



CLARET VIDA AWARDS

CARE FOR AND DEPEND LIFE

THE CLARETIAN WAY IN THE NORTHEAST INDIA



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"...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."– John 10:10

Impelled by these words of Jesus we the Claretian missionaries in Northeast India Independent Delegation assume the role of shepherding the faithful, especially by catering to their spiritual and life enhancing needs. Located primarily among the various indigenous communities in the states of north-eastern India, our mission centres have become the face of God to the needy, neglected, and the underprivileged through our apostolate.

The way we promote and preserve life: the significant practices

Nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, and accompanied by the community, we strive to make the words of Jesus, of giving life, a reality among the people under our care, especially in parishes, schools, youth groups, and in the society at large. Below mentioned are a few significant practices that we have in our major organism.

1. Leadership formation: We strongly believe that each one is capable of being a leader, provided they are guided and helped. Today we boast of lay leaders in our parishes who after having been trained by us, have become agents of change in their respective localities. Formation of the Small Christian Communities in the parishes has brought not only the spiritual growth, but also love and care for each other by bringing them together for every concern of the individual, family, village, parish and society. It has enabled them to take decisions, such as helping a poor family, accompanying a young student, cleaning the roads, etc. Now it has become a part of their daily life to be regular to these practices.
2. Sticking to the gospel values, we aim at a holistic human formation of the people under our care. Learning the numerous languages and cultures that are present in these diverse contexts, has been of great significance in apprehending and applying in the preaching and the practice of the gospel values.
3. Promotion and preservation of the indigenous languages through the publication of the Bible Diaries: In the recent years, we in the northeast India, have brought out Bible Diaries in various indigenous languages such as Khasi, Garo, Bodo, Karbi, Kokborok, and Rongmei. This is helping the faithful to have the daily readings and reflection at their convenience in their own language, thus nourishing their inner life.
4. Fight for human rights: whenever there is a human rights violation, we stand against it. We condemn such violations by undertaking awareness movements



- and processions. We not only condemn such activities, but also pray for brotherhood and peace. In the recent communal violence in Manipur, we expressed our solidarity through the support of NavJan.
5. Emphasis on the moral life: What was unacceptable yesterday is become acceptable today, due to the current trends, especially issues related to life such as abortion and contraception.
 6. Taking care of the planet earth: we are educating the students, and the faithful about the need of protecting the environment. We observe all the significant days such as the environmental day, earth day, world water day, world wildlife day, world population day, etc. we make certain resolutions on those significant days, and strive to achieve the goals. For example, we plant some saplings, and make sure that they are cared well to grow into trees.
 7. Formation of past student groups/ alumni: past students from our educational institutions and formation centres are brought together occasionally to be in touch with our ministry, thus enabling them to share our ministry. They are responding positively, especially when we need their expertise and support. This sort of connectivity with them is bringing changes in their lives to be united for genuine human needs.
 8. Family visits: family visits by the pastors and the principals is a common practice which is bringing about a great change in the families, especially in the broken families. United in prayer, the families and the individuals are accompanied, guided to overcome the brokenness. Often the soothing words, expression of consolation and a short prayer by us in the families are well remembered. This in turn helps them to develop a sense of solidarity with the suffering brethren.
 9. We conduct creative programs and activities in the educational institutions to raise awareness on the current issues of religious intolerance, growing unemployment, corruption, e-waste, time management, career guidance, etc. we believe it helps them
 10. Collaboration and continuation with the activities of the other provinces: We are inspired and helped to accompany the needy through the efforts of Project Vision and Mother's Meal Scheme of the Bangalore Province. We, under the NavJan Trust carry out various activities of expressing our solidarity with the suffering and the needy. In the past three of years, during the corona widespread, thousands of people received help through the trust.
 11. We are using and promoting solar energy and solar products for daily use such as for hot water, light, etc.
 12. We acknowledge the services of those in the protection of humanity, especially doctors, health care workers, politicians, religious leaders, farmers, religious instructors, etc. we honour them and listen to them.
 13. We are promoting the theology of the body and the natural family planning system in and through the talks, and homilies.



14. We do auction and other activities of fund rising to provide for the needs of the less privileged. We do it in the school level and also in the parish level. This helps them understand the struggle of the people to lead their lives, and thus they become tenderer hearted with the qualities of love and affection.
15. We promote the culture and the traditional practices, giving them a new meaning. Thus, they are not alienated from their culture and traditions.
16. We are going digital. We are helping our people for the responsible use of the technology. We have the official website and Facebook page of the delegation. With these we are in constant touch with the general public. Besides these, most of the educational institutions also have websites active.
17. We have a few qualified psychologists who are guiding the distressed and disappointed. They are counselling the people who truly need their services, beginning with schools to family apostolate.

These may be a few of the ways in which we are making a positive change in the lives of our people. We don't just confine ourselves to providing something for their needs, but we are working on enabling them to stand on their own by helping them initially. Our presence in these missions which are mostly at the India- Bangladesh international borders brings us a new identity as the BSF (Border Security Fathers). Embracing the struggles and deprivations for the sake of the mission, we continue to trust in God, and work for His people.