

# HA-MEBASSER

MESSENGER  
OF GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
CMF General  
Prefecture of YVM

## YOUNG PEOPLE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT AT UNIVERSITY

Points for reflection on pastoral care with young university students in the Final Document of the Synod (2018) and the exhortation Christus Vivit.



Photo by Gabriel Mansito CMF



### 01 PASTORAL CARE WITH YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN USA

Byron Macías and  
Bibin Joseph CMFF

### 02 PASTORAL CARE WITH YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN POLAND

Mateusz Cyganik CMF

### 03 PASTORAL CARE WITH YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN ARGENTINA

Gabriel Mansito CMF

### 04 PASTORAL CARE WITH YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SOUTH KOREA

Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF

### 05 STORIES OF VOCATION

A. Etwino Ganti CMF

Ha-Mebasser 2024/01



**CONTACT  
US**

Email : [prefpju@cmfgen.org](mailto:prefpju@cmfgen.org)  
Address: Via del Sacro Cuore di Maria, 5.  
00197 - ROMA (Italia)

“Lord Jesus,  
your Church looks to all the young people of the world.  
We pray that they may courageously  
take their lives into their own hands,  
to aim at the most beautiful and the most profound things  
and always keep a free heart.  
Accompanied by wise and generous guides,  
may they be helped to respond to the call  
that you direct to each one of them,  
to realise their own life project  
and attain happiness.  
Keep their hearts open to great dreams  
and make them attentive to the good of their brothers and sisters.  
Like the beloved Disciple  
may they too be under the Cross  
to welcome your Mother, receiving her as your gift.  
May they be witnesses of your Resurrection  
and know how to recognise you alive with them  
joyfully proclaiming that you are the Lord. Amen.”



[click here for more prayers from hozana.org](http://hozana.org)

# YOUNG PEOPLE, FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY

## THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXPERIENCES WE SHARE

Carlos Verga CMF



Photo by Carlos Verga CMF

Some reflections from the Final Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops, "Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment" (2018) and from the post-synodal exhortation of Pope Francis "Cristus Vivit" to young people and to the whole People of God (2019) on the pastoral care with young university students and in the university help us to frame the Claretian experiences that we want to share:

- The realisation of the significance of welcoming everyone regardless of religious options, cultural background or personal, family or social situation. The contribution of an integral education of young people that unites educational work and human promotion with the witness and proclamation of the Gospel; all the more remarkable when it is inspired by intercultural and inter-religious dialogue (cf. The young... 15).
- The importance of working by projects rather than by sectors so that the pastoral proposal is more unified and coherent and responds integrally to the needs of young people. The need to help them to unify their lives, to read in depth their daily experiences and to discern them (cf. The Young... 141).
- The invitation to have a significant presence in these educational environments where young people spend a large part of their time with qualified teachers, specific chaplaincies and an adequate cultural commitment (cf. The Young... 158).
- The call to promote the creativity of young people in science, art, poetry, literature, music, sport, the digital world and the media among other similar areas that help them to discover themselves and be available to serve the common good (cf. Youth... 158).



- In his exhortation the Pope takes up and deepens many of the points made in the Final Document of the Synod. However, he addresses himself directly to young people... "through you the future enters the world" and encourages them to live fully as protagonists of change in the world and the Church (cf. ChV 171. 174. 176).
- It is necessary to renew and relaunch schools and universities "going forth in mission" such as the experience of the kerygma, dialogue at all levels, interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, the promotion of the culture of encounter, the urgent need to "create networks" and the option for the least, for those whom society discards and throws away, integrating the knowledge of the head, the heart and the hands (ChV 222).

Indeed, university environments are called to be a privileged place to listen to young people and to grow together with them, creating platforms of dialogue and evangelisation that strengthen the culture of encounter. The exchange about their intellectual and existential concerns build bridges of communication between us that enrich us mutually.

The keys of encounter, dialogue and the shared journey together with others favour the cultural dialogue between them and the Church. The Campus Ministry with young university students is invited to accompany them in these years that open them to the future and to commitment, unleashing together with them processes of personal, intellectual and spiritual growth. In this way we can also offer them a space for vocational discernment in which they feel called to love and service in the various forms of Christian life, including professional and family life.

We are committed to offer them concrete and creative proposals that respond to their needs and desires so that they find belonging through their active participation in the ecclesial community.

In the Congregation there are several experiences of working with young university students and in universities. In this and future issues of Ha-Mebasser we want to make them better known among us. In this way, by sharing the good practices that take place among us, we also sow seeds of missionary creativity that can germinate in their own way in other congregational contexts.

Rome (Italy)  
April 2024



# SAINT PAUL CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, USA

Byron Macías CMF



Photo by Byron Macías CMF

The second week of March 2024, some student leaders and the Claretian priest were setting up for adoration with our college students. Then, the Claretian

received an emergency call to anoint a dying person. One of the students went along with the Claretian to tend to this person. On the way back, the student said: “wow, the missionary life is necessary.” The Claretian, said to him: perhaps God is calling you to be part of it.” He answered: “Perhaps... I have been reading about St. Antony Claret.” We returned to the Newman for our Holy Hour. After that, the student asked me about a Claretian Come and See Vocation Retreat. He may be joining the other five other college men from the Fresno Newman Center already attending the retreat...

On the other hand, four other amazing college students who, three years ago, became the founding parents of our Claretian Youth Group at the Newman Center in Fresno. Out of their generosity of time and talent, and in the midst of school loads and work, every Tuesday they come to lead the Claretian Youth Group. They want to be part of Claret’s dream: to know, love, serve and praise God! They want to evangelize!

Our Catholic Campus Ministry is the only one who serves all university Catholic students in the city of Fresno. We reach out to students in Fresno State University; Fresno Pacific University; Clovis Community College and Fresno City Community College. Our home base is St. Paul’s Catholic Newman Center. At our place, we have created a place for students to pray, come and learn, complete sacramental formation and learn to be missionaries in the style of Claret.

We have a special Student Mass every Sunday at 7:00 pm. On Wednesdays, we have Student Nights in which we have fellowship, a



meal and formation. We have two catechetical programs: Tacos and Theology and Ecclesiology 101. Monday is Bible Study Night. Friday nights are game nights. This year, we have started to have Mass and Confessions at different university campuses. The students see a church going towards them and meet them where they are and that compels them to embrace the gift of God; it also impels them to do something about their faith. They step up in missionary leadership, think about their vocation, and feel at home in the Catholic Church.

Of course, there are several challenges that we face: from the lack of personnel, resources and a standardized Claretian curriculum to enrich our Campus Ministries. Yet, there is always hope that our Holy Founder intercedes for us and provides for our mission!

Our mission at the Saint Paul Catholic Newman Center in Fresno is small yet full of hope and hope never disappoints! The Spirit of Saint Anthony Claret is clearly helping us and showing us the way through our Claretian General Government support, our Provincial support through our Prefect of Apostolate and by the prayers of all our faithful!

We started this ministry almost five (5) years ago.

Fresno, California (USA)

March 2024



Photo by Byron Macías CMF



# CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY (CCM), SPRINGFIELD, MO

Bibin Mathew CMF

---

## **A brief description of the pastoral service**

**we do at CCM:** The primary goal of the campus ministry program is to reach out to college students, empower them in their

faith and provide them with a great community where they can grow. Growing in relationship with Christ and growing confident in Catholic faith are our two focuses. Among an estimated 3000 catholic students spread through three campuses (Missouri State University, Drury University, Ozark Technical College) we have been able to reach out to a lot of people and have been able to serve at 400-500 students (15%). That is blessing and a challenge at the same time on secular campuses.

**Peer ministry program and leadership training:** We selected through interview process 9 student leaders and through mentoring, and formation equip them to run/lead various aspects of our ministry like faith formation, social and special events, media and communication, stewardship, Greek life, outreach events, men's and women's ministry, vocational discernment, liturgical training, service projects etc.

**St Claret Knights of Columbus College Council # 11182:** The student KofC council grew substantially in number and in authenticity of their brotherhood last year. They are the powerhouse for the men's ministry at CCM. Our council has 30 men as member. They help the student community and the communities around them with their service.

**Liturgical Life:** CCM was able to provide a great ambience for the students to grow practicing their sacramental life. Beautiful liturgical music led by student choir, a lot of opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation, daily Mass in addition to two Sunday Masses, lector training, 9pm candlelight Mass on Thursdays, Mass on campus etc. make this community truly centered around Christ. Eucharistic revival in daily life has been a great goal and achievement last year. (Sacramental



Photo by Bibin Mathew CMF



availability: 2 Sunday Masses (11am, 7.30pm), 7 weekday Masses are offered at 12.15pm (Mon-Fri), 4pm (Tue), 9pm (Thu), 7.15 hours of adoration and 4.15 hours for confession every week).

**Mission trip and cultivating the sense of mission:** 10 Students joined our mission trip to Christ in the City, Denver, CO. The mission involved training students to encounter homelessness around us. Street walks in the city of Denver, and encountering our



Foto de Bibin Mathew CMF

homeless brothers and sisters in the street, having lunch with them in the park were amazing ways to grow better as humans. We are so proud of the 2 students Savannah and Alyssa, inspired by their mission trip, are going to serve a whole year as missionaries at CIC Denver and CIC, Philadelphia.

**Bible study /Small groups:** The 12 small groups are the microcosm of our community where students feel accepted, have life-giving conversations, make life-long friends and learn to share life experiences. Around 100 students took advantage of these small groups.

**SLU Course on St Augustine's Confessions and Sexuality and Gender in Catholic Thought:** In partnership with St Louis University, Dr Andrew Mercer taught a course on St Augustine's Confessions last year and this year 20 students take Sexuality and Gender in Catholic Thought.



Photo by Bibin Mathew CMF

**Laudato Si conversations:** A small group of students initiated green conversations in the light of Church teachings and discussed how to help and heal the planet. The group was able to generate a lot of awareness about reducing, reusing and recycling and also about green lifestyle.





**Social and service projects:** Catholic Campus Ministry we voted MSU's the best student organization last year with all the service projects and social involvement we were able to carry out.

**SEEK, 23&24 Conference in St Louis:** We took 115 students to this amazing national faith events where 20000+ students participated. The event helped build our community better and growing deeper in faith.

## **THE EVANGELISING SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PASTORAL APPROACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Great focus on outreach:** in an effort to evangelize we could reach out to international students, Greek students, fallen away Catholics, athletes, LGBTQ+ students, neighboring parishes etc. In the past couple of years, we witnessed over a dozen suicides of students from the campuses we serve. In response, our evangelization efforts were rooted in Benedict XVI's quote: It is good that you exist. To underscore the gift of life was our game plan.

**Ambience of growth:** CCM welcomes every student and includes every one without judgment. And then our staff and student community accompany them in their journey of growth. The number of students attending our faith formation programs grew substantially in recent years. Our RCIA had 14 students and faith lessons are attended by 25 students on average.

## **THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES**

**(1) Anti-Catholic propaganda:** Anti-Catholic feelings are so prevalent on campus. We are at the receiving end of Drag queen bingo and other mockeries. We made a lot of efforts to engage the university community to collaborate toward the good of the students.

**(2) Diversity and inclusion issues:** When it comes to diversity issues, the LGBTQ issues kind of monopolize the diversity department. There is this prevailing bias that Catholic church is non-inclusive. Galatians 3:28 ministry to address gender issues has been great so far.

**(3) Traditional Latin Mass influence (Potential division within):** College/university Campuses are kind of mission territories. They are a kind of peripheries within. They require great patience, great outgoing, and great missionary fervor. Missionaries who have seen different worlds are great assets to campus ministry to build unity among diversities and differences.





Photo by Bibin Mathew CMF

desire for hope, health and holiness. This has led to great Cordimarian devotion on campuses. Consecration to the Immaculate heart of Mary has grown as a hallmark of campus ministry spirituality.

Springfield, MO (USA)  
April 2024

## THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY YOUTH MINISTRY AS A MISSIONARY SERVICE IN THE CMF CONGREGATION

(1) College/university Campuses are kind of mission territories. They are a kind of peripheries within. They require great patience, great outgoing, and great missionary fervor. Missionaries who have seen different worlds are great assets to campus ministry to build unity among diversities and differences.

(2) Bible study groups are the life blood of campus ministries. They are like the tributaries to a great river. There's great potential Claretians can offer.

(3) The toxic subcultures of every campus have given birth to a deep



Photo by Bibin Mathew CMF



# YOUTH MINISTRY WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN WROCŁAW, POLAND

Mateusz Cyganik CMF



Photo by Mateusz Cyganik CMF

## OUR EXPERIENCE IN WAWRZYN

As Claretian missionaries we run an academic pastoral in Wrocław called "Wawrzyn", whose patron saint is St. Lawrence. It is a community founded by Fr. Stanisław Orzechowski, a diocesan priest who developed a fruitful pastoral activity in the 1980s. He educated several generations of pupils, working with them for more than 40 years. Father Orzechowski passed away in 2021 and it is now the Claretians who run this ministry.

Our pastoral work with young people has an evangelising character. Together with the students, we lead retreats in the schools and meet with young people preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. In our youth ministry we have a group that promotes our community among young people. Our students are actively involved in charity work. They also visit

disabled people and elderly people who need help.

Modern times present us with many challenges. I would like to write briefly about the most important ones. First of all, Poland today is facing a wave of secularisation. People are committing more and more acts of apostasy and fewer and fewer students are attending catechism classes. Attendance at mass and religious services is also declining. The number of unbaptised is increasing. We also have fewer and fewer candidates for the priesthood. The old methods of evangelisation are no longer effective among young people. So we face the challenge of finding new ways to reach out to modern man. I will try to identify the 3 most important challenges:





Photo by Mateusz Cyganik CMF

### **(1) Decrease in the number of believers**

Statistics clearly show that the faith of Poles is weakening. People in Poland read the Bible less and less, take less and less advantage of the sacraments or do not agree with the Church's teachings on morality. The Church is losing its authority in educating the young generation. In our pastoral ministry we try to organise retreats, formation meetings, conferences for couples, seminars (schools) for the renewal of faith. We meet regularly to pray together at the daily Eucharist, the rosary or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **(2) Reluctance of young people to be in community with others**

The covid-19 pandemic has shown that it is possible to live basically without leaving home. Many young people have become accustomed to this way of functioning. Relationships with

others are largely maintained through instant messaging. For young people, the other person is often a problem. It is more comfortable to live in a virtual reality. That's why we try to create many initiatives that teach young people how to build real relationships in the real world. We organise retreats, trips to the mountains, watching valuable films. We also have a music group and a liturgical altar service, which helps young people to encounter each other and Jesus during the Eucharist.



Photo by Mateusz Cyganik CMF



### **(3) Scandals involving clergy and lay believers**

In Poland, many cases of immoral lives of Church people are coming to light. These negative examples are quickly and widely reproduced by the media. They perpetuate a bad image of the Church among young people. Of course, it is good that difficult situations are talked about, but there is a disproportion: there is very little talk in the public space about the good behaviour of priests and lay believers. The Church community is more and more negatively associated by many people. That is why we try to make sure that we give a good and joyful witness to life as a Claretian missionary. We also take care of our community life so as not to give others cause for offence.

Campus ministry is important as one of the mission ministries for young people. As one of the

student pastors, I am also Campus ministry is important as one of the mission ministries for young people. As one of the student pastors, I am also responsible for youth and vocation ministry. As part of my work in this ministry, I organise a meeting for young people (15 years and older). Years ago this event was organised by the Claretian seminarians. Today our seminary has only 2 seminarians, so I have shifted the burden of organising this event to our students. They work actively as volunteers giving a beautiful witness of faith to participants younger than them. If it were not for the students I would not have been able to organise meetings for young people.

In conclusion, I can only say that students are the future of our Polish Church. It is not easy for them to witness the faith among their peers. As Claretian missionaries, we must support them and help them to grow in faith.

Wrocław (Poland)  
April 2024

Photo by Mateusz Cyganik CMF



# PASTORAL WORK WITH YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN CÓRDOBA (ARGENTINA)

Gabriel Mansito CMF



Photo by Gabriel Mansito CMF

## LETTING OURSELVES BE PIERCED BY THE VIEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

*"Young Catholics are not merely recipients of pastoral action, but living members of the one ecclesial body, baptised in whom the Spirit of the Lord lives and acts. They contribute to enriching what the Church is, and not only what she does. They are its present and not only its future. Young people are protagonists in many ecclesial activities, in which they generously give their service, in particular by animating catechesis and liturgy, caring for the little ones and volunteering with the poor" - Young people, faith and vocational discernment 54.*

The Catholic University Centre - El Tambo is located in the centre of the city of Cordoba, Argentina.

This centre is run by the Congregation of the Claretian Missionaries, prioritising young people as one of its three preferential subjects in the mission.

El Tambo is a theological space where the synodal God is manifested day by day through the life of the young people who are part of this community, since all the activities carried out by the young people are the protagonists of the different processes.

In the axles of this community, the young people are protagonists in the programming and initiatives that are carried out. For this reason, an advisory board was set up in which the young people take

part in the decisions, execution and planning.

The same experience, the searches, dreams and tastes of the young people who attend this house, led little by little to form different communities. Each community is represented by two leaders who, in dialogue with the advisors/facilitators, lead, organise and look for ways for us as a house to move forward.

All this is based on a three-year plan, which is flexible and open to radical changes. In this way, the aim is to achieve a shared and synodal path in which everyone becomes responsible and in solidarity with the different proposals that arise in daily life.

*"Starting from the young people can be a good start to rethink proposals, itineraries and processes with them, instead of acting on them" (Iván Ariel Fresia SDB).*





The fact that the planning is rooted in the young people creates an atmosphere of family, tenderness and joviality. The belonging and diversity of the youth in the family community of El Tambo inspired the advisors and referents to summarise their own quests and dreams in the following objective:

*"To generate with the university youth, spaces of encounter with Jesus, with themselves and with others, accompanying their life projects in order to favour areas of personal and community transformation in the light of the Gospel, and which translate into ever greater vocational responses and commitment."*

(El Tambo Planning).

At present, five different communities are being accompanied, each with a different rhythm, which are shaping their sense of community:

- **Soplo de Vida** is a community of musical animation that accompanies liturgical celebrations and provide guitar and singing workshops.

- **Corazón de María** is a community of folkloric dances that creates a significant space of oxygenation in the studies and is open to other young people who are not part of the centre.

- **Yerba Mate** is a community with a strong social commitment. They visit and accompany people in situations of social vulnerability. This experience of solidarity leads the young people to a greater social commitment.

- **Azártica** is a space for recreation and play for communities to integrate with each other. The experience of play is an essential part of youth life and young people weave healthy and deep bonds in an atmosphere of fun.

- **Centu - "Centurión"** is a community that seeks to accompany those who are discovering their sexuality, as this can sometimes be a challenge. They offer a space for reflection, encouraging especially those who feel tension between their sexuality and religion.

Allowing ourselves to be



Allowing ourselves to be challenged and to be traversed by the different views of young people has made it possible for these spaces to exist.

*"It is not a question of creating a new Church for young people, but rather of rediscovering with them the youth of the Church, opening up to the grace of a new Pentecost" (Young people, faith and vocational discernment 60).*

These communities are the fruit of the life of the youth, in the communal discernment and commitment of each one of them we find an opportunity to rejuvenate as Church.

The missionary task of the Claretian Missionaries who live in the house is to facilitate the processes through proposals or "transversal axes" that thread the life of all the communities.

This is achieved through the horizontality and dynamics of the polyhedron proposed by Pope Francis: All voices are heard, and from there, proposals arise such as retreats, encounters, formation workshops, missions, meetings of leaders, meetings between advisors, shared dinners, prayerful reading of the Word of God, celebration of the Eucharist, the event "Todos/as a la Mesa", where a bread and sausage sandwich

(choripán) is shared with the brothers and sisters in street situations, camps, peñas (festivals), among others.

There is consensus on the definition of Youth Ministry as *"the organised action of the Church to accompany young people to discover, follow and commit themselves to Jesus Christ and his message, so that, transformed into new men and women, and integrating their faith and their lives, they become protagonists (active agents) in the construction of the Civilisation of Love"* (CELAM).

The word organised evokes the idea of being connected and united. It is for this reason that all youth ministries must bear in mind that the community plays a fundamental role in the growth and commitment of people, both on a human and spiritual level.

The pastoral of Tambo is based on the spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret. One cannot be a Claretian without proposing community as an essential and constitutive part



Photo by Gabriel Mansito CMF





of our charism in the Church.

Thus, El Tambo becomes a place of welcome and encounter, where dreams and longings are interwoven, where life is accepted as it comes, without judging anyone and where challenges are faced in order to achieve a more fraternal, solidary and jovial life.

The years that have passed show that community, solidarity and dedication to others, in meaningful encounters, continue to be a life option for the different young people.

There is no community without discernment. Discernment must be part of all our ecclesial communities.

Pedro Trigo tells us that discernment "is, therefore, to distinguish the various components of a complex situation and to grasp the way in which they are related, so that each one and its relationship can be worked on, and thus reaffirm that situation and transform it."

Discernment helps us to recognise the changes in the world, to seek God in our lives and to leave behind old ways of thinking in order to engage with the present. It helps us to go out and discover in our world those signs of the times and from there, to make new processes possible.

Córdoba (Argentina)  
April 2024



# YOUTH MINISTRY WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SOUTH KOREA

Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF



Photo by Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF

In this article, I would like to introduce the ministry with university student of the Claretians in Korea. In the Independent Delegation of Korea, university student ministry is a good model of shared mission in collaboration with the diocese and has been active for almost a decade now.

First, let me briefly explain how university student ministry is organized in Seoul, Korea. There are more than 30 universities in Seoul, and in each university there are groups of Catholic youth. In order to manage and accompany these Catholic youth groups, the Archdiocese of Seoul has appointed two diocesan priests to be in charge. However, it is difficult for these two priests to accompany practically all of the Catholic youth groups in more than 30 universities. So, while these priests are responsible for the pastoral care of university students in the entire Seoul area, the Archdiocese of Seoul also invites religious to work with them to spiritually accompany the Catholic youth groups in each university. In the end, each university has a religious accompanying the students in the Catholic youth groups in that

university.

We Claretians are in charge of the Catholic student group at Korea Aerospace University. We meet with the students once a week during the semester. The meetings take place in a variety of ways, including lectio divina, Taize prayer, attending Mass at a local parish, visiting holy sites in Seoul, and short retreats. These times allow the students to stay connected to God and the Church in the midst of their busy school lives. We Claretians meet regularly with these university students and listen to them, striving to help them stay spiritually nourished and grow closer to God.

However, it is not easy to fulfill this ministry within the realities of Korean society. We face some major challenges. For example, indifference to religion and a competitive social atmosphere.

In Korean society, people are increasingly disinterested in God and religion, and this is especially true among young people. The number of young people is getting smaller and smaller, and it is even harder to find Catholic youths





Photo by Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF

among that smaller number. The number of students participating in Catholic youth groups at universities is declining rapidly, so the average number of students we see each week when we meet is three or four.

The competitive social atmosphere in Korea also makes it difficult for students to be interested in religion. In Korean society, it is very difficult for young people to get a job. No matter how many hours they study, no matter how many important certificates they obtain, it is not easy for them to survive the competition. This atmosphere makes young people give up on spending their time on many other worthwhile things. They are not interested in anything other than studying or meeting for their careers. Catholic youth groups are not the kind of groups that really help people get a job, so they are not of much interest to university students.

These realities are certainly a great challenge to us. But at the same time, they are also the reason why

we need to be even more concerned and passionate about university student ministry. These regular meetings provide a space for university students to rest in the midst of their competitive reality. It reminds young people that there are more important values in a society that considers secular success and wealth to be the priority in life. It helps university students realize that they are not the only ones who want to find God and live according to God, so that we can share the story of God together as a small community within the university, fostering human and spiritual growth.

There is one more reason why this ministry is important for Claretians in Korea. The Korean Independent Delegation does not have parishes or schools, so this group of university students is the only group of young people that we can meet with on a regular basis. Therefore, ministering to these university students is important for us Claretians. As we accompany them, we also grow along with them.



This is a brief description of our ministry with university students in Korea. May God always be with us, leading us in His ways and kindling the fire of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our Korean Claretians and young people in Korea.

Seoul (South Korea)  
April 2024



Photo by Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF

Photo by Rafael Lee Seungbok CMF



# STORIES OF VOCATION

## MY EXPERIENCE AS A CLARETIAN IN SPECIALISATION AT THE GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Aloysius Etwino Ganti CMF



Photo by Etwino Ganti CMF

Hello, I am Etwino. I am a Claretian missionary and a priest. I made my first religious profession in 2013 and my perpetual profession on 24 October 2019. I was ordained as a priest on 18 December 2021. I belong to the independent delegation of Indonesia-Timor Leste. These two beautiful countries are in southeast Asia.

After two years of living my missionary experience as a young Priest in Indonesia, I received another appointment from my superiors to continue my formation as a missionary. I was sent to Rome to study the theology of spirituality. This was a surprise to me. I didn't think about coming to Rome and continuing my studies. I just wanted to live out my missionary vocation together with the community and people in the parish where I was sent before. But as missionaries, we must also be ready to accept things that are outside our plans. In this sense, I accepted this appointment also as a way of living my missionary life. I am grateful to my superiors, and my congregation for granting me this occasion to continue my life as a Claretian missionary in this way.

Now I am in the second semester of my study at the Gregorian University in Rome. I thank God for the experience of study in these two semesters above all the first semester which I found very challenging. It is not easy to adapt to new situations, the language that we use every day, the classes, and the new culture. I thank God because with His providence these situations help me to be more mature as a person. The challenges also helped me to learn to be more faithful and aware of the presence of others. I am very grateful that during the first months in this place, I was helped by so many people so that I did not feel alone and could keep going. I'm also grateful to so many people who support me and always pray for me.

As a Claretian undergoing a study of spirituality including Ignatian spirituality which offers me the opportunity to find sources that have also touched Fr. Claret's heart. He admired and imitated St. Ignatius of Loyola and was very attached to the spiritual exercises. St. Ignatius Loyola thus



became one of the co-patrons of the Claretian Congregation. Despite my limited understanding of the language, I was able to gradually discover things that were useful for my personal growth, intellectually, spiritually, as well as humanly. The experience of living in the curia community and other experiences in Rome also helped shape me in my journey as a Claretian missionary. I did not ask for this mission, but it is a gift. I can only be grateful for this blessing and hope that little by little I find the best way to be dedicated to this study. Through the experience of studying in Rome, I will be able to carry out my missionary service better and hopefully, there will be good things that I can bring back home as a gift to the local congregation as well as a gift to the people I will meet in the future.

Happy Easter!

Rome (Italy)  
April 2024



*Texts translated into English by DeepL,  
revised and corrected by Mrs. Margaret Fox.*