



## **DREAMING OF BEING ROOTED IN JESUS CHRIST AND DEVOTED TO GOD'S SERVICE IN THE CHURCH**

**A**ntillas Independent Delegation is a geographic and pastoral area comprising Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, each with very different political, social, economic, cultural, and ecclesial realities.

As Servants of the Word, the Claretians of Antillas are recognized in the area for their excellent availability, work capacity, and spirit of service in this area filled with a hunger for the Word of God, formation and accompaniment of the people amid marginalization, poverty, neglect, and abandonment by the political authorities.

The main lines of action and mission of Antillas are 1) the creation of spaces to welcome young people, which foster the encounter with Jesus one's life, in the Eucharist and the dedication to the poor, as well as the discovery of their vocation; 2) the proximity and commitment to the peripheries of their missions; 3) the strengthening of the formative, celebratory and pastoral dimensions of community experiences centered on the Word of God; 4) the option for a more missionary Church, synodal and in shared mission; 5) the commitment to the peripheries, based on a missionary project; 6) the creation of a plan that animates and sheds

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light on all the apostolic realities, based on the contextualized Word; and 7) the formation and animation of leaders with whom the mission is shared.

The last General Chapter has helped in shaping the life of the Delegation. The dream of the Congregation has been integrated into every activity, meeting, gathering, assembly, retreat, and formation. The Delegation held its Assembly in May 2022.

Fr. Fausto Cruz Rosa, CMF, its Major Superior, identifies several challenges to the Delegation for the next six years. One of them is the respect and trust among confreres at the community level, the election of Local Superiors as a point of balance in the community, and transparency in the administration of goods. Another challenge is integrating a new missionary from a different context into the place's culture. And last but not least is creating an integral accompaniment structure that will help to make known the historical and ecclesial realities of the mission posts and take special care in learning languages in initial formation.

Fr. Fausto also shares the mission's challenges: *“synodality is indeed a challenge that will help to face the new challenges we face.”* He sees that fraternal meetings from different areas are the way to solve them. Moreover, giving continuity to community and missionary commitments and projects is also a challenge. *“It will only be possible by creatively redefining our missionary presence. We also want to focus particularly on accompanying, giving words and gestures of life to the most lacerated realities of our context,”* he said. Lastly, he pointed out that a significant challenge is the formation of the laity, young people and pastoral leaders, and their vocational accompaniment.

Various events and initiatives promoted by the Delegation celebrate these months the first one hundred years of Claretian presence in the Dominican Republic.

One with the Congregation, Antillas Independent Delegation dreams of being rooted in Jesus Christ, contemplative, and dedicated to the service of God in the Church. It especially dreams of meeting the youth, witnessing a Claretian way of life, and going out to the peripheries, to the poorest, having the Word of God at the center.



## ASCLA PIONEERS THE CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

**Karukutty, India.** The Congregation has dreamed of being a community that has “grown in [its] capacity for discernment” (QC 45), so much so that Claretian communities have become living spaces of discernment (cf. QC 57c), with “an attitude of discernment of God’s will” (QC 62) and “a constant discernment to detect and respond to emerging and unforeseen missionary needs” (QC 64a).

Towards realizing this Dream, the General Government, in discernment with the Major Superiors at the Nairobi Meeting, launched a “Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop” (CDLW) that seeks to multiply discerning leaders across various strata in the Congregation. Towards this, Frs. Gonzalo Fernández Sanz and Paulson Veliyannoor, CMFF, who had already received training in discerning leadership organized by Jesuits in Rome, were asked to team up and lead the workshop at the conference levels.

The first CDLW was held jointly for the two Claretian Conferences in Asia – ASCLA East & ASCLA West – from February 1 to 14 at the Provincial Curia of St. Thomas in Karukutty. Thirty participants from all of the 10 Major Organisms of ASCLA took part.

The two-week CDLW consisted of 12 modules that dealt with various aspects of leadership, discernment, Claretian key, synodality, teamwork, conflict transformation, polarity management, etc. The workshop dynamics included input sessions, personal and group reflection, generative conversations in small groups, organism-level groups, self-assessment tests, and group exercises. Such dynamics effectively covered the imperatives of exercising leadership in personal and synodal discernment using Claretian keys to respond effectively to the multi-contextual challenges of today.

At the end of the training, the evaluation was overwhelmingly positive. Those who participated are now tasked to organize a reecho for their Major Organisms.

CDLW for other Conferences are scheduled as follows: ACLA - March 1 to 14 in Yaoundé, Cameroon; ECLA and General Houses - May 1 to 14 in Vic, Spain; and MICLA - July 3-16 in Medellin, Colombia.



SUPERIOR GENERAL

## EXPLORING NEW POSSIBILITIES AND DEALING WITH CHALLENGES FACED BY THE UN CLARETIAN TEAM

**Jersey City, USA.** Father General's visit to the Claretian community of Jersey City from January 24-29 was intended to strengthen the commitments and priorities of the Claretian Team at the United Nations, and to dialogue on its possibilities and challenges. While Br. Robert Omondi, CMF, resides in Kenya and attends mainly to ecology and environment issues at the Nairobi headquarters, the other two members of the Team (Frs. Rohan Dominic and Henry Ramirez, CMFF) are part of the Jersey City community.

Fr. Mathew visited the United Nations headquarters in New York. He met with Karina Diaz and Ericka Leynes, youth representatives related to the Congregation at the UN, who shared with him their dreams and expectations about the tasks they have taken on.

Father General also met with Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Cassia, Apostolic Nuncio, and the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN to discuss the challenges and opportunities that such a multilateral arena offers the Church. The conversation delved into what the Congregation can contribute in such a place and highlighted the importance of giving voice to those who are quickly silenced and never heard. Father General also met with the members of "Religious at the UN" (RUN). He was able to learn firsthand what they have achieved and understood in their lobbying work and their presence at the various levels of the organization.

In addition to meeting with the Claretians, Fr. Mathew greeted the parish communities of St. Joseph in Jersey City and Our Lady of Fatima in Perth Amboy. Then, Msgr. Gregory Studerus, Bishop in charge of Hudson County in the Archdiocese of Newark, visited the Jersey City community to greet the Superior General personally.



CLARETIANS

### FR. ANTOINE MACAIRE CHRISTIAN NOAH, CMF, SAFE AND SOUND

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti.** On February 7, Fr. Antoine Macaire Christian Noah, CMF of the Delegation of the Antillas, was kidnapped while on his way to celebrate the Eucharist at St. Michele the Archangel Parish, on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, where he was Vicar. The parish is a dangerous area where the Congregation is serving.

After ten days of kidnapping, on February 17, he escaped due to an oversight by the gang. Fr. Antoine is now safe and well and lives outside of Haiti.

CONSECRATED LIFE

### TAKING ICL-SANYASA TO THE PERIPHERIES

**Karukutty, India.** It has been a long-standing tradition at the Institute of Consecrated Life: Sanyasa (ICLS) to organize national seminars at the Institute in Bengaluru every year. In keeping with the invitation of Pope Francis in his address to the staff and students of Claretianum to take the Institute to the frontiers, even to the boundaries of knowledge, ICLS decided and has launched a series of regional seminars on themes related to consecrated life.

Accordingly, the first regional seminar was held at Claretian Provincial House, Karukutty, in collaboration with the Province of St. Thomas, on February 18. The conference was held in Malayalam to cater to Kerala's religious. The purpose of the seminar was to make familiar the content of the 2020 landmark document from DICALSAL, The Gift of Fidelity, the Joy of Perseverance, applying its insights to the regional context. Hundreds of religious men and women attended the event and expressed great satisfaction with the inputs received and the ideas and cases shared and discussed. Similar seminars will occur in Ranchi (April 22) and Kolkata (April 23). ICLS hopes to hold such seminars in at least 6 locations in various corners of India in the coming years.



APOSTOLATE – YOUTH MINISTRY  
**CLARET-LIFE AWARD SECOND EDITION  
ANNOUNCED**



The Congregation already announced to the Claretian Family the invitation to participate in the Claret-Life Award Second Edition. The Awards that aim to promote protection and care for life initiatives will take place in August during the WYD Claret Way 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The call for the second edition of the Claret-Life Award, the first time in 2019 on the occasion of World Youth Day in Panama, shows the dedication of the Claretian Missionaries to promoting initiatives that defend and care for life and their commitment to working with young people to create a better world (cf. QC 64).

To know more about the criteria and rules for participating, click the following link: [English](#), [Español](#), [Francés](#), [Português](#).

BIBLE AND COMMUNICATION  
**WEBINAR-WORKSHOP ON WORDPRESS  
DESIGN AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Cyberworld.** Sixty-one lay and religious participated in the Webinar-Workshop on WordPress Design and Social Media held in two slots from Feb 6 to 10 and 20 to 24 given by Fr. Louie Guades III, CMF. The webinar was initially intended to train the Cybermissionaries of Cameroun Independent Delegation but later opened to ACLA, ASCLA, English-speaking members of the Claretian Family, laypersons working with the Claretians, and the Medical Mission Sisters.

The participants from Cameroun (2), East Nigeria (20), Fr. Rhoel Gallardo (1), Padre Xifré (2), Polska (1), St. Charles Lwanga (3), St. Joseph Vaz (1), West Nigeria (6), laypersons (3), RMI Sisters (1), MC Sisters (11), and Medical Mission Sisters (10), were given domains to

practice their web design skills and the necessary tools to create a better social media presence in the cyber world.

**DREAMING TOGETHER**

**Cyberworld.** Claret Publishing Group (CPG) members worldwide met online on February 13 to discuss the current state of their work, the challenges, and their vision for the future of the ministry of publications. Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, General Prefect of Bible Ministry and Communication, presided over and highlighted the importance of spreading the Word of God through books, booklets, and other forms of media. He oriented the members to the new structure of the Prefecture.

The meeting ended with a presentation of the CPG's vision for the future of evangelization through print and digital media.

ACLA  
**ACLA MAJOR SUPERIORS MEETING 2023**



**Abuja, Nigeria.** Major Superiors and Claretian Mission Coordinators in the African Continent met on February 12 to 16 at the Institute of Consecrated Life for Africa (InCLA) in Abuja for their annual meeting. They focused on the discussion of the InCLA statutes and conducted an in-depth study to submit later a well-grounded paper for approval of the General Government.

The visit to InCLA allowed the superiors to show their collective ownership of the project and learn the art of weaving something beautiful and vital for the Church in Africa. In his message to the Assembly of ACLA, the Superior General described InCLA as a dream coming true and expressed gratitude to the staff of InCLA for their warm welcome and hospitality.

In one of the sessions, they appointed the new Conference Secretary, Fr. Moise Moumassou, CMF, of Cameroun Independent Delegation.

## FORMATION OF FORMATORS OF EAST AND WEST NIGERIA

**Maryland-Nekede, Nigeria.** East and West Nigeria formators gathered at the Claretian Institute of Philosophy, Maryland Nekede, from February 6 to 12 for a formator's program. They studied and reviewed many topics like spirituality and vocation of consecrated life, synodality in the formation house, human and personalized formation, accompaniment, Claretian formation, and spiritual dimension of formation.

Aided by prior personal study of the GPF (2020), the XXVI General Chapter Exhortation (2021), the PPF of Nigerian Claretians (2001), and the presentations made at the encounter, the formators were equipped to commence work on a new Formation Plan for both Organisms, laying the foundations for a joint initiative. The encounter was also a time for deep reflection, sharing on both Organisms' initial and ongoing formation, and a search for enhanced collaboration.

## A NEW CHURCH DEDICATED TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY IN MOZAMBIQUE



**Muppa, Mozambique.** On February 25, the first Catholic temple dedicated to the Heart of Mary in Mozambique, one of the country's largest churches ever built after the Portuguese regime, was consecrated by its Local Ordinary. The small village of Muppa was full of joy for this momentous event.

The church is in the Parish of San Pedro Claver and Alto Ligonha in Zambézia. Its construction results from the dedication and commitment of Fr. Joseph Biju, CMF, who arrived in Mozambique from St. Thomas Province of India in 2009. Fr. Wagner Aragão, CMF, Brasil Provincial Econome, was also present during the ceremony. Mozambique is a joint mission project of St. Thomas and Brasil Provinces.

The construction of the Church dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary represents an essential milestone in the religious history of Mozambique. It demonstrates the dedication and commitment of the Claretians in the region. Our Father Founder's relic was embedded on the altar during its consecration.

ASCLA East

## XIII RELIGIOUS LIFE WEEK IN INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE

**Kupang, Indonesia.** Over 300 consecrated men and women from various countries gathered online for the XIII Religious Life Week organized by Indonesia-Timor Leste Independent Delegation from February 2 to 4. The talks revolved around the theme "*Consecrated men and women are called to be artisans of peace,*" inspired by Pope Francis' address to the Union of Superiors General, stating that "*the world needs consecrated persons as artisans of peace.*"

ASCLA West

## A NEW CHAPEL TO ENHANCE SPIRITUAL SPACE



**Kanyakumari, India.** On February 20, a new ashram (chapel) built by Chennai Province was consecrated by Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai, Bishop of Kottar. The ashram has been a place of worship, reflection, and contemplation for the local community. However, the old chapel as a hut could have been more conducive to prayer, and the community felt the need for a new chapel to create a more spiritual atmosphere.

The new beautiful, spacious chapel symbolizes the community's devotion and commitment to spiritual growth, a welcoming place for people from all walks of life to come and experience peace, serenity, and spiritual solace. Its consecration is a testament to the Province of Chennai's commitment to its pastoral ministry and its efforts to provide a spiritual space to the local community.



The journal is based in Buen Suceso in Madrid (Spain) and is offered annually at very modest prices: 35 euros for Spain and Portugal subscribers and 57 euros for subscribers from other countries.

ECLA

## A FAITH THAT WANTS TO BE THOUGHT: A MARIOLOGY JOURNAL

For over 70 years, the Province of Santiago has been publishing *Ephemerides Mariologicae*, a scientific journal focused on the figure of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The journal, edited by Fr. Pablo Largo Domínguez, CMF, has gained recognition for its rigorous and multidisciplinary approach to the study of Mary, attracting authors and readers from diverse Christian traditions and academic backgrounds.

The journal's three issues of 2022 offered an insightful exploration of Mary's relationship with St. Joseph, her role in the Church, and the significance of her faith for Christians in Africa. The articles, written by theologians, historians, liturgists, and artists, offered fresh perspectives on Mary, shedding light on her biblical, historical, and cultural dimensions.

One of the distinctive features of the journal is its inclusiveness. It is remarkable to see the range of authors who contribute to the journal from different regions of the world, academic disciplines, and Christian denominations. In 2022, readers were able to approach some aspects of the reflection on Mary by authors such as Odo Casel and Hugo Rahner, to delve into an Islamic approach to Mary, to review her presence as a praying figure in some artistic manifestations, to know what role Pope Benedict XVI assigned to the Virgin in his multi-volume work on Jesus of Nazareth. The articles are written in Spanish, but the abstracts are available in English and French, making them accessible to a broader audience.

In 2022, the journal featured articles by female scholars, highlighting the contributions of women to Mariology. The presence of female authors in the journal is significant, as it challenges the patriarchal assumptions often dominating the theological discourse. The journal is a source of academic knowledge and a space for dialogue and encounters. It offers reviews of recent publications, reports on conferences, and symposiums, creating opportunities for readers to engage with current debates in Mariology.

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MICLA

## WORKING ON THE CULTURE OF ACCOMPANIMENT



**Sasaima, Colombia.** Claretian formators and selected formands from all over America convened to work on the “culture of accompaniment” from February 6 to 11 at the Las Mercedes Retreat House in Sasaima, Cundimarca. The meeting allowed the participants to reflect on the culture of accompaniment: affectivity, fidelity, and perseverance on the vocational journey, imparted by Fr. Carlos Sánchez, CMF, General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life.

The participants looked at the current state of accompaniment in the Church and the Congregation, exploring the perspectives of Jesus and our Father Founder to understand the art of accompaniment and being accompanied. One of the key discussions was the importance of reflecting on how the Congregation is currently attending its members, specifically in the affective-sexual world. Participants then recognized the need to integrate their emotional lives to avoid harm to those they serve and to make significant commitments to strengthen their comprehensive accompaniment.

Toward the end, they dedicated themselves to projecting the dreams of MICLA and finding support among the participants to carry out the crucial task of forming new members for the Congregation. Brothers Fernando Kuhn and Guillermo Salamanca, CMFF, coordinated the event.

# CLARETIAN FAMILY



## SHARING DREAMS AND COMMITMENTS

**Madrid, Spain.** On February 18, the Religious of Mary Immaculate Claretian Missionary Sisters (RMI), Cordimarian Filiation (HICM), Lay Claretians (MSC), and Claretian Missionaries (CMF) gathered together in Madrid to feel, think with the Church, share dreams, quest, hope, life, and mission around the same charism.

The gathering was a venue to inform each other of the important events in each family branch. They discussed the points raised during the General meeting of the Claretian Family in Rome. Among the commitments already acquired stand out the need to make known the Claretian Family with its rich common patrimony and what is proper to each institution, to promote pastoral projects, and to develop the mechanisms of communication as a family network. They also spoke of the urgency of appointing a liaison officer from each one of the branches to deepen mutual knowledge through the encounters, to create a coordinating team of the Claretian Family in Madrid, and to endow the organization with juridical personality.

Likewise, they learned of the upcoming events: CMF Ordinations, the RMI General Chapter in Rocca di Papa (Italy) from July 6 to 31, the next MSC General Assembly in Bilbao (Spain), and the 50th anniversary of the pontifical approval of HICM.

## CLARETIANS IN FORMATION: JOURNEYING AS ONE FAMILY

**Quezon City, Philippines.** On February 18, Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province organized and hosted the first Claretian Family In-Formation gathering with the theme “Claretian Family Cares” at Institute for Consecrated Life in Asia (ICLA) in Quezon City. Present were the Major Superiors, formators, and formands from aspirancy to temporary professed members of the different branches of the Claretian Family living in the Philippines.

The Claretian Family in the Philippines is composed of the Claretian Missionaries (CMF), the Religious of Mary Immaculate Claretian Missionary Sisters (RMI), the Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret (MC), and the Secular Institute Fraternidade Eclesial Claretiana (FEC) which is affiliated to the MC Sisters.

The gathering centered on a pressing concern of the Church and society: protecting minors and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse. The event also aimed at strengthening collaboration and the sense of being a Claretian Family.



## CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

**FEBRUARY 2023**

**01 FR. JOSÉ MARIA PIRES**

at 89 yrs. old in Porto, Portugal  
Fátima Province

**25 FR. JAIME SIMÓN MARCOS**

at 84 yrs. old in Madrid, Spain  
Santiago Province