

# HA-MEBASSER

MESSENGER  
OF GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
CMF General Prefecture  
of YVM

## THE WEB OF THE WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE CLARETIAN FAMILY.

SIGNIFICANT STEPS OF  
CLARET WAY GLOBAL IN  
THE CMFF AND CF  
COMMUNITIES.



Foto de Jenis Coonghe Warnakulasooria CMF



Ha-Mebasser 2024/03

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## **PRAYER TO MARY**

Mary, Mother of the young and  
model of faithful listening:

We ask you to inspire in us  
the deep desire to accept  
the Word of God as you did,  
keeping it and meditating on it  
in our hearts.

Teach us to allow ourselves  
to be transformed by her,  
so that she may enkindle in us  
a living flame that illumines  
the path of our life and helps us  
to discern God's loving will.

May this Word transform us  
into passionate disciples,  
full of love for Jesus  
and committed to our neighbors,  
especially those most in need.

Mary, accompany our journey so that,  
like you, we may be witnesses of faith,  
hope and charity in the world.

Amén.

# THE WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE CLARETIAN FAMILY

SOME SIGNIFICANT STEPS OF CLARET WAY GLOBAL IN THE CMFF AND CF COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

Carlos Verga CMF



Foto de José María Vegas CMF

The Claretian spirit is alive and dynamic in the world. The worldwide network of young people of the Claretian Family is opening channels and helping it to manifest itself strongly among the youth. It is a reality that impels us to walk with hope, encouraged by the future that we glimpse.

This issue of Ha-Mebasser reflects how the fabric of the Global Youth Network of the Claretian Family is being woven. Claret Way Global is called to be a global network that connects hearts and youth cultures for the Claretian following of Jesus. In different parts of the world, from the Philippines and East Asia to Equatorial Guinea in Africa, passing through India and Sri Lanka, Europe and America, young Claretians respond with courage and creativity to the challenges of our time, guided by the four cardinal points of the network: to know, to love, to serve and to praise God, infecting others to do the same.

Claretian Youth and Vocation Ministry faces a world full of challenges, but also unique opportunities. Today, as never before, young people are searching for a purpose that transcends borders and limitations. Under the guidance of St. Anthony Mary Claret, the Claret Way Global is consolidating as a path of discipleship, community and mission for them in our communities and pastoral structures.

This bulletin reports on some of the significant steps taken by the global network, highlighting initiatives that are making an impact on the lives of young people: from vocational encounters to youth festivals, all focused on Christian leadership, the rooting of faith in one's own life and solidarity with others.



From the cultural and spiritual richness of the Claret Way gathering of East Asian youths held in the Philippines to the transformative momentum shared at the National Youth Days in Equatorial Guinea, these events underscore the capacity of young people to weave networks of light and hope.

This same spirit has inspired the work of Claret Way in Europe, which in its path of consolidation has created spaces for dialogue, discernment and communion to strengthen a common Claretian identity. Each story, each testimony that we present here is a reminder that, despite cultural differences, young people share the same mission: to live and spread the Gospel in the spirit of Claret.

That all of us, youth and adults, renew our commitment to the service of Claretian vocation animation and Claretian youth ministry. So that, strengthened in the mission shared with the Claretian Family, we can grow in the missionary dream of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Roma, Italy.  
November 2024.

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# **WE ARE CLARET WAY!**

## **EAST ASIA NETWORK YOUTH MEETING IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Martin Ernest Ele CMF

### **WE ARE THE CLARET WAY!**

The looming southwest monsoon and typhoon Gaemi threatened our plans, casted shadows over us and led to some flight cancellations. Visa issues for some of our participants entering the Philippines, which is hailed as the Pearl of the Orient Seas, presented a significant challenge. Economic concerns compounded the problems even more. In addition, news of a COVID-19 that surged across Southeast Asia put a risk to the camp delegates and to our preparations. Amid these challenges, however, we were able to wove together a colorful tapestry of cultures—from the rich traditions of the Malay race to the delightful noodle culture; and from the infectious energy of K-pop to the enchanting scents of unique spices. These were reflective of the diversity and mutual understanding, and of a determination that remained strong. as We embodied the Claretian spirit.

### **CELEBRATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

To be able to lead the young people to follow Jesus in the style proposed by St. Anthony Mary Claret, the CLARET WAY ASIA- EAST's celebration, in 2024 was held from July 25 to 31, 2024 in Ormoc City, Leyte, Philippines. It was a joyous and spirit-filled event, but was not without its challenges. Our delegates, mostly young people accompanied by Claretian priests, came from the Claretian parishes and communities across the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, East Timor, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and India.

Although many of the delegates could not understand and speak the English language (which was agreed as the common language to be used), their mere presence spoke volumes. Their presence echoed fervor reminiscent of the fervor which moved the first disciples of Jesus to spread His message of love to the world.



Foto de Carlos Verga CMF



As a result of the diversity of culture and personal preferences, the meals brought the delegates together and created a sense of community. To respect each culture, staple food, rice, was cooked in different flavors - from mild to fiery, and sweet to savory. This bringing together of the different flavors was a simple gesture of bringing together the uniqueness of the different cultures.

Moreover, nobody felt different despite the diversity of Asian skin tones. Acceptance and valuing of each other's differences was strongly evident among them.



### **STANDING AS BEACONS OF HOPE AND LIGHT**

As followers of Jesus in the style of Claret, the young Claretians, are beacons of hope and light. Having been greatly enlightened and strengthened after the sessions on the Holy Spirit: Spreading, Flame and Spirit, we had a sense of renewal and eagerness to respond to the call to mission. We experienced how God is alive and is truly present in our lives, hence, we are aching to live a life in the Spirit, to live the Gospel and to spread the flames of God's love. We are moved to become missionaries in our respective communities, sent by the Spirit in the likeness of our Mother Mary and Claret.



### **A SHARED MISSION AND APOSTOLIC PURPOSE**

This gathering was a moment of grace for the members of the Claretian Family- Cordis Mariae Filius (CMF), Religious of Mary Immaculate Claretian Missionary Sisters (RMICM), Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret (MC),





Fraternidade Eclesial Claretiana (FEC) and some lay Claretians. It strengthened their Claretian Spirit, missionary enthusiasm and collaboration. Their commitment and active presence during the event affirmed that the missionary dream of St. Anthony Mary Claret is still alive.

Their presence was also a testament to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the church, that multiple vocations exist, yet are bounded by the same purpose of living and following of Jesus Christ in the style of Claret.

### **An Impact That Lasts**

“WE ARE THE CLARET WAY!” was more than just a shout. This phrase was our anthem, a declaration of our identity- belonging to the Claretian Family. It was also a proof of our bond and sustained unity.

It captured the essence of the gathering - that despite differences, we share a common mission and vision. This was what bound us all. This unity in diversity enriched our community and taught us to endure with patience.

This CLARET WAY ASIA- EAST 2024 was a period of challenges and changes. It was a momentous time of grace. It was clear that each of us was part of something greater - a movement of hope, unity, and mission.



“WE ARE THE CLARET WAY!” was echoed as an affirmation of our collective spirit and purpose.

“WE ARE THE CLARET WAY!” was not just a clamor or a call, nor was it just a commitment. It was an attestation to our being a family. It was clear that we are not just individuals but a family. We are family of hope, faith, and unity. We boldly declare, “WE ARE THE CLARET WAY!”

Quezon City, Philippines.  
October 2024.

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Foto de Carlos Verga CMF



Foto de Carlos Verga CMF



Foto de Carlos Verga CMF





# EMBRACING FAITH, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

## CLARET WAY FESTIVAL IN BANGALORE PROVINCE

Jaipaul Thumma CMF

The Claret Youth Festival, held from October 8th to 10th, 2024, in the Bangalore Province, gathered young participants from diverse backgrounds in a vibrant and spiritually charged atmosphere.

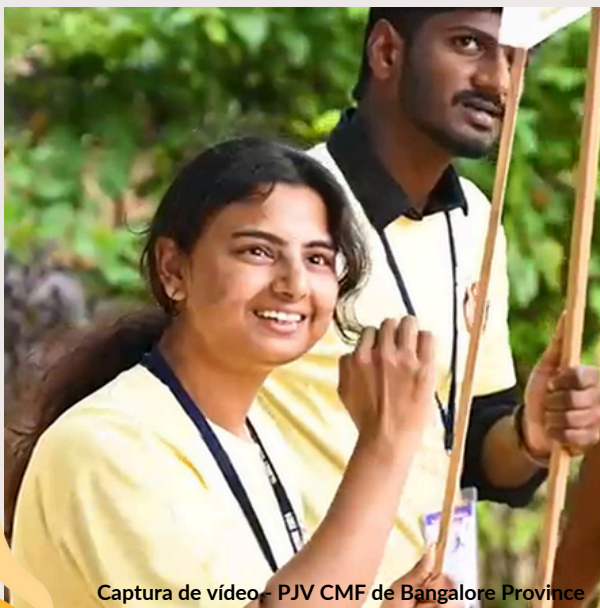


Foto de Jaipaul Thumma CMF

Organized with the overarching theme **“Embracing Faith, Leadership, and Community,”** this year’s event aimed to equip young Claretians to address the unique challenges of the modern world.

### EMBRACING FAITH

The first day, dedicated to embracing faith, opened with a spirited celebration as the youths, led by artist Mr. Marshon Fernandes, came together through dance, music, and joyful expressions of faith. The energy of the gathering set a lively tone for the days to follow, creating an environment of mutual celebration and reverence.



Captura de vídeo - PJV CMF de Bangalore Province

The day formally began with a Mass, where Fr. Mathew, Superior of the Claret Community, Medchal, delivered a profound homily encouraging the youth to strengthen their faith and to witness God’s love through service to one another. Fr. Mathew reminded participants that recognizing others as brothers and sisters in Christ brings blessings to the entire community.





Reflecting the cultural diversity of the group, the responsorial hymn was sung in Punjabi, the offertory hymn in Kannada, and the communion song in Malayalam, each led by youths from different parishes.

Following the Mass, the festival was inaugurated with a ceremony attended by key dignitaries. Rev. Fr. Sabu George, Provincial of the Bangalore Province, hoisted the Claret flag as a symbol of unity and purpose, while Rev. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, Provincial Superior of Thomas Province, Kerala, led the youth in an oath of commitment to a life rooted in faith, leadership, and community-building.

An inspiring keynote address was delivered by Dr. Babu Rao, a retired IPS officer. He outlined the influence that Christian values had on his life and urged the youth to “be the salt of the earth.”

Using the symbolism of salt, he spoke on the themes of purity, taste, and preservation, encouraging the young participants to embody purity in their actions, foster healthy relationships, and act as preservers of righteousness within their communities.

The afternoon was filled with engaging skits, group activities, and discussions that focused on faith and unity. The formal events concluded with an energetic praise and worship session led by Fr. Vijay Joseph and his team, creating a spirit of joy and devotion.

The day ended with a lively campfire, as participants gathered around in fellowship, singing and celebrating with an air of gratitude and connection.



## EMBRACING LEADERSHIP

The second day of the festival focused on cultivating leadership, drawing inspiration from the life and example of Jesus. The morning began with a worship session led by Fr. Chinanna and Fr. Martin T., providing an opportunity for the youths to reflect on their purpose as leaders guided by faith.

After breakfast, Mr. Marshon Fernandes engaged the youth in high-energy activities, further strengthening their enthusiasm for the day's sessions. The leadership workshops were designed to resonate with the youth's aspirations, with talks centering on the values of empathy, integrity, and resilience. Mr. Cyril Joseph delivered a motivational address, urging the young attendees to "dream big" and view themselves as "disciples" tasked with creating positive change. Through interactive activities, the participants visualized their aspirations and discussed ways to overcome obstacles, laying the groundwork for a future of responsible and compassionate leadership.

A key highlight of the day was the "Run for Jesus" marathon, which saw approximately 450 youth from eight states participate in a joyful and reflective procession from Ganapuram to Sacred Heart Jesus Church, Basuragadi.



This procession, combined with a Rosary recitation, served as a public demonstration of faith, solidarity, and commitment to the teachings of Christ. Fr. Marreddy, Rector of the Major Seminary, presided over the Mass following the marathon, where he emphasized the importance of mission-driven faith and the need to pursue one's calling with courage and conviction.

The day concluded with a showcase of the youth's cultural talents, including dance, music,



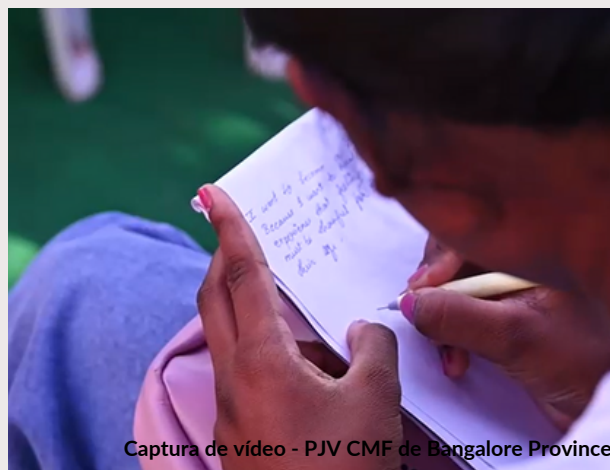
and drama performances, reflecting their creativity and enthusiasm. The talent show underscored the importance of using one's abilities not only for personal growth but also for the benefit of the community.

## **EMBRACING COMMUNITY**

The third day of the festival focused on community, exploring the role of vocation, service, and commitment in building a supportive and loving society.

The morning began with a panel discussion led by Fr. Siby, featuring speakers with diverse experiences in religious life, community leadership, and family. The panelists, including Fr. William, Sr. Jyothi, youth leader Ms. Prashanthi, and a married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph & Agna, each shared insights into their vocational journeys and the importance of faith-driven service. Their stories underscored the diverse paths through which individuals could serve, encouraging the youths to discover their unique calling.

A powerful keynote speech was delivered by Fr. George Kannathanam, who encouraged the youths to take bold and visionary actions for the good of the community. He highlighted examples of young global leaders, such as Greta Thunberg, who had mobilized others to enact meaningful change. Fr. George introduced the acronym CAN (Commitment, Action, Nurturing) as a guide for the youth to contribute to society. He emphasized that every individual has the potential to effect



Captura de vídeo - PJV CMF de Bangalore Province



Captura de vídeo - PJV, CMF de Bangalore Province

positive change and that true leadership lies in serving others.

Following the panel discussion, participants shared a fellowship meal, deepening the sense of community and camaraderie fostered over the previous days.





Captura de vídeo - PJV CMF de Bangalore Province

The festival concluded with a solemn thanksgiving Mass, co-celebrated by nearly 20 priests, and presided over by Fr. Rajashekar Reddy, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Medchal. Fr. Martin's homily emphasized the importance of

vision, resilience, and sustained growth in one's spiritual journey. The youth choir from Velankani Matha Church, Kailasapuram, enriched the mass with music that lifted the spirits of all in attendance, creating an atmosphere of reflection and unity.

In the final ceremony, the youth took a Pledge of Commitment to Faith, Leadership, and Service, committing to live lives of humility, compassion, and dedication to others, inspired by Christ's example.

The valedictory function welcomed Shri V. Elisha, IAS officer as the Chief Guest. Shri Elisha posed thought-provoking questions and shared examples of leaders, such as Ratan Tata, to demonstrate the impact of charity and service. His message on modern empowerment resonated deeply with the youth, challenging them to consider how they could contribute positively to society. In his closing remarks, Fr. Sabu George, Provincial, congratulated the youth on their active participation and encouraged them to bring the leadership skills and values they had learned back to their communities.

Bangalore, India  
October 2024.



Captura de vídeo - PJV CMF de Bangalore Province



# THE YVM OF THE FC PRESENTS CLARET WAY IN THE PARISHES OF THE INDEPENDENT DELEGATION ST. JOSEPH VAZ

Jenis Coonghe Warnakulasooriya CMF



Foto de Jenis Coonghe Warnakulasooriya CMF

Since the beginning of the Claret-Way Global Network of the YVM of the Claretian Family, the St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation (JVID-Sri Lanka) has given special attention and care to this particular youth ministry in accordance with the guidelines of the General Prefecture of the YVM.

Here in Sri Lanka, Claret Way youth ministry is carried out in collaboration with three Claretian missionary families (CMF, RMI, MC). We have a Claret Way team representing members of each congregation and animated by the Prefect of Apostolate of JVID.

As a team we are certainly happy with what we have done and achieved together with many young people from Claretian and non-Claretian parishes. We are in constant contact with the team and the young people through

virtual meetings and physical meetings.

At present there are five parishes in Sri Lanka run by Claretian missionaries in different dioceses. They are diverse in terms of ethnicity (Tamil, Sinhalese, Telugu, Burgher) and language (Tamil, Sinhala, Telugu).

All five parishes can be identified as peripheries where local communities face social, political and economic challenges in unique ways.

Each age group needs special attention, with children and young people deserving more. We recognise the Claret Way Youth Network as an effective and useful initiative to meet the needs of the young people of our communities and others.





Foto de Jenis Coonghe Warnakulasooriya CMF

The Claret Way team in Sri Lanka has paid special attention to the report of 'The Meeting of the General Prefect of the YVM and his Council with the Parish Priests of the Congregation'.

As this report urges Claretian parishes to promote youth and vocations in the Congregation, we, the Claret-Way team, with the support of the CMF parish priests, have started visiting the young people of our parishes and conducting programmes for them.

As a first step, we make sure that the pastors are aware of the Claret Way Global Network.

We communicate and explain to them the following information found in the report of the above-mentioned meeting: "to walk with young people, to open our parishes so that they feel "at home", to listen to them and dialogue with them, to take care of them so that they grow in freedom and responsibility".

In this way we find that our parish priests have a good understanding of our visits and they contribute greatly to the success of our interaction with the young people of their parishes.

The Claret Way team spends enough time preparing for a quality and effective programme with the young people of our parishes. We make sure that the young people understand the essence of the Claret Way Global Network and their role in their respective parishes.

Some segments of the Claret Way Youth Promotion in Claretian Parishes

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR CARDINAL POINTS: TO KNOW, TO LOVE, TO SERVE, TO PRAISE.

The four verbs found in the Apostolic Prayer of St Claret form the basis of the Claret Way Global Youth Network. ,



Foto de Jenis Coonghe Warnakulasooriya CMF





At the beginning we emphasise these four cardinal points so that they are properly understood by the young participants.

We use creative and interactive methods to help them realise their call to know, love, serve and praise Jesus Christ as young believers in the spirit of St Claret. We also explain to them the vision, mission and goals of the Claret Way Global Network.

## **2. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST**

During our visits to parishes, we encourage the young people to participate in Eucharistic Adoration.

We also offer the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Eucharistic Adoration.

We also identify those young people who need more attention and accompaniment during this

time. We find that the young people take these opportunities seriously.

We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist with them in which they participate in the liturgical arrangements.

## **3. YOGA EXERCISES**

We do yoga exercises with young people. As it has various health benefits, we promote it among young people so that they can benefit from it.

## **4. LIFE EDUCATION**

We work as a team on different topics that suit the youth group we are visiting. We try to deliver the message using group activities and other creative methods. We also get help from experts to make the event more effective.





## 5. RECREATION

We use this segment to give the young participants a chance to show their talents, to get to know each other and the team, to relax from stress and to have fun.

## 6. SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT (JPIC).

We also provide opportunities for young people to engage in meaningful activities for humanity and nature.

## CONCLUSIÓN

As the coordinator of the Claret Way in Sri Lanka, I am very happy with the support and encouragement I receive from the Delegation Council, the Claret Way team, the Claretian parish priests and the young people from both Claretian and non-Claretian parishes.

There is much more to do for many more young people. We as a team will work together to promote this beautiful youth ministry of our Congregation and to reach out to young people who need our care and support.

Thank you very much. May God bless you.

Colombo, Sri Lanka.  
Octubre de 2024.



# CLARET WAY MEETING POINT

## MEETING OF HEADS OF YVMS, REFERENTS, YOUTH MINISTRY PASTORAL AGENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABOVE 18 OF EUROPE IN MADRID

María Piedad Amigo Frías HICM



Foto de Claret Way Europa

The journey of the European Commission of Claret Way is consolidating little by little. It is already four years working, trying to define and give reality to this new network of young Claretians that was launched in October 2020, in full descent of the pandemic of COVID-19 and being an outbreak of hope for the pastoral care that had also been damaged after the passage of the virus, in the WYD Claret Way of Oporto 2023, in following the thread of the WYD of Lisbon, consolidated its promotion and opening. It meant for the young Europeans the seal of identity with this new reality that has already

permeated the local spaces where our pastoral care is developed.

In these four years, the European Commission has been working, trying to glimpse and draw its lines of action and to respond to the requirements of the young people that arose immediately. That is why, as soon as the commission was established, we did not hesitate to create the first meeting Claret Way, called Claret Express, an experience that took us to the Claretian places to drink from the source of the charism of Claret. It was there, together with the Global Commission of Claret Way, that we made the official launching with a prayer with the young people convened mainly from Spain, and via broadcast, with the participation of people from many places around the world where Claret Way is today a reality.

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Foto de Claret Way Europa





From there, and after the preparation of the WYD of Lisbon, in which the commission of Claret Way Europe participated fully in the creation of the contents of animation, we saw the need for a new impetus to our pastoral ministry and to create networks that will connect us together. Therefore, we came up with the idea of generating a meeting, not so much for the young people, who already enjoyed the WYD in July and are already preparing for the Jubilee of Rome 2025, but for the referents and youth pastoral agents that accompany these young people. The idea was to go to the basics to lay the foundations and from there, grow in knowledge and awareness of who we are and what we pursue as Claret Way, a reality that welcomes all the pastoral ministry for young people above 18 from all over Europe.

The meeting was held in Los Negrales, Madrid, from May 3 to 5, 2024. The participation was very varied and well attended, with the

presence of 5 European countries: Portugal, Poland, Germany, Italy and Spain. In total, there were 50 participants. The objectives of the meeting were:

- Reflect on the steps taken in the pastoral ministry for young people above 18 task in Europe and the needs that arise from it
- Share what is lived and developed in each local, provincial or zonal position location.
- Listen to each other in order to grow together.
- To propose lines of common actions that help us to walk in a Claretian charismatic YVM.

These were objectives that, thanks to the Spirit, were more than met and helped us to project ourselves for the coming period.

The structure of the meeting made it possible, on the one hand, to delve into what is at the origins of Claret Way to land in today and dream together a rich and active pastoral ministry for young people above 18 years.



The afternoon of the second day began the encounter with the ARDE space, an initiative that emerged in Spain a couple of years ago and has spread to various parts of the Spanish geography and has crossed borders to other European and American countries. Arde is a space for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Claretian dyes. You can find all the information here: [ESPACIO ARDE \(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iSxcpY2bsm\\_4Vef\\_-C\\_etty9znScObgp?usp=sharing\)](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iSxcpY2bsm_4Vef_-C_etty9znScObgp?usp=sharing)

We thus placed ourselves before and at the disposal of the Good Shepherd so that he could guide us along the paths he wants for us.

On the morning of the third day, we went deep into the beginnings of the network. We were accompanied by Jorge Sánchez and Luis Manuel Suárez CMFF, two of those who laid the foundations of this new reality. We wanted to soak up, first hand, everything that motivated the creation of the network, what issues there were in its origins and what hopes there are for Claret Way.



Three principles of reality fundamentally gave rise to this new idea of the Claretian network:

#### 1. Need for networks:

- The new concept of social relationships among young people, typical of their generation, and of relationships based on the Gospel, makes us think of a new concept of community.
- The faith of minorities, which leads us to focus more on openness and connection with others than on withdrawal into endogamic realities,
- The awareness, which arose as a result of WYD, that we are a global and networked reality.

#### 2. Mobility:

- The frontiers disappear, and this must also be the case in our experience of faith.
- This leads us to overcome particularisms and to stand for a common identity.
- Mobility also implies a loss of roots and referents, and therefore may also imply a loss of identity.

#### 3. Identity:

- It must be deep, well rooted, or it is easily diluted.



- Those of us who share an identity are linked.
- Challenge: sustenance of the identity for a longer period.

From here we envisioned a future for Claret Way wherever they are:

- Common projects of prayer, formation, vocation, mission and communication.
- That a young person of any Claretian group and from any location who moves for study or work to another place can be linked to the Claretian reality existing there, to find elements with which he/she identifies.
- Proposal for a process of vocational discernment for the Claretian Family.
- Continental and global meetings, with common keys, that provide a charismatic identity.

From these points, we were invited to a dialogue by groups using the dynamism of conversations in the Spirit that has been developed in the Synod of Synodality, where



prayerful listening and speaking are welcomed as the keys for a truly enriching conversation.

Present and future that invited us to dream of a truly living network and that left everyone of us fulfilled.

In the afternoon we focused on Claret Way Europe. From the fundamental cores of the network (Know, Love, Serve and Praise), an activity was proposed by groups that helped us to motivate why we offer these fundamental cores to our young people and some ideas that already exist in some places on how it is being lived.

In each nucleus, a moment of dialogue that was truly enriching and created an opening for the generation of a network among the different countries, was opened.



During the Eucharist, at the end of the afternoon we placed in God all those dreams that during the day had been born in the hearts and imaginations of those who were participating.

The evening welcomed us with a relaxed atmosphere in which laughter, typical dances of the different countries and conversations provoked at dialogue tables in the form of a bar, on pastoral experience itself, gave the meeting a definitive touch of fraternity that broke all the language barriers and made the meeting go from a tower of Babel to a true Pentecost.

Sunday morning was no less interesting. After hearing the previous day, what Claret Way is and its dream for the young Europeans, it was time to reflect in small groups on concrete proposals to be implemented by



Foto de Claret Way Europa

the European Commission for the local platforms. Here the young people present took a leading role, and although there were not many of them, their contribution was of particular value to us. Three concerns were identified, and were enriched with concrete proposals:

#### 1. DISCERNMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT:

- a. Training in accompaniment and motivation to carry it out.
- b. Meetings and specific training for this task.
- c. Proposal of a vocational discernment itinerary for young Europeans in 1-2 years.
- d. Create and generate spaces to get to know the different branches of the Claretian Family.

#### 2. COMMUNICATION FOR COMMUNION:

- a. To provide information on pastoral proposals of the different European positions.



Foto de Claret Way Europa



b. Create a network of contacts to welcome young people who move to other Claretian places.

c. Network of young translators above 18.

d. Claret Way Europe shared calendar.

### 3. CLARETIAN IDENTITY:

a. Young content creators for networks and web.

b. Introduce Claret Way into local pastoral projects.

c. Taking care of common aesthetics.

d. Joint prayer meetings.

e. Linking local references, thus facilitating European linkage.

f. Take care of the transition of the teenagers to Claret Way, especially the 16-18-years-old.

I believe this is a good line of work that will undoubtedly mark the next strategic plan of the Claret Way European Commission. We remain committed to young people above 18, devoting efforts and energies to make God better known, loved, served and praised by all.

Madrid, Spain.  
October 2024.



Foto de Claret Way Europa



# THE EXPERIENCE OF CLARET WAY'S YOUTH AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY - BATA 2024

Edelmiro Nena Panadés CMF

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After the World Youth Day held in Lisbon-Portugal in August 2023 with the Holy Father, the Episcopal Conference of Equatorial Guinea thought it appropriate to celebrate the National Youth Day in the present year 2024, from July 24 to 28, in the city of Bata. A multitude of young people from the five dioceses of the country that comprise the various provinces participated in the event, with a total of approximately 2000 young pilgrims, 200 young volunteers, many priests, consecrated persons and bishops of the local Church of Equatorial Guinea.

The main theme of the event was: "Rejoicing in Hope" (Rom 12:12), with the aim of strengthening the faith and Christian commitment of young people and promoting their active participation in the life of the Church. The young people were housed diocese by diocese, in the different Catholic centers of the city equipped for this meeting. The training and talks were held in the city's conference center, and the closing ceremony was held in the city's stadium. The event took place over four days as follows:

1. The first day, July 24, was the day of welcoming and accommodation of the different groups in the centers, and the learning of the hymn of the day.

2. The second day, July 25, was the opening celebration of the Day on the esplanade of the Bata Cathedral. In the afternoon, two talks on the love of God and the place of young people in the Church were held at the Congress Center.

3. On the third day, day 26, the formative talks were on Jesus as the way







and the joy of the mission. In the afternoon, penitential celebrations were held in the churches assigned to each group.

4) On the fourth day, the talk was about the young people who should not live in fear, but rather place their hope in Christ who is the truth. In the evening,

the 'youth evening' was held in the stadium with a concert of religious songs, preceded by the solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

5. On the last day, July 28th, the closing mass was held at the stadium, presided by the Nuncio, representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, Monsignor José Avelino Bettencourt, who was accompanied by several bishops of the dioceses and many priests and deacons. After lunch, the day was concluded, followed by the return of the young people to their respective homes. At the end, it was announced that the next event will hold in the city of Malabo due to the dynamic and persevering attitude of the young people of the archdiocese during the day. They have been entrusted with the baton of relay and the next reception of the young people in their diocese.

The Journey had a dynamism to look forward to, as the young people lived and shared their enthusiasm during the event. They had different

colors of shirts that expressed harmony in diversity. The Eucharists were held in the churches assigned to each group in which the respective dignitaries of the Church took turns: bishops, vicars general, among others. The young people experienced the day as an adventure,



walking long distances on foot as a sign of commitment and pilgrimage with dynamic animations. Many made new friends and felt the support of the Church for their cause. The talks were given by experts and specialists of the Church on youth issues in different fields: human, theological, psychological, youthfulness, etc.

At the end of the closing Eucharist celebration, the Claretian bishop, president of the Episcopal Conference of Equatorial Guinea, Monsignor

Juan Domingo Esono Beká CMF, took the floor to exhort the young people to live their lives fully in the light of the Gospel, to be bold in their journey of faith that leads us to Christ.



## **THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE CLARETIAN FAMILY CLARET WAY**

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The young people of the Claretian Family were not left out of the participation in the National Youth Day. Many of them were group animators, volunteers, pilgrims and assigned to the different youth service commissions. Due to the dispersion of the young people of the Claretian Family in the different groups and dioceses, an ideal time for a particular encounter of the young people of the Claretian Family was not found at first. For this reason, the different encounters preceding the National Youth Day are considered as encounters corresponding to the ideal of "Claret-Way" because of the dynamics parallel to the objectives outlined for these encounters.

However, just as there is no doubt that every beginning is difficult, in the same way the statement that "the path is made by walking" is true. So we have begun to walk in "Claret-Way" with the young people of Equatorial Guinea in collaboration with the other communities of our sisters and brothers.

This program includes the interest of everyone in designing a vocation



ministry for the Claretian Family as a whole: choirs, youth groups, altar boys, etc. The Moscoll group of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate (MMI) has joined this dynamism; a way of "doing with others".



The objectives of the encounters of the young people of the Claretian Family are, in the first place, to strengthen the traits of familiarity and the sense of belonging of each young person to the Claretian Family. Secondly, to put into practice the dreams and lines of action of the directives of the second Assembly of the Independent Delegation Fr. Xifré, of our Congregation and of the Claretian Family for Claret-Way.

The Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate together with the Claretian Missionaries, as Servants of the Word, inculturated and prophetic, we continue to serve with enthusiasm and apostolic zeal in the YVM, with the participation of the youth of the Claretian family, in the different youth encounters and working in shared mission with our sisters of the YVM of the territory.

The themes that we address in these encounters deal with the Claretian charism and spirituality at the service of the mission. In this framework,



the young people of the Claretian Family gathered months before, on different occasions, for a regional Claret-Way gathering in order to mark the particularity of their sense of belonging to the Claretian identity. On the other hand, in the vocational youth gatherings we inculcate the values of collegiality and synodality for the aspirants according to the Claretian ideal.

Prior to the realization of the Claret-Way youth gatherings, there is a planning or programming at the level of the YVM Prefecture which is currently led by Prefect Fr. Edelmiro Nena Panadés CMF, and team. The documents and recommendations of the Congregation have always been taken into account, through the lines of action of the Assemblies of our Delegation and the shared mission.

The young people of the Claretian family, through Claret-Way, dream for a joyful youth in hope, who live the Gospel for the greater glory of God and the salvation of all, in the light of the Claretian charism and spirituality.

Bata, Equatorial Guinea.  
November 2024.



# VOCATION STORIES

## MY ANIMATION SERVICE IN THE CLARET WAY GLOBAL COORDINATING COMMISSION OF CLARET WAY GLOBAL

Eduardo José Hernández Morales

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Foto de Eduardo J. Hernández Morales

From feeling lost with respect to my beliefs, my vocation and my faith, to being a leader, an animator, a witness and the representative of the youth of an entire continent (America).

From a very young age I was very involved in the parish of St. Anthony Mary Claret, located in Guatemala, thanks to my mother's desire to instill in me the Catholic faith so that I would develop a belief system aligned to the philosophy of Jesus. In that sense I began at the age of 13 to serve as an altar boy and despite my young age I quickly took much love to the service, and that love was perceived by the community of the parish to which I also took much affection over time.

Later, when I was 18 years old, I started to move away from the Church and the service because I began to have doubts about God and my faith. All these doubts were the result of the noise of the world that bombarded me all the time with different opinions, criticisms and arguments against God and the Catholic Church.

Then with the arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, my relationship with God became even weaker, as I did not even routinely go to feed my Spirit of the Word and the Eucharist at Holy Mass due to the quarantine in my country.

During all those years I felt lost, without direction, without clarity, without identity in the spiritual realm and that undoubtedly affected other areas of my life as well, mainly at a personal, emotional, family and work level.



However, God was always present, even if I could not see or hear Him at the time. I voluntarily decided to stay away, but as a good shepherd, He did not forget that I was a lost sheep.

It was not until 2022, when everything began to normalize after the Pandemic, that, out of old habit, we resumed going to Church with my family. One Sunday at the end of one of the celebrations I met a priest (Fr. César Spinoza CMF) who recognized me for my years of service as an altar boy and greeted me. He asked me how I was doing and how my "vocation" was going, I remember that I jokingly answered that I still did not feel the call and he replied: "You cannot leave all the work to God, you have to do your part...".

At that time, he introduced me to a Claretian brother (Brother Hugo Agrazal CMF) who invited me to a coffee and to begin a process of vocational discernment with the accompaniment of the Claretians. I began the process without expectations, thinking that I had nothing to lose (but I had a lot to gain) and without expecting it and as a result of that first approach of God to me, I accepted soon after, to join the pastoral ministry of proclaimers, which caused me much enthusiasm since it was a service that allowed me to go up to the altar and that reminded me how I felt when I served as an altar boy. Suddenly like a row of dominoes, one thing led to another, and I also began to serve as a confirmation catechist and youth ministry coordinator.

The doubts I had, they began to dissipate, I got answers to several questions and once again I felt how the Spirit was guiding my path and giving me clarity. God through the community (specific people) was guiding me to stay in communion with Him and to "be salt of the earth and light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16)".

The commitment, the good will and the joy with which he served inspired me to go deeper into the faith and the Church. So much so that I traveled to Portugal to live the WYD (World Youth Day), I supported in the organization of the R+FC 2023 in El Salvador (encounter of young Claretians of my Region) and I went on mission to different missionary positions in my country together with the Claretians.



All this and more made me accept the responsibility of being the representative of Claret Way of my Region (Romero) and later also of the continent of America. Excited, grateful and with God's help I humbly hope to be a witness from my youth for the building of His Kingdom.

Guatemala City, Guatemala.  
November 2024.

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