise and bless you

⁵ cf. nn. 17, 22, 25, 105.

- Holy Spirit, for Mary, mirror of the Church without stain or wrinkle
We praise and bless you

4.

- Mary, woman and Mother with faithful Heart
Blessed are you among women
- Mary, faithful servant of God
Blessed are you among women
- Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother
Blessed are you among women

146.

c. Prayers

These may be taken from the first part of this prayerbook (Prayers to the Heart of Mary). The psalm prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours that are proper to the Congregation may also serve as an inspiration.

147.

d. Scripture Readings

In the Lectionary of Masses for the Virgin Mary one can find many appropriate Scripture readings.

148.

e. Intercessions

These should be adapted to the theme chosen for each day. They can be found in the liturgical books and in the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the Congregation. Some models are presented here.

1. Through the Heart of Mary let us confidently approach the throne of grace and call on God, our Father:

Through the intercession of the Heart of Mary, hear us, O Lord.

- That the Heart of Mary may obtain from her Son a firm missionary spirituality for all the shepherds of the Church and for all consecrated men and women, let us pray
 - That young people, finding inspiration in Mary, may learn to recognize the voice of God and be disposed to follow it in their vocational journey, let us pray.
 - That the Spirit of the Lord, through the Heart of Mary, may give strength to the poor, the sick, the hopeless and those marginated by society, let us pray
 - That each of the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be a faithful hearer and servant of the Word, like Mary, let us pray.
2. To God the Father, who desirs all people to be saved, let us address our prayers through the mediation of the Heart of Mary.

Mary, full of grace, intercede for us.

- That those dedicated to the Virgin Mary in special service may cooperate with her maternal role in the apostolic mission, let us pray to the Lord
 - that with filial love and trust in the Heart of Mary we may be fit ministers of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord
 - that Mary may make us authentic prophets and preachers of the Gospel of her Son, let us pray to the Lord
 - that Mary may help us in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel by our taking on the lifestyle she herself embraced in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
3. Let us present our petitions to the Father through the Heart of Mary, saying
:

O Mary, conform us to your Son, Jesus

- that Mary may help us to make the Word and the Eucharist the centers of our life, let us pray to the Lord
 - That Mary may make us docile to the sanctifying action of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord
 - That we may seek our own sanctification in the exercise of the apostolic mission, let us pray to the Lord
 - That, impelled by the love of Christ, we may be free of all impediments in spreading the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord
4. Let us ask Christ, our Lord, sent by the Father and born of the Virgin Mary to be our Savior:

Through Mary's intercession, hear our prayer.

–Lord Jesus, you called us to be sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to work with You in the work the Father gave you to do. Make us fit instruments to proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

–Lord Jesus, impelled by a burning love for the Father and for humankind, you gave yourself to working, even unto death. Impelled by the same love, extend this Congregation throughout the whole world.

–Lord Jesus, you have called us together in this community of apostolic life to work together in the ministry of the Word. Help us to put all our gifts at the service of the mission and make them fruitful.

–Lord Jesus, you said that anyone who loses his life for your sake and that of the Gospel, will be saved. Give us the grace to praise you in all adversities and to glory in nothing but your Cross.

Materials for the Triduum to Our Holy Founder

3. 1. Models

First Model

- Introduction
- Entrance Song
- Prayer
- The Word of God:
 - Scripture Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - Homily
 - Silence and Personal Reflection
- Reading from Claretian Texts (Autobiography, Constitutions or other documents of the Congregation)
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Intercessions
- Closing Prayer
- Hymn to our Founder

Second Model

- Introduction
- Entrance Song
- Prayer
- Presentation of first core idea for prayer
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Intercessions
- Song
- Presentation of second core idea for prayer
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Intercessions
- Song

- Closing Prayer
- Hymn to our Founder

Third Model

- Entrance Song
- Greeting by the Presider
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Brief Pause for Silence or Shared Reflection
- Concluding Prayer
- Hymn to our Founder

152.

3.2. Prayers

These may be taken from the first part of this prayerbook (Prayers to the Holy Founder). The psalm prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours that are proper to the Congregation may also serve as an inspiration..

153.

3.3. Scripture Readings

Readings should be chosen that fit with theme around which the Triduum revolves. There are some typically Claretian ones: those found in the Mass for St. Anthony Mary Claret in the Missal proper to the Congregation and in the Office of Readings for the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the Congregation.

3. HYMNS AND TRADITIONAL SONGS¹⁵⁵

1. To the Heart of Mary

2. To St. Anthony M. Claret

3. To the Martyrs of Barbastro

4. Traditional Songs

¹⁵⁵ Ony hymns and songs in the language this Directory is published in will be included.

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