



THE APOSTLE CLOTET, STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE INTERIOR LIFE

Far from the discreet role he usually occupies in the life of the Congregation, the Clotet Year has made the figure of Fr. Jaime very present in the Claretian life in recent months.

Embracing his vocation from his own personal identity, Jaime Clotet was a man of deep introspection, shy but not timid, conscientious in his obligations, tireless worker, observer, attentive to his inner motions as well as to people, and very realistic in the hard circumstances he had to live: exile, poverty, misunderstandings, etc.

St. John Paul II underlined his most profound contribution to the Claretian life when he declared him Venerable: *“His mission in the Institute can be summarized as follows: firm defender of the interior life in an intensely apostolic Institute”*. Clotet, without ever ceasing to feel like a missionary, emphasized the contemplative side of the Claretian life, inseparable from the apostolic, but often not so well cared for.

Clotet is remembered as a kind and welcoming person, an irreplaceable formator of the first generations of missionary Brothers. Those who study about him affirm that it is necessary to qualify with rigor some affirmations that have been generalized about his propensity towards scruples or his more monastic



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than apostolic influence, aspects that should be rethought in the light of his deep love for the Founder, of whom he was the chronicler, and for the Congregation, for which he gave himself for many years.

Fr. Clotet continues to be admired as a pioneer in the work with the hearing impaired, something that should be further explored. Fr. Manuel Segura CMF, of the Province of Fatima, who published his dissertation in 1986, helped in this regard. A group of specialists in Catalan sign language (LSC) continues to insist on this today. Clotet showed his ingeniousness by learning LSC himself and then codifying it for the first time in a syntax and publishing it. He dedicated himself to deaf children who did not attend school - the poorest of the poor. His teachings are still very much alive today.

Clotet was not content with catechizing the deaf, but also devoted himself to their advancement and help. Eustaquio Belloso CMF, one of his brothers in the community, speaks of this: "(...) when they were sick, he visited them and tried to do what he could for them. One of them, named José Serra, his married sister did not want him in her house unless he brought his bed and clothes and earned enough to sustain himself. Father [Clotet] provided him with a bed and clothes, and told me to teach him how to sew. Within a few days, José knew how to make pants. Clotet then placed him in a tailor's shop he trusted, where he learned a great deal". Neither Clotet nor Belloso used the term SOMI, but it seems that they understood very well what today we call "solidarity and mission".

Any Clotet

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febrer 2023

JORNADA DE CLAUSURA

DEL BICENTENARI DEL NAIXEMENT DEL P. JAUME CLOTET, CLARETIÀ I IMPULSOR DE LA LLENGUA DE SIGNES CATALANA

Tot serà interpretat en LSC

S'emetrà en directe per streaming a claretpaulus.org

10 hores. Acte a la Sala Claret (Xamfrà amb carrer Nàpols)

- 10h Pregària inicial i obertura de l'acte.
- 10:10h Xerrada "Aproximació a la figura del P. Jaume Clotet, claretí i pedagog de nens sords a Vic", a càrrec de Juan Carlos Martos cmf, director del Centre d'Espiritualitat Claretiana (Vic)
- 10:40h Descans - cafè
- 11:00h Tràiler del documental "El Logos a les mans" dirigit per Pablo Navarro i produït per la Plataforma Audiovisual Espiell
- 11:15h Xerrada "Jaume Clotet, dascorbidor i descriptor de la llengua de signes catalana", a càrrec de Xavier Morall, cap de l'Àrea de Foment de la LSC a la Generalitat de Catalunya.
- 11:45h descans

12 hores. Missa (Santuari del Cor de Maria), presidida pel P. Carlos Sánchez, conseller general, delegat del P. General dels Claretians. Al final: ofrena i pregària davant del sepulcre del P. Clotet

13 hores. Ofrena a Fr. Ponce de León i Juan de Pablo Bonet (Pg. de Sant Joan - organitza Casal del Sord)

Santuari
Cor de Maria

MISSIONERS CLARETIANS
PASTORAL DEL SORD
(SECRETARIAT DIOCESÀ DE PASTORAL
PER A PERSONES AMB DISCAPACITAT)
CASAL DE SORDS DE BARCELONA

C/ST. ANTONI M. CLARET, 45
08025 BARCELONA



CONCLUSION OF THE CLOTET YEAR

The celebration of the Clotet Year ended on February 4, 2023, with the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Carlos Sanchez, CMF, General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life, in the sanctuary-parish Cor de Maria in Barcelon (Spain), where the remains of Venerable Jaime Clotet rest. Fr. Juan Martín Askaiturrieta, CMF, Provincial of Sanctus Paulus, spoke at the end of the celebration.



Before the Mass, in collaboration with the diocesan secretariat of pastoral care of persons with disabilities and the Casal dels Sords of Barcelona, the Claretians of Sanctus Paulus organized a conference in which Fr. Juan Carlos Martos, CMF, director of the Claret Spirituality Center of Vic (CESC), spoke about “*approaching the person of Fr. Jaime Clotet, Claretian and educator of deaf children in Vic*”. Mr. Xavier Moral, responsible for Catalan Sign Language of the Generalitat de Catalunya, spoke on “*Jaume Clotet, discoverer and designer of the Catalan Sign Language*”.

The entire event was interpreted in Catalan Sign Language. More information can be read in the [previous news section of the website](#) of the Province of Sanctus Paulus and on its [YouTube channel](#).



GOD-CENTERED AND MISSION-DRIVEN: CIRCULAR LETTER ON FR. CLOTET

On the occasion of the Bicentenary of the birth of our cofounder, Fr. Jaime Clotet, Father General released a Circular titled “God-centered and mission-driven. A reflection at the closing of Clotet Year.” It reviews Fr. Clotet’s life and spiritual heritage and invites all Congregation members to reflect on his legacy.

“Jaime Clotet (1822-1898), the youngest of our co-founders, to whom the Congregation has wished to pay a well-deserved tribute. We have done so by recalling with fraternal joy the life and spiritual heritage of our brother through a handful of activities in keeping with his personality and style: simple and profound, without offending the modesty of one who never abandoned a fruitful second place in our Institute.”

Father General encouraged those who may not be familiar with Fr. Clotet’s story to take the opportunity to discover his legacy and explore his greatness as we close “Clotet Year.” The circular closed with an invitation to continue walking as missionaries, inspired by Fr. Clotet’s example.

The entire Circular is available in six languages and can be downloaded from the [website of the Congregation](#).



YOUTH MUNGAN: A BEACON OF HOPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTH KOREA

In a world of so much focus on individual success and personal gain, it can be easy to forget the importance of serving others. However, one organization in South Korea is working to change that. Youth Mungan, a social organization founded by Fr. Gabriel Lee, CMF of Kore Independent Delegation, is a shining example of selfless service for all. It aims to provide leisure and relaxation for the country's young people's bodies, minds, and souls.

The organization was born out of a desire to help young people in need, following a heart-moving experience shared by a religious sister with Fr. Gabriel. The sister had seen a news report of a young student living in a rented room in Seoul who had passed away from hunger due to chronic disease. This tragic event inspired Fr. Gabriel to take action and create an organization that could provide affordable meals to young people who were struggling financially.

Youth Mungan serves a single, affordable meal to all young people, regardless of their financial situation, with no standards attached. This act of compassion and generosity reflects the organization's core values of serving and helping others, rooted in the religious belief of selfless service and charity. Like any other mission, it had its struggles. But one's people came to know the relevance of it in a developed city; they extended their hearts and hands.

The organization's mission is not limited to providing meals, it also provides a variety of other activities for young people, including distributing briquettes in winter to the elderly, a "Supporter of Environment" program, and a "Generations Can Relate" program that aims to bridge the gap between the old and the young. The organization also recently joined the "Youth Hope Road" program, which aims to accompany and support young people.

Youth Mungan's ultimate goal is to feed, accompany, shelter, and guide young people with hope, care, and love. This selfless service inspires all, regardless of religious beliefs, as it teaches us the importance of helping others and positively impacting the world.

The organization has received numerous awards and contributions from the country and the church in South Korea, a testament to its positive impact on society. The organization also hosts a "Youth Film Festival" to encourage young filmmakers, and plans to open a new branch on Jeju Island.

Youth Mungan is a shining example of how religious values and beliefs can be translated into action, and how even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of others. It is a powerful reminder that we all can positively impact the world, regardless of our beliefs or backgrounds.



GOVERNMENT

SPIRITUALITY CONGRESS ONGOING PREPARATIONS

Rome, Italy. The Spirituality Congress preparatory commission met for the second time on January 13-14 at the General Curia to further plan the event. Besides the framework set by the General Government, they reflected and discussed new ways of celebrating this important event to ensure greater participation and involvement of the whole Congregation. Cardinal Aquilino Bocos, CMF, generously offered valuable insights on how to celebrate it. Likewise, the two-day meeting also discussed organizational and logistical concerns and drew concrete proposals to present to the General Government for approval.

The Spirituality Congress is part of the activities to celebrate the 175th Foundation Anniversary of the Congregation in 2024. The General Government created a preparatory commission headed by the General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life, Fr. Carlos Sanchez Miranda, CMF. The members are Frs. Juan Carlos Martos, CMF (CESC Director), Gonzalo Fernández, CMF (Publicaciones Claretianas Director), Anthony Igbokwe, CMF (Santiago Province Prefect of Spirituality), Edgardo Guzmán, CMF (Superior of Claretianum), and Efren Limpo Lo, CMF (Secretary General).

BIBLE MINISTRY & COMMUNICATION

THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR HEART

The Catholic Church celebrated the Sunday of the Word of God on January 22, a special occasion to reflect on the role of the Bible in the life of the Church and the Congregation. This year's emphasis has been on the homily preparation and preaching of the word, following the Apostolic Exhortation guidelines *Evangelii Gaudium* (139-152). In it, Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of the homily as a crucial moment for the life of the Church and for the formation of the faithful. The Pope speaks of the need for a homily that is convincing, fruitful, and adapted to the needs of the listeners, and urges priests to prepare their homilies with care and dedication.

Moreover, workshops on the prayerful reading of the Word, biblical studies, bible enthronements, eucharistic celebrations, and spiritual retreats took place throughout the Congregation.

CONSECRATED LIFE

PEOPLE OF GOD WALKING TOGETHER: SYNODALITY IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH



Quezon City, Philippines. The Institute for Consecrated Life in Asia (ICLA) celebrated Religious Life Week 2023 on January 20-22 with the theme *People of God Walking Together: Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*. The highlights of this year's event were the talks on *The Role of Canon Law in a Synodal Church* by Fr. Elias L. Ayuban, Jr., CMF, JCD, Provincial Superior of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province and Co-Chairperson of the Conference of Major Superiors of the Philippines; *Synodality in the Dominican Spirituality and Tradition* by Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, OP, SThD, a Dominican theologian and the Dean of Faculty of Sacred Theology at Santo Tomas University; and *The Practice of Synodality in Consecrated Life* by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, PhD, an educator, and feminist-activist

ICLA's celebration of Religious Life Week this year, after more than two years of restrictions due to the pandemic, has become even more meaningful with the presence of hundreds of religious men and women and lay partners who longed to be enlightened on the role of each one in the life and mission of Church.

FOREVER YOURS: FIDELITY AND PERSEVERANCE IN CONSECRATED LIFE

Bangalore, India. A National Seminar on Forever Yours: Fidelity and Perseverance in Consecrated Life based on the document *The Gift of Fidelity and the Joy of Perseverance* took place from January 28 to 29 at the Sanyasa Institute of Consecrated Life (ICL) bringing together religious leaders, scholars, and members of the consecrated life to discuss and explore themes of fidelity and perseverance in their vocation. Fr. Gonzalo Fernandez Sanz, CMF, gave the keynote address followed by the launch of the book *A Birthing: When Grace Meets Nature* by Fr. Paulson Veliyannoor, CMF.

Then, Sr. Prabina Rudum, IBVM, professor at Vidhyajothi College of Theology, Delhi, discussed *Liquid Fidelity in a Fragmented World: A Reality Check*. She highlighted the challenges and impacts of liquid fidelity in modern times and its relevance to consecrated life.

ACLA

DREAMING TOGETHER: LOCAL SUPERIORS ASSEMBLY OF PADRE XIFRÉ

Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Padre Xifré Independent Delegation held its Local Superiors Assembly on February 1 to 3 at the Novitiate House in Bata. The Assembly aimed at fostering synodal leadership, teamwork, and co-responsibility in exercising authority in the communities and Delegation.

ASCLA EAST

SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN FAITH



Seoul, South Korea. After a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the laypersons connected with the Claretians in Seoul who used to regularly gather for Bible study and sharing gathered once again on January 30. Claretian Frs. Manuel Ezhapparambil, Major Superior of Korea Independent Delegation, Michael Park, Local Superior of Seoul Community, and Fr. James Jose, joined them.

The attendees shared their experiences during the pandemic, evaluated their past activities, and discussed future plans. The meeting ended with the Agape and marked the beginning of a new year of activities for the Lay Claretians, including retreats for the laity in the community and support for other apostolates.

ASCLA WEST

RAISING AWARENESS TO ELIMINATE LEPROSY AS PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT



Bangalore, India. On January 30, Bangalore Province inaugurated a new Leprosy Fortnight program in line with the celebration of World Leprosy Day. Frs. George Kannanthanam and Tomy Urumbumkuzhiyil, CMFF, work at the center. The Leprosy Fortnight program is an important opportunity to raise awareness and mobilize action to eliminate leprosy as a public health threat.

Our Congregation in India, specifically at the Sumanahalli Center in Bangalore, have been working to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with leprosy. In 45 years, Sumanahalli has treated over 11,000 persons affected by the disease. About 60 inmates are provided residential care and they reach out to assist nearly 1000 persons. With a focus on mainstreaming persons affected by leprosy, Sumanahalli has developed a program involving education, vocational training, job placement, housing, and marriages. More than 500 cured persons have been employed, and about 300 houses have been built in various parts of Bangalore to rehabilitate them in the community.

ECLA

CLARET SCHOOLS TYING UP WITH THE LOCAL MEDIA

Portugal-Spain. Some schools in Fatima Province recently had different experiences with the local media respectively. The newspaper *Melhor Escola* of the Colégio Internato dos Carvalhos (CIC) in Portugal, a supplement to the newspaper *O Gaiense*, produced by a team of students from the school, has been on sale since February 4. This project, now in its seventh edition, in collaboration with the newspaper *O Gaiense* and the City Council of V. N. de Gaia, challenges the secondary schools of the municipality to produce a supplement to this newspaper.

The *Melhor Escola* initiative promotes a different way of looking at society and the world in the students who take part: it is an excellent opportunity to exercise active citizenship and be the protagonists of their own education. This is why CIC has been involved in this initiative from the beginning.

Meanwhile, at Claret School of Sevilla in Spain, a film crew from Canal Sur Televisión recorded one of its classes and interviewed pupils and its teacher. The report was broadcast last January 28 on Canal Sur's Espacio Protegido and Andalucía TV.

Then at Claret School of Las Palmas, four 4th year ESO students took part in the day-to-day work of the newspaper Canarias7 as part of the school's 'Work Experience' program. Having chosen the journalism profession, they were invited by the media to live the experience for three days and have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with a journalist's routine. On the other hand, the 2nd year high school students participated in La Buchaca, a podcast focused on economics and financial education broadcast on Canarias Radio.

MICLA

LIVING A MISSIONARY VOCATION IN AMAZONIA



Amazonas, Brazil. A Vocational-Missionary experience took place in Amazonas from January 5 to 17 with 280 participants – bishops, formators, seminarians, religious, and young missionary students. Among them were five of the students of Brasil Province. It was a unique opportunity to get to know a different reality closely while simultaneously experiencing in practice part of the mission of this country. It aimed to offer a practical experience of mission ad gentes.

Schs. Italo Lima, Lucas Salete, Vinícius Caixeta, Lucas Chaves, and Bruno Rafael, CMFF, had the opportunity to live the reality of the families living in the Amazon. Each was sent to different realities: peripheral areas of Manaus, others to the interior of the state of Amazonas, and others to the riverside and indigenous areas.

FIRST BATCH OF NOVICES OF INTERPROVINCIAL CLARET NOVITIATE OF AMERICA TAKES FIRST VOW



Cordoba, Argentina. On January 6, the Interprovincial Claret Novitiate of America witnessed its first batch of novices to profess in the CEFyT chapel of Villa Claret in Córdoba.

Provincial Superiors with formands in the said formation house graced the event - Fr. Mario Gutiérrez, CMF (San José del Sur), Fr. Marcos Loro, CMF (Brasil), Fr. Ronel Chipana, CMF (Peru-Bolivia). Fr. Carlos González Burgos, CMF, Prefect of Formation of Centroamérica represented his Province on behalf of their Provincial.

The newly professed Claretians are Schs. Onel Antonio Pérez Morales and Juan de la Cruz Gómez Zamora (Centroamérica Province), Johan Andrés Rojas Alape and Miguel Alfonso Peña Pérez (Colombia-Venezuela), Daniel Jubanski, Edivaldo Luis Toagliari, Rafael Zanetti de Freitas (Brasil), Omar Andrés Guarguati Saavedra, Diego Andrés Leal Salinas, John Alexis Gelves Albarracín, Ronaldo Benítez Rodríguez (Colombia Oriental-Ecuador) and Mario Condori Jachacollo (Perú-Bolivia).

CLARETIAN FAMILY



UPDATES ON THE CLARETIAN MISSION IN MADAGASCAR

Ankarana, Madagascar. In January, the Claretian community of Madagascar discerned the coordinating team and its canonical establishment. After their adaptation period from their arrival in May 2022, the Mission has been canonically established in Ankarana, a pastoral unit with 16 communities forming one parish.

The **Coordinating Team** is now as follows:

Coordinator: **Fr. Justin J. Kuzhippalayil, CMF**

Administrator: **Sr. Rani Michael, RMI**

Secretary: **Sr. Helmy Alphonsa, RMI**

Each community nucleus has its own Local Government. For the RMI, Sr. Ann Priyathashni, RMI, is the Local Superior, Srs. Rani and Helmy, are the Econome and Secretary, respectively. On the other hand, for the CMF, Fr. Eusebius Toda, CMF is the Local Superior, and Fr. Zbigniew Łaś, CMF, is the Parish Priest.

During the last two weeks of January, some team members have been living in Ankarana, preparing the house: setting up door locking systems, preparing the accessibility to water, looking for the possibility of local resources for the works and the necessary assistance, etc. Then on February 25, the team officially took possession of the parish, Fr. Zbigniew was installed as the new parish priest, and the team is gradually settling in their new residence.

The project began in May 2022 with the arrival of the missionaries in the diocese of Farafangana. For several months, the Claretian Missionaries (CMF) and the Religious of Mary Immaculate Claretian Missionary Sisters (RMI) lived in the diocese's capital to study the local language and get to know the reality. During this time, they have continued to meet in line with the General Governments of both Congregations. They have been visited by their members, Fr. Manuel Tamargo CMF, and Sr. Petronille Mutungidimbu, RMI.



ORDINATIONS

Antillas

01/14/2023

Kujur, Alois

Bangalore

01/09/2023

Male, Gunnanna (Jojappa)

CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

JANUARY 2023

21 FR. JEAN-PIERRE

MBAYAMVULA MUNANZOO

at 56 yrs. old in Congo

Congo Independent Delegation

21 FR. AMÉRICO ROMITO

at 90 yrs. old in Batatais, Brazil

Brasil Province