



Prot. SG 77/2023

March 18, 2023

Dear brothers,

We celebrate the Claretian mission day -2023 in the context of a world emerging out of its tussle with the Covid-19 pandemic with the lessons we have learned from it. The best and worst of humans also manifested in the way we lived the pandemic. We face a still worse “spiritual pandemic” that has been infecting human hearts, which manifests itself now in the current scenario of some armed conflicts and wars and other forms of violence that continue wounding human fraternity and harming the health of our common home.

When we perceive our human ‘oikos’ (household) to be in a deteriorating condition, it is the task of all to weave our relationships better (*Fratelli Tutti*) and restore our common home (*Laudato Si*). The Church plays her role in this endeavor as the “universal sacrament of salvation” (LG 48), “a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race.” We situate ourselves and our ministries within the big picture of the mission of the Church.

“Build my Church” was the mandate that St. Francis received from the Lord at a difficult time in the 12th Century to initiate a spiritual renewal in the society of his time. Now in the 21st Century, we hear the call of Pope Francis for a synodal Church in which we all walk together, listening to each other and God.

God is present in us and amidst us, rendering humanity a temple of God. St. Paul reminds the community of Corinth asking, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you” (1 Cor 3:16). The sense of the sacredness of each person, the human community and the creation is vital to promote respect for life and the care of creation. Places of worship are both reminders of “God with us” and the *locus* for worship and gathering of people for spiritual and social purposes.

The General Mission Procura and the mission procures of Major Organisms have been networking together to coordinate the Claretian efforts to empower the people in the various peripheries of human suffering where we are sent in mission. Let us, therefore, “enlarge the space of our tent” (Is 54:2), making space also for others having the same mind of Christ among ourselves (cf. Phil 2:4-5).

The theme of the Claretian mission day 2023 is to build the Church, both the community of the people of God and the structures necessary to gather together for worship and mutual assistance. Let us walk forth together making efforts to build life-giving communities which make Jesus’ Dream, the Kingdom of God, a real experience in our midst.

God bless you all.



Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF
Superior General

