



A RENEWED LOOK AT THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

The Synthesis Report published by the 16th General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality offers reflections and proposals on various topics, including the role of women and the laity, the ministry of bishops, priesthood, and the diaconate, the importance of the poor and migrants, digital mission, ecumenism, and abuse. The report emphasizes the need for openness to listening and accompanying all, including those who have suffered abuse and hurt in the Church. It addresses the structural conditions that abetted such abuse and requires concrete gestures of penitence.

Mission is one of the key aspect of the Synod Assembly, requiring Christian communities to enter into solidarity with those of other religions, convictions, and cultures. In this new pastoral style, it is important to make liturgical language more accessible to the faithful and more embodied in diverse cultures. The report emphasizes the poor, who ask the Church for love, respect, acceptance, and recognition. The most vulnerable are the unborn and their mothers, who require constant advocacy.



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Commitment of believers in politics and for the common good is urged, including public denunciation of injustices and active engagement in politics, associations, trade unions, and popular movements. The consolidated action of the Church in education, health, and social assistance must not be neglected without discrimination or exclusion.

The General Assembly of the Church focuses on the needs of migrants and refugees, who often bear the wounds of uprooting, war, and violence. They are called to practice an open welcome, accompany them in constructing a new life, and build a true intercultural communion among people. Respect for the liturgical traditions and religious practices of migrants is fundamental, as is respect for their language.

Combating racism and xenophobia requires equal commitment and care from the Church, primarily through pastoral formation. The Assembly also looks to Eastern Europe and the recent conflicts that have caused the flow of numerous faithful from the Catholic East into territories with a Latin majority. Local Latin-rite Churches must help the Eastern faithful who have emigrated preserve their identity and cultivate their specific heritage without undergoing assimilation processes.

On the road to Christian unity, the Synthesis Report speaks of a spiritual renewal that requires repentance and healing of the memory. It mentions Pope Francis' expression about an "ecumenism of the blood" and the proposal for an ecumenical martyrology. Collaboration among all Christians is a resource for healing the culture of hatred, division, and war that pits groups, peoples, and nations against each other.

The Synthesis Report emphasizes the importance of dialogue and dialogue in the Church, particularly in consecrated life. It warns against an authoritarian style that makes no room for dialogue, and highlights cases of abuse experienced by religious life and lay associations, especially women. The report also calls for deepening dialogue between human sciences to consider controversial matters within the Church, such as identity, sexuality, the end of life, complicated marital situations, and ethical issues related to artificial intelligence.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Vatican City. From October 4 to 29, Rome hosted the Synod on Synodality. The event brought together nearly 400 voting members, including lay people, women, young people, and delegates from other churches. This was a significant milestone as it was the first time laypeople and religious women were given the right to vote. Of the 364 members, 25% were non-bishop members, and 54 were women. The Synod's unique approach to communication, which involved conversation in the Spirit, prayer, meditation, and silence, created space for the Holy Spirit to work. The Synod aimed to transform the Church while retaining its core values by walking together, guided by the Holy Spirit, and addressing pastoral challenges. This kind of Synod could lead to a collective conversion and fundamentally alter the Church's operation and existence.

CONGREGATION FROM A SPARK TO A FIRE BURNING UNCEASINGLY

The Jubilee Commission, in collaboration with the Claretian Spirituality Center (CESC) and iClaret, has produced nine videos to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of our Congregation. These videos showcase the history of the Congregation from its inception to the present day. The videos will be uploaded gradually on [iClaret's social media](#) platforms and the Jubilee section of the website starting from October 1. The videos will focus on the passion of St. Anthony Mary Claret for preaching the Word of God and how this passion continues to inspire his followers even today. Fr. Miguel Angel Gil, CMF from the Province of Santiago provided the video edition.

Titles of the nine videos:

Episode 1: *"Igniting the Spark": Introduction*

Episode 2: *"Nourishing the Fire": Background and foundation.*

Episode 3: *Stoking a Community Flame: From a Mission House to a Religious Congregation (1849 – 1868).*

Episode 4: *Expanding the warmth of the mission. The First Great Expansion (1868 – 1899)*

Episode 5: *Keeping the flame alive. Consolidation and Second Great Expansion (1899 – 1922)*

Episode 6: *Rising from the Ashes: Optimism, Destruction and Martyrdom (1922 – 1939)*

Episode 7: *Lighting the Way to the Centenary. First Centenary of the Congregation until Vatican II (1939 – 1962)*

Episode 8: *A Breath of Fresh Air. Vatican II, the Conciliar Renewal, and the New Constitutions (1962 – 1986)*

Episode 9: *Burning with creative fidelity. Creative fidelity and new horizons (1986 – 2024)*



CLARETIANS REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO A CULTURE OF CARE

Rome, Italy. Seven Claretians met in Rome from 18 to 23 September to discuss the consequences of the Congregation's commitment to creating safe environments and eradicating all forms of abuse. The missionaries, with diverse experiences in communication, law, education and relationship with victims of abuse, met with the Superior General to deepen the topic. The meeting was enriched with contributions from practically all continents.

As the Congregational Dream does, Claretians are invited to intensify their commitment to a culture of care, offering safe environments in which people can grow humanly and Christianly. Emphasis was placed on the importance of placing victims at the centre of any approach and on taking concrete steps to redress the horrors they have suffered. The importance of fostering a culture of respect, accountability, transparency and care was also stressed. Efforts to prevent and combat abuses have been noted with joy in many places. It is hoped that in a few months the Congregation will be able to equip itself with new protocols and guidelines that update those approved in 2019.

REALIGNING THE CLARETIAN VOCATION DIRECTORY TO MODERN-DAY REALITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

Rome, Italy. The commission to review the Claretian Vocation Directory met in Rome from 11 to 23 September. The group addressed a number of topics, combining personal reflection with group dialogue, reviewing the changes that have occurred in the last twenty years in the world, the Church and the Congregation. The study focused on three specific questions: the interpretation of a broad consultation of formators and in charge of youth ministries in 2022, the current teachings of the Magisterium, and the evolution of the Congregation in its vocational approaches since 2000.

The work of the group, coordinated by Fr. Joseph Mbungu-Mutu and Br. Carlos Verga, CMFF, was accompanied by Fr. Lucas Emanuel Smiriglia, of the Fraternity of Diocesan Worker Priests of Quilmes (Argentina). The Commission stressed the desirability of updating the Claretian Vocations Directory to better integrate the current reality and better promote vocations. Time was devoted to the content of the document, its structure and contents.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

FORMATION FOR AUTHENTIC MISSION IN 21ST CENTURY AFRICAN CHURCH



Abuja, Nigeria. The Institute of Consecrated Life in Africa (InCLA) held its 6th International Theological Conference in Abuja from September 26 to 29. Esteemed guests, including Cardinal Peter Ebere Okpaleke and Claretian Bishop Hilary Dachelem, attended the event. The conference focused on “*Formation for Authentic Mission in 21st Century African Church.*” Cardinal Okpaleke delivered the keynote address and other notable figures such as Frs. Peter Okonkwo and Jude Thaddeus Langeh, CMFF, also spoke. Scholars presented papers on communal formation, the mission of African

consecrated individuals, and the role of information in shaping the Church’s mission. Msgr. Donatus Ogun, Sr. Veronica Openibo, and Rev. Fr. Dr. Idara Otu were among the presenters. Group discussions allowed representatives from 27 congregations to exchange ideas and experiences. The conference concluded with Fr. Jude Thaddeus Langeh, CMF, presenting the *communiqué*, expressing gratitude for the fruitful discussions, and praying for participants’ safe return to their congregations.

ITVCA REINFORCES ITS COMMITMENT TO CONSECRATED LIFE



Córdoba, Argentina. The Theological Institute of Consecrated Life of America (ITVCA) recently held a significant meeting in Córdoba. The meeting involved the Executive Council and Board of Directors of the Institute, including representatives from various Provinces and Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, the General Government’s representative for Theological Institutes of Consecrated Life.

The meeting began with a review of the Institute’s history and commitment to Consecrated Life. Despite the brief time, the Institute has organized spiritual exercises, consulted in General and Provincial Chapters, and developed training programs.

The gathering also discussed future directions and opportunities for collaboration with other Institutes of Consecrated Life. One of the critical resolutions was the decision to establish a physical location for the ITVCA, which would allow the Institute to acquire its independent legal status.

The decisions made during the meeting align with the vision of the Claretian Congregation, which aims to prepare missionaries for new challenges through comprehensive training and promote fraternity, justice, peace, and environmental care. The meeting was considered a significant step forward for the ITVCA and its commitment to Consecrated Life in the Americas.

ASCLA BIBLICAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES IN INDONESIA WITH A FOCUS ON BIBLICAL ANIMATION



Bandung, Indonesia. The Claretians in Asia celebrated their Biblical Assembly in Bandung from September 17 to 23, intending to spread the Word of God better and emphasize the importance of Biblical animation in pastoral ministries.

The assembly brought together participants from the ASCLA East and West Major Organisms. It focused on equipping missionaries in Asia with effective study methods and resources for accurate interpretation and application of Scripture. Parish ministry was highlighted as a platform for spreading the Word through various means, including liturgical celebrations, catechesis, retreat preaching, and Bible study programs. The assembly also recognized challenges in Biblical apostolate, such as a lack of competence, inadequate preparation among missionaries, and a shortage of lay collaborators. To address these issues, a specialized Bible Animation Team has been formed to manage and supervise different aspects of Bible ministry. The assembly also emphasized the importance of embracing digital tools and platforms to effectively communicate and engage people from diverse backgrounds in the age of artificial intelligence. The Conference's Media and Communication Team will lead initiatives to improve biblical literacy and launch Bible ministry across all digital platforms.

Additionally, the assembly called for a commitment to regular interfaith dialogue to promote mutual understanding, respect, and peaceful coexistence in a world characterized by religious pluralism. The participants left the assembly with a renewed commitment to the Word of God and a mission to speak in an inclusive manner that respects all religions as they continue to spread the message of Christ in Asia and beyond.

CLARETIAN COMMUNITIES EMBRACE THE SEASON OF CREATION WORLDWIDE

Claretian communities worldwide embraced the Season of Creation, a month-long celebration dedicated to prayer, reflection, and concrete actions for conserving and protecting the planet's ecology. St. Thomas Province initiated the event, which set the stage for initiatives to safeguard the environment.

The Claretian Family worldwide received an invitation to participate in the month-long celebration, with a prayer-reflection prepared by Fr. Efrain Vasquez, CMF, fostering a sense of togetherness. Our missionaries from various parts of the world are actively pursuing ecological initiatives, such as a seminar on caring for creation among novices in Cameroon, raising awareness through a video and flyers in Honduras, planning a month-long environmental care and education program in the Democratic Republic of Congo, focusing on ecological education in Indonesia, and preparing meaningful celebrations for the Season of Creation in Mexico.

MEETING OF ECONOMES OF THE CONGREGATION



Vic, Spain. From September 7-16, the Congregation organized an Economes Meeting in Vic intending to establish a "stable patrimony" at both the Major Organism and General Administration levels. The event was organized by the General Prefecture of Economy and covered various aspects of economic management for the Congregation, from fundamental principles to intricate details. Newly appointed Economes after the XXVI General Chapter attended a training course from September 4-6. In addition, 13 individuals visited the Provincial Administrations of Santiago and Sanctus Paulus to gain practical knowledge of their organizational structure.

The coincidence of the meeting with the Jubilee year of the Congregation gave a special colour to the stay in Vic, where the brothers took the opportunity to visit the Claretian places and learn more in depth about the experience of Saint Anthony Mary Claret and his first companions.

ACLA

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE YEAR THROUGH THE INTER-SCHOOL BIBLE COMPETITIONS

Jinja, Uganda. In celebration of the Jubilee Year of the Congregation, the Andres Solá Claretian Philosophy Formation House in Jinja organized a Bible Quiz and Biblical Skit competitions for primary and secondary schools. These competitions aimed to highlight the importance of the Word of God and encourage students to participate in Bible-related activities actively. Seminarians visited primary and secondary schools to gain cooperation and provide orientation classes.

ASCLA East

21-YEAR JOURNEY CULMINATES: CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES ORDAIN PRIESTS IN VIETNAM



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. On September 8, the Claretian Missionaries of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province in Vietnam celebrated the priestly ordination of Rev. Ho Sy Nam and Nguyen Hoang Vung, CMFF, at Tan Lap Parish in Ho Chi Minh City. This ordination was a significant milestone, as it marked the official recognition by the Vietnamese government of the Claretian presence in the country. During the ceremony, it was emphasized that embracing the Claretian charism as missionaries was paramount, especially among the poor and marginalized. The Most Rev. Joseph Nguyễn Năng, the ordaining bishop and Metropolitan Archbishop of Ho Chi Minh City urged the newly ordained priests and all Claretians to remain united with the Lord.

The ceremony marked a new chapter in the Claretians' mission in Vietnam, showcasing their resilience and dedication to spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ, particularly in regions where the Catholic faith remains a minority.

INNOVATIVE GOSPEL PROJECT TO PROMOTE SCRIPTURE STUDY

Hong Kong, PRC. Claretian Publications Hong Kong launched “*The Gospel of the Liturgical Year*,” a four-year initiative to deepen understanding of the

Gospels and promote scripture study among the faithful. The project, which focuses on the Gospel according to St. Mark, is packaged in a pocket-sized format similar to a standard cell phone. The project features embedded QR codes that provide access to commentaries by Italian Biblical Scholars, Fathers Fernando Armellini and Claudio Doglio, providing a profound understanding of the Gospel text. The Pastoral Bible Foundation and Claretian Publications Hong Kong have translated the original Italian videos into English, Spanish, Chinese Cantonese, and Portuguese, ensuring global accessibility. They are available at www.bibleclaret.org.

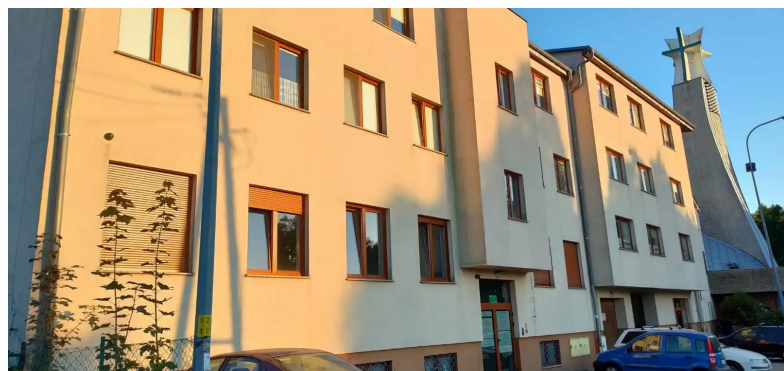
ASCLA West

SYNODAL WAY OF FOSTERING COMMUNITY GROWTH AND COMMUNION

Karukutty, India. The Local Superiors of St. Thomas Province gathered at their Provincial House in Karukutty, Kerala, from August 24 to 27 to discuss the synodal way of fostering community growth and communion. The meeting included presentations on various aspects of community life, such as spirituality, apostolate, economics, and youth engagement. On the second day, the focus was on assessing concerns and challenges related to transformation processes, and a new initiative, the “Mission Audit,” was proposed to be conducted half-yearly. The event concluded with an open forum, where Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF, Provincial Superior, invited participants to share their views. He also announced that 67 members would be joining a leadership training program. St. Thomas Province is committed to spiritual growth and community development, embracing the synodal way to strengthen communion and fellowship within its members.

ECLA

NEW PROVINCIAL CURIA OF POLSKA PROVINCE



Wrocław, Poland. On September 1st, Bishop Jacek Kiciński, CMF, blessed the new Provincial Curia of the Province of Polska in Wrocław. Previously in Warsaw,

the new Provincial House includes the Secretariat Office, Provincial Archives, Council Room, and media and cyber-missionaries. Following the blessing, attendees recited the midday prayer's psalms. The new address of the Provincial Curia is now:

**MISJONARZE KLARETYNI
KURIA PROWINCJALNA**
ul. O. Bujwida 51
50-345 Wrocław, POLONIA
Tel: +48 726 466 150

MICLA

SOMI MICLA OPENS WITH JOY A NEW STAGE



Lima, Peru. About 60 participants from all over the Americas took part in the IV Assembly of SOMI MICLA. They highly appreciated the dialogues and moments shared during the seven intense working days. The highlight of each day was the Eucharist, a reminder of the continent's martyrs and the many victims of violence, ill-treatment, femicide, disappearances, wild extractivism, torture, labor exploitation, and abuse of minors and vulnerable persons.

The presence of the General Prefect of Apostolate and the Coordinator of the Claretian team working at the United Nations demonstrated the affection and closeness of the rest of the Congregation, already visible through the large number of missionaries from Africa, Asia, and Europe who are stationed in American communities. The participants included young people, educators, missionaries in formation, mission procurators, prefects of apostolate, and representatives of the Lay Claretian Movement, the Claretian Sisters, the Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret, and the Theological Institute of Consecrated Life of America. The Assembly involved a discussion of important texts of the Social Doctrine of the Church, including *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*. The Claretians of America renewed their commitment to various causes, such as supporting migrants, indigenous peoples, environmental care, and human rights. During the Assembly, various nations and fields made concrete commitments that

were visible to all. These commitments included caring for children and youth, promoting integral health, training leaders, raising awareness, supporting peace and reconciliation processes, offering pastoral care to the deaf and people with special needs, and providing assistance to migrants and refugees.

The next Assembly will be held in 2026. Until then, the continental team, comprised of lay people and Claretians, will be coordinated by Paola Pastor (from Bolivia), who succeeds Emilia Sena (from Uruguay). The participants thanked the care and preparation of the meeting by the Claretian Family of Peru-Bolivia.

QUINQUENNIUM: EMBRACING THE CLARETIAN CHARISM



Cúcuta, Colombia. As part of the Congregation's 175th anniversary celebrations, the Interprovincial Quinquennium program of Colombia-Venezuela and Colombia Oriental-Ecuador Provinces was held on September 11 in Cúcuta. The event was attended by eleven young missionaries from Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador who shared their missionary experiences and received training on discerning leadership. The gathering aimed to develop identity, loyalty, and missionary service within the Congregation and their respective Organisms. The participants received a warm welcome from the local community of Cúcuta, who showed great kindness and hospitality.

During the event, the young missionaries got the chance to meet Claretians from diverse backgrounds and learn about the different faces that constitute the Congregation. They acknowledged the importance of interculturality and prayed together, seeking inspiration from Jesus' mission. They strived to embody the Claretian charism through their communitarian and missionary identity. Various activities were organized to strengthen their identity, commitment, and missionary dedication as members of the provincial communities where they serve. The gathering filled them with joy and provided a platform to share their experiences.

CLARETIAN FAMILY



WATER IS LIFE PROJECT OF CAMEROUN, WINNER OF THE 2023 CLARET-LIFE AWARDS

Rome, Italy. The Claret-Life Awards 2023 declared the *Water is Life* project as the winner. The project aims to provide drinking water to communities in Cameroon. The second prize was awarded to the Youth Communication Networks for their *Care of the Common Home*, promoted by the Claretian Missionaries of the Province of Centroamérica. The third prize was given to the Bethany Project, which aims to promote the reception and integration of migrants in Seville, Spain. The Claretian Missionaries expressed its gratitude to all seven candidates who presented their commitment to the defense of life, justice, peace, and care of the Common Home. They also highlighted the collaboration between laypeople and men and women religious in the projects, which reflects the identity of the Claretian Family. The General Government looks at the 2023 edition of the Claret-Life Awards as an expression of the commitment to universal brotherhood, justice, peace, and care of the common home encouraged in the Dream about the Congregation discerned at the 2021 General Chapter. The winners were selected by the WYD participants Claret Way Global.

CALLED TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

SEPTEMBER 2023

8 Br. Juan Palomo Sánchez, CMF

at age 77 in Seville, Spain
Fátima Province

9 Fr. Luis Maqueda Pacheco, CMF

at age 96 in Granada, Spain
Fátima Province

15 Br. Julio Martínez Fernández, CMF

at age 79 in San José, Costa Rica
Centroamérica Province

22 Fr. Pedro García Henández, CMF

at age 98 in Panama, Panama
Centroamérica Province

25 Br. Antonio Fors Cabré, CMF

at age 90 in Barcelona, Spain
Sanctus Paulus Province

25 Sch. Iohteibok Nongkhaw, CMF

at age 28 in Umsning, India
Northeast India Province

28 Fr. José Beruete Murugarren, CMF

at age 87 in Zaragoza, Spain
Santiago Province

PROFESSIONS

03/06/2023

Perú - Bolivia: Selvakumar R. (Alwin Thomas)

17/06/2023

Perú - Bolivia: Dan Manh, Quyet / Funelas, Jeric Jon / Sungga, Makarius

15/07/2023

East Asia: Chen, Yuan Man (Stephen) / Wang, Deng Gao (Thomas)

16/07/2023

Indonesia-Timor Leste: Amaral, Cesar Agostinho / Boleng Lonek, Albinus / Cole Putra, Mario Fredrikus / Laja Wea, Antonius / Neong, Yulius Cerlyono / Paing, Reneldus Maryono / Siki, Bernardino Vicente

16/07/2023

Padre Xifré: Asumu Mokuy, Romualdo Dionisio Ondó / Nzoho Ndong Asue, Antonio José / Osa Avomo, Juan Etoho

19/07/2023

St. Joseph Vaz: Alveenias, Rojas

10/08/2023

Cameroun: Ankiambom, Wilson Tim / Doulanni, Norbert / Essomba Onana, Simon Armel / Noah Embolo, Albert Pascal

Polska: Ekra, Koménan Alphonse Maria

13/08/2023

Antillas: Fenelús, Luc Paul André / Jean, Jubou

15/08/2023

USA - Canada: Medina Jr., Norberto

08/09/2023

Antillas: Jean Louis, Clifford

East Nigeria: Chima, Kenneth Chinecherem / Ede, Joseph Nnabuiké

Polska: Dubaj, Dymitr