



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CLARETIAN PRESENCE IN MEXICO:

ROOTED IN CHRIST AND

AUDACIOUS IN MISSION

The Claretian Province of Mexico commemorates the centenary of the presence of the Congregation in the country, highlighting its work and commitment in various areas of the Church and society. The Claretians have faced challenges and have adapted to changing needs, leaving a missionary footprint that has impacted Christian communities in many different places.

Currently, the Province of Mexico presents a dual reality: communities and people working with great commitment in needy places, but also a high average age and few new vocations. Fr. Ernesto Mejía Mejía, CMF, Provincial Superior, affirms: *“In these times God is asking us to be more and more rooted in Christ and daring in the mission.”*

Over the years, the Claretians have ministered to the people of God in many ways: popular missions, parishes, and rectories. In addition, they have expanded their work in the pastoral care of the deaf, their attention to Afro-Mexican populations, and their work on the border of Ciudad Juárez.



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In the context of the pandemic, the Province has focused on the revision of life, works, and positions, based on the Provincial Dream "Dreaming With Claret" (Rooted and Audacious in Synodality). The General Chapter of 2021 - "*Querida Congregación*" - has been an opportunity to re-signify its being and missionary work, placing special emphasis on the first part of the dream: "*We dream of a pilgrim Congregation, rooted in faith in Jesus Christ and Claretian spirituality.*"

The Province of Mexico will face important challenges in the next six years, such as strengthening community life with new animation styles, relaunching the missionary spirit, and articulating the Claretian Youth Vocation Ministry (CYVM). Fr. Provincial says: "*God's dream for the Claretians of Mexico is that we work harmoniously in the CYVM and have more vocations.*"

The centenary celebrations seek to continue building Claret's Dream, deepening its roots in Christ, and boldly facing future challenges. Fr. Ernesto shares his wishes for this anniversary: "*May these 100 years as a Province be a Kairos so that we continue to build the Claret Dream and be rooted in Christ and bold in the Mission.*"

The Province of Mexico comprises 46 Claretians distributed in eleven communities. Among its apostolic positions are five parishes, six temples, and other apostolic works including a Claretian spirituality center, a center for integral attention, and the Clotet Center, an educational institution dedicated especially to the deaf.





CLOTET

EL LOGOS A LES MANS



Vic, Spain. The recent celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Fr. Jaume Clotet inspired Pablo Navarro, a member of the board of Cercle Artista Sords Units (ASU) and the editorial board of the digital magazine Espiell, to create a documentary exploring the life and work of Clotet. The documentary titled: “*Clotet. El logos a les mans*” resulted from a laborious and well-presented effort and is now available on the magazine’s website, offering a unique opportunity to understand the figure of Father Clotet better.

This documentary perfectly tributes Father Clotet during his bicentennial celebration, demonstrating his legacy’s relevance and lasting importance in the Claretian community and the world. It can be watched for free on the magazine’s website, www.espiell.cat, available in Catalan and Spanish.



JPIC

FR. ANTONIO LLAMAS FORTES, CMF, NEW IN CHARGE OF THE JPIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Rome, Italy. The Superior General appointed Fr. Antonio Llamas Fortes, CMF, as the new JPIC General Secretary, replacing Fr. Vincent S. Anesthasiar, CMF, who has served since 2016. The transition will occur in the last months of 2023.

Fr. Antonio, of the Province of Fátima, was born in Málaga (Spain) in 1968, first professed in 1988, and was ordained a priest in 1994. He spent twenty-one years in Zimbabwe, has had mission experience in Europe, and Africa, and stayed in the Philippines for almost a year.

The General Government is grateful to Fr. Vincent for his services to the Congregation over the past years, as well as to the Province of Chennai, where he served as a Provincial before his appointment in Rome, and to the Kolkata Delegation where he is now ascribed as a member.

Since 2016, Fr. Vincent has represented the Congregation in many instances, committees, and initiatives related to migrants and refugees, the response to climate change, the promotion of ecology, human rights, and interreligious dialogue. He has collaborated (in person and remotely) in many formative endeavors of numerous religious congregations. He has contributed to Claretian reflection on lifestyles, responsible consumption, recycling, ethical investments, solidarity, and care for Creation.

CELEBRATING FAITH, COMMUNION, AND CHARITY



Rome, Italy. This year's Claretian Mission Day celebrated on the 16th of April, centered on the importance of having places of worship where the community gathers for devotion, promotes shared values of peace and justice, and enhances community participation. Thus, this year's theme is called "House of Prayer."

Four projects have been selected. They are 'Church roofing at St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish, Nkol-Mekok, Cameroon (X006/2020)- Euro 30,000,' 'Reconstruction of the village chapel at Carmel Basti, Kagaznagar, India' (X048/2022) – Euro 10.000,' 'Construction of Virgen del Carmen Chapel in Bogotá, Colombia' (X066/2022) – Euro 30.000,' and 'Renovation of St. Therese of Avila Church at Chellampatti, India' (X018/2022) – Euro 10.000.'

The office will release later the information on how much was collected and distributed.

PROCLADE INTERNAZIONALE INVITES THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

New York, USA. The Fondazione Proclade Internazionale, which represents the Congregation at the United Nations, has urged member states to allocate resources and take practical measures towards promoting gender equality and empowering girls and women in the digital era. It also called for the need to create public programs for women heads of household in rural and urban areas, where they can leave their children in a place of care while they study or work.

Another important concern raised in the document is the lack of access to free and quality public education equipped with the necessary digital tools to allow access to all adolescent girls and women,

especially those living in rural and isolated areas. In addition, a call is made to elaborate, strengthen, and promote protection laws for mothers and children who suffer violence, with care and reporting routes for acts of violence against women.

Another aspect highlighted is the need to create legislation and public policies that promote real protection conditions for girls and women on social networks, combating human trafficking and child pornography.

Finally, the document calls on the owners of communication companies that control social networks to create policies for protecting women since, in many cases, they allow the dissemination of threats and defamatory campaigns against women defenders of human and environmental rights.

GENERAL HOUSES

TRADITIONAL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH AT THE GENERAL CURIA



Rome, Italy. Members of the three General Houses in Rome gathered once more on the Feast of St. Joseph at the General Curia to continue strengthening the unity and commitment among each other, and share experiences, projects, and news related to their life and mission.

Each house's Local Superiors presented their communities' mission, the latest significant events, and future events. Subsequently, Father General and the other Prefects shared news and ongoing projects within the Congregation. The gathering concluded with reciting the vespers, followed by a fraternal dinner.





DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR ACLA



EQUIPPING AND ANIMATING THE LOCAL SUPERIORS

ACLA

CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR ACLA

Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop recently held its second batch at Casa Claret Curia in Cameroon during the first two weeks of March. Representatives from various Major Organisms of ACLA attended the workshop, aiming to revitalize the Congregation by promoting a new form of leadership that fosters a shared responsibility among its members for the Congregation's well-being.

The purpose of the workshop was to assist appointed or elected leaders in establishing a strong foundation for effectively carrying out their duties and promoting a culture of discernment across all levels of the Congregation. Additionally, it offered an opportunity to explore the diverse and rich expression of the Congregation's charism as it is lived in Africa through its various Major Organisms.

New Owerri, Nigeria. On March 30th, East Nigeria hosted a seminar-workshop for their 17 Local Superiors, with the exclusion of those from the northern territories, at the Provincial Curia located in New Owerri. This event was held as part of the Provincial Dream to equip Local Superiors with the necessary skills to effectively inspire and encourage their community members.

The workshop was animated and moderated by the Provincial Council. The various Prefectures presented different sections of the Provincial Action Plan in turn. The facilitators encouraged the leaders to work together in unity, with a shared focus on their local communities, Province, the universal Congregation, and the universal Church.

During the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to engage in group discussions and share ideas on how to better live out their pure and authentic calling to be rooted and fearless in their mission as a Province. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and expressed their enthusiasm for having more vibrant and meaningful interactions like this in the future.

CLARET NOVITIATE IN ORMOC REOPENS WITH EIGHTH NOVICES



Ormoc City, Philippines. On March 25, Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province reopened its Novitiate House in Ormoc City after a two-year interruption, welcoming eight novices. The Province appointed Fr. Hoang Thai Son, CMF, as its new Novice Master.

Six novices are Vietnamese (Nguyen Quang Truong, Nguyen Tien Dat, Tran Van Sinh, Tang Hong Du, Tran Van Ba), and two are Filipinos (Jomar Niño Abasola and Harold Tinaja).

REFLECTING ON THE CHALLENGES AND HOPES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Nochiodaipatty, India. A group of nine priests from Chennai Province gathered at Claretians-LIFE in Nochiodaipatty, Tamil Nadu for their quinquennium ongoing formation from March 15 to 16. The sessions were facilitated by Fr. Ulagaraja Vedamaria Susai, CMF, and Fr. S. Jesu Doss, CMF, who emphasized the importance of self-awareness, discussed the effects of attractions and addictions, and highlighted the significance of ongoing formation in religious life.

During his address, the Provincial emphasized the significance of reflecting on personal weaknesses and struggles. He stressed the importance of ministry, community, and prayer life, and motivated the attendees to persist in enhancing their spiritual journeys.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE AND A CELEBRATION OF FAITH

China Bay, Sri Lanka. Forty-eight youths from five Claretian parishes in Sri Lanka assembled at St. Anthony's Church in China Bay on 11th to 12th March for the Claret Way Sri Lanka 2023 event, which aimed to celebrate faith, community, and

youth empowerment. The program commenced with a Lenten talk, followed by the Way of the Cross, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the sacrament of reconciliation.

During the gathering, the Claretian Youth Movement (CYW) of St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation conducted its annual meeting where new officers were elected, administrative bodies were created, and plans for 2023 were discussed. In addition, the group organized a thanksgiving program to honor their outgoing coordinator, Fr. Mariyathas Renald Ruban, CMF, and to celebrate the silver anniversary of Sr. Geraldine Sashirekah, RMI's profession.

A NEW CLARETIAN RESIDENCE IN BARWADIH



Barwadih, India. On March 5, the Catholic Ashram Barwadih community held a ceremony to inaugurate and bless their new residence. The event was graced by Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, CMF, Bangalore Provincial Superior, and Msgr. Theodore Mascarenhas, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Daltonganj.

For 26 years, the Bangalore Province missionaries focused on constructing vital infrastructures such as a parish church, school, hostel, and dispensary to facilitate their apostolic activities. They lived simply alongside the locals and were one with them. With the mission area's fundamental necessities now in place, it's time to construct a suitable residence. Msgr. Theodore praised the Claretians for their contributions to the diocese, particularly their work at the Barwadih and Barikhajuri missions, which had a positive impact on the people's lives.

The parish and its substations in the community are well-developed. The area has a growing English Medium School with hostel facilities, as well as local language schools in the surrounding villages. The community has worked hard to establish one of the best healthcare centers in the area, offering affordable and efficient services. Additionally, there are various social activities organized by the community, all aimed at promoting the welfare of the people.



ECLA

INAUGURATION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER CLARET'S ARRIVAL IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. Several activities were organized by the missionaries in the Canary Islands to mark the 175th anniversary of St. Anthony Mary Claret's arrival. On March 5, the Claretian parish of the Heart of Mary hosted an inaugural and thanksgiving Mass presided over by the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Islas Canarias, Msgr. Cristóbal Déniz Hernández. Our Father Founder is the co-patron of the Diocese, and the inauguration coincided with the anniversary of Father Claret's voyage from mainland Spain alongside Bishop Buenaventura Codina Augerolas, C.M., before disembarking in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Activities for the celebration have already started in 2022, beginning with the installation of an information board at Claret School of Las Palmas. The board, titled "*Claret in the Canary Islands, 1848. History of a gift from God,*" was created by Miguel Angel Sosa, an alumnus of the school and a member of the Lay Claretians. It consists of vinyl pieces that visually and effectively showcase Father Claret's presence and missions in the Canary Islands. The festivities will conclude in October 2024.

There are currently thirteen Claretians in the Canary Islands, residing in three houses - one on the island of Tenerife and two others on the island of Gran Canaria. The school they manage caters to over 2,100 students, while they also lead four parishes that offer various ministries like youth and education, penitentiary, and immigrant services.



NUNC 620 April 2023

CLARET SCHOOL OF LARRAONA STUDENTS SHARE THEIR CODE OF ETHICS AT THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT



Pamplona-Madrid, Spain. A group of students from the Politics and Society Workshop at Claret School of Larraona in Pamplona traveled to Madrid on March 6 to present their ethical code. Following a meeting with the President of the Congress of Deputies, the students were given a tour of the parliamentary chamber and other notable rooms within the historic building. The spokespersons of the Socialist Parliamentary Group, Patxi López, Popular Party's Cuca Gamarra, and the representative of the Citizens Group (Cs), Miguel Gutiérrez, have been engaged in discussions with them.

The school is determined to continue to empower and support students in becoming catalysts for positive change in society, contributing to a more fair, equal, and optimistic world for everyone.

MICLA

AN EXHIBIT FEATURING CLARET'S 170 YEARS OF ARRIVAL IN CUBA

Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. The exhibition titled "*Claret, 170 Years Since His Arrival in Cuba*" was successfully organized by the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba and the Claretian Missionaries. The exhibition concluded on March 12 after running for a month and a half. A considerable number of individuals visited the exhibit to gain insight into the remarkable contributions made by St. Anthony Mary Claret. The event was the outcome of over two years of hard work by a team of individuals, including Fr. Camilo de la Paz Salmón Beatón, who serves as the parish priest of Santa Lucía.

The Archdiocese's exhibit, which opened on February 1, showcased the life and mission of St. Anthony Mary Claret, the local and regional history, and the people's faith in today's context. Its purpose was to bring St. Anthony Mary Claret and his story closer to modern society. Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Dionisio Garcia, explained that the exhibit aimed to spark interest in Claret's life and mission as Archbishop. The exhibit's guiding thread was the phrase spoken by Pope Pius XII at Claret's canonization, "*St. Anthony Mary Claret, similar to the heart of Jesus.*"

CLARETIAN FAMILY

“IN THE ENTRAILS OF THE HEART” THE MOTTO OF THE VOCATIONS CAMPAIGN OF CORDIMARIAN FILIATION



The Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (DICM) is commemorating the 50th anniversary of their Pontifical Approval on November 21, 2023 - 50 years of divine blessings within the Church. As part of their celebration, they have planned a series of activities, including the ‘*In the Entrails of the Heart*’ campaign.

Maripi Amigo fc, from the YVM HICM Team, explains its aim: *In 2018, the European Vocations Ministry Team conceived an idea to address ongoing concerns and share their charismatic gift with many. Through healthy dialogues, they recognized a need to showcase their identity and way of life. As a result, they embarked on creating a vocations campaign.*

We began working on our idea, which was slowly taking shape. We focused on creating a strong presence to reach out to those who are unfamiliar with us and represent ourselves in a new and improved way to those who already know us. Unfortunately, the pandemic interrupted our progress, putting everything on hold until the right moment to continue arises.

In 2022, we decided to reveal what had been dormant for years. On December 25, the Nativity of the Lord, we launched a website showcasing our lives and vocation from the deepest and most intimate part of ourselves - the heart. As daughters of the Heart of Mary, this is where our life and purpose takes root.

*As you stroll through our website, you will encounter faces that convey the depth of our shared experiences, where each daughter of the Heart of Mary expresses her vocational calling from a unique perspective. You will discover a new way of expressing our identity, our way of life, and how we live out the evangelical counsels. Our website is available in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and we are constantly expanding. Our vocation campaign, “*In the depths of the heart,*” is just the beginning. We have more creative ideas in the works that will bring our website to life and allow us to serve God. We invite you to join us and fall in love with Jesus Christ. Welcome to our home, your home. We are excited to have you here!*

For further information on the campaign, please visit the website:
www.filiacioncordimariana.org/corazon

IN THE *entrails* OF THE HEART

PROFESSIONS

03/18/2023 San José del Sur
Bere, Jefrianus Helmus
Magno, Elisio Amansia Alves

ORDINATIONS

03/25/2023 San José del Sur
Olguín Herrera, José Javier

CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

MARCH 2023

- 04 FR. JOSÉ MARÍA GONZÁLEZ MONTERO**, at 88 yrs. old in Granada, Spain
Fátima Province
- FR. GUILLERMO RÍO CANAS**
at 88 yrs. old in Leon, España
Santiago Province
- FR. ISAÍAS VELASCO SANZ**
at 87 yrs. old in Colmenar Viejo, Spain
Sanctus Paulus Province
- 14 FR. FRANKLIN KIBATA NGEBAS**
at 50 yrs. old in Kinshasa, DRC
Congo Ind. Delegation
- 21 FR. GUSTAVO RODRÍGUEZ RODRÍGUEZ** at 94 yrs. old in Bogotá, Colombia
Colombia-Or-Ecuador Province
- 23 FR. JOSEP SUREDA CAMPS**
at 83 yrs. old in Girona, España
Sanctus Paulus Province
- 30 FR. DAMIAN AKUJOBI** at 56 yrs. old in Owerri, Nigeria
East Nigeria Province