



RADIATING FAITH, COMMITMENT AND A STRONG SENSE OF FRATERNITY

Kolkata Independent Delegation exudes faith, commitment, and a distinct sense of brotherhood. Despite challenges, the congregation flourishes with ample vocations and dedicated young Missionaries.

Fr. Bhyju V. A., CMF, the Major Superior, shared that the Kolkata Independent Delegation's current situation is very promising and optimistic. The delegation's daily routine revolves around prayer and worship of the Blessed Sacrament, demonstrating their dedication and commitment to serving God.

During this critical time, leadership and guidance are crucial. The delegation is currently facing challenges in terms of requiring strong leadership, efficient economic and institutional administration, and effective media apostolate and biblical ministries. It has been noted that the Delegation must establish strong leadership, competent economic and institutional administrators, and more effective media apostolate and biblical ministries.



CONTENTS

- THE SCHOOL OF THE HEART OF MARY FOR FORMATORS RESUMES
- REFLECTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE YOUTH MINISTRY COUNCIL
- CLARETIAN INVOLVEMENT DURING THE HLPF 2023 AT THE UN
- DEFENDING FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- STRENGTHENING MISSIONARY COMMITMENTS AND SYNODALITY
- ANNUAL RETREAT AND CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP EMPOWER MEMBERS IN INDONESIA
- ASCLA WEST SECOND WORKSHOP ON DISCERNING LEADERSHIP
- FIRST PERPETUALLY PROFESSED BROTHER OF ST. JOSEPH VAZ
- PILGRIM CONGREGATION, ROOTED IN FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
- THOUSANDS OF YOUNG CHRISTIANS MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL
- PROV. GOVERNMENT OF USA-CANADA 2023-2029
- XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LAY CLARETIANS
- 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOSTOLIC APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - CORDIMARIAN FILIATION (HICM)

The influence of the Delegation goes beyond the church, as it provides valuable services to the local community and society. These services include publishing Bible diaries in local languages and offering spiritual counseling. Additionally, the Delegation plays a crucial role in promoting positive societal change, particularly for those who are disadvantaged and marginalized.

According to the Major Superior, the Claretian Charism is one-of-a-kind. Although their service may seem like a small drop in the ocean, it is their way of positively impacting society. Their contributions include empowering women and youth, fighting poverty, and educating those in need.

The Delegation aligns its mission with several key initiatives, such as youth ministry, digital evangelization, interreligious dialogue, establishing counselling cells, and active participation in the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP).

Adopting the synodal decision-making method during the last General Chapter brought about a paradigm shift. The Congregation expressed appreciation for this method of discernment, revealing an openness to change and growth.

The Delegation is preparing for potential challenges, such as a lack of creativity in utilizing the ministry's specializations and materialistic tendencies among members. There may also be some mediocrity in fulfilling the mission. However, despite these obstacles, the vision remains clear and hopeful, reflecting God's dream for the Claretians in Kolkata.

The Major Superior expresses their desire for a Delegation consisting of enthusiastic missionaries who can creatively and prophetically address the challenges faced by youth. The Claretian Missionaries continue to remain steadfast in their commitment to providing holistic and transformative training to missionaries, serving as a source of inspiration and hope in Kolkata.

There are 57 Claretians in the Independent Delegation of Kokota, located in 10 houses and 4 residences. They support 1 mission and 13 parishes, as well as 5 schools and 3 hostels. Additionally, they have a Bible Ministry and Health Ministry that focuses on alternative medicine and therapy, including reflexology.



FORMATION

THE SCHOOL OF THE HEART OF MARY FOR FORMATORS RESUMES

Vic, Spain. From July 31 to August 26, twelve English-speaking formators from different parts of the Congregation, along with Fr. Joseph Mbungu, CMF, participated in the School of the Heart of Mary course in Vic, Spain.

The course had to stop during the pandemic and shifted to online sessions but is now back to face-to-face sessions. The formators had already taken most of the sessions online in 2021, so they only needed to complete the remaining topics and undertake the pilgrimage to Claretian places.

The program was divided into three stages: Vic, Barbastro, and Madrid. During the course in Vic, the formators refreshed their knowledge of the Congregation’s history, learned about the role and functions of a formator, and studied more about affective maturity and vocational growth. In Barbastro, they learned about the martyrdom aspect of the Congregation and formation. Lastly, in Madrid, they focused on staying up-to-date with the technological realities of the formands today and delved into the missionary life of our Father Founder in Madrid.

The course followed the methodology of “see, learn, and teach.” After reflecting on what they have seen, they apply and teach to the formands upon returning to their formation houses. Throughout the one-month program, personal reflection, prayer, and group work were essential components of their daily program.



REFLECTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE YOUTH MINISTRY COUNCIL

Rome, Italy. From August 10-17, the Youth Ministry Council met at the General Curia to plan the General Prefecture’s next three years. They discussed creating a new mission and pastoral structure, integrating the Claret Way Global Youth Network into Claretian ministry, and coordinating with continental teams of Youth Ministry. They carefully evaluated the Claret Way WYD in Lisbon 2023 and planned the Jubilee with youth in Rome 2025 and the WYD in Seoul 2027. They also addressed the need to align pastoral work with the youth ministry, discussed the new Claretian Vocation Directory, and promoted safe environments to prevent abuse. The groundwork was laid for collaboration with CLARET WAY and the team of Youth and Vocations Ministry leaders.

The Youth Ministry Council consists of the General Prefect Br. Carlos Verga, CMF, the Claret Way Global Coordinator, Fr. Luis E. Ortiz, CMF; Fr. John Obonyo, CMF, (ACLA); Fr. Martin Ele, CMF, (ASCLA East); Fr. Thomas Paingottu, CMF, (ASCLA West); Fr. João Luis Escaleira, CMF, (ECLA); Fr. Julio Arvez, CMF, (MICLA).



SOMI

CLARETIAN INVOLVEMENT DURING THE HLPF 2023 AT THE UN

New York, USA. The High Level Political Forum in New York, organized by the United Nations and known by its acronym in English (HLPF), serves as a platform to monitor and review the extent to which the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being achieved. Members of the Claretian United Nations Team stationed in New York, Frs. Rohan Dominic and Henry Ramirez, participated in the Forum, around which several hundred events, meetings and exhibitions were organized. This year’s forum focused on five goals: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (building partnerships to achieve the Goals).

The Coalition of Religious for Justice (JCoR), with which the Congregation collaborates closely, designed and carried out six-month accompaniment programs for religious men and women from various countries. Claretian teams from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela and East Timor participated in these programs, sharing experiences on the implementation

of the SDGs and some good practices taking place in their countries.

On July 17, a convocation fostered by the Congregation allowed the Claretians of some of the countries under special review this year to evaluate the extent to which their ministries and projects are helping to advance the SDGs and how they are collaborating in building a different world. Fr. Larry Miranda, Prefect of Apostolate of the Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province, moderated the event in which five experiences were presented by various missionaries:

1. The Claretian mission in Timor Leste and the implementation of SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. Jeremiah Nardin, CMF
2. Claretian experience in the implementation of SDG 6 in Tanzania. Dennis Mukam’Atuhe, CMF.
3. SDGs after COVID-19: Sharing post-pandemic experiences in Venezuela. Sujej Cuello.
4. The Claretian Mission in Congo and the SDGs: A strategic approach in a paradoxical context to achieve together SDG 6. Stephane Uyungu, CMF.
5. The problems of water and sanitation in Vietnam. Anthony Vo Tung, CMF.

DEFENDING FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chicago, USA. Tens of thousands of religious leaders from around the globe gathered in Chicago from August 14-18 for the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR), one of the most significant global interfaith events where people of all faiths meet to discuss issues of universal concern and to strengthen inter-religious relationships among them. More than 7,000 civic, spiritual, and grassroots changemakers from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs participated from more than 80 nations.

The Parliament unfolded in plenary sessions and hundreds of parallel encounters: theological, artistic and cultural exhibitions, performances and a film festival. It was also a good opportunity to get in touch with people and organizations working for peace, justice and sustainability.

ACLA STRENGTHENING MISSIONARY COMMITMENTS AND SYNODALITY



Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Padre Xifré Assembly took place from July 6 to 8 in two locations: Essassa, Gabon, and Bata, Equatorial Guinea. The Assembly brought together Claretians working in both regions, with Father Félix Obaga Bilogo, CMF, Major Superior of the Delegation, presiding over the gathering in Essassa, and Fr. Salustiano Oyono, CMF, Vicar of the Delegation, leading the meeting in Bata.

Father Felix spoke to the participants during the Assembly about the significance of unity, love, and a solid connection to the Church, Congregation, and Delegation. He referred to the journey as a synodal march and encouraged everyone to actively listen, reflect, and express gratitude to God the Father.

During the Assembly, they discussed various important topics, including mindsets and lifestyles, fraternal contributions, synodality, and SOMI. The Major Superior provided a report on the Delegation's

activities, covering outreach, youth-vocation, communication, finance, spirituality, community, formation, and vocation promotion

ASCLA ESTE ANNUAL RETREAT AND CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP EMPOWER MEMBERS IN INDONESIA



Benlutu, Indonesia. Indonesia-Timor Leste hosted its first annual retreats, along with the Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop, at the Wisma Claretian Retreat House of Benlutu. This was done in response to the request made by the XXVI General Chapter to use the gift of authority to serve the community in various roles and responsibilities, as stated in QC 57c and 62.

The event took place from February 1st to 14th, 2023, after the Karukutty workshop on Claretian Discerning Leadership in Kerala, India. The retreats and leadership training were divided into three groups, each consisting of twenty-eight participants, and took place from July 28th to August 30th, 2023. Each group lasted for nine days.

Frs. Valens Agino, Nikolaus Ilan, and Yoseph Ferdinandus Melo, CMFF, guided the participants through an insightful itinerary of modules immersed in the essence of Claretian Discerning leadership. These multidimensional sessions encompassed reflective discourses, enlightening presentations, introspective contemplation, and collaborative group exchanges. Incorporating these elements aimed to nurture leaders' capacity to interpret the divine will in their respective missions and roles.

A notable highlight of the retreat was the virtual engagement with Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, Superior General, facilitated through the Zoom platform. In his reflective discourse, Father General emphasized the collective longing for authenticity and the fundamental responsibility vested in leaders and individuals alike, urging them to champion authenticity within their immediate community.

ASCLA WEST SECOND WORKSHOP ON DISCERNING LEADERSHIP

Bengaluru, India. The second Claretian Discerning Leadership workshop of ASCLA West was successfully held at the Claret Nivas Carmelaram in Bengaluru. It lasted a week, from July 17 to July 23, with 32 participants. These participants were council members and Local Superiors from the five Major Organisms of India. The workshop continues the General Government’s Discerning Leadership Workshop that began in February 2023. Its goal was to provide attendees with the necessary skills and understanding to become effective leaders within the Congregation and the Church.

The training program was led by Frs. Anthony Bhyju, CMF (Kolkata), Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF (St. Thomas), and Regi Pymattathil, CMF (Bangalore). Fr. Paulson Veliyannoor, CMF, also assisted with one of the modules. Despite his busy schedule, Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, took the time to virtually address participants and provide inspiration during one of the sessions, making the workshop all the more meaningful.

The workshop covered a wide range of topics related to leadership and discernment, such as contextual understanding, Jesus’ teachings, Claretian principles, personality dynamics, synodality, conflict resolution, and polarity management. Attendees actively participated in group discussions, personal reflections, assessment tests, and various activities that aimed to improve their leadership abilities. ASCLA West Conference intends to conduct similar workshops in different locations to inspire its members and promote effective leadership within the community.

FIRST PERPETUALLY PROFESSED BROTHER OF ST. JOSEPH VAZ



Negombo, Sri Lanka. On July 19th, the Claretians of St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation in Sri Lanka had a joyful occasion where they witnessed the Perpetual Profession of Brother Alveenas Rojes, CMF, at St. Claret Seminary in Kattuwa, Negombo. The

ceremony was presided over by Father J.M. Joseph Jeyaseelan, CMF, Major Superior of the Delegation. This was a significant moment for the Claretians in Sri Lanka as Brother Alveenas became the first Religious Brother of the Delegation and the entire ASCLA West Conference. Many members of the Claretian Family from different parts of Sri Lanka were present, making it a moment full of grace and joy for the entire Delegation.

The celebration occurred during the Delegation Assembly, which was held from July 17th to the 21st at the same location as the ceremony. During the Assembly, attendees discussed the Circular Letter of the Superior General titled “Our Missionary Journey on the Synodal Path”. They formulated plans and actions to enhance the life and ministry of the Delegation. The plenary session of the Assembly focused on achieving the self-sustainability of the Delegation while also emphasizing the enhancement of ministries to meet current needs.

PILGRIM CONGREGATION, ROOTED IN FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST



Padua, India. Kolkata Local Superiors with the Delegation Council partook in an event that echoes the Congregational Dream for a “Pilgrim Congregation, rooted in faith in Jesus Christ” at the Holy Cross Retreat Centre in Padua.

The meeting was more than just an exchange of information; it was a spiritual refreshment that aligns with the dream of “a Congregation prepared to respond to new challenges through an integral and continuing process of formation, open to the universal mission.” Participants left the meeting further equipped to enact the Word of God in their communities, as cherished in the heart of the Congregation.

In resonance with the Congregational Dream, this meeting underlined the importance of having the “biblical animation of all pastoral ministry” as its starting point. Intelligent communication throughout the conference was an actualized commitment to evangelize using all possible means, fulfilling the Congregation’s aspiration to effectively communicate the Word of God.

ECLA

THOUSANDS OF YOUNG CHRISTIANS MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL



Lisbon, Portugal. Culminating a preparation of several years, the Claretian Family has taken advantage of the celebration of the World Youth Day to celebrate the first world encounter of the young people linked to the Claret Way Global network. More than one thousand four hundred young people, coming from thirty nations, shared a few days of encounter in Carvalhos, enjoying the hospitality of the Claretian communities and institutions, before joining the activities of the Day organized around the presence of Pope Francis in Lisbon.

Accompanying the young people of Claret Way Global were adults from seven of the eight branches of the Claretian Family, among them some 90 Claretian Missionaries from twenty-five Major Organisms of the Congregation. The Claretian-specific program included celebrations of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, moments of prayer and sharing, workshops, and a final day of retreat facilitated by the Claretian community of Cacém. The young people were able to meet, deepen their faith, celebrate it and cultivate their missionary spirit. Pope Francis invited them to meet in Seoul (Korea) in 2027 to celebrate the next World Youth Day.

MICLA

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF USA-CANADA 2023-2029

Fr. Paul Keller, CMF
Provincial Superior

Fr. Francisco Javier Reyes, CMF
Prefect of Formation

Fr. Thomas McGann, CMF
Provincial Econome

Fr. Jegan Reagan Soosai, CMF
Prefect of Apostolate

Fr. Eddie De Leon, CMF
Prefect of Personnel Development

NUNC 625 September 2023

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BRASIL 2023-2029

Fr. Eguione Nogueira Ricardo, CMF
Provincial Superior

Fr. José Heitor Vasconcelos de Menezes, CMF
Prefect of Apostolate

Fr. Wagner de Aragão Brito Sobrinho, CMF
Provincial Econome

Fr. José Valentim de Carvalho, CMF
Consultor

Fr. Marcos Antônio Mendes, CMF
Consultor

XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LAY CLARETIANS



Leioa, Spain. The Lay Claretians held their XI General Assembly in Leioa, Bizkaia, which coincided with the 40th anniversary of their recognition by the Church as a lay movement. The Assembly was attended by 80 laypersons from 16 countries, as well as five Claretian Missionaries who advised the Movement across different continents. The gathering lasted for a week and involved prayer, discussions, and joint work. The Spaniard Miguel Angel Sosa was re-elected Secretary General of the Movement, and he will work alongside the General Council composed of the Peruvian Bruno La Hoz, the Guatemalan Silvia Rodríguez, and Fr. Pedro Belderrain, CMF, General Advisor. The Assembly was originally meant to be held in Peru, but the Province of Sanctus Paulus's generosity allowed the event to be hosted at the Askartza Claret School, and it was a complete success. One of the most exciting moments was when the Assembly members connected with the General Chapters of the Claretian Missionary Sisters and the Missionary Sisters of the Claretian Institution simultaneously. The encounter was attended by a good number of Claretian Missionaries and representatives of other institutions of the Family. Though the policy of granting visas to the European governments prevented the presence of assembly members from different nations, Africa was represented in the encounter by three lay people from Nigeria, one from Congo, and the Claretian advisors of Cameroun and Congo. Of the nearly 1,600 Lay Claretians, around 500 live in African nations, and none of them had been able to participate in the Assemblies of the last twenty years.

CLARETIAN FAMILY



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOSTOLIC APPROVAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - CORDIMARIAN FILIACTION (HICM)

Roma, Italia. Worldwide members of the Daughters of the Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary, commonly known as Cordimarian Filiaction, gathered at our General Curia in Rome on August 15 to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the approval of the Institution as a Pontifical Institute.

The celebration began with a Family gathering, in which, in addition to the members of Cordimarian Filiaction and a good number of Claretians from the communities of Rome, the Claretian Missionary Sisters and the Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret were present. Presiding at the table were Carolina Sanchez (General Directress of Filiaction) and Frs. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF and Efren Limpo, CMF. The meeting recalled the history of the Institute since its conception by our Father and Founder and its present reality. The pair of shoe relics of our Father Founder, that are kept in the museum of Vic, was on display throughout the session and even during the Eucharistic Celebration.

At noon a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated, presided by Father General. Two bishops from India (passing through the General Curia) and a good number of members of the Claretian Family joined in the Mass. During the Eucharist, three members of the Institute renewed their consecration: María Abelaira (for the first time), Rosario Ruiz (for the second time) and María Armas (for the fifth time). The morning ended with a lively fraternal lunch.



CALLED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

JUNE 2023

- 19 Fr. José María Gomez Asensio, CMF**
at 88 yrs old in Rosario, Argentina
Province of San José del Sur
- 22 Fr. Víctor Pérez Pacheco, CMF**
at 89 yrs old in Morelia, Mexico
Province of México
- 25 E. Porfirio Martínez García, CMF**
at 87 yrs old in Colmenar Viejo, Spain
Province of Santiago
- 29 Fr. Florentino Mendes Pereira, CMF**
at 93 yrs old in Tondela, Portugal
Province of Fátima
- Fr. Ángel María Sanz Garro, CMF**
85 years old in Zaragoza, Spain
Province of Santiago

JULY 2023

- 5 Fr. Jesús Eulogio Vázquez Gutiérrez, CMF**
at 91 yrs old in Colmenar Viejo, Spain
Province of Santiago
- 20 Fr. Antonio Ibáñez Díez, CMF**
at 89 yrs old in Zaragoza, Spain
Province of Santiago
- 22 Fr. José Antonio Blanco Sanabria, CMF**
at 81 yrs old in Oviedo, Spain
Province of Santiago
- 31 Fr. José Luis de Mata Martínez, CMF**
at 92 yrs old in Colmenar Viejo, Spain
Province of Santiago

AUGUST 2023

- 3 Fr. Edgar Zamudio Llano, CMF**
at 53 yrs old in Zamboanga City,
Philippines
Province of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo
- 6 Fr. James Boothman, CMF**
at 83 yrs old in Leyton, UK
Province of Fátima
- 10 Fr. Vincent Paul Raj S.**
at 60 yrs in Tirusulam, India
Province of Chennai