



AN INTEGRAL AND CONTINUOUS FORMATIVE PROCESS TO REALIZE THE DREAM OF THE CONGREGATION

“We dream of a Congregation prepared to respond to new challenges through a process of integral and ongoing formation, open to the universal mission, according to the spirit and charism of our Father Founder” (QC 87).

The XXVI General Chapter ended more than a year ago. Through a new approach, the participants were led to discern God’s dream for our Congregation today. This dream concludes with formation to certainly show that everything that comes before requires an integral, solid, qualitative, and transformative formative process, capable of generating a missionary dynamic capable of carrying the whole dream,

of realizing it, and of making it an efficient and effective response of the congregation for this constantly changing world. The nature and mission of this formative process are thus formulated in the Chapter document which is, in fact, a reprise of our General Plan of Formation (GPF). The following lines are to be seen as reading and meditation on this part of the Dream and Response, starting from the GPF.

For us Claretian Missionaries, Father Founder remains an example to follow not only in his missionary zeal but also and above all in his permanent concern to prepare for the mission through a formative process in which he was actively and totally involved. Thus, the Congregation has always taken care of the formative dimension by elaborating solid documents for a better accompaniment and discernment of those in initial and ongoing formation.

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According to our Constitutions, the fundamental objective pursued in our formation, which is even the supreme Rule of the Claretian being, is “the following of Christ, as proposed in the Gospel” (CC 4). We are called to configure ourselves to Him and to participate in His “fullness” (CC 39). Obviously, this configuration must be carried out “according to the Claretian charism in the Church, through a process of personalization and transformation, taking into account each concrete reality and being open to universality” (GPF 10). As a transformative process, the formative itinerary lasts a lifetime. In fact, the missionary is called never to cease to experience that he remains a disciple, that is, called to learn and to be initiated into the feet of the Master (Mk 3:13).

In this process, the missionary is the protagonist of his formation. A protagonism that remains open to the other agents’ multiple contributions and finds its full realization in a community of life. The missionary’s dynamic must follow that of Fr. Claret who offers us his experience of the Forge (Aut 270/342). In fact, for him, Mary remains the Mother, the Mistress, the formator, and the identity reflection of the true missionary (Aut 71).

How can we truly form missionaries who are rooted and daring in mission today? In light of our GPF, it seems that four avenues can be explored.

(i) To promote a process of formation that pushes us all to live identity and mission to the fullest, taking the definition of the missionary seriously. This, as a path of configuration to Christ, will be at the same time a way of accepting our identity, understanding it fully, and using it as a basis to fight against the different crises that can always arise in the mission. It is a matter of configuring ourselves to Christ so as not to disfigure the Church, configuring ourselves to Christ so as not to disfigure the charismatic heritage of Fr. Claret, configuring ourselves to Christ so as not to disfigure the maternal love of Mary, our Mother, configuring ourselves to Christ so as not to disfigure ourselves and distort our own identity.

(ii) To value a formative process in which missionaries can discern hope in the midst of challenges. This is the whole strategy of the appreciative approach. Indeed, to unseal the seeds of life at the heart of the missionary reality is to open our eyes to the weeds and design commitments and strategies that lead to real transformation.

(iii) Consider the universal dimension of the Congregation and the processes necessary to realize it. As the General Chapter recognized, “We are a Congregation for the whole

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BENEDICT XVI: A LIFE OF SERVICE TO THE GOSPEL AND THE CHURCH



On December 31, 2022, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away at the age of 95 at his residence in the Vatican. Our Congregation joined the whole Church in praying for him and thanking him for his service to the Gospel and the Church.

During his years as Bishop of Rome (2005-2013), Benedict XVI showed deep appreciation for our founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and encouraged the Congregation with his word and example. The Claretian life and mission of those years were greatly enriched by his magisterium (*Deus caritas est, Verbum Domini, Caritas in veritate...*) and the impulse to care for young people and the dialogue between faith, reason, and cultures.

In 2007, Benedict XVI invited young people to take the Founder as their model. He wrote an affectionate letter to the Claretian Family on the bicentenary of Claret's birth, evoking Claret's unconditional love for Christ, his unreserved dedication and tireless evangelizing work, and describing his life, teachings, and example as an extraordinary spiritual heritage for the whole Church.

As Pontiff, he approved the beatification of Fr. Andrés Solá and the martyrs of Tarragona, Sigüenza and Fernán Caballero. He urged the Claretian Family to deepen its faith and fidelity to its missionary vocation: *"I invite you to deepen in the treasure of the life and spiritual message of St. Anthony Mary Claret to transmit it to the young generations and to kindle in your hearts the great loves that guided the life of Claret: the Word of God, the Eucharist, ecclesial communion, adherence to the Pope and devotion to the Mother of God."*

While Father General was out of Rome, more than twenty Claretians from the various communities of the city (among them several General Consultors), participated in the funeral of the Pope.

SPIRITUALITY & COMMUNITY LIFE

MISSIONARIES TILL THE END AND AFTER

Madrid, Spain. The 6th edition of the Forge in English, which began on October 9, 2022, with 17 participants from 15 Major Organisms hailing from 9 countries, concluded on December 20, 2022, with a solemn sending forth Eucharist presided over by Fr. Miguel Angel Velasco, CMF, with Frs. Manuel Tamargo, Angel dela Parte, CMFF, representatives of the Colmenar Viejo community, and the CESC Team.

Fr. Velasco, an alumnus of La Fragua held 25 years ago, urged the participants to tend to the fire re-kindled in the Forge and share it with others in their respective Major Organisms.

The participants expressed great joy and gratitude for the Forge experience and have written a letter to our "Querida Congregación," which you can find on the web of the Congregation.



AN NEW DREAM COME TRUE: SAINT JEAN PAUL II DEPENDENT DELEGATION



Abidjan, Ivory Coast. On December 8, 2022, the Congregation officially recognized the new Dependent Delegation of St. Jean Paul II, which, integrated into the Province of Polska, is formed by the Claretians residing in Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. Frs. Manuel Tamargo (General Econome) and Piotr Beza (Provincial Superior of Polska), CMFF, participated in the celebration. Fr. Lord M. Winner, CMF, General Mission Procurator, who was visiting the area, also joined them.

The Delegation was born with six communities, in which 22 Claretians live (19 of them are natives of the said countries). 27 formands from their territory are in formation houses of Cameroun Independent Delegation. Aside from the members of the Delegation Government stated below, Fr. Franck Paré, CMF, will collaborate with them as Prefect of Formation.

SAINT JEAN PAUL II DEPENDENT DELEGATION GOVERNMENT 2022 - 2025

Fr. Valentin N'Guessan, CMF

Delegate Superior

Fr. Andrew Cantona Adukwaw, CMF

Consultor- Econome

Fr. Michael Oladigui Olawy, CMF

Consultor - Secretary



CLARETIAN BISHOPS

MSGR. FERNANDO PRADO, CMF, ORDAINED AND INSTALLED BISHOP OF SAN SEBASTIAN

Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain. On December 17, 2022, Fr. Fernando Prado, CMF, received the episcopal ordination from Cardinal Aquilino Bocos, CMF, at the Good Shepherd Cathedral in San Sebastian.

Fr. Fernando, a member of the community of Buen Suceso of Madrid since 2002, has been director of Claretian Publications of Madrid for the last twenty years and was until now a professor at the Theological Institute of Religious Life (ITVR).

As a sign of succession, Bishop Prado went around the church blessing the faithful, accompanied by the two bishops who have preceded him in the Diocese, José Ignacio Munilla and Juan María Uriarte. In his first words as prelate, Fr. Fernando expressed his desire to encourage a Church dedicated to the service of the Gospel and to live it, celebrate it, cultivate it and try to proclaim it above all with life.



Three cardinals, nineteen bishops, a good group of faithful and Claretians from different regions of Spain were part of the assembly. Frs. Carlos Sánchez and Manuel Tamargo, CMFF, represented the Superior General.

OFFERING WATER TO THOSE WHO CANNOT HAVE IT



Tcholliré, Cameroon. On 7 December 2022, Fr. Jude Thaddeus Langeh, CMF, Major Superior of Cameroun, blessed the newly constructed well for Djaba and Dogba. The next day, the Archbishop of Garoua, Msgr. Faustin Ambassa, CICM, blessed and inaugurated the well in Sakdje, a village in the northern region of the country the territories of the Claretian mission which was started in October 2021.

During the three to four months of the rainy season, the locals collect as much water as possible. In the dry season, it is very scarce and undrinkable. Our brothers in Cameroon dreamed of supplying water to the 16 villages they are serving, including schools and public places, under the pastoral care of the parish of St. Anthony Mary Claret in Sakdje. There are already four boreholes with pipes connected two kilometers from the water sources. The dream is gradually becoming a reality. The brothers in Cameroon are very committed to achieving free water supplies that promote sustainable development. If God willing, a missionary of the Delegation of Cameroun, together with the Claretian team at the United Nations, will participate in March in the World Conference on Water.

ASCLA East

ACCOMPANYING TOWARDS A MISSIONARY MATURITY

Benlutu, Indonesia. On December 12, 2022, Fr. Joseph Mbungu-Mutu, CMF, General Prefect of Formation, convened all formators of Indonesia-Timor Leste at the Wisma Claretian House in Benlutu to discuss and discern the Claretian formative process according to the General Plan of Formation. Fr. Valens Agino, CMF, Major Superior of the Delegation also accompanied them.



Fr. Joseph visited Indonesia-Timor Leste from December 6-23 to animate and accompany the Delegation in its annual Assembly. The trip allowed him to witness the growth of the formation process in various formation houses in the Delegation. The Assembly evaluated the path that the Delegation and each of its members are taking to make the Dream of the Congregation and the Delegation a reality.

The Assembly aimed, as Fr. Valens emphasized in his opening remarks, *“to listen to the echo of those dreams in the life of each member of the Delegation.”*

ASCLA West

V PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AND NEW GOVERNMENT OF ST. THOMAS



Kerala, India. Culminating a well-managed process that involved its 177 members and a good number of lay people and collaborators for months, the V Chapter of St. Thomas Province was held in Karukutty from December 7-12, 2022. Fr. Pedro Belderrain, CMF, General Consultor, presided over the Chapter on behalf of Fr. Mathew and was able to witness the growth of the Province, which celebrated in 2016 to 2022 more than forty first professions and twenty-five priestly ordinations. The Province, from a uniquely Marian key, has turned the agreements of the XXVI General Chapter into a dream, design, and commitment.

AN INTEGRAL AND CONTINUOUS INTEGRAL PROCESS ...

world, intercultural, already present on five continents and the digital continent” (QC 2). We must always, on the one hand, be aware of this and, on the other hand, prioritize processes that help us to be fully in it. Such is the case, for example, with interculturality.

(iv) To have a thirst to remain a disciple, following the Master. In other words, the formation must create a culture where missionaries are willing to be formed throughout their lives. In this sense, we also understand that rootedness in Christ and boldness in mission must be an ongoing search, not something acquired once and for all.

Finally, let us say that the formative dynamism proposed by the PGF, while seeking to continue to adapt to the current changes in contexts and times, presents the Holy Spirit as the greatest agent of formation and asks of the missionaries a great availability to this presence in their lives. In this way, we will truly be worthy Sons of Mary, rooted in Christ and daring in the mission, capable of realizing God’s dream for the Congregation.

Fr. Joseph Mbungu-Mutu, CMF
General Prefect of Formation



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ST. THOMAS 2022 - 2028



Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF

Provincial Superior

Fr. Thomas Paingottu, CMF

Provincial Vicar, Consultor - Prefect of Formation and Vocation Promotion

Fr. Dominic Koottiyaniyil, CMF

Consultor - Prefect de Apostolate & Spirituality

Fr. Thomas Vechoor, CMF

Consultor - Prefect of Economy

Fr. Martin Vithayathil, CMF

Consultor - Prefect of Youth Ministry, Bible Apostolate & Communication

ECLA

NEW LEADERSHIP IN ECLA CONFERENCE



Würzburg, Germany. The Major Superiors of ECLA met at the Provincial Curia of Deutschland on December 13-14, 2022 to reread and draft the new statutes of the Conference. The new text was unanimously approved and now awaits the approval of the General Government.

The Major Superiors agreed to create a commission, suggested during the Nairobi meeting, to discern the strategic lines of the Claretian mission in Europe based on the work done since 2013 when the conferences of Iberia and Central Europe were united in the current ECLA.

This year, the General Government will carry out canonical visitations to the five European Organisms

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that were suspended in 2020. In December, the General Council and all the Provincial Councils will spend some days meeting and working together in Vic (Spain).

The new Board of Directors of the Conference was also elected in Würzburg and they are as follows:

Fr. Carlos Alberto Candeias, CMF

(Fátima Province)

President

Fr. Piotr Bęza, CMF (Polska Province)

Vice President

Fr. Adolfo Lamata, CMF

(Santiago Province)

Secretary

MICLA

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY YEAR OF CLARETIAN PRESENCE IN VENEZUELA



Caracas, Venezuela. The opening of the centenary year of the Claretian presence in Venezuela took place on 10 December 2022 at the María Immaculate School of the Claretian Missionary Sisters in Los Dos Caminos. The celebration counted with the participation of Claretians and lay people with whom they share their mission. It began with the reading of the greetings of Fr. Luis Armando Valencia, CMF Provincial Superior of Colombia-Venezuela, and Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF.

Some Claretians were recognized for the work they rendered in Venezuela: Fr. Aderito García, CMF, for his untiring work in different communities of Venezuela, especially for his evangelizing, catechetical, and poetic work; Fr. Angel Bombin, CMF, for his long work in the educational field and the social project of the Claret School of Alto Hatillo in some missions of the east; and Br. Vicente Toro, CMF, for his invaluable testimony in the mission of Delta Amacuro and his closeness to the indigenous people and peasants of that region.

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CLARETIAN FAMILY



DO IT BETTER, URGENTLY, WITH A HEART

Gijón, Spain. The Lay Claretian Movement (MSC) of the Northern Region of Spain celebrated on the second weekend of November its formative encounter in Gijón under the motto “*Do it better, do it urgently, do it with a heart.*” A large group of laypeople who wish to live following the style and from the spirit of our founder had their annual meeting to continue discerning how to cooperate as laypeople in the construction of the Local Church as a community of faith.

The meeting took place over two days of work, combined with moments of personal prayer and a shared experience of faith. This year’s theme was based directly on the proposal the Church is making to all Christians with the synod. They have listened to the impressions of Carmen Alonso, directress of the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences of Oviedo and Delegate of the Secular Apostolate of the Diocese of Oviedo, on the development of the preparation of the synod and the meaning of synodality.

After considering whether to become a legal association recognized by the Spanish government, the participants unanimously approved the creation of an association called “*Secla Norte*”, which will enable them to gain public recognition and increase their operational capacity.

Claretianos
100 años arraigados en Cristo y
audaces en la Misión en Venezuela

CLARETIAN FAMILY



XI GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

Londrina, Brazil. The Missionary Sisters of Saint Anthony Mary Claret (MC) elected the new members of their General Government during their XI General Chapter held at their General House in Londrina Paraná from Jan 10 - 25, 2023. They are as follows:



General Superior:

Sr. Ana Bruscato, MC

Consultors:

Sr. Zenaide Teodoro da Silva, MC (Charism)

Sr. Maria do Carmo Duarte, MC (Religious Life)

Sr. Maria Fatima Naves, MC (Formation)

Sr. Marjetka Zlahtic, MC (Mission)

Sr. Odeth Aparecida Bueno Ferreira, MC (Econome)

Sr. Cleane Rodolfo Alves, MC (Secretary)

The theme of the General Chapter was “*Caminemos sinodalidade na profecia e na esperanza*” (Let us walk synodically in prophecy and hope). Sister Márian Ambrósio, SDP, served as their facilitator - adviser.

PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

Colombia-Venezuela

12/08/2022

Carrero Varela, Nelson de Jesús
Flores Cabeza, Cléiber José

ORDINATIONS

Bangalore

12/30/2022

Veligandla, Bala John

Brasil

12/10/2022

Andrade de Jesús Lelis, Diego

Fr. Rhoel Gallardo

12/12/2022

Htun, (Edward) Naing

Nguyen, Tinh Hu

Nguyen Xuan, Hiep (Francis Xavier)

Pham Hoang, Thai (Peter)

Rasay Culla, Jeffrey

San José del Sur

12/12/2022

Recomono Patrocenio, Ronell John

Valiente San Antonio, Francis Dan

CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

DECEMBER 2022

01 FR. PATXI MUGERZA ORMAZABAL

at 86 in Agurain-Salvatierra, Spain
Sanctus Paulus Province

03 FR. LEANDRO FANLO TURRÒ

at 81 in Granada, Spain
Fàtima Province

04 FR. JOSÉ ANTONIO HERNANDO SANZ

at 91 in Rosario, Argentina
San José del Sur Province

25 FR. GEORGEVANCHIPURACKAL

at 78 in India
St. Thomas Province