



“THE VIBRANT SPIRIT OF CLARETIANS IN KOREA: A SMALL DELEGATION WITH A BIG IMPACT”

Despite being one of the smallest delegations in terms of area and member count, the Korea Independent Delegation has proven to be a dynamic, vibrant force in South Korean society. Major Superior Fr. Manuel Ezhapampil, CMF, provides an insightful account of their unique work and the challenges they face, emphasizing the importance of their role in society and the church.

Present only in South Korea due to restrictions in the North, the Claretians have adapted to changes in the Korean landscape with agility. Over time, traditional apostolic works have made way for new initiatives to address the evolving needs of society. According to Fr. Ezhapampil, the Delegation’s ministries are “charismatic, spiritual and [provide] upliftment required to survive in a highly competitive society.” In this, they’ve found their significant role.

The Delegation’s missions focus on the marginalized, including disoriented youth, vulnerable migrant workers, and Koreans in society’s peripheries. They also provide ongoing formation for priests and religious leaders, equipping them to be leaders in a society in flux.



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In response to the question regarding the impact of the last General Chapter, Fr. Ezhaparampil mentions the importance of the fourth part of the Congregational dream, the Claretians are envisaged as audacious and itinerant, reaching out to peripheries and walking with the youth. “As a commitment,” he says, “*we thought of studying individually and together as a community to discern the peripheries in the reality of Korea and respond timely with effective means.*”

One of the significant challenges for the Delegation in the coming years is managing more work with fewer people. The Delegation also grapples with the issue of an aging and ailing membership and the lack of native vocations.

In asking what God’s dream is for the Claretians in Korea, Ezhaparampil provides a contemplative response: “*I think God expects us to respond to the challenges with our available resources... I hope God wants us to acknowledge our limitations and potentialities...In God’s dream, our existence in Korea should be a beautiful mosaic with different colors witnessing the beauty of God.*”

The Claretians in Korea, small in number but large in heart, impact the lives of many with their apostolic work. Despite not having any income-generating institute, they rely on divine providence and the support of their lay collaborators and benefactors. This trust, along with their tireless work in service of others, truly reflects the spirit of the Claretians in Korea.

Regarding statistics, the Delegation currently consists of 19 CMFF members working in harmony across four distinct communities. Additionally, the delegation has established several apostolic platforms, including four restaurants focused on serving the youth, a soup kitchen catering to a hundred people daily, a center dedicated to aiding migrant workers in Bucheon, and a retreat center located in the south of Korea.



CMF

175th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation

175 Aniversario de la Fundación de la Congregación

“REVIVING THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT”: ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER ON THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONGREGATION

Rome, Italy. On May 31, Father General issued a letter of announcement commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Congregation’s establishment. The letter expresses appreciation to God for the gift of our charism and urges us to revive the Father Founder’s initial spirit.

Father General regards the Jubilee as a time of grace and growth for the Congregation in its charismatic spirit and apostolic vitality. He encourages members to examine how we live out our charism in loyalty to the original spirit regarding their current circumstances. Our Congregational journey is an ongoing narrative that responds to changes in the world and listens to God’s callings.

Father Mathew recognizes that our current state and identity are a result of God’s wonderful grace, the steadfast testimony of our predecessors, the constant presence of our Father Founder’s spirit, and the earnest prayers of many loved ones. We express our gratitude by remembering the heavenly community of countless admirable brothers who gave their all and left behind a valuable legacy for us to cherish and uphold.

The letter details the upcoming Jubilee year and the different programs and events that will be held. These include short videos about the history of the Congregation, its mission, and the publication and distribution of books. Major Organizations and communities will also initiate various programs, such as the Spirituality Congress at Vic from July 7-15, 2024, followed by a Vigil Service on July 15, 2024, and culminating with the Jubilee Conclusion on July 16, 2024.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

FOSTERING UNITY AND FRATERNITY AMONG THE CLARETIANS IN EUROPE

Our General Superior is responsible for conducting official visits to all Congregation houses and residences at least once every six years during their term. In cases where there are too many houses to visit personally, the task may be delegated to a representative.

This year, the General Government is prioritizing visits to Claretian houses in ECLA, as canonical visits were impacted and couldn’t be carried out during the last sexennium due to the pandemic. Father General recently visited the Province of Polska, which comprises Poland, Belarus, the Czech Republic, part of Russia, and Ukraine. Meanwhile, Fr. Pedro Belderrain, CMF, is visiting the Claretians of Fátima Province, which covers southern Spain,

Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Bro. Carlos Verga and Carlos Sanchez, CMFF, have visited our confreres in Santiago Province, including central and western areas of Spain, Paris (France), Switzerland, and Russia. Additionally, Frs. Joseph Mbungu-Mutu and Manuel Tamargo, CMFF, visited the Claretians under Sanctus Paulus Province, which includes Catalunya and the Basque areas of Spain, the rest of France, and Italy. Finally, Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, visited the Province of Deutschland, which includes Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

During their visits, guests actively participate in the daily life of the community and its members. They take the time to get to know everyone's aspirations and challenges while also being open to listening to them. These interactions help to foster cooperation and strengthen the community's unity. To further promote these goals, community-wide meetings are held to define and clarify the community's mission. The ultimate goal of these visits is to inspire joy in the members' missionary calling, promote pastoral growth, and encourage genuine relationships among the community. These efforts align with the Congregational Dream of creating spaces where individuals can live harmoniously, embracing and celebrating each other's unique qualities and cultivating a fraternal lifestyle.

In December 2023, the Provincial Council members of all Major Organisms of ECLA and the General Government will convene in Vic, Spain, to finalize canonical visits in Europe, following similar meetings in Asia, Africa, and America in previous years.

**CONSECRATED LIFE
FIDELITY AND PERSEVERANCE IN**



CONSECRATED LIFE: A GIFT AND A CHALLENGE

Bangalore, India. Institute of Consecrated Life – Sanyasa (ICLS) expands its reach with regional seminars in India, engaging communities in theological reflection on fidelity and perseverance in consecrated life.

Since its very beginnings, has organized annual seminars on consecrated life at the institute premises. This year, ICLS began a new venture of organizing additional regional seminars at various locations in India to help consecrated men and women in the peripheries to engage in deeper theological reflection on consecrated life. Accordingly, three regional seminars were conducted this year. The first seminar was held at Karukutty in Kerala on February 18. Recently, two more such seminars were held at Ranchi and Kolkata on April 22 and 23, respectively. The seminars were organized with the Claretians of the Delegation of Kolkata and the local units of the Conference of Religious of India (CRI).

The theme of both seminars was “Fidelity and Perseverance in Consecrated Life: A Gift and a Challenge,” based on the 2020 document from DICLSAL, The Gift of Fidelity, the Joy of Perseverance, applying its insights to the regional contexts of India.

**ACLA
VOCAATION CAMP IN ZIMBABWE: AN
ENCOUNTER TO EXPLORE GOD’S CALL**



Zhomba, Zimbabwe. Fifteen young individuals from various regions of Zimbabwe came together at Zhomba Mission from April 20th to 23rd to explore spirituality and gain a deeper understanding of religious vocation. The Youth and Vocations Ministry of the Claretians in Zimbabwe, led by Fr. Nyasha Chog, CMF, organized this initiative. The vocation camp served as a space for reflection and encounters, and its purpose was to help attendees realize that God's call is the only one that can fulfill their deepest human desires. The participants discovered that answering one's vocation faithfully leads to genuine happiness.

A COLLABORATIVE RE-ECHO OF THE CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP IN KINSHASA.

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. On May 17, the Congo Independent Delegation held the Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop at its Delegation Curia in Kinshasa, in collaboration with Fr. Jude Thaddeus Langeh, CMF, the Major Superior of Cameroun. The workshop aimed to offer valuable insights and guidance to the Local Superiors of the communities and heads of the structures within the Delegation. Fr. Jude led the workshop, sharing his expertise and knowledge to enhance the participants' understanding of Claretian leadership principles.

During the meeting, the focus was replicating the Discerning Leadership Workshop organized by the General Government. The workshop aimed to promote a culture of discernment, personal growth, and discerning leadership among the participants. The workshop theme was "To Be Trained to Serve Better: Discerning Claretian Leadership." Throughout the meeting, participants engaged in fruitful exchanges and discussions, asking questions and seeking clarification.

ASCLA East

INSPIRING RENEWED COMMITMENT TO MISSION



Osaka, Japan. Twenty-nine East Asia Independent Delegation members recently held their yearly retreat from May 2 to 6 at the Passionist Retreat Centre in Osaka. Brother Mario Kevin Armijo, from the Claretian Spirituality Centre in Vic (Spain), facilitated the retreat. It was the first time in five years that the Delegation members had congregated. Unfortunately, the scheduled 2021 Delegation Assembly had to be canceled due to the pandemic outbreak.

During the first day, Bishop Josep Maria Abella, CMF, our former Superior General and now serving in the Diocese of Fukuoka in Japan, addressed his fellow brothers. Despite his brief time with them, he expressed his joy in being present and discussed the challenges faced by the Catholic Church in Japan. In addition to presiding over Mass, he shared insights about his personal journey and mission within the diocese.

ASCLA West

INTENSIVE PREPARATION FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN THE FORGE KEY FOR ASCLA WEST MAJOR ORGANISMS



Bangalore, India. Nineteen candidates from different Major Organisms of ASCLA West participated in a month-long preparation for their Perpetual Profession. Of these, 8 were from St. Joseph Vaz Delegation, 4 from St. Thomas Province, 3 from Bangalore Province, 3 from Kolkata Delegation, and 1 from Chennai Province.

The program was held at the novitiate house of Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram from April 30 to May 25. It was inaugurated with a formal welcome followed by an inaugural Eucharist presided over by Fr. Stanislaus S., CMF, the Prefect of Formation of Chennai Province. The program was designed by Fr. Paulson Velliyanoor, CMF, in consultation with Fr. Antony Bhyju V., CMF, the ASCLA West President. The core committee, consisting of Frs. Lawrence V., Michael Mariadoss, and Antony L., CMFF, slightly modified the program with inputs from other Claretian resource persons who shared reflections on themes.

During the month they spent together, the participants were able to share what they had experienced during the six months of preparation that each one had previously lived in their Organism. They were also able to share in-depth their vocational and formative itinerary. There was also time for short presentations on various topics, enriched by group dialogues, times for personal and community prayer, meditation practices and meetings with the spiritual animators offered by the program.

On May 25th, Fr. Lawrence V. led the final spiritual exercises, and the morning Eucharist marked the solemn conclusion of the entire experience. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the transformative and novel experiences they had undergone.

CELEBRATION OF THE GIFT OF VOCATION IN THE MAJOR ORGANISMS OF INDIA

On May 31, the Major Organisms of India celebrated the gift of vocation with a day of various religious professions. The celebration began on the 30th, when 25 postulants from the various Organisms began their Novitiate at Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram, taking an important step in their vocational journey.

Several individuals have taken significant steps in their faith journey in various Provinces and Delegations. For instance, in Chennai, one novice made his First Profession, while another made his Perpetual Profession at Claret Bhavan in Karumathur. Four novices took their First Profession in St. Thomas, and four students made their Final Professions. Additionally, 21 students renewed their vows, reaffirming their dedication to their vocation. Bangalore celebrated the day with one novice making his First Profession, three students making their Perpetual Profession, and eleven students renewing their vows. Northeast India witnessed two novices and three students making their First and Perpetual Professions at Claret Villa, Shillong. At the same time, Kolkata had three students making their Perpetual Profession.

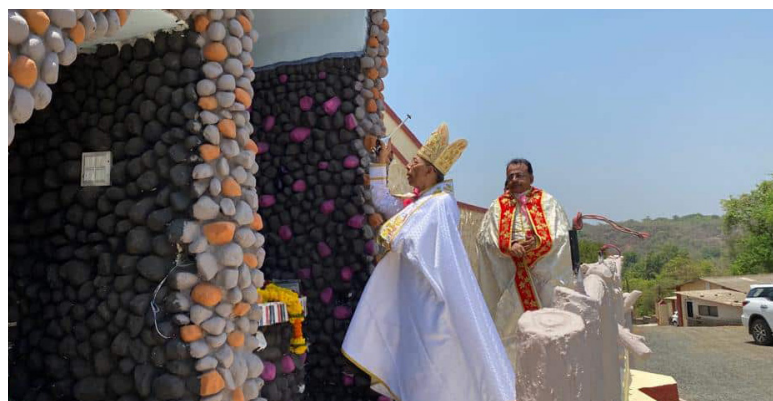
GRATEFUL IN SERVICE: RENEWAL PROGRAM FOR ASCLA WEST JUBILARIAN CLARETIANS



Bangalore, India. A group of Claretian Missionaries from ASCLA West (India and Sri Lanka) recently convened for a refresher seminar at the Provincial House of Bangalore Province from May 25 to 27, 2023. Sixteen members celebrate their 50th anniversary of religious life, while others mark 25 years of religious

life and 25 years of priesthood. During the seminar, Fr. Benny Kootanal, MSFS, discussed the theme of Priesthood-Call to Holistic Maturity, emphasizing the importance of love and sacrifice as essential qualities of priests. He also shared insights on using social media platforms in the right way. Additionally, Fr. Joseph Lobo, SJ, led the participants in reflecting on Priestly Mission-Spirituality and how the Eucharist, with its victim-altar-offerer features, plays a crucial role in defining a priest's mission.

INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF SANT CLARET ANATH ASHRAM IN MUMBAI



Badlapur, India. On May 18th, the newly constructed Sant Claret Anath Ashram house of St. Thomas Province in Badlapur, Mumbai, was blessed by His Excellency, Most Reverend Mar Thomas Elavanal, MCBS, Bishop of Kalyan. Over 200 guests attended the inauguration ceremony, including benefactors, well-wishers, religious figures, priests, and civil authorities.

During the ceremony, the bishop commended the Claretians for their exemplary efforts, specifically under the leadership of Fr. Robin Pazhamchirayil, CMF, and referred to their ministry as a unique gem within the diocese. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF, the Provincial Superior, officially inaugurated the House and emphasized its importance in spreading the teachings of the faith, calling it “*the real and living pulpit of the Word.*” The Forane Vicar also acknowledged the spiritual significance of the center, likening it to a tabernacle where Jesus is alive.

ECLA

THE CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR EUROPE IN VIC

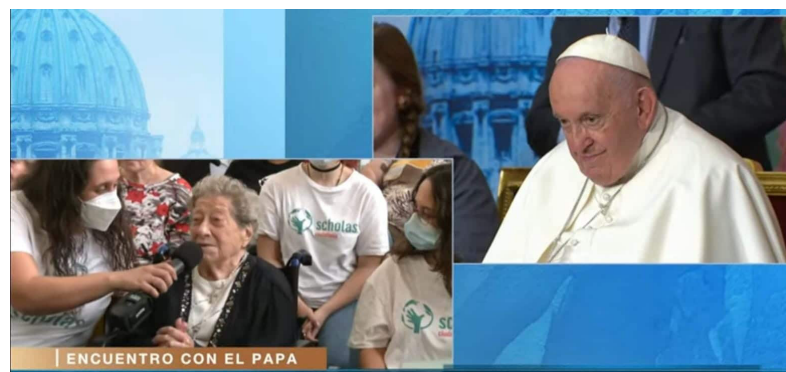
Vic, Spain. Between May 1 and 13, the Claret Spirituality House in Vic, Barcelona, hosted the Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop, organized for members of ECLA. The workshop was attended



“Missionaries rooted and bold like Claret,” and Father Carlos discussed the meaning of the “Definition of the Missionary” (Aut 494), delving into the historical and theological aspects and dividing it into three parts related to the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Attendees participated in four lectures each day followed by group work. This was the first gathering held since the Covid pandemic outbreak.

YouTube was used to broadcast Father Carlos’ talks to Claretians who could not attend his in-person lectures, particularly those in Russia and Belarus. In addition, participants engaged in various forms of evening prayer throughout the day. On the final day, theology students led the ‘Via Lucis,’ a series of 14 stations where they reflected on the Paschal events, starting with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gathering concluded with a Holy Mass, presided over by the Claretian Auxiliary Bishop of Wrocław, Msgr. Jacek Kicinski, CMF.

CHAT WITH POPE FRANCIS THROUGH THE ‘BEING TOGETHER’ PROJECT AT THE CLARET GRANADA RESIDENCE



Granada, Spain. On May 25th, residents of Claret Granada Residence were privileged to participate in a live conversation with His Holiness, Pope Francis, via the “Being Together” project. The Scholas Foundation skillfully coordinated the event, and it was globally broadcasted with the assistance of Telemundo. It was a momentous occasion that left a lasting impression on all those fortunate enough to participate.

In the live program, a resident asked His Holiness if he recalled any conversations with elderly people from his youth. The Pope shared a personal experience with his grandparents and emphasized the significance of learning from the elderly and their contributions to society. It was an unforgettable and moving experience that left a lasting impact.

by a total of 15 Claretians from the Major Organisms of Santiago, Sanctus Paulus, Fatima, and Poland, as well as four members from the General Teams, including the Coordinator of the Communication Team of the General Curia and the Local Superior of the Claretianum in Rome, and members of the Claretian Spirituality Center (CESC) in Vic.

One of the most notable aspects of the workshop was the active participation and fraternal integration of the attendees, who represented various cultures and languages. Throughout the days, the spirit of collaboration and interest was evident in the liturgy, the services, the interaction spaces, and the coexistence among all the participants.

At the midpoint of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to visit the CESC facilities and attend the film “Libres”, a documentary that offered the vital and believing testimony of contemplative monks and nuns from some Spanish monasteries.

On the last day of the workshop, participants had an online meeting with Father General, who shared words of encouragement with those present and reported on the latest news from the Congregation. The participants also had the opportunity to present various projects, such as the WYD Claret Way, the upcoming Cybermissionaries workshop, and the CESC website. The workshop officially concluded with an evening prayer enriched with personal sharing and reflections.

CLARETIAN RENEWAL DAYS IN POLAND: A BOOST IN SPIRITUALITY AND MISSION

Krzydlina Mala, Poland. From April 24th to 27th, the Claretian Renewal Days Program of the Polska Province was held at the Claretian Spirituality Centre in Krzydlina Mala. With almost all of Poland’s Claretians in attendance, Father Carlos Sánchez, CMF, General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life, led the gathering. The event welcomed 45 participants, including Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, who was there for the Canonical Visit, and the missionaries of the Province assigned in Burkina Faso, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic. The theme for the gathering was

CLARETIAN FAMILY



CLARETIAN FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION: STRENGTHENING TIES AND JOINT ACTIONS IN PADRE XIFRÉ DELEGATION

Bioko, Equatorial Guinea. The Padre Xifré Delegation celebrated the canonization anniversary of Father Founder St. Antony Mary Claret on May 7th also known as the Claretian Family Day in this area of the Congregation. The event took place in Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. It was attended by members of various branches of the Claretian Family, including Lay Claretians (MSC), Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate (MMI), and Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CMF). In Libreville, Gabon, the Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret (MC) and representatives from the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CMF) communities in the country also gathered. During the event, the participants strengthened their Claretian fraternity and shared suggestions and recommendations for the future.

Numerous suggestions were presented at the meeting to enhance the Claretian Family community in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. These proposals comprised arranging frequent gatherings, establishing uniform educational project standards following the Claretian values, conducting regular visits to the community, and collaborating on Solidarity and Mission projects. Additionally, there was a focus on encouraging and integrating Lay Claretian individuals into the Missionaries' initiatives.

PROFESSIONS

05/31/2023 Bangalore

Kujur, Govind
Seru, Sagar
Sikha, Kumar

05/31/2023 Chennai

Daniel A.

05/31/2023 Kolkata

Ekka, Jakrias
Judeson Abinesh, Alexander
Sahaya Rajan, M.

05/31/2023 Northeast India

Dkhar, Ricky
Nongkhlaw, Iohtheibok
Thomas, Francis

05/31/2023 St. Thomas

Mattathil, Kuriakose (Bony)
Myladumparayil, Sebastian (Aswin)
Thayyil, Thomas (Abin)
Thuruthippally, Joseph (Joel Joy)

ORDINATIONS

Deutschland 05/25/2023

Arockiasamy, Ugin Prem Kumar

Chennai 05/15/2023

Sebastin Jayaraj C.

Polska 05/27/2023

Szumny, Michał

CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

MAY 2023

05 Fr. Javier Eugenio Zuluaga Osorio, CMF

at 79 yrs. old in Cali, Colombia
Colombia-Venezuela Province

30

Fr. Manuel Jesús Arroba Conde, CMF

at 65 yrs. old in Madrid, Spain
Fátima Province

15 Fr. Marino Díez García, CMF

at 91 yrs. old in León, Spain
Santiago Province

N. Otsiba Jordi Cruff

at 26 yrs. old in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Padre Xifré Independent Delegation