



THE PROVINCE OF SANCTUS PAULUS: MISSIONARY PASSION AND DIVERSITY IN THE CLARETIAN CONGREGATION

The Province of Sanctus Paulus emerged from the former Major Organisms of Euskal Herria, Catalunya, France and Italia. Erected in January 2020, this Province was born as a result of the congregational process of restructuring prompted by the General Chapter of 2015. The Province has 138 Claretians distributed in 23 communities. It highlights an enriching intercultural reality, thanks to the presence of young members, mostly from Africa and Asia.

The work of the Claretians in Sanctus Paulus is carried out in various areas, such as education, social projects, parishes, and a publication-bookstore. In close collaboration with the laity, evangelization projects are being carried out to realize the dream of the Congregation reflected in the last General Chapter of 2021. Juan Martín Askaiturrieta, CMF, “*the formation and accompaniment of the laity is an important challenge to guarantee the evangelizing identity of our works*”. The Claretian places such as Vic, Sallent, and Fontfroide also stand out. These charismatic sites represent a “*permanent stimulus to return to the sources and renew the missionary passion*” in the whole Congregation.



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Among other apostolic platforms, the Province animates four schools, a community college, a university residence, a publishing house, a bookstore, two NGOs, a house of spirituality, several parishes and several significant social projects, some with more than twenty years of history.

In the present context of secularization, the Province takes up the challenge of awakening interest in the faith, especially among young people and adults, placing special emphasis on the first proclamation of the Gospel to young people and adults, attention to the impoverished, the formation of the laity to be evangelizing agents and the offering of vocational processes to young people.

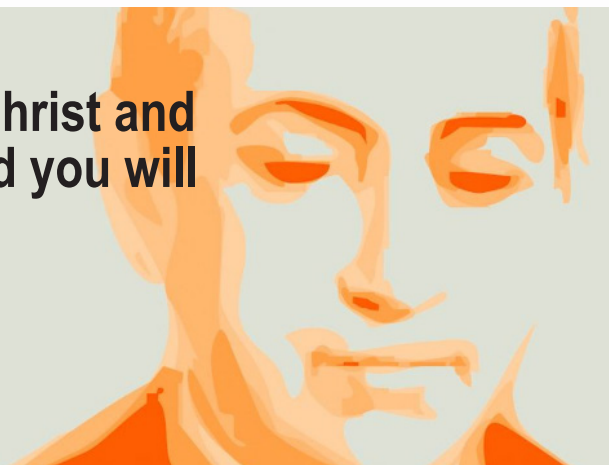
The congregational dream links very well with the Province, as the Major Superior explains: *“on the one hand, we see ourselves called to take care of the roots of our vocation: cultivation of the same quality of fraternal life... at the same time that, conscious of living a moment of fragility, we want to continue giving a missionary answer to the social and ecclesial challenges of the present moment.”*

Being a Province that is the fruit of the union of other Organisms, one of the greatest challenges is: *“to grow in internal cohesion (province consciousness) at the same time that we are a Province with a strong missionary thrust that, in collaboration with the laity, responds to the calls that God is making to us today.”* Again, in the words of the Major Superior, we aspire to: *“build a Province in which, following in the footsteps of Fr. Claret, we can be passionate and creative missionaries in the work of evangelization.”*

The Claretian Family, Lay Claretians, Religious of Mary Immaculate, and Missionaries of the Claretian Institution are present in different parts of the Province, sharing social and evangelizing projects.

Fall in love with Christ and your neighbor and you will do greater things.

Father Claret





OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY ON THE SYNODAL PATH

“That all of them may be one, Father,
just as you are in me and I am in you.”
(Jn 17:21)

GENERAL SUPERIOR

WEAVING A MISSIONARY LIFE WITHIN GOD’S PROJECT FOR HUMANITY: REFLECTIONS ON THE SYNODAL PATH

Rome, Italy. Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, released a circular letter dated March 25, 2023, titled “Our Missionary Journey on the Synodal Path” that reflects on the Congregation’s missionary journey on the synodal path and their shared journey in the Church as people of God. It highlights the significance of the XXVI General Chapter in reinforcing our commitment to sharing the people’s hopes and joys, sorrows, and trials, especially those of the poor, and joining efforts with all striving to transform the world according to God’s plan. It also emphasizes that communion with God and fraternity among humans constitute the most credible proclamation of the Gospel of love in a fragmented world.

Furthermore, it underlined the importance of the Chapter Exhortation’s call to all members to reflect on their collective responsibility in making God’s dream come true in their respective contexts. It discusses how we can weave our missionary life within God’s project for humanity. It suggests that they should consider these realities in their community evaluations and make intelligent use of various forms of communication media for formation and mission. He said that by forming more Cybermissionaries and developing a Claretian vision for their media mission, the Cybermissionaries could offer a qualified missionary service in the Digital Continent.

The letter concludes by stating that, as a community, we must continue working together collaboratively to realize concrete steps toward implementing our action plan.



Bible Ministry & Communication
PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD FOR A FRAGILE WORLD

Mar del Plata, Argentina. The 10th General Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF) took place from April 15 - 21 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, with the theme: Proclaiming the Word of God: Gift of Life for a fragile world (Rom 8: 22-23).

This event which takes place every six years offers all the members of the Federation the opportunity to assemble, reflect together, present the reports of their activities, elect a new executive committee, and propose some lines of action for the Federation.

With about 120 participants, the week-long Assembly lived the experiences of the local Church in Mar del Plata and the formation phase fruitfully with visits to different communities and conferences, respectively. The Centrality of the Word of God, the Word as a gift, and the fragility of the World from the perspectives of Creation, Humanity, and the Church were well presented.

As an associate member, our Congregation participated with representatives from Cameroun, East Asia, San José del Sur, USA-Canada, and the General Prefect of Bible Ministry and Communication. They presented some of our activities in print media, bible seminars, and digital presence.

Jaime Michea, the coordinator of the Biblical Animation of the Province of San José del Sur, was appointed by the General Prefect to represent the Congregation on the Executive Committee for the sexennium.

ICLARET: BRAND NAME OF THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION TEAM OF THE CONGREGATION

Rome, Italy. iClaret is now the official brand name of the Communication Department of the General Government, the Team serving the communication-related needs of the General Curia and all its social media platforms and any related media there is.

The Communication Department of the Congregation, which is under the General Prefecture of Bible and Communication led by Fr. Henry Babatunde Omonisaye, CMF, comprises six sub-areas: *iClaret*, *External Relations*, *Cybermissionaries*, *Claretian Publishing Group*, *Digital Arts and Broadcasting*, and *Pastoral on Social Networks*.

The permanent communication team at the General Curia are the Claretian Fathers: Louie R. Guades III (*Coordinator*), Nelson Thomas Puthenparambil (*Cybermissionaries Coordinator*), José Enrique García (*External Relations / Spokesperson*), and Joseph Ikemefuna Iwobi (*Digital Arts and Broadcasting Coordinator*).

The email to send news articles is news@iclaret.org, and for the rest communications@iclaret.org





SECRETARIAT

2023 COURSE FOR NEW SECRETARIES

Rome, Italy. Thirteen newly appointed Provincial/Delegation Secretaries underwent the mandatory Secretary Course given by the General Secretariat at the General Curia in Rome from April 13 to 19, 2023. They were joined by the General Secretary of Padri di Schoenstatt congregation.

The mornings were dedicated to the theoretical part, and the afternoons were to hands-on workshops. These included updating the Congregation database (commonly known to the secretaries as SECLAR). Three teams collaborated to render the course: Secretariat, Claretian Iuridicum Institute, and iClaret Team. Claretian Fathers Efrén Limpo (General Secretary), Joseph Ikemefuna Iwobi (Secretary of Prefectures), and Jose Felix Valderrabano (General Procurator), facilitated the morning theoretical sessions, and Fr. Louie R. Guades III (iClaret), the afternoon workshops.

ACLA

A NEW MISSION FOR THE CLARETIANS IN WESTERN KENYA

Eldoret, Kenya. On March 30, 2023, Bishop Dominic Kimengich of the Diocese of Eldoret handed over to the Claretian Missionaries of St. Charles Lwanga Independent Delegation the St. Jacinta Catholic Parish as its new mission. Fr. Athanasius Madu, CMF, St. Charles Lwanga's Delegation Vicar and Prefect of Apostolate, was appointed parish priest.

The mission will serve as an outreach station for the Claretians in western Kenya. They also hope that it will boost local vocation from that part of the country.

ASCLA EAST

WE LEAD WITH WHO WE ARE

Jecheon, South Korea. Korea Independent Delegation reechoed the Discerning Leadership Program to its members under "We Lead with Who We Are" on April 10-12 in Jecheon, South Korea.



The seminar aimed at developing Self-Awareness and Team Roles in each member, which would help the community and the Delegation in its Discernment process and progress. The participants experienced a fruitful hour of learning and sharing, relaxing and nurturing, and strengthening their bonds.

The 3-day seminar was Concluded with a Pilgrimage to Baeron (Catacombs in Korea), the first Theological Seminary site and the resting place of the Second Priest from the Korean Church, Yang-eop Choi.



TIME TO GROW AND INTEGRATE THE CLARETIAN SPIRITUALITY

Benlutu, Indonesia. Five members of the Indonesia-Timor Leste Independent Delegation joined the so-called Tanur Renewal Program at the Claret Retreat Center of Benlutu, Indonesia, from April 19 to May 28, 2023. Frs. Francisco J.Baeza Roca and Robertus Wontong, CMFF, who both underwent the Forge Program and the Heart of Mary School for Formators given by the General Government in Spain, facilitated the forty-day program.

This spiritual journey is an opportunity for the members to experience and renew one's missionary commitment to be truly religious and missionary in living and bringing the dream of God as Claretians. It is an adaptation of the Forge Program of the Congregation into the local context since not all Delegation members will have the opportunity to experience the original Forge Program in Spain. It is offered for all the members of the Delegation who are 40 years old and above and those willing to renew their spiritual life and missionary experience but limited to eight people only.



ASCLA WEST

NEW MISSION PARISH IN THE DIOCESE OF ANURADHAPURA IN SRI LANKA

Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka. St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation received a new mission parish in the Diocese of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka on April 16. Most Rev. Norbert Marshall Andradi, OMI, Bishop of the Diocese, presided over the handing over of the Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Parish in Polonnaruwa to the care of our Congregation and the installation of a new Parish Priest, Fr. Tharaka Perera, CMF. Fr. Jenis Coonghe, CMF, was also appointed as parochial vicar.

Polonnaruwa is an ancient town in the northern-central region with much historical significance, including being the second capital of Sri Lanka for three centuries (11th, 12th, and 13th centuries). UNESCO declared it as a World Heritage site.

The Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Parish has 47 years of history. It has 450 families spread in 5 different locations. The Diocese of Anuradhapura has only one percent of the Catholic population. This new presence opens new opportunities to work in a religious periphery where building interreligious dialogue and harmony becomes a key focus.

ECLA

ITVR OF MADRID CONCLUDES 52ND NATIONAL WEEK FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Madrid, Spain. The Institute of Religious Life (ITVR) of Madrid successfully organized the 52nd National Week for Institutes of Religious Life on April 12 to 15, featuring eleven educational conferences, dialogues, a round table discussion, a concert-prayer, and daily Eucharistic celebrations.

Attendance at the event filled the available capacity for those present. Additionally, over two hundred religious communities in Spain and other countries followed the event via streaming. His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Apostolic Nuncio, and Brother Jesús Miguel Zamora, General Secretary of the Spanish Conference of Religious (CONFER), graced the event.



Among the distinguished guests were Nadia Coppa, ASC, UISG (International Union Superiors General) President – for the first time in Spain –; Liliana Franco, ODN, CLAR (Latin American Conference of Religious) President; and Mariano Delgado, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). In addition, the presentations of the Claretian priests Antonio Sánchez Orantos and Anthony Igbokwe, received commendation for their in-depth analysis of hope and consecrated life as a path of evangelical utopia toward fulfillment.

At the round table discussion on the 14th, religious and priests shared their experiences on solidarity, discernment, and the challenge of interculturality. Several bishops and cardinals, such as Cardinals Archbishop Carlos Osoro and Archbishop Aquilino Bocos, CMF, and bishops Vicente Jiménez, Luis Ángel de las Heras, CMF, and Fernando Prado, CMF, actively participated in the event, consolidating it as one of the most anticipated events in the Church of Spain.



NUNC 621 May 2023

MICLA

FIRST MEETING OF CLARETIAN COMMUNICATORS OF MICLA

São Paulo, Brazil. From April 14 to 16, MICLA held the first communicators meeting in São Paulo, Brazil at the conference level. Its objective was to strengthen the collaboration among the various Claretian provinces and to improve their communication strategy.

The event brought together representatives from seven Provinces, who shared their experiences and knowledge in communication. Lucas Bachmann, Executive Director of the civil organization Aldeia do Futuro, gave a presentation on communication to promote reflections and create an effective communication plan for MICLA. He highlighted the importance of interdependence and cooperation in a constantly transforming world and how MICLA representatives must adapt to changes in media, tools, and technology.

The participants also identified challenges facing MICLA, such as members' internal appreciation and generational renewal. The need to understand the different audiences they engage with and produce content in a common language that enables more efficient communication among all parties involved was emphasized.

The discussion about the autonomy and independence of the Claretian Provinces, as well as MICLA's unique identity, was one of the central themes at the event. Attendees concluded that, despite regional differences, it is crucial to join efforts and collaborate to strengthen MICLA's mission and vision globally.

As a result of the meeting, a MICLA communication team was established, composed of a representative from each Province. This team will coordinate and oversee the common communication strategy to meet the set objectives.

Among the specific actions planned for the MICLA Communication Team, creating a website (Electronic Portal) and defining short, medium, and long-term goals are included. The portal will serve as a platform for sharing information, news, and relevant resources and promoting collaboration between provinces.

Participants established a shared action plan and daily schedule to ensure the continuity and success of MICLA's communication work. This plan will inform communication team members about progress and challenges in their respective areas and ensure meeting deadlines and objectives.



ORDINATIONS

ST. JOSEPH VAZ

04/20/2023

Antony Danoshan, Kipson
Croos Desmond, Anthony
Desmenraj, Charles Mathews
Gunaseelan, Selexon
Sahayanathan, Rajasekar Dias
Sutharsan, Yogapalan

ST. THOMAS

04/19/2023

Kuruttuparambil, George Jose

04/24/2023

Panachikalayil, George (Midhun Mathew)

04/25/2023

Panakuzhy, Jacob (Jomy)

04/26/2023

Thakivadakkethil, Scaria (Sebin)

04/27/2023

Kavumpurath, Jibin Joseph

CALLED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

APRIL 2023

01 FR. RENÉ OCHOA HERNÁNDEZ, CMF

at the age of 85 in Morelia, Mexico
Province of Mexico

07 FR. ANTHONY ESSIEN, CMF

at the age of 65 in Umuchu, Nigeria
Province of East Nigeria

18 BR. JOSÉ ORTEGA MARTÍNEZ, CMF

at 85 years of age in Pamplona, Spain
Province of Sanctus Paulus

21 FR. MARCIANO FERNÁNDEZ VALBUENA, CMF

91 years old in Zaragoza, Spain
Province of Santiago

28 FR. JULIO TURRIÓN DE LA CRUZ, CMF

at the age of 93 in Leon, Spain
Province of Santiago