

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORY

Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Claretian Missionaries

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CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Abbreviations Used	5
I. CLARETIAN CALENDAR	7
II. CLARETIAN PRAYERS	13
1. Prayers of the Founder to God the Father	13
2. Providence of God	13
3. To love and serve God	14
4. Petition for the gift of love	14
5. Union with God	14
6. God the Father, life, love and hope	14
7. God's providence and salvation	15
8. Only God	15
9. All for the glory of God	15
10. To ask for the Spirit	15
11. To ask for virtues	16
12. Exercise on the love of God	16
2. Prayers to the Heart of Mary	18
a) Prayers of the Holy Founder	18
13. Claretian Litany of Invocations to Mary	18
14. Supplication to Mary	19
15. Invocations to Mary	20
16. Mother of Divine Love	20
17. Missionary Son of Mary	21
b) Prayers of the Congregation	21
18. Conformity to Christ	21
19. Litanies of the Virgin Mary (based on the Constitutions)	22
20. Filial and apostolic prayer to the Heart of Mary	22
21. Litanies to the Heart of Mary	23

22. Thanksgiving through the Heart of Mary...	25	52. Identification with Christ Jesus	43
23. Dedication to the Heart of Mary.....	25	53. The Gift of Chastity.....	44
24. Offering to the Heart of Mary.....	26	54. Chastity.....	45
25. Heart of Mary.....	26	55. You, Who Were Rich.....	45
26. Mother and Teacher	27	56. Seeking the Kingdom of the God	
27. Invocation to Mary, Mother of the Church	28	Above All Else.....	46
28. Ejaculations	28	57. Communion of Goods	46
3. Prayers for the Intercession of Our Holy Founder ...	29	58. Poverty.....	46
29. St. Anthony Mary Claret (Founder and Model)	29	59. To Do Your Will	47
30. Faithful to his Spirit.....	29	60. Obedient in Mission.....	47
31. To continue his work	30	61. Obedience	48
4. Prayers for the Congregation.....	30	62. Obedience in Communion.....	48
1. Claretian Identity and Vocation.....	30	63. For Superiors	48
a) Of the Holy Founder.....	30	64. Availability.....	49
32. Vocation Magnificat	30	65. Imitating the Prayer of Jesus	49
33. Prayer of the Claretian.....	31	66. Progress in Charity.....	49
b) Of the Congregation	32	67. The Love of Christ Impels Us	50
34. Prayer for the Day of the Founding	32	3. Community.....	50
35. For Our Congregation	33	68. Prayer to the Father	50
36. Litany for Our Congregation.....	33	69. Prayer for the Community	51
37. Prayer for the Congregation	35	70. Fraternal Charity	52
38. For Renewal of the Claretian Spirit	35	71. Prayer for My Community	52
39. Faithful Evangelizers	36	4. Mission.....	53
40. Constitutions.....	36	a) Of the Holy Founder	53
41. Thanksgiving for Our Vocation.....	37	72. Apostolic Prayer.....	53
42. Definition of a Claretian Missionary	37	73. To know God in order to serve Him.....	54
43. Profession of Claretian Identity	38	74. Instrument of Kingdom.....	54
44. The Claretian and His Personal		b) Of the Congregation	54
Spirituality	39	75. For the Apostolic Fruitfulness of the	
2. Evangelical Counsels and Apostolic Virtues....	40	Missionaries.....	54
a) Of Father Founder.....	40	76. Missionaries	55
45. Apostolic Charity	40	77. Claretian Mission	56
46. Practice of Virtues.....	41	78. Missionary Prayer.....	57
47. Poverty	41	79. For the Church.....	57
48. Meekness	41	80. The Lord Present in Mission	57
49. Mortification	42	81. The Ministry of the Word	59
b) Of the Congregation	42	82. Promotion of Our Missionary	
50. Our Consecration	42	Vocation	59
51. Conformity to Christ.....	43	83. We Want to Do Your Will.....	61

5. For Vocations.....	62	Reading of Sacred Scripture from a Claretian Perspective (105).....	96
84. For Vocations.....	62	Lectio Divina (106).....	98
85. Vocation.....	62	6. Rosary (107).....	100
86. For the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.....	63	Mysteries and Commentary (108).....	100
87. Intercession to ask the Lord for Claretian Vocations.....	63	The Litany of Loreto (109).....	115
88. For Missionary Vocations.....	64	IV. EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS (110).....	119
89. Prayer for vocations and perseverance.....	65	1. Models of Celebration (111-112).....	120
90. For Vocations to all states of life and ministry.....	65	2. Prayers to the Eucharist (113-119).....	121
6. For Those Who Are Sick.....	66	3. Scripture Readings (120).....	123
91. For Brothers Who Are Sick.....	66	4. Prayers of Petition and Invocations (121-123).....	123
92. For Our Brothers Who Are Sick.....	68	V. RECONCILIATION (124).....	127
7. For the Deceased Members of the Congregation....	69	1. Acknowledging Our Own Faults and Fraternal Correction (125).....	128
93. Reading of the Necrology.....	69	2. Examination of Conscience (126).....	128
94. Prayer for the Deceased Members of the Congregation.....	70	Examination Regarding the Constitution (127).....	128
95. Prayer for Deceased Parents.....	70	3. Sacramental Celebration of Penance (128).....	130
96. Prayer for Deceased Relatives and Benefactors.....	71	4. Communal Penance Celebration without Sacramental Confession (129).....	131
97. Prayer for Brothers and Sisters, Relatives and Benefactors.....	71	VI. OPENING AND CLOSING OF MEETINGS (130).....	135
III. DAILY PRAYER	73	1. Opening.....	135
1. Daily Community Acts (98-99).....	75	Prayer to the Holy Spirit (131).....	135
2. Intercessions to be added at Lauds or Vespers (100).....	76	Meeting in your name (132).....	136
3. Angelus and Marian Antiphons.....	91	Give us Wisdom (133).....	136
Angelus (101).....	91	To seek and accomplish together the will of God (134).....	137
Marian Antiphon (102).....	93	Grace and position for dialogue (135).....	137
Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.....	93	Light to discover the demand of the Gospel (136)...	138
Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.....	93	Prayer to begin a meeting (137).....	138
Loving Mother of the Redeemer.....	93	2. Closing.....	139
Hail, Queen of heaven.....	93	Thanksgiving for encounter (meeting) (138).....	139
We gather under your protection.....	93	One heart and one soul (139).....	139
Queen of Heaven.....	93	VII. DAYS OF RECOLLECTION AND RETREATS (140).....	141
4. Personal Prayer (103).....	94	1. Monthly Day of Recollection (141).....	141
5. Reading the Word of God and Spiritual Reading (104).....	95	2. Retreats (142).....	142
		Prayers to Begin Retreats.....	142
		Veni, Creator Spiritus (143).....	143

Prayer of Our Holy Founder at the Opening of Retreat (144).....	144		
VIII. FEASTS OF THE CONGREGATION.			
BEATIFICATION/CANONIZATION (145).....	147		
1. Novena to the Heart of Mary (146).....	147		
1. Celebration with the People (147).....	148		
2. Celebration in the Claretian Community (148).....	148		
Listening to the Word (IPM 20).....	149		
The First Discipline of the Lord (CC 61).....	152		
Our Model for Following Jesus (CC 20, 23, 28).....	156		
First Among the Poor of Yahweh (CC 23).....	159		
Totally Dedicated to the Person and Work of Her Son (CC 28).....	163		
Mother of Christ (CC 36) and Our Mother (CC 61).....	167		
Formatrix of Apostles (CC 73).....	171		
With All Her Heart (CC 36).....	175		
Foundress and Patroness of the Congregation (CC 8).....	179		
2. Triduum to Our Holy Founder.....	183		
1. Celebration with the People (149).....	183		
2. Celebration in the Claretian Community (150)...	183		
The Claretian Experience of God as Father.....	184		
Conformity to Christ.....	191		
A Missionary Impelled by Love.....	198		
3. Triduum for the Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation (151).....	205		
Missionaries in the Style of Claret.....	205		
Missionaries in Communion with the Church.....	207		
Missionaries Living in Communion.....	209		
4. Patron Saints of the Congregation.....	211		
a) Co-Patrons: Claretian References (152).....	211		
b) Material for a Triduum to St. Joseph.....	213		
1. Scripture Texts (153).....	213		
2. Supplementary Readings (154-156).....	214-215		
Litany to St. Joseph (157).....	216		
		3. Prayers to St. Joseph.....	218
		Blessed Joseph (158).....	218
		Prayer to St. Joseph (by Leo XIII).....	218
		To you, Blessed Joseph (159).....	218
		Prayer to St. Joseph (by John XXIII).....	219
		St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus (160).....	219
		Prayer to St. Joseph (Hail, Joseph) (161)...	220
		Prayer to St. Joseph (Holy Father) (162)....	220
		c) Intercessions through the Co-Patrons of the Congregation (163).....	220
		d) Litany to the Holy Evangelizers from the Claretian Family (164).....	222
		5. Martyrs of the Claretian Family.....	225
		Prayers to the Blessed Martyrs of Barbastro...	225
		Prayer to the Martyrs of Barbastro (165).....	225
		The Martyrs of Barbastro (166).....	225
		The Martyrs' Way of the Cross (167).....	226
		Prayer to the Martyr M. Patrocinio Giner RMI (168).....	237
		6. Petitions for Beatification/Canonization (169-172).....	238
		IX. PROFESSIONS AND RENEWAL OF VOWS (173).....	241
		Formula of Profession (174).....	241
		X. WHEN A MISSIONARY IS ILL OR DIES.....	243
		1. During Illness (175).....	243
		2. Commendation of Dying to God.....	244
		Short Forms (176).....	245
		Prayers for the commendation of the soul (177) ...	246
		When death has occurred (178).....	246
		3. When a Missionary Dies.....	247
		Elements for a Celebration with the Missionary's Body Present (179).....	247
		4. Funeral Rites (180-181).....	251
		XI. PRAYERS FOR THE CHAPTER (182).....	253
		1. Before the Chapter.....	253
		Come, Holy Spirit (183).....	253
		Sequence of the Holy Spirit (Veni Sante Spiritus) (184).....	254

Litany of the Holy Spirit (185)	256
Prayer for the Chapter (186)	257
Intercessions for the Chapter (187)	258
2. At the Beginning of the Chapter and Its Sessions (188)	259
3. Before the Election of the Provincial Superior (189)...	259
4. Thanksgiving after the Election of the Provincial Superior (190)	260
5. At the Closing of the Chapter (191)	260
XII. TAKING OF POSSESSION BY THE SUPERIOR (192)...	261
1. At a Service of the Word (193)	261
2. At the Recitation of Lauds or Vespers (194)	266
3. At the Celebration of the Eucharist (195)	267
XIII. CANONICAL VISITATION (196)	269
1. Opening of the Visitation	269
a. At a Service of the Word (197)	269
b. At the Celebration of Lauds or Vespers (198)....	272
2. Closing of the Visitation.....	273
a. At a Service of the Word (199)	273
b. At the Celebration of Lauds or Vespers (200)....	275
XIV. BLESSINGS.....	277
1. Blessings at Meals	277
2. Blessing of a new House of the Congregation (216) ...	284
3. Blessing of those Who Are Sent to Proclaim the Gospel	289
XV. APPENDICES	295
1. Favorite Scripture Texts of Our Holy Founder (219) ...	295
2. Texts on Our Charism (220-241)	297
3. Other texts and Various Materials.....	309
4. Hymns and Traditional Songs.....	319
4.1 To the Heart of Mary.....	319
4.2 To Saint Anthony Mary Claret.....	328
4.3 To the Martyrs of Barbastro	336
4.4 Other Claretian Songs.....	340
5. Thematic Index.....	349
6. Claretian Sources.....	359

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the liturgy is the summit and source of a fruitful spiritual life and that other forms of prayer flow from it or lead to it (SC 13). But the Congregation's prayer in life is not confined to liturgical prayer.

After the Special Chapter of 1967, our communities went from a highly regimented type of prayer loosely tied to the liturgy to center their prayer almost exclusively in the Liturgy of the Hours. Thus, since that time, many people have asked insistently and repeatedly for the publication of the Spiritual Directory. This was a felt need.

On its part, the last General Chapter, held in 1997, charged the General Government to continue "animating the knowledge of our spirituality and its configuration as an authentic way of life" (IPM 23.4), because it was aware that "the prophetic character of our missionary service has to draw from the *wellspring of a solid spirituality*" (VC 93).

In order to carry out this responsibility, the General Government decided to hold a Congress on Claretian spirituality and to put together a Claretian prayer book. Both these action steps were included in its six-year plan.

The Major Superiors of the Congregation, meeting in Bangalore in 1998, were of the opinion that the prayer book published by the General Government should contain prayers that were fundamentally and particularly Claretian. They should be of such a nature that the various Confer-

ences or Organisms could supplement it with other prayers in keeping with the culture of each country or continent.

Based on these criteria, the General Government appointed a committee of specialists to compile a text that, besides gathering together the prayers used in the Congregation, would present the abundant and rich spirituality teaching contained in the documents of our Congregation. The Government of the various Organisms had the opportunity to examine the results of this committee's work, to evaluate it and make suggestions. All their proposals were examined and it was decided to include most of the concrete suggestions the Committee received. The new text was revised again and improved by other people. Finally, at the Council meeting on 6 December 2001, the General Government approved the Spiritual Directory that I now publish and offer to all the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Although the title "Spiritual Directory" suggests a normative text, it should be treated as an aid in which individual members and communities can find valuable elements for personal and community prayer and for enriching their spirituality. Prayers written by our Father Founder have been recovered, their language revised but their content preserved, as well as classic prayer in the Congregation. Some prayers come from various prayer books used in different Organisms; others are newly composed, but always based on Constitutions or other documents of the Congregation. Certain general prayers of the Church have been included because they may be of use in houses of formation and some celebrations that may serve as models for all communities on special occasions. In the appendices, among other things, one can find proper hymns and songs that form part of our spiritual heritage.

I hope that this Directory not only promotes our spiri-

tual patrimony but also decidedly enriches the spirituality in our Congregation.

I entrust the fruits of this Directory to the motherly intercession of the Heart of Mary, which is "for us – as the Pope said at the last General Chapter – a school of intimate adherence to Jesus, of listening to his Word and of warm love for all people."

Rome, 8 December 2001

AQUILINO BOCOS MERINO, CMF
Superior General

ABBREVIATIONS USED

1F	Formation (XVII General Chapter, 1967)
1VR	Religious Life (XVII General Chapter, 1967)
Aut	Autobiography
CC	Constitution (1988)
CPR	The Claretian in the Process of Congregational Renewal (XX Gen. Chap., 1985)
Dir	Directory of the Congregation (1999)
DV	Dei Verbum, 1965
AW	St. Anthony Mary Claret: Autobiographical Writings, Madrid 1981
EE	Essential Elements of the Church's Teaching on Religious Life (Congregation for Religious and Secular Institute, 1983)
EnchInd	Enchiridion Indulgentiarum 1999
GILH	General Instruction for the Liturgy of the Hours
IPM	In Prophetic Mission (XXII Gen. Chap., 1997)
LG	Lumen Gentium, 1964
MCT	The Mission of the Claretian Today (XIX Gen. Chap., 1979)
MRPf	Missal and Ritual for Religious Profession of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Barcelona 1999)
MVT	Missionary Vocations of the Third Millennium Circular Letter of Fr. Aquilino Bocos CMF, Superior General (Rome 2001)
PC	Perfectae Caritatis

- SC** Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Liturgy of Vatican II)
SP Spiritual Patrimony (XVII General Chapter, 1967)
SW Servants of the Word (XXI Cap. Gen., 1991)
VC Vita Consecrata. (Post-synodal Exhortation of John Paul II (Rome 1996))

I. CLARETIAN CALENDAR

JANUARY¹

17. – Venerable Mother Maria Antonia Paris de San Pedro (+ Reus, 1885)
25. – Conversion of St. Paul

FEBRUARY

1. – Assassination Attempt at Holguín (Cuba, 1856)
2. – Death of Venerable Fr. Jaime Clotet, Cofounder (+ Barcelona 1898)
11. – Definitive Approval of the Constitutions (1870) and the Revised Ones (1982)
16. – Arrival of Archbishop Claret in Cuba (1851)
25. – Beatification of Father Claret (1934)

MARCH

16. – Beginning of the Triduum to St. Joseph
18. – Death of Fr. Esteban Sala, Cofounder (+ Barcelona 1858)
19. – Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Congregation

¹This Calendar only includes important dates for our Holy Founder, the feast of the co-patrons of the Congregation, the Blessed of the Claretian Family and of the saints that are included in the liturgical calendar, the dates of the deaths of the Cofounders, Venerables and Servants of God, as well as the date of the death of Mother Maria Antonia Paris, foundress of the Religious of Mary Immaculate (Claretian Missionary Sisters).

APRIL

25. – Blessed Andrés Solá (+ Mexico, 1927)
 29. – St. Catherine of Siena, Patroness of the Congregation

MAY

3. – Sts. Philip and James, Apostles, Patrons of the Congregation
 7. – Canonization of St. Anthony Mary Claret (1950)
 13. – Declaration of the Heroic Virtues of Fr. Jaime Clotet (1989)
 14. – St. Matthias, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation
 14. – Death of Venerable Fr. Mariano Avellana (+ Carrizal Alto, Chile, 1904)
 22. – *St. Joaquina de Vedruna*²
*Saturday Following 2nd Sunday After Pentecost. – Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Titular and Patroness of the Congregation*³

JUNE

13. – Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Solsona, 1835)
 15. – *St. María Michaela of the Blessed Sacrament*
 29. – Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Patrons of the Congregation

JULY

3. – St. Thomas, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation
 16. – *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation* (Vic, 1849)

² Feast in Italics have an office and Mass proper to the Congregation

³ Because of appropriateness or local tradition, the solemnity of the Heart of Mary may be celebrated with the people on another date.

21. – St. Matthew Apostle, Patron of the Congregation
 25. – St. James, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation
 27. – *Bl. José M. Ruiz Cano* (+ Sigüenza, 1936)
 28. – *Bl. Tomás Cordero and His Companions, Martyrs* (+ Fernán Caballero, 1936)
 29. – Servants of God, Fr. Cándido Casals and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Barcelona, 1936)
 31. – St. Ignatius of Loyola, Patron of the Congregation

AUGUST

1. – St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori, Patron of the Congregation
 7. – Servants of God, Fr. José Arner and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Vic, Spain, 1936)
 13. – *Bl. Philip of Jesus Munárriz and His Companions, Martyrs* (+ Barbastro, 1936)
 13. – Servant of God, Br. Fernando Saperas (+ Tarrega, 1936)
 13. – Servant of God, Marceliano Alonso and His Companions (+ Valencia, 1936)
 17. – Servant of God, Br. Pedro Marcé (+ Santiago de Chile, 1927)
 24. – St. Bartholomew, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation
 26. – Preservation of the Sacramental Species by the Holy Founder (La Granja, Segovia 1861)
 27. – Founding of the Religious of Mary Immaculate (Claretian Missionary Sisters) in Cuba (1855)

SEPTEMBER

5. – Servants of God, Fr. Mateo Casals and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Province of Barcelona, 1936)
 27. – Death of Fr. Manuel Vilaró, Cofounder (+ Vic, 1852)
 29. – Sts. Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, Patrons of the Congregation
 30. – Servant of God, Fr. Francisco Crusats, First Martyr of the Congregation (+ La Selva del Camp, 1868)

OCTOBER

- 2. – Guardian Angels, Patrons of the Congregation
- 6. – Episcopal Ordination of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic, 1850)
- 7. – Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
- 13. – Anniversary of the Beatification of the Martyrs of Sigüenza Fernàn Caballero (2013)
- 14. – Servants of God, Fr. Joaquin Gelada and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Castro Urdiales, 1936)
- 15. – St. Teresa of Jesus, Patroness of the Congregation
- 16. – Servant of God, Br. Miguel Palau (+ Cervera, 1929)
- 19. – Servants of God, Fr. Jaime Girón and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Cervera, 1936)
- 21. – Beginning of Triduum to the Holy Founder
- 23. – Fr. Mariano Avellana is Declared Venerable (1987)
- 24. – *Solemnity of St. Anthony M. Claret, Founder of Our Congregation*
- 25. – Anniversary of the Beatification of the Martyrs of Barbastro (1992)
- 27. – Death of Fr. Domingo Fábregas, Cofounder (+ Solsona, 1895)
- 29. – Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles, Patrons of the Congregation

NOVEMBER

- 3. – Death of Fr. José Xifré, Cofounder and 3rd Superior General (+ Cervera 1899)
- 13. – Bl. María Patrocinio Giner (Claretian Missionary Sister) (Valencia, 1936)
- 5. – Commemoration of the Deceased Members of the Congregation, Families and Benefactors
- 11. – Servants of God, Federico Vila and His Companions, Martyrs (+ Torredembarra, 1936)
- 30. – Saint Andrew, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

DECEMBER

- 22. – First Approval of the Constitution by Pius IX (1865)
- 23. – Birth of Fr. Claret (Sallent, 1807)
- 27. – St. John the Evangelist, Apostle, Patron of the Congregation

II. CLARETIAN PRAYERS

1. *"In our prayers and petitions, we should intercede with God for the Church and for the life of the world."*

There is a need to collectively express, through prayer, what our special charism is in the Church. Recovering traditional prayers or putting the essential elements of our vocation into a prayer form is a way to enrich our prayer life and an excellent teaching method for identifying with our charism and reaffirming our dedication to it.

At the conclusion of Lauds or Vespers, and the recitation of the Angeles or a Marian antiphon, it would be good, if possible, to recite some of the prayers which follow in this Spiritual Directory: ***"the law of praying establishes the law of believing."*** So also these prayers serve to ***"daily renew our resolution to advance in the way of the Lord"*** (CC 52), to renew the special, charismatic way of spirituality.

1. Prayers of the Founder to God the Father

2. Providence of God

O Lord, may you be blessed for your providence
and the care you have always shown me everywhere

I have been.

Amen.

3. To love and serve God

Blessed are you. Lord, for being so loving and merciful to me.

Make me love and serve you
And make all creatures love and serve you.
Amen.

4. Petition for the gift of love

Fire that forever blazes and never goes out,
Love that forever burns and never grows cold,
Embrace me that I may love you.
I love you, Jesus with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my strength.
O that I may love you more and that all may love you.
O that you might be loved by me and by all your creatures.
Most Holy Virgin, grant me the favor
That all may be saved and no one condemned.
Amen.

5. Union with God

Lord as water is mingled with wine in the Eucharist,
so I want to unite myself to you and offer myself with you
to the Most Blessed Trinity.
Amen.

6. God the Father, life, love and hope

My Lord, you are my love, my honor, my hope,
and my refuge.
You are my life, my glory, my goal, my Master,
my Father, my love.
Amen.

7. God's providence and salvation

Because you are so good, my Father,
I want nothing more than to know your holy will
so that I may do it;
nothing more than to love you.
Amen.

8. Only God

Lord, you are my love, my honor, my hope, and my refuge.
You are my glory and my goal, My Master, My Father.
Help me to seek nothing more than you
nor to know anything but your holy will and how to fulfill it.
I want you alone, and in you, by you and for you all other things.
You are more than enough for me.
Make me love you as you love me and as you would have
me love you.
Amen.

9. All for the glory of God

I want to love you, my God,
with all my heart, with all my being, with all my strength:
I consecrate to you my thoughts, desires, words and actions,
whatever I have and whatever I can be.
Let me use what I have for your greater honor and glory
according to your will.
Amen.

10. To ask for the Spirit

I beg you, Lord, because of my human frailty,
to send me your Spirit to enlighten me and enkindle
your love within me,

to guide me and lead me along the right path of Jesus Christ
and of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and my mother.
Amen.

11. To ask for virtues

I believe, Lord, but let me believe more firmly.
I hope, Lord, but let me hope surely.
I love, Lord, but let me love more ardently.
I repent, Lord, but let me repent more deeply.
I beg you, Lord, what do you want me to do?
Teach me to fulfil your will, for you are my God.
Give me an understanding heart in order to guide your people,
To distinguish right from wrong.
Father give me humility, meekness, chastity, patience
and charity.
Father, teach me goodness, knowledge and discipline.
Father, give me your love, together with your grace,
and I will be rich enough.

My God, my Jesus, my all.
On the cross I have lived and on the cross I wish to die,
and from the cross I hope to come down,
not by my own hands, but by the hands of others,
after my sacrifice has been consumed.
God forbid that I should glory
save in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world.
Amen.

12. Exercise on the love of God:

My God, be the God you are and have always been:
I find joy in whatever you are.
You have infinite power:

Be the all-powerful God you are.
You have infinite wisdom:
May you be praised.
Be the infinite wisdom you are.
You have infinite goodness,
infinite charity and infinite forgiveness.
Lord, be the infinite goodness,
charity, and forgiveness you are.
Lord, be the infinite mercy,
providence and generosity you are.
Lord, you are glorious and blessed without end.
Be as glorious and blessed as you are.

You, Lord, are Three and One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
three distinct person and one true God;
be three and one as you are.
You are our Savior, you are glorified
Savior of all creatures, may you be praised.

You, Lord are universal Lord
who are loved, praised and served by the angels
and the blessed in heaven and by the people on earth;
be Lord of all,
and may all in heaven and on earth love,
praise and serve you without end.

Heart of Jesus, love God for me.
Heart of Mary, love God for me.
Heart of all the saints, love God for me.
All your choirs of angels, love God for me.
All creatures, love God for me.

Divine fire that always burn and is never extinguished,
heart of Jesus, that always burns and never grows cold,
make my heart always burn with the fire of divine love.
Amen.

2. Prayers to the Heart of Mary

a) PRAYERS OF THE HOLY FOUNDER

13. Claretian Litany of Invocations to Mary

Holy Mary, Daughter of the Father **R/. Pray for us**

Holy Mary, Mother of the Son

Holy Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit

Terminus and crowning of the Trinity

God's Delight

Most perfect word of God.

Conceived in grace

In whom the omnipotence, wisdom and goodness of God shines

Conceived in grace, strengthened by grace and full of grace

Free from all stain of sin

Most illustrious and chosen creature

Purified and sanctified at her conception

Preserved from all guilt

Free from all stain of sin

Heir of heaven.

Strengthened by grace

Raised to almost infinite dignity

Full of grace

Most pure and most loving

Raised to almost infinite dignity

Mother of God and of all people

Mother of God incarnate

True Mother

Spiritual Mother

Mother of Fair Love

Mother of Charity

Mother, Teacher and Directress

Mother of Piety and Mercy

Mother of the living

Gentle Mother

Mother, Teacher and Directress

Mother who received us from God as sons

Formatrix and Guide of apostles and missionaries

Mother and advocate of sinners

Mother, healing, strength and comfort.

Dispenser of mercies

Channel of grace

Protectress of the weak

Polestar for navigators

Health of the sick

Courage of the dying

Rescuer of captives

Special advocate

Comfort of the afflicted

Polestar for navigators

Health of the sick

Courage of the dying

Dispenser of mercies

Stairway to heaven

Window on paradise

Queen and empress of heaven and earth

Queen of heaven and earth

Queen and mistress of grace

Heart of the Church

Heart of the Christian world

14. Supplication to Mary

Virgin and Mother of God,

turn your eyes of mercy towards us

who are in this valley of tears,

and who are entrusted to you as your sons.

Help us to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom
with fidelity and courage,
because there are many opposed to him
out of ambition for power, or desire for riches
or lust for pleasures.
Make me ready to cooperate with your maternal role
in your Son's apostolic mission.

15. Invocations to Mary

God hails you, Immaculate Mary, Daughter of God
the Father,
God hails you, Immaculate Mary, Mother of God's Son.
God hails you, Immaculate Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.
God hails you Mary, mother and advocate of sinners.
Blest are you among women.
You are the glory of Jerusalem,
the joy of Israel and the honor of your people.
you are the protectress of the weak,
comfort of the afflicted, and polestar for navigators.
You are the health of sick, the courage of the dying.
You are the gate of heaven.
You are, after Jesus Christ the blessed fruit of your womb,
all our hope.
O clement, O loving, O sweet and Immaculate Mary.

16. Mother of Divine Love

O Mary, my Mother, Mother of Divine Love!
I can ask for nothing more pleasing to you
nor for anything you are more ready to grant
than the love of God.
Grant me this, my Mother and my love.
Mother, I am hungry and thirsty for love.
Help me, satisfy my need.

O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love,
kindle in me the love of God and neighbor!
Amen.

17. Missionary Son of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God,
you know that we are yours sons and ministers,
formed by you
in then forge of your mercy and love.
We are like arrow poised in your mighty hand.
Release us, our Mother,
against what opposes the kingdom of God.
Trusting in your protection,
we proclaim the Gospel
armed only with the word of God.
and the title of Sons of your Immaculate Heart.
Mother, yours will be the victory.
Amen.

b) PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

18. Conformity to Christ

Lord our God,
who chose the ever Virgin Mary
as Mother of your Son and our Mother;
grant that, by faithfully dedicating ourselves to her
maternal heart,
we may conform ourselves more fully to Christ
and imitate her cooperation in the saving work of her Son
dedicating ourselves with greater generosity
to the apostolic mission of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel
In order to love you above all things
And help our brothers and sisters who are most in need
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

19. Litanies of the Virgin Mary (based on the Constitutions)

O Mary, the Sons of your Immaculate Heart,
by your obedience of faith and your burning love
proclaim you Blessed,
and we call upon you:

- Mother of God and our Mother.
R.: *You are blessed among all women*
- Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord sent by the Father.
- Mother of the Word, made flesh by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Mother of the Son anointed to bring Good News to the poor.
- Foundress, Patroness and Titular of our Congregation.
- First disciple of Christ.
- Our model for the following of Jesus.
- First among the poor of the Lord.
- Handmaid consecrated totally to the person and work of your Son.
- Mother and Teacher of Missionaries
- Formatrix of Apostles.

Let us pray:

God our Father, we give you thanks because we call ourselves and truly are, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Help us to venerate our Mother with confidence and love. May we entrust ourselves to Her so that She may conform us to Christ and enable us to cooperate in her maternal role in the apostolic mission which you have entrusted us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

20. Filial and apostolic prayer to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God!
I dedicate myself as your son
and in the honor and glory of your purity.

I consecrate to you my body and soul,
my appetites and feelings,
and I beg you to grant me the grace
of never sinning again. Amen.
Mother, behold your son.
Mother, behold your son.
Mother, behold your son.
In you, my sweetness Mother, I have put all my trust.
Let me never be put to shame. Amen.

21. Litanies to the Heart of Mary

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world.
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God.

Heart of Mary – *Molded by the Father*
Heart of Mary – *Most like the Heart of Jesus*
Heart of Mary – *Adorned with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit*
Heart of Mary – *Who love the Father with a daughter's love*
Heart of Mary – *Who love the Son with a mother's love*
Heart of Mary – *Who love the Holy Spirit with a spouse's love*
Heart of Mary – *Who faithfully preserves the words and deeds of Jesus*
Heart of Mary – *Pierced with a sword of sorrow*
Heart of Mary – *Nailed to the cross with the crucified Christ*
Heart of Mary – *Enlivened by the joy of Jesus' resurrection*
Heart of Mary – *Overflowing with a new fullness of grace at the coming of the Holy Spirit*

Heart of Mary – *Dwelling place of God, filled with his glory*
 Heart of Mary – *Ark of the Covenant of God with humankind*
 Heart of Mary – *Lap for God and for humankind*
 Heart of Mary – *Who brought salvation to the world*
 Heart of Mary – *Ever Immaculate*
 Heart of Mary – *Full of grace*
 Heart of Mary – *Blessed among all hearts*
 Heart of Mary – *Abyss of humility*
 Heart of Mary – *Throne of mercy*
 Heart of Mary – *Forge of divine love*
 Heart of Mary – *Who obtains grace for sinners*
 Heart of Mary – *Invincible rock of faith*
 Heart of Mary – *Font of perfect friendship*
 Heart of Mary – *Sustainer of the Church on its way
 to the Father*
 Heart of Mary – *Forge of love that configures us to Jesus*
 Heart of Mary – *Our Mother and Formatrix*
 Heart of Mary – *Comfort of the afflicted*
 Heart of Mary – *Refuge of sinners*
 Heart of Mary – *Help of the dying*
 Heart of Mary – *Hope of the world*
 Heart of Mary – *Mistress of our hearts*
 Heart of Mary – *Queen of peace*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

— Spare us, O Lord

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

— Graciously hear us, O Lord

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

— Have mercy on us

Pray for us, Holy Mother of God

— That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray:

Lord, our God,
 You made the Immaculate Heart of Mary
 A dwelling place for your Son and a temple of the Holy Spirit,
 give us a pure and docile heart,
 so that, ever submissive to your will,
 we may love you above all things
 and help our brothers and sisters in their needs, through
 Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

22. Thanksgiving through the Heart of Mary

Holy Father, we give you thanks,
 for giving the Virgin Mary, a wise and docile heart,
 always ready to please You,
 a new and humble heart,
 on which to engrave the law of the new Covenant.
 A pure and simple heart,
 that made her worthy, as a virgin, to conceive your Son
 and empowered her to contemplate you eternally.
 A steadfast and ready heart
 to courageously bear the sword of sorrow,
 and to await, filled with faith, the resurrection of your Son.
 Give us a heart wise and docile, new and humble,
 simple and pure, steadfast and ready,
 that we may imitate her and cooperate with greater fidelity
 in your work of salvation.
 Amen.

23. Dedication to the Heart of Mary

Mother of the Lord, Heart of Mary!
 You who presided as Foundress

over the founding of our Congregation,
 always be our inspiration
 and the heart of our Congregation,
 so necessary for contemplation and for new dreams.
 In this world, so loved by the Father,
 and so beset by unbelief and injustice,
 speak for us
 And testify through our lives
 to the message of the kingdom.
 Mother of the Lord,
 pray that the Spirit, who impels us toward a new world,
 will come to us.
 Mother, with your Heart
 Pray for us!
 Intercede for us!
 Amen.

24. Offering to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,
 I entrust myself to your maternal love
 that you may make me a missionary
 In the image and likeness of your Son, sent by the Father,
 to proclaim the Good News to the poor.
 Teach me to believe, love and serve like you.
 Make me generous and grateful
 so that I may joyfully live
 the gift of my missionary vocation.
 Amen.

25. Heart of Mary

Lord God,
 you chose Mary ever Virgin
 to be the Mother of your Son and our Mother:

Grant that we who faithfully entrust ourselves to her
 maternal heart,
 may be more fully conformed to Christ
 so that, impelled by his charity,
 we may devote ourselves more generously
 to proclaiming the Gospel to all people.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

26. Mother and Teacher

O Mary, Mother and Teacher of Missionaries,
 pray that we Claretians
 may always bear the same spirit
 as our elder brother, Jesus;
 that we may know how to share "in Congregation"
 our life and mission,
 and that we may be universal men,
 with penetrating eyes and ears attentive
 to the urgent cries of our world.

That as Sons of your Heart,
 we may be men of mercy,
 tenderness, compassion and promptness
 In proclaiming the Word,
 listened to, pondered, and made effective in our
 interior life.

That we may not cease to train ourselves to be open
 to new missionary horizons
 and to endue ourselves with the power of enculturation
 so much a part of our Claretian charism.
 That we may be docile and expert
 in accepting what is different
 and in living despite differences
 of origin, race, nationality, language, culture, family and age.

That the apostolic charity
that springs forth from the furnace of your Heart
may form us to recognize no barriers
and, at the same time, make us able
to make our daily work meaningful
in the various contexts
in which the Spirit places us.
Amen.

27. Invocation to Mary, Mother of the Church

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
we entrust to you the entire Church.

Remember all your sons and daughters; make their prayer
effective before God;
preserve them solid in faith; strengthen their hope and in-
crease their charity.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart the whole human race:
Lead them all to know the one true Savior, Christ Jesus.

Free them from the punishment for sin.
Grant the whole world true and lasting peace,
in justice, in freedom and in love.

And make the whole Church rise to the God of mercies
a hymn of joy, thanksgiving and rejoicing,
for the wonders the Lord has worked through you,
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.

28. Ejaculations

— Sweet Heart of Mary
R/. *Be my salvation.*

— Heart of Mary
R/. *Intercede for us.*

Mary, Heart of the Church
R/. *Pray for us.*

Mother and Formatrix of Apostles
R/. *Pray for us.*

3. Prayers for the Intercession of Our Holy Founder

29. St. Anthony Mary Claret (Founder and Model)

Lord, our God,
you chose St. Anthony Mary Claret
to be the Founder of our religious family
and you set him on fire with your love,
so that he joyfully welcomed slanders and sufferings.
In your mercy grant that,
holding firmly to his teachings,
we may proclaim your glory to the ends of the earth
and always seek with zealous care
the salvation of all peoples.
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

30. Faithful to his spirit

God our Father,
you have bestowed to St. Anthony Mary Claret an ardent
and filial love for the Most Blessed Sacrament and the
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to realize great marvels in the Church for the glory of
God and the salvation of souls:

Obtain us for the favor
that, burning with the same love,
and carrying most effectively your evangelizing work,
we may deserve to live and die in this Congregation
as worthy Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

31. To continue his work

Lord,
you have made St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father and
Founder,
a zealous apostle for the glory of God and the salvation of
souls,
grant us the ardent charity that burned in his heart
so that we may continue your apostolic work intensely and
effectively.
Increase the number of his sons
in order to expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
and at the moment of our death,
we may deserve to be called “faithful servants” of Christ
and of the Gospel.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

4. Prayers for the Congregation

1. Claretian Identity and Vocation

a) OF THE HOLY FOUNDER

32. Vocation Magnificat

Lord, our God, we bless you

for having chosen us to be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of
your Mother!
Most Blessed Mother,
we praise you for the graciousness of your Immaculate
Heart
and for having accepted us as your Sons!
Our Mother, make us respond to such great kindness;
that we may be, each day, more humble, more fervent
and more zealous for the salvation of souls.
Amen.

33. Prayer of the Claretian

O Lord, renew in our Congregation
and in each of us
the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret,
our Father.
Grant that we Missionaries,
sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
may be men on fire with love
and spread its flames wherever we go.
That we may desire effectively and strive by all means
possible
to set the whole world on fire with God's love.
That nothing or no one may daunt us.
That we may delight in privations,
welcome work, embrace sacrifices,
smile at slanders brought against us,
rejoice in the torments and sorrows we suffer
and glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ.
That our only concern may be how to follow
and imitate Jesus Christ more closely
in prayer, work and suffering
and strive constantly and single-mindedly for the greater
glory of God

and the salvation of souls.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

b) OF THE CONGREGATION

34. Prayer for the Day of the Founding

Lord,
You granted St. Anthony Mary Claret, our father,
a great love for the Lord
and an apostolic concern
for the salvation of all the peoples of the earth.
From childhood on, you led him
to an ever deeper knowledge of the mystery of Christ.
Impelled by charity, he dedicated himself to proclaiming
the Gospel.

He bore both hard work and slander patiently,
and he sealed his life, in exile, with his blood.

In order to continue his work, and through the
intervention of the Virgin Mary,
he founded our Congregation and gave us his spirit.

Today, as we recall our origin in the Church,
we ask you, through the intercession of our Mother,
to make us his faithful sons
in the ministry of the Word.

May your heart continue to be for us
the staff of our confidence;
that blesses with new vocations
this Claretian family you founded
and that gives preserving love for Jesus and for you
to all of us who call ourselves, and truly are,
sons of the Immaculate Heart
and who work for the glory of God in the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

35. For our Congregation

R/. Look down from heaven on our Congregation, bind it to you, and come and visit it.

V/. Care for it; enrich it and lavish graces on it without measure.

R/. Lord, remember each one of us.

V/. Send us your light and your truth.

R/. Give us life that we may call upon your name.

V/. And carry out the mission of proclaiming the Gospel to all peoples.

Let us pray:

We ask you, Lord
through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to free our Congregation from every evil
that, with a humble and generous spirit, like Claret,
we may dedicate ourselves to your plan for human salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

36. Litany for our Congregation

V/. Holy Mary

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Michael and all holy Angels

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Joseph

R/. Pray for us

V/. All holy Apostles

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Ignatius Loyola

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Vincent de Paul

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Teresa of Jesus

R/. Pray for us

V/. St. Catherine of Siena

R/. Pray for us

V/. All holy men and women, Saints of God,

R/. Pray for us

V/. Remember, Lord, your Congregation

R/. Which has been yours from the beginning

V/. May it fulfill its mission of proclaiming the Gospel

R/. So all people might be saved

V/. We ask you to come to the help of your servants

R/. Whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood

V/. Lord, save your Congregation

R/. Be its shepherd and guide it forever

V/. Have mercy on us, Lord

R/. Have mercy on us

V/. May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us

R/. As we have placed our trust in you.

V/. Lord, hear our prayer

R/. And let our cry come to you

V/. The lord be with you

R/. And with your spirit.

Let us pray:

We ask you, Lord

through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to free our Congregation from every evil
that, with a humble and generous spirit,
we may dedicate ourselves to your plan for human salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

37. Prayer for the Congregation

Father of kindness and mercy,
we praise and bless you
for having enriched your Church
with the way of holiness and apostolate
of St. Anthony Mary Claret,
our founder and father.

We humbly implore you:

send new workers to our Congregation
and pour forth your Spirit into those You have chosen.
Strengthen them all in their missionary vocation,
and, impelled by the love of Christ.

Make them true Sons
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to proclaim to all peoples
the Good News of the Kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

38. For Renewal of the Claretian Spirit

O Lord, renew in our Congregation
the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret,
our Father,

so that, filled and invigorated by it,
 we may be strengthened to love what he loved
 and to put into practice what he taught us.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

39. Faithful Evangelizers

O Lord,
 you merciful decreed
 that the Word be made flesh in the womb
 of the Virgin Mary.
 Grant that we may treasure the Word in our hearts
 that we may always be faithful servants
 in proclaiming your Good News of salvation.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

40. Constitutions

Father, you have been given us the Spirit
 so we might follow Jesus Christ
 and proclaim the kingdom among humankind
 in the style of Claret and his disciples.
 Help us to observe our Constitutions with all
 possible care,
 for they are the Gospel path for us.
 Grant us to listen to your Word with all docility,
 as your Mother did,
 that we might be faithful Sons of her Heart,
 and cooperate with her motherly role in the
 apostolic mission.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

41. Thanksgiving for Our Vocation

O Mother, we thank you for the vocation we have received.
 Grant us the grace to be faithful to it throughout our lives.

42. Definition of a Claretian Missionary

V/. Lord through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart
 of Mary, fill us with the spirit of love that we might be
 men who are on fire with love and spread its flames
 wherever we go.

R/. Amen.

V/. That we may desire effectively and strive by all means
 possible to set the whole world on fire with God's love.

R/. Amen.

V/. Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart
 of Mary, fill us with the spirit of fortitude so that noth-
 ing daunts us, so that we may delight in privations and
 valiantly welcome our apostolic labors.

R/. Amen.

V/. That we may joyfully embrace sacrifices, smile at slan-
 der, and rejoice in suffering.

R/. Amen.

V/. Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart
 of Mary, fill us with the missionary spirit that animated
 Jesus, your Son, that our only concern may be to follow
 and imitate him in praying, working and suffering.

R/. Amen.

V/. And so that, like Jesus, we may strive constantly and
 single-mindedly for your greater glory and the salvation
 of humankind.

R/. Amen.

43. Profession of Claretian identity

We believe that the Holy Spirit has called us together in the Church through St. Anthony Mary Claret so that, as a Congregation, we might be called, and truly be, Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We believe that the Father has called us together to live authentically and meaningfully, the mystery and the apostolic mission of his Son in an evangelized and evangelizing fraternity. It is he, not our projects, that makes us true disciples of Christ.

We want to make this love that shapes our fraternal life ever more meaningful in the Eucharist.

We believe that Mary is present at the beginning of our Congregation and exercises her motherhood by conforming our lives to Christ, her Son. In her Mother's Heart the apostles of the congregation are formed. And her presence within us is the evangelizing impulse and merciful love that transforms and animates believers.

We believe that Fr. Claret was chosen and given to us by God as a prototype and model for missionaries at the service of the Gospel in the universal Church.

We believe that our common vocation and mission involves following, in perfect fidelity and in absolute availability, Christ in the Church, according to the Gospel demands lived by our Founder and Father, and transmitted through those who have gone before us.

We believe that the Spirit of the risen Jesus anoints us as prophets to proclaim the Good News to the poor, and, impelled by the same sacrificial and redeeming love, to embrace all we encounter along the way.

We believe that we have been called to be effective collab-

orators with the Supreme Pontiff and the Bishops in the ministry of the Word in order to extend the kingdom of God throughout the world. Thus, employing every means possible, we want to respond by paying attention to what is most urgent, opportune and effective.

We believe that the Congregation is the work of God and that Jesus and Mary will not abandon it, raising up vocations and imparting the Spirit to those who are called, so that, living in fraternity the same consecration and mission, we may carry on the witness of communion in the Church and make our evangelizing action more effective. Lord, we believe. Increase our faith.

44. The Claretian and His Personal Spirituality

Since we know that our mission as Evangelizers cannot be understood or lived without a spirituality centered in the following of Jesus, the Son of God, considering ourselves his brothers, we entreat Him, saying:

Teach us to be about our Father's Business!

1. – Lord Jesus, You summon us to live our spirituality from the perspective of mission.
 - help us to make the demands and options involved in evangelization an integral part of our spirituality.
2. – Lord Jesus, You summon us to conform ourselves to you through a spirituality that is missionary, prophetic, acculturated and evangelizing.
 - awaken in us attitudes of availability, itinerancy, and docility to the Spirit.
3. – Lord Jesus, You call us to be ministers of the Word among your people in need of evangelization.
 - help us to make this a fundamental part of our prayer, meditation and contemplation.

4. – Lord Jesus, definitive Word of the Father to his sons and daughters,
 - nurture in us the attitude of finding our answers in the Word and of learning to interpret the events of our missionary service in light of it.
5. – Lord Jesus, You underwent temptation,
 - fortify our spirit so we will have nothing to do with mediocrity, hedonism, stagnation and routine.
6. – Lord Jesus, Bread of Life that nourishes our identification with you,
 - make the Eucharistic Mystery ever more alive in us and dispose us, like Claret, to confront the evils of our time.
7. – Lord Jesus, You recommended and taught us to pray without ceasing.
 - help us to commit ourselves more seriously to community and personal prayer.
8. – Lord Jesus, You gave us Mary as Mother, Foundress of our Congregation and Model of discipleship,
 - help us deepen the Marian dimension of our spirituality, living it and expressing it in concrete actions.

2. Evangelical Counsels and Apostolic Virtues

a) OF THE FOUNDER

45. Apostolic Charity

O my God!
 Grant me apostolic charity,
 That I may do everything forcefully yet gently,
 With meekness and love.
 Amen.

46. Practice of Virtues

Jesus,
 give me your grace to imitate you faithfully in the practice
 of all virtues.
 With you, I can do all, without you nothing absolutely.
 Amen.

47. Poverty

Our Savior,
 who made yourself poor,
 who desired to be born in poverty,
 you lived as a poor man and died in abject poverty.
 Make us, your missionaries, learn the value of poverty,
 that we may love and practice it as you taught us,
 with words and deeds;
 that, following the example of the Apostles,
 we may leave all things and follow you
 in proclaiming the kingdom.
 Amen.

48. Meekness

O my God,
 give me a zeal that is discreet and prudent
 that I may do everything
 strongly yet sweetly,
 meekly yet thoroughly.
 I hope to act in all things with a holy prudence,
 nurtured through study,
 strengthened by age,
 clarified through dialogue,
 perfected in daily experience.
 Amen.

49. Mortification

O Lord,
 I know that suffering, sorrow and work
 are the insignia of the apostle.
 Aided by your grace I embrace them.
 Help me, Lord.
 I am ready to drink the cup of inner turmoil
 and I am resolved to receive the baptism of outer pain.
 So I say: God forbid that I should glory
 save in the Cross on which you were nailed for me.
 And I also ask you
 that in every circumstance,
 we may seek signs of your holy will in order to carry it out
 and this way be every day more docile
 to the plan of salvation you have for all humankind.
 We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

b) OF THE CONGREGATION**50. Our Consecration**

My God and Father,
 responding to your call
 I want to strive more diligently
 to do your will in all things.
 With all my heart I want to dedicate myself to you,
 following Jesus, like the Apostles,
 so that humankind may have life in abundance.
 Impelled by the Holy Spirit
 I renew my dedication to You, Father,
 so that you may form me in the image and likeness of Jesus,
 your Son.
 Trusting in the motherly help me of the Immaculate Heart
 of Mary,

I promise to live in this community of apostolic life
 chaste, poor and obedient,
 observing the Constitutions of our Congregation
 with all possible care.
 Anoint me, Father Most Holy, with the Spirit of sanctity
 so that, in the service of the Word,
 I may be faithful to the charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret
 and attain the perfection of the commandment of love
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

51. Conformity to Christ

Father we thank you for anointing us with your Spirit
 and giving us a share in the fullness of Christ, your Son.
 Blest are you for having called us to follow you
 and to share with Jesus the work you entrusted to Him.
 We ask you that permeated by the Holy Spirit,
 it may no longer be we, who live,
 but Christ who truly lives in us,
 so we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the king-
 dom of heaven.

May we conform ourselves ever more closely to Him
 in our missionary community,
 according to our special charism in the Church.
 He who lives and reigns forever and ever.
 Amen.

52. Identification with Christ Jesus

Let us pray to the Father who has anointed us with his
 Spirit and given us a share in the fullness of Jesus
 Christ, his Son: *Sanctify your brothers, Lord*

- That we may allow ourselves to be permeated with grace, until it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us, so that we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the kingdom. Let us pray.
- That, anointed like Jesus, with an ardent love for the Father and for humankind, we may fortify ourselves by every means possible so that we may pursue the goal of God being known, loved and serve by all. Let us pray.
- That we may give glory to God for all the gifts we believe we possess and that we may make them bear abundant fruit. Let us pray.
- That we may be ready to admit our faults and errors, to ask pardon for them from our brothers and offer them loving service, so that each of us is among the rest as one who serves. Let us pray.
- That we may be strengthened to imitate the meekness enjoined by the Gospel as the sign of our apostolic vocation. Let us pray.
- That, as strangers and pilgrims, we may abstain from all evil desires and diligently guard our feelings, glorifying God and reflecting his holiness in our bodies. Let us pray.
- That those of us who are ill may bear their illness with humility and submission to the will of God, knowing that with their infirmity they are making up what is lacking in the Passion of Christ. Let us pray.

53. The Gift of Chastity

We bless you, Lord our God, for having given us the gift of chastity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, by which we consecrate ourselves with our whole heart to the Father's business,

imitating his Son, Jesus Christ,
and following the example of the Virgin Mary.
We ask you, Lord, to help us with humility
to control our natural desires,
to receive the gift of chastity with joy
and diligently cultivate it.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

54. Chastity

Blest are you, Lord,
that, by the gift of chastity for the sake of the kingdom
of heaven,
you manifest the power of your glory
in the weakness of our nature,
in order to encourage humankind to hope in the life to come.
Make the chastity we profess
foster a new fraternal communion in Christ
and build a community not founded on flesh and blood,
but on your will.
And that, as a sign of perfect love,
it may become a special source of spiritual fruitfulness
for the world
and inflame us with love for you and all humankind.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

55. You, Who Were Rich

You, who were rich,
made yourself poor for our sakes
so that we might be enriched by your poverty.
Dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom,
you had no place to lay your head.

Let us share in your poverty,
 so that we may remind all humankind of the good things
 of the world to come,
 living like Mary, the first among the poor of the Lord,
 and like the Apostles who, leaving everything behind,
 followed you
 who live and reign forever and ever.
 Amen.

56. Seeking the Kingdom of the God Above All Else

We ask you, Lord,
 that, placing our trust in you
 and not in power or riches,
 we may seek, above all else, the kingdom that belongs
 to the poor.
 Amen.

57. Communion of Goods

Grant, O Lord,
 that through our voluntary poverty
 we may build a fraternal community
 united in mind and heart
 and may express it a communion of goods,
 spiritual and material,
 with the poor and at your service.
 Amen.

58. Poverty

We give you thanks, Father most holy,
 for having chosen us to manifest the value of poverty
 and the blessedness of those who have no desire for riches.
 Grant that our entire life and activity

may be informed by this spirit of poverty.
 That we may be poor in fact and in spirit
 and consider ourselves bound by the common law of labor,
 sharing the lot of the poor.
 That our goods may be at the disposal of the others,
 and that we may rejoice when we experience the effects
 of poverty,
 never doubting in your providence.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

59. To Do Your Will

To do your will, Father, you sent us your Son, Jesus.
 Following the example of the most holy Virgin,
 who consecrated herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord
 to the work of the Son,
 we offer you, Lord,
 the freedom of ordering our own lives
 in order to be conformed to Jesus Christ,
 who obediently accepted even death on the Cross
 and to unite ourselves in everything to your saving will.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

60. Obedient in Mission

Sharing in a common vocation,
 Lord, we want to seek your will together
 to fulfill our mission in the Church.
 Enlighten us to express the unity of love and mission in
 community
 in order to foster the cooperation of all
 for the good of the Church and the Congregation,
 and make all of us, impelled by love,

learn how to obey promptly and perfectly.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

61. Obedience

Father, we give you thanks
for giving us the sovereign freedom
to order our own lives,
which we are now moved by the power of the Spirit
to offer to you
We give you thanks for having called us
to conform ourselves to your Son, Jesus Christ,
in his obedience even unto death on the Cross.
Blest are you for having given us, in Him,
a share in your saving will.

62. Obedience in Communion

Lord grant us,
to seek, know and do your will together
in order to carry out the common mission
we have in the Church.

Grant that, in seeking and fulfilling your will,
we may feel compelled to offer our help to our brothers
through prayer, counsel and fraternal dialogue.

63. For Superiors

May our Superiors seek your will above all else,
and exercise their authority according to the Constitutions
and in a spirit of service,
giving their lives for their brothers.

And that all of us may become used to obeying you,
impelled by love,
promptly and perfectly,
submitting ourselves to the various human authorities
for your sake.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

64. Availability

Grant us, O Lord, the gift of availability
to be sent anywhere in the world,
and to place all our energy at the service of any mission
that the Congregation may entrust to us.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

65. Imitating the Prayer of Jesus

Almighty and eternal God,
who have deigned to associate us with the missionary work
of Christ,
open our hearts
that we may be converted to the Gospel,
and give us constancy that we may imitate him
in his diligent prayer.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

66. Progress in Charity

Merciful Father,
grant that the love of Christ may compel us
with the same love you have for us
and, by the power of the Spirit,
may we be disposed to die each day for our brothers.

Make us, like strangers and pilgrims,
 abstain from all desires of the flesh.
 May we keep careful watch over our emotions,
 and may we rejoice in all adversities.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

67. The Love of Christ Impels Us

Father most holy,
 Jesus Christ, impelled by burning love for you
 and for humankind,
 gave himself to his labors, to his passion, and even to death.
 Grant us apostolic love and the joy of the Spirit
 that we may strive
 that all people may know, love and serve you,
 and attain the blessedness of your kingdom.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

3. Community

68. Prayer to the Father

You, Father,
 have poured into our hearts
 love for you and your brothers through the Holy Spirit,
 who conforms us to Christ and builds up our communion.
 We beg you that we may welcome this gift
 so that our whole missionary life will be directed
 and permeated by this love
 and we may attain, in our missionary community,
 the personal fullness to which you call us.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

69. Prayer for the Community

We give you thanks, most Holy Father,
 for having joined us together in this community
 from which you want us to proclaim your kingdom
 through a perfectly consecrated life
 and a firm commitment to the service of the Gospel.

We want to proclaim, by all we are and all we do,
 as true Sons of the Heart of Mary,
 the marvels of your love among humankind.
 Renew our resolve to become better each day,
 to help each other in the following of your Son,
 to follow the inspirations of the Holy Spirit,
 and to work together to carry out the mission
 you have entrusted to us in the Church.

Lord, never allow this good will
 to weaken inadvertently
 through selfishness, routine or faithlessness.
 Revive the faith and hope of this apostolic community
 when inevitable differences become noticeable,
 and open our hearts when forgiveness is needed.

Since we are aware of our weakness,
 we ask you to keep us attentive to your grace:
 that diligent meditation on your Word may renew us,
 and that fraternal life together may encourage us
 to give that witness of love the world needs in order to believe,
 and that the needs and urgent demands of those who are
 most poor
 may stimulate us to go out of ourselves
 and make us feel duty-bound to work for them tirelessly.

We entrust ourselves to Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
 model of the consecrated life,
 that she may form us in her Heart

and make us follow the path of perfection
and apostolic service
that St. Anthony Mary Claret, through his life and teaching,
laid out for us in the Church and in the world.

Father, seal with eternal fidelity
what is now our most sincere aspiration.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

70. Fraternal Charity

We humbly ask you, Lord our God,
to make one in heart we who share the spirit
of your servant Anthony Mary
that, living in harmony and mutual love,
we may be witnesses of your love
among humankind.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

71. Prayer for My Community

Father, today I pray for my brothers in community.
That you may know them personally:
Know their full names, their virtues and their shortcomings,
their joys and their sorrows, their strength and their
weakness, their whole life story;
and that you may accept them as they are,
and that you may make them fully alive with your Spirit.

Lord, you love them
not because they are good
but because that they are your sons.

Teach me to truly love them,
following the example of Jesus,

not for their words or actions, but for themselves,
discovering in each one,
especially those who are weakest,
the mystery of your infinite love.

I thank you, Father,
for having given me brothers,
all of whom are a gift to me,
a true sacrament,
a tangible and efficacious sign of the presence
of your Son.

Give me the eyes of Jesus to contemplate them,
and give me his heart to love them unto the end,
because I also want to be, for each them,
a living sacrament of the presence of Jesus.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

4. Mission

a) OF THE HOLY FOUNDER

72. Apostolic Prayer

O my God and my Father!
May I know you and make you known.
May I love you and make you loved.
May I serve you and make you served.
May I praise you and make all creatures praise you.
My Father, grant that all sinners may be converted,
all the just persevere in grace,
and all of us attain eternal glory.
Amen.

73. To know God in order to serve Him

Lord, grant me,
 That all may know your kindness and your closeness
 in order to love and serve you with complete fidelity
 because you are good and your mercy is infinite.

74. Instrument of the Kingdom

Here I am, Lord,
 if you want, make me an instrument to proclaim
 your Kingdom.
 Lord, grant that my food may be to be strong and to serve
 you better;
 that I may use the things of this world as I may need them,
 that I may study in order to know and love You and to serve
 my brothers and sisters;
 that I may rest in order to restore my spent powers and serve
 You better.

b) OF THE CONGREGATION**75. For the Apostolic Fruitfulness of the Missionaries**

Father of kindness,
 you deigned to choose us and send us as You sent
 your Son, Jesus.
 Grant us your Spirit,
 make us fitting ministers of the Gospel,
 and grant us the power we need
 to faithfully exercise our ministry for the salvation
 of humankind.

Lord, grant success to our labors,
 and let Christ, your Word, speak for us.
 Bless us and help us

so that all may accept the Gospel
 and love you more and more each day.

Never allow us, Lord, to offend you.
 preserve us from all danger and strengthen us
 with your grace.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

76. Missionaries

Lord,
 who called us like the Apostles,
 make us fortify ourselves with every means and resource
 to strive to make you known, loved and served by all
 humankind.
 Give us a heart that is open
 to loving all people without exception,
 procuring for them the blessedness of the kingdom,
 already begun here on earth.
 May all the gifts we believe we possess,
 only give glory to you,
 making them bear fruit in abundance,
 and let us remember our own limitations and defects,
 thus recognizing our total dependence on you.
 May we express this conviction
 in the way we work and in our relationships with others,
 being ready to seek pardon for our faults and failures.
 May we seek to offer our brothers
 the service of our love,
 so that each of us is in the midst of the others as one
 who serves.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

77. Claretian Mission

Father most holy,
 you called Anthony Mary Claret to follow your Son,
 and, impelled by love,
 and he gave his whole life to the struggle for the kingdom.

Awaken in us his evangelizing spirit
 in order to understand what is most urgent,
 opportune and effective
 and carry out our mission of spreading the faith,
 docile to your Spirit,
 and obedient to your will.

Animated, like Claret,
 by the power of Spirit,
 we also want to choose to champion the cause
 of the kingdom
 and accept the risks involved in prophetic denunciation
 and commitment
 that comes with our evangelizing mission.

We want to join ourselves with,
 and share the anxieties, privations and hopes,
 of those to whom you send us.

And, as we profess that the Son is living among
 humankind,
 we want to work to end disbelief, hatred, injustice,
 lies, oppression, loneliness, hunger, ignorance
 and to meet so many other of love's demands that are
 the demands of the kingdom.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
 who lives and reigns forever and ever.
 Amen.

78. Missionary Prayer

Father,
 you poured out the gifts of the Spirit
 on the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 as she prayed with the Apostles in the upper room,
 make us persevere in prayer together with Mary, our Mother,
 in order to bring to the world
 the Good News of salvation.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

79. For the Church

Lord Jesus,
 who, out of love for men and women,
 prayed for the faith of your disciples,
 interceded for sinners,
 and suffered all human misery:
 Receive the prayers we raise to you in behalf of the Church,
 listen to our prayers for the life of the world.
 And admit all to the joy of your everlasting kingdom,
 where you live and reign forever and ever.
 Amen.

80. The Lord Present in Mission

Lord Jesus,
 Your missionary mandate has scattered us
 throughout the entire world.
 Today your Word of communion gathers us
 at this point where all paths cross,
 where encountering one another is encountering you,
 where loving one another is bearing witness to you,
 where kindling hopes is proclaiming your coming.

Like the Twelve,
 we return to you from the pathways of mission,
 bringing into your presence the sorrow and humiliations
 of our people,
 the cry of the poor you sent us to evangelize,
 the hopes of the humble that have opened their hearts
 to your message
 and that blossom everywhere in fraternity,
 in the Church.

Grant that, by celebrating and contemplating your Word,
 we may learn how to discern, through faith,
 the signs of the times,
 and to proclaim you as you are: the fullness of truth—
 ever new—,
 in the midst of the ambiguities and counter currents
 of this world.

May your risen presence among us
 banish discouragement and fear,
 and make us choose, freely and courageously,
 your plan of life, justice and fraternity,
 where there are now works of destruction,
 oppression and violence.
 Send us your Spirit
 that, like Mary, your Virgin Mother,
 he will create a new heart in us,
 burning with apostolic love,
 available to meet the challenges of the new evangelization,
 rich in deeds of love and service to those who are most
 in need.

Make us instruments of communion and reconciliation
 that, among the people to whom you send us,
 the community of those who believe in you,
 we may reveal your plan of salvation and glorify your name.
 Amen.

81. The Ministry of the Word

We give you thanks, O Lord, because you have deigned to
 grant us the gift of proclaiming the Gospel. May that
 grace in us not be fruitless:

R/. *Lord, make us fit ministers of the Word of God*

Our special vocation among the people of God is the ministry
 of the Word through which we communicate
 the whole mystery of Christ to humankind,

— We ask you, Lord to grant us the spirit of service and ded-
 ication that we may fulfil the ministry you have entrusted
 to us in the Church with dignity and fruitfulness.

Motivated by apostolic zeal and the joy of the Spirit, reinforce
 us with every means and resource that we may persevere
 so that God may be known, loved and served by all,

— Lord, we ask you, in the words of our Founder, that we
 may know you and make you known, love you and make
 you loved, served you and make you served, praise you
 and make you praised by every creature.

The Missionaries, ardently desiring the justice of the Lord,
 must be strengthened to attain full maturity in Christ,
 so they may more effectively communicate the grace of
 the Gospel to others,

— Lord, we want to live what we preach; transform us
 completely by the Gospel, so we may be truly evange-
 lized and be effective evangelizers.

82. Promotion of Our Missionary Vocation

With the joy of being sent by the Spirit of Jesus to
 proclaim the kingdom, sharing humankind's joys and
 hopes, let us ask the Lord Jesus to strengthen us to
 carry out our mission, imploring him:

Give us your Spirit to respond with love and faithfulness!

1. – Lord, aware that evangelization is our service to people, to the world, to the Church and to the building of the kingdom,
 - grant that we may increase our missionary evangelization “in the style of the Apostles”; attending to what is “most urgent, opportune and effective.”
2. – Lord, your becoming human and living among us requires of us an inculturated evangelization,
 - may we have minds and hearts open to the people we must serve, to be able to transmit the Gospel message in terms of their own cultural values.
3. – Lord, our Congregation is present in areas where gross inequities and injustices destroy human dignity,
 - may we opt for a prophetic and liberating evangelization and through our life and our words may we bring the light of the Gospel in all its saving power,
4. – Lord, you made St. Anthony Mary Claret a man, who perceived and proclaimed the plan of salvation in the concrete circumstances of his times,
 - help us to be a sign and a force that liberates people from any kind of slavery that hinders their communion with God and others.
5. – Lord, along with the Church in our day, we have become aware again that the poor are the ones to whom our mission is primarily directed.
 - we ask you that, in fidelity to our following you and to the Church, our evangelization may always be done from the perspective of the poor and needy.
6. – Lord, this preference for the poor demands that we revise our criteria, attitudes, structures, and especially our lifestyle,
 - open us to your urgent call to change the ways we think and behave.

7. – Lord, the urgent need for evangelization in the Church today demands that we act on the sensitivity Claret had to promote evangelizers,
 - may our evangelization multiply evangelizing leadership: priests, religious and laity.

83. We Want to Do Your Will

Our Father,
 Father of kindness and mercy:
 We are gathered here in the name of the love you have
 for us.

We praise you, we bless you, and we give you thanks.
 We joyfully respond to the call you address to us in your Son
 and, strengthened by the power of the Spirit,
 we confidently say: “We want to do your will.”
 Give us clear vision, open minds and burning hearts
 to understand and embrace the plans you have for us.

When we think about the mission you entrust to us,
 we are all aware of the deep and constant demands
 we have to fulfil.

Increase our generosity and our hope
 and open us to the most pressing needs of humankind.
 May we discover how to express in our lives
 the universal love of Jesus, his unconditional self-giving
 and his complete forgetfulness of self
 in carrying out his saving mission in the world.

Strengthen us in the truth; give us a thirst for justice
 and make us effective peacemakers.

May we be a living force for communion in the pilgrim Church
 and may we persevere in being witnesses of the
 sovereign power of the Risen Christ
 in the midst of this people who suffers his passion
 for freedom.

May be responsible in all our actions and commitments,
and do not allow us, in proclaiming the Gospel, to seek
our own self-interest.

Grant us, Lord, the apostolic love of St. Anthony Mary
Claret, our father.

Teach us, like him, to always discern what pleases you,
what is just and what builds up the kingdom
among humankind.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

5. For Vocations

84. For Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, who said:
“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest,”
we humbly beg you
to deign to send them into our Congregation.
Infuse your Spirit into those you have chosen
and strengthen them in their vocation,
that they may proclaim your holy Gospel worthily
and fruitfully.
may you call us, and may we truly be,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
May we love you with all our heart, in every word and action,
and never cease to praise you.
Amen.

85. Vocation

Lord, You who called the Apostles to be fishers of people,
call new members into our Claretian Family
that they may be the salt of the earth and light of the world

and everywhere spread the love
that drove your servant, Anthony Mary.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

86. For the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Lord our God,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
you gave St. Anthony Mary Claret a great love for Jesus,
your Son,
and inspired him to found this Congregation of Missionaries,
in order to save all people.
Bless this Claretian Congregation with new vocations,
and help us to persevere till the end
in proclaiming the Gospel.
Amen.

87. Intercession to Ask the Lord for Claretian Vocations

Lord, in order to continue the great work of St. Anthony
Mary Claret in all the world
— *Send us many holy Missionaries*

Lord, in order to sanctify Christian peoples through preach-
ing and other apostolic works.
— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Lord, in order to bring the light of the Gospel to those who
do not know you,
— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Lord, in order to assure you the reign of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary,
— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Lord, that through the Immaculate Heart of Mary your will
may always be done,
— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Lord, that society may be educated in a Christian way and
that we may have a more just and humane society
according to your will,

— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Jesus, first-born Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of all humankind,

— *Send us many holy Missionaries.*

Let us pray:

Our Father,
you desire all people to be saved
and come to the knowledge of your truth.
we ask you to send laborers into your harvest
and grant that they may proclaim your Word
with confidence,
that the truth may be spread and shed its light
and that all peoples may know you, the only God.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

88. For Missionary Vocations

O God,
you desire all people to be saved
and come to knowledge of your truth.
draw towards yourself new followers of your Son,
in the style of St. Anthony Mary Claret,
and send them into the field of the world
that they may preach your Gospel to every creature,
and your people, consecrated by the Word of Life,
and sustained by the power of the sacraments,
may journey on pathways of salvation of love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

89. Prayer for vocations and perseverance

Lord, You have said that the harvest is great,
and the laborers few,
and you want the number of apostles and evangelizers
to be increased
so that the Kingdom may spread and transform the face
of the earth;
we ask you to increase the number
and the evangelical quality of those who work for the good
of people.

We thank you for those You have granted to us
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother.
Grant us your presence and assistance
so that many vocations may come to our Congregation,
and help us all to persevere in our vocation.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

90. For vocations to all states of life and ministry

Enlightened and encouraged by your Word,
we pray, Lord, for all those
Who have already heard your call and followed it.
Lord, hear our prayer

For the Pope, the bishops, priest and deacons
and for missionaries and all consecrated men
and women
that they may joyfully live their vocation
and by their life and their words make you present in the
midst of humankind.
Lord, hear our prayer

For lay people
who work generously in a variety of ministries

set up by the Church
and in the services essential to the community
Lord, hear our prayer

Sustain them in their difficulties,
comfort them in the sufferings,
help them in their loneliness,
protect them during persecution
and strengthen their faithfulness.
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for those
who are opening their heart to your call
and are being prepared to follow it.
Lord, hear our prayer

May you Word enlighten them,
your personality overwhelm them,
and your Spirit guide them to the goal
of religious profession or holy orders.
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, be for them a firm support
and let them find those who can
counsel, accompany and sustain them
with the power of conviction and love
that only you can bestow.
Lord, hear our prayer

We ask you this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

6. For Those Who Are Sick

91. For Brothers Who Are Sick

V/. Lord, look with love on our brothers, who are ill,
R/. That they may confidently hope in you.

V/. Aid them with your kindness
R/. Comfort their hearts and alleviate their sufferings.
V/. Father, hear their prayers and supplications
R/. And give them strength and peace to fulfil your will.
V/. As they lie in bed may they always remember you
R/. And as they lie awake may they meditate on you.
V/. Because you are their help
R/. May they always remain united with you.
V/. Remember, Father, all men and women who suffer
R/. Alleviate their sufferings and make us always feel linked
to them, helping them and assisting them with our love.

Let us pray:

We ask you, Father of kindness, to alleviate the sorrow of
our brothers who are ill,
cure their illness, revive their hope,
comfort and console them with your grace,
so that, restored according to your will and mercy,
may they once again be incorporated into the life of the
community and the service of the Gospel.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(or):

Let us pray:

Father of Goodness,
you desired that your Son should bear our infirmities.
hear the petitions we now address to you
for our brothers in the Congregation who are ill
in order to manifest the value of illness and patience.
Grant to all those who are forced to yield to sorrow,
affliction or illness

the grace to unite themselves to the Passion of Christ for
the redemption of the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(or):

Let us pray:

Lord, our God,
savior of all those who believe in you,
hear the prayers we address to you for our brothers in the
Congregation
alleviate their sufferings with the help of your mercy
so that, with their health restored, they may serve you in
building the kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

92. For Our Brothers Who Are Sick

V/. Lord, save your servants

R/. Who hope in you.

V/. Send them your help from your Sanctuary

R/. And grant them protection from Zion.

V/. Be their rampart, Lord

R/. Before the enemy.

V/. Grant them your strength

R/. On their bed of pain.

V/. Lord, hear our prayer

R/. And let our cry come to you.

V/. The Lord be with you

R/. And with your spirit.

Let us pray:

O God,
always compassionate and forgiving,
grant our petitions
that in your mercy you may graciously absolve us
and your servants who are ill.

(or):

O God, staunch protector of human weakness,
show the power of your help to your servants, who are ill,
so that, helped by your mercy, they may merit
to stand before the Church restored to health once more.

(or):

We ask you, Lord,
that we, your servants, may always rejoice in health of
mind and body.

By the intercession of Holy Mary, ever Virgin.

Free us from the sorrows of this world and grant us the
joys of heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

7. For the Deceased Members of the Congregation

93. Reading of the Necrology: *It is recommended, in the recitation of Vespers, before the final prayer of the intercessions, to remember our brothers who have died on that date, reading their names from the Necrology.*

94. Prayer for the Deceased Members of the Congregation

V/. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V/. May they rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

V/. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

O God, you sustain our hope of future happiness in the Paschal Mystery of your Son.

We humbly ask you

that all who participate in our Claretian fellowship here on earth

and spend their lives spreading your kingdom, may attain the joys of eternal happiness in the mansions of our heavenly home.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

95. Prayer for Deceased Parents

O God, You have commanded us to honor our father and mother.

have mercy on our parents:

Forgive their sins and may we be reunited with them one day in the brightness of your glory.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

96. Prayer for the Deceased Relatives and Benefactors

O God, through the Paschal Mystery of your Son you keep alive the hope of our resurrection.

We humbly ask you

that all who share on earth

in our Claretian fellowship

and collaborate in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel may attain the joy of eternal happiness.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

97. Prayer for Deceased Brothers and Sisters, Relatives, and Benefactors

O God, you grant forgiveness for sins

and want all people to be saved:

by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints,

grant our brothers and sisters, relatives and benefactors who have already passed from this world

to attain eternal blessedness.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

III. DAILY PRAYER

98. “Although the Liturgy is the center of worship and of the Christian life itself, liturgical action does not exhaust spiritual life (cf. SC 12). For this reason, each one of our members, although called by vocation to pray in common, should nevertheless, according to the recommendation of the Gospel, pray to the Father in secret. And furthermore, they should pray without ceasing (cf. SC 9-12). It was certainly a notable preoccupation of our Founder, from the beginning of the formation of our missionaries, that they develop as intense lifer of prayer (cf. Const. 1, 120, 121). The spirit of prayer, and even prayer itself, which the Church requires all religious to practice assiduously (cf. PC 6), should be presented as a personal search for God, leading toward a greater interior supernatural knowledge of Christ, which they will later on provide for the People of God in their life and their words” (1 F 48).

In order to take cognizance of the fact that “personal and community prayer is the prerequisite for any missionary service” (IPM 23.2), we should follow “a rhythm of life that allows us to feel, savour and love life from the standpoint of God’s love for his creatures. We must not let ourselves be dominated by the dizzying search for results and for over-efficiency” (IPM 23.3).

When the Constitutions state that “daily prayer, faithfully made, is a primary need for both the community and

the individual missionary” and that “it should be given priority in our life” (CC 37), they are not making an arbitrary regulation but one that serves the purpose of being a sure guide to our own fidelity.

Each missionary must take the responsibility for the fidelity to, and intensity of, prayer that our Constitutions require (Dir. 86). The community should guarantee that each of its members has “an inalienable time for his daily personal prayer and the possibility of participating in community prayer” (CPR 57; cf. 2VR, appendix 7).

Community prayer, on its part, should provide a needed spiritual support for everyone. Each of the members has the right to be helped by the example of the other members. Each one has the right and obligation of praying with the others and of participating in the liturgy with them. This mutual assistance encourages our efforts to live the missionary life. The 1973 Chapter goes so far as to say: “if a community or any of its members finds itself unable to pray habitually or for long, they should seriously question their situations. They should ask themselves whether their situation is really justified, or whether it is not, rather, a sign that they are caught up in a situation that should be studied and for which remedies should be sought, either as to ill-advised goals and structures, or to unrealistic forms of prayer. Such a situation would finally lead to questioning the very existence of the community or member as Claretian” (2VR, appendix 7).

In the practice order, the community has to create an environment that is conducive to prayer and its yearly planning has to program in prayer and its yearly planning has to program in prayer and its periodic evaluation (Dir. 85; 93). Concretely this demands that “every day, each community should devote a minimum of half an hour to prayer, preferably with the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours” (Dir.86).

1. Daily Community Acts

99. “While our Founder lived, the following acts were private in our Congregation: meditation, reading, examination of conscience, morning and night prayers. The following were community acts: visit after meals and later on the rosary, which took place after the ascetical and mystical conference before dinner. During missions, morning and night prayers, as well as rosary, were community act with the people” (1 VR 115).

The recitation of Lauds and Vespers or Compline is normally a community act in our houses, according to the resolutions since the Chapter of 1967 (1 VR 121, 2VR appendix 5; Dir 85). Thus, we implement the teaching of the Church that Lauds, as morning prayer, and Vespers, as evening prayer, are the double axis on which the whole daily office revolves (SC 89; 100).

“Morning Prayer... is intended and arranged for the sanctification of the morning. Saint Basil the Great gives an excellent description of its character in these words: ‘It is said in the morning in order that the first stirrings of our mind and will may be consecrated to God, and that we may take nothing to hand until we have been gladdened by the thought of God, as it is written: “I was mindful of God and was glad,” or set our bodies to any task before we do what has been said: I will pray to you Lord, you will hear my voice in the morning, I will stand before you in the morning and gaze on you” (GILH, 38) . “Through Lauds the mandate of the Constitutions (n. 52) is fulfilled of renewing the decision “to walk in newness of life, setting our hearts on God” and committing ourselves to do ‘everything with an upright intention and true fervor of heart” (n.52).

Vespers is celebrated so “we may give thanks for what has been given us, or what we have done well during the

day. We also recall our redemption through the prayer which we send up “like incense in the Lord’s sight,” and in which “the raising up of our hands” becomes “an evening sacrifice.” Vespers also fulfils what the Constitutions (GILH, 39) indicates; “They have nothing except what they have received from God and for which they will have to render an account. Therefore, let them acknowledge the gifts they have received and, by putting them at the service of all people, let them see to it that these gifts bear fruit.”

2. Intercessions to be added at Lauds or Vespers

100. These optional intercessions can be added to lauds and/or vespers. The first intercession is Marian, the second congregational or apostolic, and the last vocational.

FIRST WEEK

Sunday

Lord, you have chosen us to be called, and truly be, sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

- grant that, by lovingly venerating her, we may be conformed to the Paschal Mystery of Christ and cooperate in her motherly role in the apostolic mission.

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the world to proclaim the Good News to the poor,

- send us, also, to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of your Son so that all people may be saved by believing in Him.

Lord, you willed that your Son be called Emmanuel, “God-with-us,”

- may He be present in our Congregation and enliven it with new vocations in order to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

Monday

Heavenly Father, following the example of the Virgin Mary, your servant, who consecrated herself totally to collaborating in the saving work of your Son,

- grant that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we may strive to fulfil your will, dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Heavenly Father, You want your Son to dwell in our hearts through faith,

- grant us the power to achieve the full stature of your Son so that we can communicate the grace of the Gospel to others more effectively.

Lord, you had your Son Jesus send the Apostles to bear witness to the Resurrection,

- foster the missionary vocation among young people so that, following the example of your servant, Anthony Mary Claret, they may tirelessly proclaim the Gospel message.

Tuesday

Lord, You wanted the Mother of your Son to welcome the Word and treasure it in her heart,

- grant that we may listen to the Word in our hearts and, impelled by love like our Founder, tirelessly proclaim it to all people.

Heavenly Father, You called us, not according to our deeds, but according to your good pleasure,

- grant that we may respond faithful to your call so that we may do everything with the right intention and with a truly fervent spirit and with your support bear the difficulties in proclaiming the Gospel message.

Lord, You wanted your Son to be the Light of the world,

- fill many young people with a yearning for Gospel perfection that they may be light for the world and salt for the earth.

Wednesday

You have chosen us to be your humble servants and sons of the Immaculate Virgin Mary,

- grant that we may respond faithfully to your kindness and give us the grace we need to be each day more humble, fervent and zealous for the salvation of souls.

Heavenly Father, You chose St. Anthony Mary Claret to be the founder of our Congregation.

- grant that, by imitating him, we may burn with love and enkindle in all people the fire of your love any way we can.

Lord, You are present in heaven and on earth,

- bless our Claretian Congregation with new vocations who, impelled by the example of our founder and father, may consecrate themselves to your service and dedicate themselves to the evangelization of the peoples of the earth.

Thursday

Lord, You chose Mary as the Mother of your Son,

- make us faithful to our vocation as sons of the Immaculate Heart and grant that we may proclaim the Gospel

without ceasing to the poorest and most humble of this world.

Heavenly Father, you made the heart of Claret burn with apostolic zeal,

- grant that we may follow and imitate Christ by praying, working and suffering and by always striving only for your greater glory and the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

Lord, You regard us as your sons in your beloved Son,

- we ask You, through his intercession, that our Congregation may experience your love in abundant and holy vocations.

Friday

Heavenly Father, you wished the Virgin Mary at the foot of your Son's cross to become the Mother of all people,

- grant that we may associate ourselves more closely to Her in order to cooperate with renewed generosity in the work of saving all men and women.

Heavenly Father, you want all people to be saved through your Son Jesus Christ,

- we beg you for the conversion of all the sinners, perseverance in your grace and eternal happiness.

Lord, You wanted the Church to be born from your Son's pierced side as he hung on the cross,

- grant that many young people, baptized in water and nourished with the Eucharistic Bread, may welcome your call in order to continue the evangelizing work of Claret in the world.

Saturday

Heavenly Father, the Virgin Mary believed the angel's message and carried your Son in her womb in order to save all people,

- grant that we may be united wholeheartedly with Christ the Lord in order to make him present to all creatures.

Heavenly Father, You chose Mary as Mother of your Son,

- grant that we, by loving her as her sons, may seek your glory and the salvation of humankind.

Lord, through the Holy Spirit, You made the virgin earth of Mary fertile,

- by her intercession, send your Holy Spirit to our Family so that, welcoming your Word with joyful hearts, we may attract and inspire many with the missionary vocation you have blessed us with.

SECOND WEEK**Sunday**

Heavenly Father, You wanted your Son to rise from the dead,

- grant that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, we may joyfully live the Paschal Mystery and proclaim the glory of your Name so that all people may come to knowledge of the truth and be saved.

Gracious Father, You sent your Son to save us through the Paschal Mystery,

- grant that, by sharing in his death and his life and by living among humankind, we may encourage them to remember the presence of the Lord.

Lord, in order to carry on the great apostolic work of St. Anthony Mary Claret throughout the world,

- send our Congregation many holy Missionaries.

Monday

Lord, You sent the world your Son, the Word of salvation, in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

- grant that, by meditating assiduously on your Word, we may be attentive and open to responding to what is more urgent, effective and opportune for the salvation of all people.

Lord, you wanted your Son to choose apostles in order to make them ministers of the Gospel,

- grant us the grace to be evangelized by your Word and to be evangelizers in our society.

Lord, in order to bring the light of the Gospel to those who do not yet know you,

- make us aware of the duty we have to foster vocations to the missionary life.

Tuesday

Lord, through the virginal motherhood of Mary you gave all people the blessings of salvation,

- grant that we may experience her motherly intercession so that we may represent Christ in the Church, dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Lord, You want all people to love and serve You,

- make us love You with all our heart and all our strength, and may we ardently desire that all people love and serve You.

Lord, so that society may be more human and the world more just, according to the Gospel,

- send our Congregation many young people who will unswervingly dedicate themselves to transforming the world according to your salvific plan.

Wednesday

Lord, you wanted the Blessed Virgin Mary to be our Mother and the Formatrix of Apostles,

- grant through her intercession that we may be fitting ministers of your Word in order to make your Name known and to spread the Kingdom of Heaven through all the earth.

Lord, you wanted evangelization to be our service to humankind, to the world and to the Church,

- help us to be missionaries in the manner of our Holy Founder.

Lord, in order to bring the Good News to the poor and to proclaim a time of grace and mercy,

- make all Christian communities and all Christian families involve themselves with greater diligence in vocation ministry.

Thursday

Heavenly Father, You wanted Mary to be full of grace,

- fill us with your grace and strengthen us so that our lives may be a proclamation of consolation and hope to a wounded people.

Lord, You desired your Son to become incarnate, taking on human nature,

- grant that we may live with hearts and minds open to the people we serve in order to transmit the Gospel message through the values proper to their culture.

Lord, you summon us to cast our nets in your Name,

- we beg You that we may live the dream of our missionary project of life and in faith boldly propose it to others.

Friday

Lord, You wanted the Blessed Virgin Mary to be present near the Cross,

- grant that we, following her example, may always be close to the those who suffer hunger, illness, ignorance or injustice.

Lord, You are present throughout the world,

- we beg You that the Congregation, present in so many nations where inequities and injustices destroy the dignity of the human person, may fulfil its prophetic service of the Word, taking action intended to remedy the evils that beset our brothers and sisters.

Lord, make us instruments of reconciliation and peace,

- so that, with openness of spirit, we may welcome those to whom You have granted the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret and called to become part of our family.

Saturday

Heavenly Father, You desired that our Congregation receive a particular imprint of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

- help us understand that without heart, without tenderness, without love, there is no credible prophecy.

Lord, You called St. Anthony Mary Claret to faithfully follow your Son and impelled him, through love, to totally dedicate his life to the service of the Kingdom,

- awaken in us his feeling of being an evangelizing missionary, his filial love for Mary, his deep sense of Church and his diligence in increasing the number of evangelizers.

Lord, so that we may faithfully persevere in the proclamation of the Gospel in imitation of St. Anthony Mary Claret,

- do not allow us to become imprisoned in our own secure world or to become disheartened, but let us always be open to the gifts with which You enrich us.

THIRD WEEK

Sunday

Lord, You poured out the Holy Spirit on the Apostles gathered in prayer with Mary,

- grant, through her intercession, that we may always persevere in prayer and, impelled by the same Spirit, dedicate ourselves to spreading the Kingdom among humankind.

Lord, You have said “whoever loses his life for my sake for the Gospel, will save it”

- pour out your grace abundantly upon us so that we may joyfully bear the hardships and tribulations of our ministry.

Lord, You have called us to be disciples of your Son,

- grant new vocations to our Congregation who as ordained ministers or as lay people may share in our apostolic mission.

Monday

Lord, You have given us an image of the Church in the Virgin Mary,

- grant that, in communion with our shepherds, we may serve the building up and growth of the Church.

Lord, You blessed St. Anthony Mary Claret with a great love and apostolic zeal for all people,

- help us refine our way of evangelizing and never fail to present You as the greatest good for the human person.

- Lord, You give life to the Church by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
- make us imitate our Founder in his apostolic spirit, and send us abundant vocations to continue his missionary charism in the Church.

Tuesday

Heavenly Father You have set up the Seat of Wisdom in the Heart of the Virgin Mary,

- enlighten your Church with the light of the Word of life so that it may discover your will and point out the way of the Gospel to all people.

Lord, You protect those you send with the power of the Holy Spirit,

- receive your faith and confidence by reminding us that You choose weak and fragile instruments to confound the strong.

Lord, You gave a living faith to the Prophets, the Apostles and the Martyrs,

- infuse that same faith in all those You call to the Congregation so that with a joyous spirit we may offer ourselves to extend the Reign of Christ.

Wednesday

Lord, You are pleased with the humble and worked great things in the Mother of your Son,

- make the gifts You have given us bear abundant fruit for the good of our brothers and sisters.

Lord, You have granted an apostolic gift to others who are in different ways in communion with our Congregation,

- grant that, animated by the charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret, we may share our life and our missionary commitments with them.

Lord, You announced the mission of your Son through the Prophets and Apostles,

- send the Church many missionaries who, embracing poverty with a joyous spirit, may fearlessly proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

Thursday

Lord, in the Heart of the Virgin Mary, the first-born of the redemption, you have given us a Mother of immense tenderness.

- open our hearts to the joy of the Spirit, and make us, in imitation of our Mother, attentive to the needs of the poor, and compassionate and faithful in serving them.

Lord, You anointed us with the Spirit like Christ to evangelize the poor,

- we beg You that this same Spirit may give life to our words so they may reach the heart of every person and be a transforming force in our society.

Lord, You have chosen us to be called and truly be sons of the Heart of Mary,

- strengthen us in our vocation and raise up in our Congregation new vocations who will love You in word and deed and never cease to proclaim the Gospel worthily and effectively.

Friday

Lord, you gave courage to Mary at the foot of the Cross and filled her with overflowing joy at the Resurrection of your Son,

- sustain us in our weaknesses and let us always experience her motherly protection so that we may faithfully persevere in the mission You have entrusted to us.

Lord, You have called us to follow your Son and collaborate with Him in the work of salvation,

- grant that we may be powerful instruments to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and that we may conform ourselves to Him through the religious vows and other virtues, according to our charism in the Church.

Lord, You sent your Son and through Him called the Apostles to be fishers of people,

- enlighten those you call to full communion with our Congregation so that they may know and experience our life and mission and be faithful to their apostolic vocation.

Saturday

Lord, You made the Immaculate Heart of Mary a dwelling place for your Son and a temple of the Holy Spirit,

- give us pure and docile heart so that our fraternal community may be expressed in the communion of goods with the poor and in serving them.

Lord, You desired that your Son become poor in order to make us rich,

- grant that, through the poverty we profess, our missionary community may be a sign of the Gospel we preach.

Lord, You chose the Holy Virgin Mary as the Mother of your Son and wanted her to be our Mother as well,

- grant that we may experience her motherly presence and the effectiveness of her intercession in our vocation work and our ministries.

FOURTH WEEK

Sunday

Lord, You gave the Virgin Mary a pure and docile Heart, always ready to please You,

— grant that we may be consecrated to You and manifest in our weak flesh your power and glory in order to nourish in all the hope of the life to come.

Lord, through the words and entire life of Jesus Christ you proposed chastity for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven to us,

— we beg You that we may joyfully accept the gift of chastity and cultivate it with all diligence.

Lord, You build our community on the Spirit poured forth into our hearts, and not on flesh and blood,

— make our fraternal life grow each day and be an effective call for those who desire to give themselves to service in our Family.

Monday

Heavenly Father, You wanted Mary to await the coming of the Holy Spirit with the primitive community united in prayer,

— grant that we, through her intercession, in the diversity of charism and ministries and the plurality of culture and mindsets, may always remain united in spirit in the bond of peace.

You wanted your Son to call to Himself apostles to live with Him and be sent to preach,

— may we, animated by the spirit of your Holy Founder, share the mission of the community and collaborate in the ministry of the Word.

Lord, make our apostolic service build a more just and human world,

— and encourage many young people to generously give their lives for the good of their brothers and sisters and to dedicate themselves to proclaiming the Gospel, following the example of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Tuesday

Lord, instructed by the example of the Most Holy Virgin and under her protection,

— we beg You that, faithfully fulfilling the promises of our religious profession, we may serve You and our brothers and sisters with a sincere and generous heart.

You sent your Son, born of the Holy Virgin Mary, and anointed Him with the Spirit to evangelized the poor,

— grant that we may proclaim the Good News to the poor and always be united with those who suffer illness, sorrow, injustice and oppression.

Lord, Your Son Jesus commanded us to beg you to send laborers into your harvest,

— grant that there may be no lack of missionaries for your Church and for our Congregation.

Wednesday

Heavenly Father, You joined the Virgin Mary indissolubly to the ministry of Christ,

— grant that we may venerate her with filial love and join our hearts to the saving work of her Son.

You make all things new by the Holy Spirit,

— renew in our Claretian Family and in each one of us the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret so that we may seek by all possible means to set the world on fire with your love.

Lord, we pray for those who serve the Church by proclaiming the Gospel,

— also hear our prayer that our Congregation may never lack generous and self-giving missionaries to spread the faith throughout the world.

Thursday

Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 — grant that we may know what is pleasing to You and remain steadfast in the faith, generous in love and persevering in hope.

You wanted your son to be united with the poor,
 — grant that we, living in fellowship and solidarity with our poorest and most needy brothers and sisters may be credible witnesses to the Kingdom we proclaim.

Lord, we pray for all the members of our Congregation,
 — grant that we, impelled by the spirit of Claret, may be true educators in the faith and help young people to recognize in their lives your mysterious presence and your call.

Friday

You have given us the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Mother and Patroness. Under the title of her Immaculate Heart,
 — grant that we may be called and truly be the sons of the Heart of Mary and, like Her, dedicate ourselves without reservation to proclaiming your Kingdom.

You wanted your Son to gather around him disciples as collaborators to transmit the message of salvation,
 — make us effective helpers of the Shepherds in the ministry of the Word, using all means possible to spread the Good News of the Kingdom throughout the world.

Lord, You freely call those you want,
 — we beg You that, through our words and our manner of life, we may foster vocations to the Church and to the Congregation.

Saturday

Heavenly Father, You raised up your Congregation in the Church through the intervention of the Most Holy Virgin Mary,
 — grant that, through her intercession, we may dedicate ourselves to special service of the Heart of Mary in order to attain the objective for which this Congregation was founded.

You chose Mary as the first disciple of Jesus and the exemplar of the consecrated life,
 — grant that we, formed in her Heart, may follow the path of perfection and apostolic service that St. Anthony Mary Claret laid out for us in the Church.

Lord, You have called us to be witnesses to your Kingdom,
 — may we see our Congregation grow in numbers with new young people who want to follow in the footsteps of Claret and always grow in holiness until they attain perfect love.

3. Angelus and Marian Antiphons**101. Angelus**

After the recitation of Lauds, outside the Easter season, the Angelus is said.

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
 (Hail Mary)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord
 be it done to me according to your word
 (Hail Mary)

And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us
(Hail Mary)

- Pray for us, Holy Mother of God
- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our heart that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(during the Easter season)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia,
the Son whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia
has risen as he said. Alleluia
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, o Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia.

O God, you have given joy to the world
through the resurrection of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through the prayers of his Virgin Mother Mary,
grant that we may attain the joys of eternal life
through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

After Vespers, the Angelus or some other Marian antiphon is recited.

102. Marian Antiphon

After Compline, a Marian antiphon is sung or recited.

1. Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
hail our life, our sweetness and our hope;
to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy towards us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of the womb, Jesus.
O clement, O living, O sweet Virgin Mary!
2. Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea
assist your people who have fallen but strive to rise again.
to the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
you who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.
3. Ave, Regina caelorum (Hail, Queen of heaven,
Ave, Domina angelorum; Hail, Mistress of Angels,
Salve, radix; salve, porta, Hail, O Root, hail, O Gate
ex qua mundo lux est orta. From whom the light of the
world has come.
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Rejoice, O Glorious Virgin
Super omnes speciosa; You who are fairest of all,
Vale, O Valde decora, Farewell, O beautiful maiden,
Et pro nobis Christum exora. Pray for us to God.)
4. We gather under your protection,
Holy Mother of God;
let not our prayers be fruitless

that we address to you in our needs;
and most of all, free us every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

5. (for Sunday and the Easter season)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia,
the Son whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia
has risen as he said. Alleluia
pray for us to God. Alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
for the Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia.

Let us pray:

O God, You gave joy to the world through the prayers of
his resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through his Virgin Mother Mary, grant that we may
attain the joys of eternal life.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

4. Personal Prayer

103. “Without an intense life of prayer, without a continuous meditation on the Word of God, without frequent moments throughout the day in which personal prayer is sought and found, a true response cannot be given nor can one go out to encounter Christ, who comes to us in the Sacrament and who brings us to Him by faith” (1 F 50).

This principle translates that each missionary should spend time “*daily in mental prayer, an hour when possible [and] in spiritual reading, especially from the Scriptures*” (cc 37; Dir. 85; EE 20), that disposes us to participate fittingly in the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours (PE 114).

In St. Anthony Mary Claret meditation is primarily directed to fanning the flames of love and being filled with the Spirit: “*Thoroughly convinced that to be a good missionary it is both useful and essential to have love, I have searched for the hidden treasure..., I have studied the means to acquire it and discovered the following:.... (4) making one’s meditation well*” (Aut. 442). Another purpose of meditation, according to our Founder, is the strengthening of the will, to overcome the old self and be more disposed to generosity in one’s self-giving to the Lord.

However the Saint proposes no particular method of meditation nor any way peculiarly his own.

5. Reading of the Word of God and Spiritual Reading

104. *The Word of God* should be one of the hinges of the whole process of formation (SP 14, 21.2). The Bible is the preferred book for all Missionaries for daily and vocational spiritual reading, following the example of our Father Founder (IF 53; SP 14), to such an extent that it is a family trait that allows us to prove that we are hearers and servants of the Word (SP 14).

We must ask the Father to make us fitting ministers of the divine Word (CC 73), listening to it contemplatively and sharing it with our brothers and sisters in order to convert them to the Gospel, (CC 34; cf. SP 13.1), to live what we believe and to teach what we live (1F 52).

Claret presents the Heart of Mary to us as the burning force where we are formed to be heralds of the Word. “In the depths of Mary’s Heart we discover and learn the way to listen. She received the Word into her heart (cf. Lk 2: 19,51) made history in the cry of the poor (cf. Lk 1: 48-53)” (SW 15).

105. *The reading of Sacred Scripture* from a Claretian perspective involves two stages: personal reading and community reflection:

I. Personal reading must involve:

1) Aids to achieve better assimilation of the **message of the Scriptural text:**

- *the literary level:* the text
- *the historical level:* taking into consideration the time to which the text refers and the time in which the text was written.
- *the theological level:* the religious message of the text

2) Aids that invite us to a “vocational reading” of these Scriptures texts, by means of what we call *Claretian Resonances*. They endeavor to help us to rediscover in the spiritual and missionary experience of Claret and in the Tradition of the Congregation the echo of the message of the Scripture texts proposed for our consideration.

This Claretian approach to Scripture reading has these characteristics:

- a) Daily commitment to read the Bible as our Father Founder did so faithfully.
- b) Always going beyond the critical and textual level to achieve a “spiritual” reading: Claret discovered that the text was speaking to him and revealed his personal identity, his vocation and his mission.
- c) A reading from the perspective of service: it is a word to whose service one is dedicated and a word one must serve or present ministry.
- d) A reading that makes certain basic elements explicit:
 - It is centered on Christology
 - It has missionary orientation: it emphasizes Jesus as preacher, prophet and apostle.

- It sheds light on historical reality and provides a judgement about it.
- e) A reading that should be illumined not only by Clarets lived experience, but also by the life and spiritual heritage of the Congregation.

II. For the community encounter participants are we invited to share their reading of the Scripture text from these various perspectives⁴

- a) *the Scriptural perspective:* tries to help the group catch the full richness of the Scripture text
- b) *the Claretian perspective:* tries to motivate the group to recall the Claretian resonance of the Scripture text is concerned with
- c) *the situational perspective:* its purpose is to help us be aware of the historical juncture in which we find ourselves:
 - in order to shed light on it from the perspective of the Word and to capture the word God is addressing to us in the situation itself,
 - that we “situate” our understanding of the Scriptural message that has a particular and renewed meaning for us today.
- d) *the existential perspective:* that invites us to reinterpret, in fraternal dialogue, our missionary identity in the light of the Word and to discern the most appropriate ways to follow up on the inspirations and challenges the Word presents us with.

It should involve these specific steps:

- One of the participants should be invited to invoke the presence of the Spirit, the other may add to this prayer.

⁴ Word-Mission. Introduction to the Project. Word Mission: Servants of the Word 1 Pentateuch. Claretian Publication (Quezon City), pp. 8-9.

- Then the text is read aloud while all participants follow along in their own Bible;
- A time is left for silence to interiorize the Word that has been heard.
- When it seems opportune, the one who leads or animates invites others to express what the Word has suggested to them.
- In the next step, the group has to come up with some concrete application of that Word to the personal, community and existential situation in which the Word is being lived.
- The encounter may be concluded with spontaneous petitions and the communal recitation of the Our Father.

106. Lectio Divina⁵ is not simply a method of reading Sacred Scripture, but a way of encountering God through the Bible itself. It is a privileged form of continuous and prayerful contact with Sacred Scripture, recommended by Vatican II (DV 25) and the General Chapter of 1991 (SP 21.2). Its most important stages are:

1^a Invocation of Spirit that He may make us know God's will expressed in the Scripture.

2^a Lectio: reading of the text, as many times as necessary, to move beyond reading with the eyes to reading and listening with the heart.

3^a Meditatio: thinking about the text to discover the meaning it contains.

4^a Oratio: if the prior phases were a matter of listening to God, now is the time to express the feelings the text gives rise to: thanksgiving, petition, praise, etc.

⁵ General Prefecture of Formation. Claretian Missionaries: Initiation into the Service of the Word (Rome, 1997), pp. 121-124.

5^a Contemplatio: is the culmination of the process. This is an attempt to turn God's gaze on the world and people in order to live reality more from within.

6^a Collatio: time to share the Word with our brothers.

7^a Actio: formalizing the commitment that springs from the Word.

107. "As loving sons we should honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is associated with all her Heart in the saving work of her Son. Our honor for her should be expressed both in the liturgy and in such traditionally approved forms of Marian devotion as the Rosary" (CC 36). We should strive to save the Rosary"... individually when this is not done in community" (Dir. 87).

St. Anthony Mary Claret said this about reciting the Rosary, whose devotion and spread earned him the mark of an apostle in the 19th century: "We can say the Rosary is a compendium of holy Faith, because it is made up of its principal mysteries. He who says it in its entirety, recalls and meditates on, in one day, what the Church celebrates in its feasts over the course of a year" (La Colegiala instruida, Barcelona, 1863, p. 177).

108. After the announcement of each mystery and a Bible verse, there is a commentary from the Holy Founder:

The Joyful Mysteries

(Monday and Saturday)

1

The Annunciation of God's Son (Lk 1:26-38)

The Word became flesh so that all flesh might be saved in Him.

- In the Incarnation shines the immense glory of God and the destiny of humankind. One who looks for God and doesn't find Him is looking in the wrong place. God is in Mary: "The Lord is with Thee."
- He became incarnate because zeal for God's glory and the salvation of souls was consuming Him.
- With Incarnation, so stupendous and so worthy of our adoration, the Son of God not only saved human nature, but also ennobled it as much as was possible. In ennobling human nature, He ennobled all creation, because the human being is a synthesis of the whole of creation.

2

The Visitation of Mary to her Cousin, Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-46)

- In every visit you make, imitate Mary. Edify with your witness and exercise charity.
- Remember: all the good you have done for your neighbor will be repaid one day by the Lord, just as if you had done it to the Lord Himself.
- Believe it! Such a din of words is unnecessary. Speak by your example and your teaching will be effective.
- We can and should love ourselves knowing Mary is on

our side. She always sustains us by being a channel of grace and gives us strength and courage by being the Tower of David.

- The world is like a farmland. God is the Lord; Mary is the irrigation channel loved by God that makes it fertile. Mary is always between God and us, and sustains us with her protection.

3

The Birth of God's Son (Lk 2:1-20; Jn 1:14)

- The human person without Christ would be as desolate as a world without sunlight.
- Mary is Mother of God. And it is from the depths of this sublime, incommunicable and singular dignity that the marvels of all her titles flow and develop.
- Infancy is the time for sowing. Whoever desires to reap first must have sown in abundance.
- If the root is holy, the branches will be holy.
- What tongue could proclaim, what mind could penetrate, the sublime dignity to which the Virgin Mary was raised? She is the Unique Virgin among virgins, chosen as Mother of God.

4

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:22-35)

- Look in the Mother for the virtues in which she educates her son; don't look in the mother for the defects she corrects in him.
- We will always live joyfully, if, abandoning ourselves

in the arms of the Virgin Mary, our most affectionate Mother, we faithfully live God's will.

- Learn from Jesus and from Mary how necessary it is to conform oneself to the disposition and precepts of the Church. Mary and Jesus fulfil that to which they are not bound. How do you think you can exempt yourself from that to which you are bound?
- As the Cross precedes every procession, so humility precedes all the other virtues.
- True glory is like a shadow: it flees from those who seek it and accompanies those who flee from it.

5

Jesus, Lost and Found Among the Teachers (Lk 2:41-52)

- Love is like a fire that reduces everything to fire. Whoever really loves Christ reduces everything to fire – what he does, what he says, what he thinks, what he suffers.
- Like Mary and Joseph, we have to look for Jesus. And, as Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple, you also need to try to look for him in the temple.
- With Jesus lost, neither Joseph nor Mary had any rest until they found Him, and as they found Him, so also will you.
- Through Mary the prisoner gains freedom, the sick health, the depressed joy, the sinner pardon, the just perseverance.
- In the Christian universe, Jesus is the mind; Mary is the heart.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesday and Friday)

1

The Prayer in the Garden (Lk 22:39-46; Jn 18:4-5)

- Contemplate Jesus in the garden. He suffers sadness and agony. If you ask Him the reason for such great suffering, he will turn and look at you.
- Take heart and trust. Tempest and hurricanes don't last forever. All of them are followed by the calm.
- Two things light the road to sanctity: the effort to know God's will and the determination to fulfil it to the utmost when it is known.
- Have you seen Christians rejoicing in the glory of the world? Take the name of Christ and, thus look to Christ.
- Obedience and humility make Jesus victorious. From Him we learn obedience and humility.

2

The Scourging (Mt 27:27-32; Jn 18:38-40, 19:1)

- Naked and bound to a pillar, He, the Innocent One, He who has committed no sin, is cruelly scourged.
- In sorrow saints are forged.
- If it is certain that the innocent are called to suffer for a little while, it is also certain that they shine resplendently afterwards. It is also certain that, in the end, all humankind will bless His name.
- We should imitate Jesus who always prayed for his persecutors.

- One who lives in the Spirit of Christ, discerns in adversity the instrument by which God wants to purify him.

3

The Crowning with Thorns (Mk 15:16-20)

- All God's works are like roses. Each rose is surrounded by thorns, which tells us the one who does not want to suffer will never be able to rejoice.
- When you feel persecuted, unappreciated, and slandered, be patiently silent, as Jesus was silent. Thus you will win the crown of the glory.
- Many think Christ is only a mock King and ignore His message. You recognize Him as the true King and live by the law of the Gospel.
- I will build a chapel in the depths of my heart and in it, night and day, I will adore my King and my Lord.
- Live everything in the presence of so great a King! And thus magnify everything, even the simplest and most insignificant ones.

4

Jesus Bears the Cross on His Back (Lk 23:26-32; Jn 19:17-18)

- No one enters paradise without retracing the way of the Cross. Many want to follow Christ to Mount Tabor. But few want to follow Him up to Calvary!
- The Cross, which each of us is called to bear, has the purpose of loosening our attachment to the things of the world.
- Because Jesus bore the Cross for us, it is just and right

that each of us, in imitation of the Savior and out of love for Him, bears his own cross.

- Working and suffering are the greatest proofs of love.
- Love Him. You will thus dry His sweat and tears, help Him bear the Cross, accompany Him as Mary did, and never abandon Him again.

5

Jesus Dies on the Cross (Lk 23:33-34, 44-46; Jn 19:26-30)

- The Cross presents the Christian with a perfect compendium of Gospel morality.
- No one has greater love than he who lays down his life for the one he loves. Jesus gave His life for you. Consider well that He loves you – and how great is the love! And, if love is repaid with love, love Him and love Him Truly.
- The thought of death acts in life like a ship's rudder. Thanks to the rudder the ship avoids reefs and heads for port. Thanks to the thought of death the human person avoids the reefs of evil and reaches the port of salvation.
- We all must refer ourselves to Christ. Christ is the cornerstone that unites the Old and New Testaments. He dies on the Cross with his arms open wide to welcome both the Old Law and the New Law of grace.
- Because you know his courage, embrace the Cross and joyfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus, your Lord and Master.

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesday and Sunday)

1

Jesus Rises from the Dead (Jn 20:1-10; Mk 16:9-14)

- Christ leaves the shroud and the tomb and rises glorious and triumphant. He can die no more. What joy! What happiness!
- What joy did Jesus not experience in body and in spirit when, risen, he recognized in the redemption of the human race the overwhelming fecundity of his obedience to the eternal Father!
- All people are called to embark on and travel the path that leads to the glory of the resurrection. It is the path God Himself had shown us. It is called the path of love.
- One who suffers for justice' sake best knows the magnificence of the Lord. And the light of the Lord will shine for all eternity.
- We will see God in the immensity of His light and His truth. We will love God and our hearts will be immersed in his volcano of love; they will float in the volcano of his delight and gentleness. We will see God and our desire will be completely satisfied because we will be eternally and completely happy and free from all suffering and sorrow.

2

The Ascension of the Lord (Acts 1:6-11)

- On this earth one is only a pilgrim, a traveler. And as such one eagerly desires that the journey ends in a happy homeland. Certainly we have not been created for

earth but for heaven, and heaven is our happy homeland.

- Only Christ, only His mystery, can cure the sickness of humankind and its history; and it is thus an entire intellectual, moral and social drama.
- Jesus is the Way shown us. And not only the Way, but also the Truth and the Life.
- One is the Christ who has redeemed and sanctified us. One is the Christ who will glorify us if we have the strength to follow His way.
- Jesus presents Himself to us, pilgrims in the Faith, as the model and love of God, of neighbor and of ourselves and He awaits us as the prize for our journey.

3

The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:19-23; Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4)

- The special work of the Holy Spirit is the sanctification of humankind. The Spirit, who is the Spirit of love, communicates holiness to human beings.
- With the fire of his love, the Spirit consumes whatever impurities or stains there are in the person.
- The Spirit turned ignorant and fearful fisherman into wise and great apostles, into valiant declaimers of the Gospel.
- The Spirit vivifies, sustain and sanctifies the entire Church.
- If our duty is to live by God's will, then it is the Holy Spirit who makes us know it and gives us the means necessary to fulfill it.

4

The Assumption of Mary Body and Soul into Heaven

(Lk 1:46-48; Eph 4:7-13; Col 3:1-4)

- There is heaven in those who hope.
- Imitate Mary. Be faithful to grace. Seek perfection. Never surrender. Don't look back. Pursue virtue. And you will be given a crown of Glory.
- Remembering Mary's Assumption should arouse in us great confidence and hope in salvation. In heaven we not only have our Father, we also have our Mother. And is she loves us so much on earth, how much more will she loves us in heaven where love reigns?
- Mary is, at one and the same time, the stairway and the door that opens in heaven, We must climb that stairway, we must knock at the door if we want to share in the glory of the Lord.
- Grace raises Mary from earth to heaven. In Mary, God resides. Through Mary God's favors descend from heaven and through Mary our petitions reach heaven.

5

Mary Is Crowned Queen of the Universe (Rev 12:1-5, 9-10; Lk 1:46-49)

- Happiness lies in God alone. Whoever seeks it needs to seek it in God.
- Humility, obedience, love and the other virtues earn Mary such a great glory. The Church, enthralled, sings: the Mother of God is elevated in heaven above all the choirs of the angels and the saints.

- There, at Christ's right hand, Mary is seated, crowned as Queen of Heaven and earth. She sits there in love and power, Mother of humankind and of the Christians for ever.
- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit crown Mary in heaven. And the Holy Virgin wants that same crown of glory to adorn each of her sons.
- Mary is the Heart of the Church. As such, she absorbs God's grace and lavishes on the hearts of the faithful.

Luminous Mysteries

(Thursday)

1

The baptism in Jordan (Mt 3:13-17)

- "It is true that by baptism our sins are forgiven; it is also true that after baptism the inclination to evil remains and it provokes our inner-self to commit sin. That is why the Gospel tells that Jesus after he was baptised he remained in prayer and the heavens were opened so that the faithful may understand the need of prayer after receiving baptism" (Escritos Espirituales, p. 95).
- "Jesus Christ was anointed by the same Holy Spirit as a source and fullness of all grace so that from his fullness we all may receive the grace as in an abundant fountain, showering himself on the apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins" (Escritos Espirituales, p. 285)
- "Water naturally washes, refreshes and makes fertile and the Sacrament of Baptism causes grace; it cleans us from original and personal sin, refreshes from the

heat of passions and makes fertile our good deeds, if we cooperate with the helps and graces he gives, to the virtues he instils and the gifts of the Holy Spirit with which he enriches the soul". (Antonio María Claret, *El Colegio o Seminarista Teórica y prácticamente instruido*, Ed. Corazón de María, Madrid, 1924, p.848).

- "He will not be crowned if he hasn't genuinely fought; that's why, arm yourself with strength in temptation, pray whether they come either from your own nature or from the demon or from the world. And when you feel tempted, resort to God quickly, with humility and filial trust" (*Avisos a un sacerdote*, 7).
- "If you want to grow in contemplation and greater union with God, be a man of prayer, because in prayer we receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit who enlightens the understanding and by the practice of prayer contemplation is attained and the taste for heavenly things" (*Escritos Espirituales*, 96).

2

The wedding of Cana (Jn 2:1-12)

- "Jesus called his Apostles and before sending them to the villages of his country he wants them to participate at the wedding at Cana so that they may see the first miracle he works at the request of Mary and believe in the power of Jesus in the powerful intercession of his Mother" (Antonio María Claret, *El Colegio o Seminarista Teórica y prácticamente instruido*, Ed. Corazón de María, Madrid, 1924, p. 229).
- "Mary at once goes to her Son and says these simple words, "They have no wine". And the Son is moved

to help the wedding couple with the gift to Mary and though the time has not come to manifest himself..., but Mary asks him... Thus it is as a gift to Her that not only does he perform a miracle, but he anticipates the time of his manifestation..." (San Antonio María Claret, *Escritos espirituales*, BAC, Madrid, 1985, p. 488).

- "Look at how much the mediation of the Mother with the Son can do. Look at the gift the son gives to his Mother. So Mary is the same as yesterday and Jesus too is the same today as he was yesterday (id).
- "Listen to the words Mary pronounces on that occasion, "Do what my Son tells you". So you know well the condition she places for her powerful intervention. You must do what Jesus tells you. What is it that Jesus says to you....?" (id).
- "Mother of mercy, remember how much you were compassionate to that couple who were in need of wine and they got it through your mediation; so, Compassionate Mother, have mercy on the poor sinners and grant us the grace of a true repentance" (*La escalera de Jacob*, p. 22.)

3

The proclamation of the Kingdom (Mk 1:14-15)

- "No, I repeat, I have no mere earthly aim but a far nobler one. My aim is to make God better known, loved, and served by everyone. This is my aim: to make God known, so that He may be loved and served by all" (Auto. 202).
- "Another of my aims is to prevent all the sins and offenses that are being committed against God..." (Auto. 203)

- "... whenever I see sinners, I grow restless, I cannot quiet down, I cannot be consoled, my heart goes out to them. To give you an idea of how I feel, I'll draw a comparison... Well then, if the natural love a mother feels for her child can make her run to him, shout at him, take hold of him, and pull him back from the brink of ruin, that is just what grace does in me" (Auto. 211).
- "Charity urges and impels me; it makes me run from town to town shouting, "Sinner, my son, look where you're heading; you're about to fall into hell.... !" I often ask God, as St. Catherine of Siena did: "Lord, let me stand at the gates of hell and stop anyone from entering..." (Auto. 212).
- "Another force that drives me to preach and hear confessions is my desire to make my neighbour happy... It means saving him from every evil and bringing him to the enjoyment of every good--and for all eternity..." (Auto.213).
- "Jesus Christ was pleased to entrust this so sublime, holy and divine ministry to the Apostles, to the missionaries and the apostolic missionaries, telling them, "As my Father sent me, so I send you...We must then be greatly encouraged to follow his footsteps in working day and night in our mission, in shedding the blood of our veins and sacrificing our life generously..." (San Antoni María Claret, Carta al misionero Teófilo, Secretariado Claretiano, Roma, 1979, pp. 22-23).

4

The Transfiguration (Lk 9:28-35)

- "Jesus Christ has many who will follow him to Mount Tabor but to go to Calvary, so few! I want to say that

- when he sends prosperity and glory everyone is a friend of God but when sent sickness, disgrace or other evils than they turn their backs. Don't you be one of this number, rather accept what he gives". (Escritos Espirituales, Imitación de Cristo paciente, p. 192)
- "This supreme beauty is God, whatever be the name given to it. The one who has his understanding and will blinded by the error and vice and his imagination darkened by dullness and subdued by lower passions and malice, how could he elevate himself to this purest idea of beauty that should brighten his imagination; he won't be able to print his plans without having seen his plans with sovereign and grateful intuition?" (Escritos Espirituales, Reglamento de la Academia de San Miguel, p. 332).
- "A heightened understanding will see God with the light of glory as in himself; what would happen in the soul on seeing that infinite beauty and loveliness, a necessary and so intense love that could not stop loving him with an inexplicable joy forever and be eternally satisfied" (Antonio María Claret, Primera Comuni3n de los ni3os, 6ª ed. 1901, p. 56).
- "Oh, blessed deeds suffered for the cause of Christ and through which we are like Christ! My Lord, I don't want the privilege of exemption from these deeds because being your servant and passing though the law through which my Lord went through is a great grace for me. Because being persecuted is the sign and pledge that I am not on the side of the condemned world". (Escritos Pastorales, p. 674).
- "Dear sons, believe the existence of the one God; adore the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity and praise him un-

ceasingly by praying the 'Trisagion' and say at the beginning and end of our prayers that verse, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit". You will honor in a special way the Most Holy Trinity his image, that...is your very soul itself..." (Escritos Pastorales, Carta Pastoral, 1853, p. 200).

5

The institution of the Eucharist (Mk 14:22-25)

- "I attended all the functions of our holy religion with great faith. The services I liked best were those connected with the Blessed Sacrament, and I attended these with great devotion and joy" (Auto. 37).
- "He who receives communion well is like the iron rod that is placed into the forge where it becomes fire. Thus the soul who receives communion well is deified. The fire takes away from the iron the slag, the natural coldness, the hardness, and becomes so soft that it melts and is shaped to the pleasure of the designer. So too with the fire of divine love, in the forge of the communion, to the soul that receives it well and frequently" (*Carta ascética... al presidente de uno de los coros de la Academia de San Miguel*. Barcelona 1862, p. 30)
- What happens to the one who doesn't eat? He remains thin, pale and exhausted; he doesn't have the strength or vigor to do anything... and falls into the state of feebleness... Just same thing happens with those miserable Christians who don't approach the holy eucharist: they remain weak and feeble in charity and hardly they do good things and they fall away... (Escritos Espirituales, id, p. 489).

- "If you want to be active in the works of charity, increase in your hearts the fire of divine love by receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist. Fire produces fire. Make this fire to burn in your heart and spread from it to all your houses, as the fire is extended among the reed bed" (id. 491).
- "On August 26, 1861, at 7:00 in the evening while I was at prayer in the church of the Rosary at La Granja, the Lord granted me the great grace of keeping the sacramental species intact within me and of having the Blessed Sacrament always present, day and night, in my breast. Because of this I must always be very much recollected and inwardly devout. Furthermore I must pray and confront all the evils of Spain". (Auto. 694)

109. The Litany of Loreto

Christ, have mercy
 Christ, hear us
 God, the Father of heaven
 God the Son, Redeemer of
 the world
 God, the Holy Spirit
 Holy Trinity, One God
 Holy Mary
 Holy Mother of God
 Holy Virgin of virgins
 Mother of Christ
 Mother of divine grace
 Mother of the Church
 Mother of most pure
 Mother most chaste
 Virgin and Mother
 Mother most holy

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy
 Christ, graciously hear us
 Have mercy on us
 Have mercy on us
 Have mercy on us
 Have mercy on us
 Pray for us

Mother most pure
 Mother most amiable
 Mother most admirable
 Mother of Good Counsel
 Mother of the Creator
 Mother of the Savior
 Virgin most prudent
 Virgin most venerable
 Virgin most renowned
 Virgin most powerful
 Virgin most merciful
 Virgin most faithful
 Ideal of Holiness
 Seat of Wisdom
 Cause of Our Joy
 Temple of the Holy Spirit
 Honor of Our People
 Model of Dedication to God
 Mystical Rose
 Strong as the Tower of David
 Beautiful as a Tower of Ivory
 House of Gold
 Ark of the New Covenant
 Gate of Heaven
 Morning Star
 Health of the Sick
 Refuge of Sinners
 Comforter of the Afflicted
 Help of Christians
 Queen of Angels
 Queen of Patriarchs
 Queen of Prophets
 Queen of Apostles
 Queen of Martyrs

Queen of Those who live their Faith
 Queen of Virgins
 Queen of all Saints
 Queen conceived without original sin
 Queen assumed into heaven
 Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
 Queen of Peace
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world.
Spare us, O Lord
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world.
Graciously hear us, O Lord
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us

V/. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God

R/. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

We ask you, Lord that we, your servants, may rejoice in continual health of mind and body and, through the glorious intercession of the Virgin Mary, free us from sorrow in this world and grant us the joys of heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IV. EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS

110. “In the first place, every day we should wholeheartedly celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist, keeping close to Christ our Lord as he proclaims the words of life, offers himself for his brothers and sisters, honors his Father and builds up the unity of the Church. We should cherish conversation with Christ our Lord by visiting and worshipping him in the Holy Eucharist” (CC 35).

“Preserving a sound tradition of the Congregation (CC 36) we should strive... to visit the Blessed Sacrament individually when this is not done in community” (Dir 87).

“In Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist... the worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament manifests, even in its external signs, its relationship to the Mass. The prayers, songs and readings should be organized in such a way that the faithful may dedicate themselves to Christ, the Lord.” “Before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for a prolonged period of time, some parts of the Liturgy of the Hours may be celebrated, especially the major Hours. In this way the praise and thanksgiving paid to God in the celebration of the Eucharist are extended throughout the various hours of the day and the petitions of the Church are addressed to Christ and the Father in the name of the whole world” (Ritual for Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, no. 82, 95, 96).

1. Models of Celebrations

111. First Model

1. Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song
2. Opening Prayer
3. Reading from Scripture or the Fathers of the Church
4. Responsorial psalm
5. Homily
6. Silence
7. Petitions and the Our Father
8. Eucharist song for reservation
9. Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
10. Final acclamation

112. Second Model (Recitation of Lauds or Vespers before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for a prolonged period of time).

1. Exposition of the Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic hymn
2. Opening prayer
3. Silence
4. Opening Invocation of the Hour
5. Psalms
6. Scripture reading
7. Silence or homily
8. Short response
9. Benedictus or Magnificat with its corresponding antiphon
10. Intercessions and Our Father
11. Closing prayer
12. Silence
13. Eucharistic hymn for reservation
14. Prayer and blessing with the Sacrament
15. Final acclamation

2. Prayers to the Eucharist

- 113.** O Lord, illumine our hearts with the light of faith and kindle in us the fire of love that we may adore in spirit and in truth the One we recognize in this Blessed Sacrament as our God and Lord. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.
- 114.** O God, you redeemed all humankind through the Paschal Mystery of Christ, who, in this Blessed Sacrament, offers Himself for His brothers and sisters. Grant that, by constantly venerating the mystery of our redemption,
we may obtain its fruits
and awaken in all people awareness of the presence of the Lord.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 115.** Lord, may the Sacrament of the Eucharist, fill our hearts with your love and apostolic zeal to impel us to desire that all people may know you, love you and serve you, and obtain for themselves the blessedness of that kingdom already begun here on earth.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 116.** Lord, you have made us sharers in the one bread and the one Spirit.
Grant that, united to you like the branches on the vine, we may be one with you in building up our communion and in recreating the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 117.** Lord Jesus, you completely identified yourself with those who suffer

and you said to us:

“Come to me all you who labor and are heavily
burdened, and I will refresh you,”
make us one with those who suffer infirmity, sorrow,
injustice and oppression.

We come into your presence
that you may inflame us with your love
until we rejoice in our sufferings
and glory in your Cross.
You who lived and reign forever and ever.

118. Lord, who through the Paschal Mystery
effected human salvation
grant that we may adore you present here in the
Blessed Sacrament
and faithfully proclaim what we now venerate.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

119. Lord Jesus,
set us on fire with the faith
that moved so many preachers of the divine Word
to embrace with consummate joy
poverty, sacrifice and self-denial
in order to spread your kingdom.
We ask this, united in our hearts to you,
who are present in the mystery of the Eucharist we
now venerate
And whose life and ministry we share.
you who live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit
forever and ever.

3. Scripture Readings

120. Readings may be taken from those here, or from the
Lectionary (Votive Mass for the Eucharist) or from the
Ritual for Holy Communion and Eucharistic Worship
(Outside Mass).

- A) **Ex 24:3-8** This is the blood of the covenant the Lord shares with us.
- B) **Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a** He fed you with manna, that neither you nor your ancestors had known.
- C) **Acts 2:42-47** They were of one of heart and held everything in common.
- D) **1 Cor 10:16-17** As the bread is one, so we who are many form one body.
- E) **1 Cor 11:23-26** Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord.
- F) **Lk 24:13-35** They recognized him in the breaking of the bread.
- G) **Jn 6:24-35** They who come to me shall hunger, they who believe in me shall not thirst
- H) **Jn 6:51-59** My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

4. Prayers of Petition and Invocations

121. These are offered as models that they may be adapted or added to.

1. PRAYERS ASKING FOR PARDON

A

For not listening, with assiduous contemplation, to the Word
we must proclaim

R/. *Lord, have mercy*

For not living our faith, and for not trusting in You who chose us as instruments, as fragile and weak as we are, to confound the strong

For lack of commitment in ministry to others, and for not making what we do as work of the community

For not giving ourselves completely to the work of the Gospel, and for not deepening the meaning of intuition, availability and catholicity.

B

You who were rich became poor to enrich and save us. *Lord, have mercy.*

You devoted yourself entirely to the things of the Father and preached the Good News of the Kingdom. *Christ, have mercy.*

You, who died and rose for our salvation, are seated at the right hand of the Father. *Lord, have mercy.*

122.**2. INVOCATIONS OF ADORATION****A**

You who have given us the Eucharist as a memorial of your death and resurrection

R/. We praise you, Lord.

You who every day seat us at your table and offer us the bread of your Word and your Body.

You who have desired to remain among us under the sacramental species of bread and wine.

B

Christ Jesus, Son sent by the Father and anointed by the Spirit

Christ Jesus, who proclaim the words of life

Christ Jesus, who offer yourself for your brothers and sisters.

Christ Jesus, who build up the unity of the Church.

123.**3. INVOCATION OF THANKSGIVING****A**

For having granted us the gift of following Jesus in communion of life

R/. We thank you, Lord

For calling us to the perfection of the Father

For feeding us with the Word of Life we must proclaim

B

For the gift of the Eucharist that is the sign of unity and the bond of love

For sending us to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of the Lord so all humankind can be saved through Him

For being able to recognize you in this Sacrament and in those who suffer sorrow, injustice and oppression

V. RECONCILIATION

124. Even though through baptism we have been incorporated into the Paschal Mystery of Christ, and have received the grace of our missionary vocation, while we live in the world we are not exempt from temptation and falling into sin. The Constitutions remind us that “*we... undergo many temptations*” as did our Lord. On these occasions, “*we must stand loyally by Christ, who is still being put to the test in us*” (n. 53).

“Temptations can be an obstacle to advancing in holiness of life. In order to overcome them, we should avail ourselves of the following means: manifest our temptations and difficulties to those who can help us, resist temptations promptly; examine our main spiritual weakness and strengthen that area through meditation, prayers and acts of virtue. As long as a temptation lasts, we should not make any change in our way of life nor add any new resolutions or proposals. Meanwhile we should not omit or lessen our regular spiritual practices, but rather, we should increase and prolong them” (Dir 143).

Sin disrupts our personal relationship with God and disturbs and debilitates the community.

1. Acknowledging Our Own Faults and Fraternal Correction

125. In order to promote effectively spiritual progress the Constitutions invite us to recall our own sins and defects, and even confess them to our brothers and ask pardon from them (CC 41). They even urge us to desire and ask to be corrected and to receive the corrections from our brothers gratefully (CC 54). We are to admonish someone we see acting in an improper way, first in private, with love and humility, and through the Superior if “*immediate action should be taken for his own good or that of others*” CC 55). So that “*he may follow more surely in the way of the Lord,*” one should welcome and comfort the repentant brother. “*Imitating the goodness and kindness of Jesus,*” we should reach out our hand to those who have fallen for any reason. In this way, “*with our works... we let them know that all is forgiven and forgotten, that they are still vital and efficient members of the community, which does not so much dwell on the past as looks to present and the future*” (Dir 49; cf. CC 55).

2. Examinations of Conscience

126. The Holy Founder recommends making an examination of conscience twice a day. “*The examination of conscience, according to the mind and practice of our Holy Founder, is carried out concretely at two basic times: towards midday, when it mainly has the character of mental prayer, and at night, when it has the character of a general review of the day, and can be joined to the recitation of Compline*” (Dir 90).

127. Examination Regarding the Constitutions

1. Do we continually thank God for his love, for our

vocation to follow Christ in communion of love and to preach the Gospel to every creature according to the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret (4)?

2. Do we listen with docility to the Word of the Lord that we have to proclaim in order to be converted to the Gospel ourselves and conform ourselves to Christ, set on fire with the love that must impel us (4. 34)?

3. Is our missionary life ruled and informed by the love of God and our brothers, poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (10.40)? Do we continually work together to build up the community? Do we forgive (16)? Do we bring peace everywhere we go (17)?

4. Do we love chastity as a gift from God, receive it joyfully, and cultivate it diligently (22)?

5. Are we personally available and do we have our things at the disposal of the others, of the Congregation, and of the poor (25)? Are we truly poor in spirit and in fact (26)?

6. Do we obey the Lord, impelled by love, promptly and perfectly, submitting ourselves to our brothers for His sake (31)? Do we offer our help to others through prayer, counsel, and fraternal dialogue in seeking and fulfilling God’s will (29)?

7. Do we give priority in our life to daily prayer (37)? Do we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary as her loving sons (36)? Do we celebrate the Eucharist with all our spirit (35) and the sacrament of Reconciliation (38)?

8. Do we strive to have the same thoughts and feelings Jesus had (39)? Are we humble enough to acknowledge our own dependence on God in order to offer loving service to our brothers (41)? Are we meek (42)? Do we practice mortification until we rejoice in adversity (43, 44)? Are we patient (45)?

9. Do we recognize the Lord in those who suffer and offer them effective help? Are we in solidarity with those who suffer illness, injustice or oppression, bearing all things for

their sake (44)? Do we share humankind's hopes and joys, especially those of the poor? Do we seek to transform the world according to God's plan (46)?

10. Do we foster a sense of availability and catholicity by renouncing everything we have become accustomed to and going anywhere in the world with an open spirit (48)?

11. Do we ardently desire the Lord's justice, strengthening ourselves to attain the full maturity of Christ (51)? Are we watchful so we do not fall into temptation (53)? Do we effectively promote progress in knowledge and virtue through personal and community discernment and fraternal correction (54, 55, 56)?

12. Do we know, esteem and observe these Constitutions in order to progress in the way of the Lord and in service to the Kingdom of God (58.4)?

3. Sacramental Celebration of Penance

128. Since sin is not merely an individual matter, but involves the Church as the same time, reconciliation is not only an invisible relationship between God and the sinner, but also, by God's will, involves a visible relationship with the Church. The reconciliation of the sinner with the Church is the principal effect of the sacramental celebration of penance, and the visible sign, the way and instrument of reconciliation with God. Our divine life is inseparable from our sacramental life. This relationship between personal conversion and the sacramental life, between the individual aspect and the community aspect, stands out in the Constitutions: *"We should frequently celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which both symbolizes and perfects our spirit of constant conversion to God. For in virtue of this Sacrament, we are reconciled with the Church, which we have wounded by our sins, and with Christ, who knew no sin. Thus we to die sin"* (CC 38).

"The periodic personal and community celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, besides bringing us to acknowledge our own sinfulness, will spur us on to accept the dynamic movement of God's powerful Grace" (CPR 55).

4. Communal Penance Celebration Without Sacramental Confession

129.

1. INTRODUCTION

C. In the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

C. Grace and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us life and washed away our sins with his blood.

A. Blessed are you, O Lord.

C. My brothers, if we have sinned, let us not be disheartened, because we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the expiatory victim for our sins and those of the whole world. Let us dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of salvation and let us be reconciled with God so that all the gifts he has given us may bear fruit in abundance and we may be effective instruments for proclaiming the kingdom of heaven.

2. LITURGY OF THE WORD

a. *One may choose some of the following readings and responsorial psalms or other appropriate texts:*

Dt 5:1-3, 6-7, 11-12: Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Is 1:10-18: Cease to do evil, learn to do good.

Ezek 36:24-28: I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you.

Bar 1:15-22: *Hear, O Lord and have mercy for we have sinned against you.*

Ps 50:12-13, 14-15, 18-19: *O God, create in me a pure heart.*

Rom 6:3-9: Let us walk in newness of life.

2 Cor 5:17 – 6:2: He has reconciled us to himself and made us ministers of reconciliation.

Eph 4:23-32: Renew your minds.

Eph 5:1-14: Walk in love, as Christ loved us.

Mt 5:1-12a: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Mt 22:34-40: On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets

Mt 25:31-40: As often as you did this to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it for me.

Mk 12:28b-34: What is the greatest commandment?

Jn 13:34-35; 15:10-13: I give you a new commandment?

Jn 15:9-12: Remain in my love.

b) *Homily or shared reflection or reading of some text from the Father or from the Magisterium.*

3. PENITENTIAL LITURGY

C. My brothers, let us confidently ask God, our Father, Compassionate and faithful, to accept our repentance for our sins and to grant us his mercy.

During some period of silence, one can make an examination of conscience regarding the Constitutions, using the questions in the previous section, or offer these petitions for pardon or other spontaneous ones. After each one Kyrie Eleison is sung or said.

— You have called us to follow Jesus by professing the evangelical counsels but we often live according to the logic of the world and have not avoided things detrimental to our spiritual life or apostolic witness.

— You wanted your Son, Jesus Christ, to identify himself completely with those who suffer. You invite us to recognize Him suffering in them and to offer the effective help, but we have not been in solidarity with those who suffer illness, injustice or oppression.

— You have poured out into our Hearts through the Holy Spirit love for you and our brothers, but we have not let this love rule and inform our missionary life.

— You have sent us to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of the Lord until he comes, but we have not done this by all means possible nor fostered the sense of intuition, availability and catholicity our mission requires.

C. Having been reconciled with the Father, let us offer pardon and peace to our brothers.

The sign of peace is exchanged; while this is going on Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est may be sung.

4. CONCLUSION

C. Let us sing now the mercy of the Lord, whose name is holy.

Singing of the Magnificat or the Our Father

C. Prayer:
Father of Mercy you have called us, not because of what we do, but because of your sovereign will, and have justified us in your Son, Jesus Christ. May the good work you have begun in us be brought to fulfilment on the day of Christ Jesus. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A. Amen.

5. BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. May the blessing of the almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain always with you.

R. Amen.

C. Go in peace.

R. Thank to be God.

VI. OPENING AND CLOSING OF MEETINGS

130. As a general rule, community meetings begin and end with a prayer, either one of those below, or one from section I of this Directory, addressed to the Heart of Mary, our Holy Founder, or for one of the purposes for which the meeting is being held.

1. Opening

131. Prayer to Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
Enkindle them the fire of your love.

V/. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created

R/. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, you instructed the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit.
Grant that by the gift of the same Spirit,
we may always be truly wise,
and ever rejoice in His consolation.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

132. Meeting in your name

Lord, as we gather in your name,
 we want to be in your presence.
 Grant us a spirit of dialogue,
 illumine our minds with the light of truth
 and strengthen our fraternal spirit
 that we may always seek and do your will.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

133. Give us wisdom (Wisdom 9:1-6, 9-11) (Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, Saturday Week III)

God of my fathers and Lord of mercy,
 who have made all things by your word
 and by your wisdom have formed man
 to have dominion over the creatures you have made,
 and rule the world in holiness and righteousness,
 and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul,
 give me the wisdom that sits by your throne,
 and do not reject me from among your servants.

For I am your slave,
 and the son of your maidservant,
 a man who is weak and short-lived,
 with little understanding of judgment and laws;
 for even if one is perfect among the sons of men,
 yet without the wisdom that comes from you
 he will be regarded as nothing.

With you is wisdom, who knows your works
 and was present when you made the world,
 and who understand what is pleasing in your sight
 and what is right according to your commandments.
 Send her forth from the holy heavens,
 and from the throne of your glory and send her,

that she may be with me and toil,
 and that I may learn what is pleasing to you;
 for she knows and understands all things,
 and she will guide me wisely in my actions
 and guard me with her glory.

Glory to the Father, etc.

134. To seek and accomplish together the will of the God

Antiphon:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in
 their midst,” says the Lord.

Let us pray:

God, our Father, your Son promised to be present
 whenever we gather in his name.
 May He be present among us here and now,
 so that we might express the communion of life and mission
 of the whole Congregation,
 so that we might walk in all diligence.
 In obedience to the Spirit, and with complete fidelity to our
 missionary charism,
 may we move, united in feeling and desire,
 towards an appropriate renewal of our lives.
 through Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

135. Grace and dispositions for dialogue

We are here, Lord,
 gathered in your name and desiring to spread your kingdom.
 May the Holy Spirit you have sent into our hearts,
 and that keeps your presence alive among us,

show us what we should do
and what path to tread
so that, strengthened by your grace,
We may put your plans into action.

O Holy Spirit, inspirer and animator of our discernment,
teach us to listen to others,
to let ourselves be illumined by their light;
teach us to propose and not to impose.
Give us balance.
Free us from the blindness of those who always have to
be right,
from favoritism and from total acceptance of persons.
Unite us to you that we may never stray from the truth.
Amen.

136. Light to discover the demand of the Gospel

Father of goodness,
look upon this community gathered in your name
To share with one another and to seek the truth.
Grant we may discover the demands of the Gospel with
greater clarity,
in order to be a light for the world and salt for the earth.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

137. Prayer to begin a meeting

Lord, may your grace inspire, sustain and accompany our
labors
so that our work may begin with you, as its source,
and always tend toward you, as its end.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

2. Closing

138. Thanksgiving for encounter (meeting)

Father of goodness,
we thank you for this encounter
in which we have shared our dreams and doubts,
our projects and our difficulties.
Make us always respond efficaciously to our vocation and
our mission in the Church, following the example of
Anthony Claret, our Father.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

139. One Heart and one soul

Lord, we thank you
for coming together in community,
for your kindness and your presence among us.
With a fraternal spirit
make us one in mind and heart
in order to be
an evangelized and evangelizing community.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

VII. DAYS OF RECOLLECTION AND RETREATS

140. *“Spiritual exercises, retreats, courses, assemblies and other organized encounters should make it a priority to encourage and direct each Claretian toward a knowledge and, above all, a deeper living of his spirituality, according to his proper state in the Congregation” (CPR 58).*

1. Monthly Day of Recollection

141. “Each month we should set aside a day for recollection during which we can reflect on our own vocation and renew within us our hope of the glory to come, so as to be better prepared for the Lord’s coming” (CC 52).

“Each month the community dedicates a day to spiritual renewal. This can be done in different ways, in keeping with the different conditions of each house (CC 52). Concrete arrangements for the date and timetable of this day of recollection belong to the local superior, after hearing from his community.

“On this day there should be a meditation on a theme of our missionary life. There should be a talk and an examination that might be in the form of a community review of life. Whenever possible, there should be a concelebrated Mass or some other Eucharistic act” (Dir 91).

2. Retreats

142. *“Each year we should make a retreat with all due care”* (CC 52).

According to the Directory (n. 92), normally it should be held outside one’s place of work, in a climate of silence and retreat. Forms of retreat other than the Ignatian Exercises are permitted.

No matter what the form, the objective the retreat had for our Founder should not be forgotten. It was to grow in awareness of one’s own vocation in order to respond to it. To grow in awareness of mission in order to offer oneself to it with availability, and to grow in awareness of the calibre of missionary life demanded by our vocation.

The one making the retreat, according to Fr. Claret, should leave the exercises on fire with apostolic zeal, with the force of a bullet, of a locomotive, or of a steamship. Thus, according to the traditional practice in the Congregation, a retreat begins and ends with the recitation of the *Veni Creator*; at the end there is a meditation on the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers to Begin Retreats

143. *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Veni Creator Spiritus
Mentes tuorum visita,
Imple superna gratia,
Quae tu creaste pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus
Altissimi donum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis, charitas,
Et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere
Digitus paternae dexteræ,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
Sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen, sensibus,
Infunde amorem cordibus,
Infirma nostri corporis,
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,
Pacemque donis protinus:
Ductore sic te praevio
Vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem,
Noscamus atque Filium,
Teque utriusque Spiritus

Cretamus omni tempore.
Deo Patri sit gloria,
Et Filio, qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito
in saeculorum saecula. Amen.

* * *

Veni Creator Spiritus (English)

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
From your bright heavenly throne,
Come take possession of our souls
And make them all your own.

You who are called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

You who are sevenfold in your grace,
 Finger of God's right hand;
 His promise, teaching little ones
 To speak and understand.

O God our minds with your blest light,
 With love our hearts inflame;
 And with your strength which ne'er decays,
 Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
 True peace unto us bring;
 And from all perils lead us safe
 Beneath your sacred wing.

Through You may we the Father know,
 Through You the eternal Son,
 And You the Spirit of them both,
 Thrice-blessed, Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
 With his co-equal Son:
 The same to You, great Paraclete,
 While endless ages run. Amen.

Prayer of Our Holy Founder at the Opening of Retreat

144.

O Virgin Mary, my Mother,
 you had the comfort of seeing the Apostles and the disciples
 gathered in the Cenacle
 and the ultimate pleasure of seeing all of them
 filled with the Holy Spirit.

My Mother,
 I have the grace of being able to make this retreat
 under your direction
 With every confidence I ask you
 to obtain for me all the graces I need
 and to make a good retreat.
 Strengthen my determination to direct all that I know
 for the greater glory of God and the good of my soul.
 My Mother, help me and protect me, now and forever.
 Amen.

VIII. FEASTS OF THE CONGREGATION BEATIFICATION/CANONIZATION

145. “Let them take the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Christ, as their Mother and Teacher” (CC 61).

“As loving sons we should honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is associated with all her heart in the saving work of her Son. Our honor for her should be expressed both in the liturgy and in such traditionally approved forms of Marian devotion as the Rosary” (CC 36).

“We must strengthen the Marian dimension of our spirituality by living and expressing, in keeping with the culture of the people we serve, the kind of relationship with Mary that our Constitutions ask of us. For us, she is our Mother, the one who inspired the Congregation, our model in the following of Christ and in our association with his saving work, the first disciple of Christ, and the one whose special concern is the formation of apostles” (CPR 59).

146. “As a traditional expression of our piety, the novena to the Heart of Mary and the triduum to our Holy Founder should be celebrated in common. In this same sense other devotions, such as the Marian Month and the triduum to St. Joseph, are recommended. These should be performed with simplicity and draw their inspiration from the liturgy” (Dir 88).

1. Novena to the Heart of Mary

147. Celebration with the People

1. If the novena is a separate act, it should include the elements presented below, using the models for a celebration of the Word or some other form proposed below.
2. If the novena to the Heart of Mary is joined to the celebration of the Eucharist, and if the liturgical calendar permits, it is most appropriate to use one of the forms in the Missal of "Masses for the Virgin" and its corresponding Lectionary, and to talk about Mary as the subject of the homily.
3. In preparing the novena, one should first specify the themes or core ideas that prayer will revolve around.

148. Celebration in the Claretian Community

It is most appropriate to respect the sense and development of each celebration and not mix liturgy with pious exercises or what is contained in them (cf. John Paul II: *Vigésimus quintus annus* (1989) n. 18). Thus the novena is not made within the recitation of Vespers, but before or after them, although it may substitute for some pious exercise like the Rosary.

The themes proposed here for this novena are taken from the titles applied to Mary in the texts of our Congregation, especially in the Constitutions⁶.

⁶In the appendix there are some materials the community may use to put together the novena.

1. LISTENING TO THE WORD (IPM 20)

Introduction

Mary is the virgin who listens, who welcomes the Word of God into her heart. Listening to and welcoming the Word is the precondition and the path to her divine motherhood. As the Fathers of the Church said: "Mary, filled with faith, conceived Christ first in her heart and then in her womb."

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, open our hearts and our minds so that as we listen to your Word we may welcome it with the docility with which the Virgin Mary received it into her heart. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

— *Docilely accept the Word that has been planted and is able to save you*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118:105-112):

A lamp to my feet is your word,
a light to my path.
I resolve and swear
to keep your just ordinances.
I am very much afflicted;
O Lord, give me life according to your word.

R/. *A lamp to my feet is your word
Accept, O Lord, the free homage of my mouth.
And teach me your decrees.*

Though constantly I take my life in my hands,
yet I forget not your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but from your precepts I have not strayed.
Your decrees are my inheritance forever;
the joy of my heart they are.
I intend in my heart to fulfil your statutes
always, to the letter.

- **Lk 11:27-28:** *Happy those who hear the Word of God and keep it*

Points for Reflection

- Mary is a woman who reflects on and tries to understand the events of history in order to become aware of what the Lord wants. She does not remain passive: her attitude of docility becomes active collaboration in the Incarnation of God's Son.
- The Church listens, welcomes and reveres the Word of God, and in its light examines the signs of the times, interprets and lives the events of history. Thus, throughout the centuries, the Church has worked at delving into and deepening its insight into the Word.
- What Mary did and what the Church carries on should be operative for each Christian: welcoming the Word, trying to incarnate it in one's life and understanding it more and more.
- Like Mary, who meditates on God's Word and confronts events with it, so the Christian needs to do a "sapiential" reading of his or her own life and of human history, begging the Spirit for the prophetic gift of interpreting the will of God and collaborating in his project for human salvation.

- "The epoch-making change and cultural pluralism that we see in the Congregation encourage us to ask ourselves about the most fitting way to live our following of Jesus in chastity, poverty and obedience" (IPM 21).
- "The Church exhorts us to fulfil our prophetic service (cf. VC 73) and asks us to *cultivate* an in-depth experience of God. We are to *discern*, in the light of the Spirit, the challenges of our time; and to *translate* them with courage and daring into options and projects that are coherent with both our original charism and with the demands of the concrete historical situation (cf. VC 73). We need, then, 'a solid spirituality of action, seeing God in all things and all things in God' (VC 74)" (IPM 22).

Intercessions

- Let us pray to God our Father, who wanted his Word to become flesh in the womb of Mary and let us say to him:
Be it done to me according to your word.
- We ask you, Lord that your Church may proclaim the Good News of salvation to all people.
 - Give the ministers of your Word the courage to incarnate it in their lives.
 - That your Word, Lord, may illumine and guide our steps into the way of peace.
 - Give us the ability to listen to our brothers and sisters and to open ourselves to their needs.
 - Help us to be attentive to the signs of the times in order to discover in them your will and make us courageous in translating it into options and projects of evangelization.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, your Mother brought forth the Word because she first conceived it in her heart, and proclaimed a prophetic Magnificat because she has first believed. Let us, like her, welcome your word with a docile heart and make us bear fruit a hundredfold. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

Choose an appropriate song

2. THE FIRST DISCIPLE OF THE LORD (CC 61).

Introduction

Mary “was the first disciple of the Lord” the Constitutions tell us (n. 61). She welcomed the angel’s announcement, and day by day remained faithful to her promise. Accepting God’s will, she not only engendered God’s Son, but also lived united with Him, with the attitude of a disciple, and followed him along the roads of Palestine and even up to Calvary, sharing with Him the sorrow of his passion and death on the cross.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, you do not desire sacrifices and burnt offerings, and yet you have given us a body. We say to you, like Jesus, like Mary: “Here we are, O God, we come to do your will.” Accept our intention to fulfil your will within our Congregation. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- Gal 6:14-18: *God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of your Lord Jesus Christ*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 90)

You who dwell in the shadow of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

R/. *I trust in you, my refuge and my God.*

For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler,
from the destroying pestilence.
With his pinions he will cover you,
and under his wings you shall take refuge;
his faithfulness is a buckler and a shield.

“Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
With length of days I will gratify him
and will show him my salvation.”

- Lk 2:33-35: *A sword will pierce your heart*

Points for Reflection

- The answer to the Lord is not given once and for all; joyful adherence to his call takes shape day after day. Nothing is clear from the very beginning: only constancy in faith brings to fulfilment the loving plan the Father has for each of us.
- Mary, At the invitation of the angel, agrees to be the mother of the Messianic King, but she does not know

how this will be carried out or how this royalty will be expressed. In Simeon's prophecy, the Messiah appears as the Servant of the Lord who will fulfil his mission by the sacrifice of the cross. And Mary will feel her heart pierced by a sword of sorrow in her mission as the mother of Jesus, when she has to go into exile in Egypt, when she experiences the loss of her Son in Jerusalem, and in following her Son up to Calvary.

- In the words of the Council, Mary "advanced in the pilgrimage of the faith and faithfully preserved her union with her Son even unto the cross" (LG 58). It was not easy for Mary to believe: she encountered a Son in all his vulnerability, a Son misunderstood, persecuted and condemned. She had to take a "leap of faith," trusting only in God's Word.
- Mary travelled the road all people travel. In due time she reached perfection. Human beings, since they cannot see all of life at once and fulfil it once and for all, have to keep repeating their self-offering to the Lord over the course of time, renewing it again and again.
- "The act of love on which the vows are founded has to be spontaneous, free of coercion; but in the idea of perfect love an element of perfect self-giving that is total and perpetual necessarily enters in. The sincerity of this commitment obliges us to remain faithful even when the initial fervor has worn off. Moreover, profession represents the indissoluble bond that unites Christ to the Church and must be a witness in the face of all the contingency and lack of security of modern men and women" (VR 44).
- "The prophecy of ordinary life, which is frequent among us, is what makes possible that great prophecy of extraordinary moments. It is shown in prayer as an expression of friendship with God; in an incessant search

for his will; in relationships marked by tenderness, happiness of life, compassion, faith in others and service" (IPM 24). "We will inculcate in our missionaries, from initial formation on, a conviction of the need to live ongoing formation as a process that lasts all their life long, and of the suitability of their carrying out their own personal plan of formation" (IPM 34.3).

Intercessions

My brothers, let us pray to God our Father, through Christ and with Mary's intercession, that we may remain faithful on our journey of faith. And we ask:

Make us faithful to your will, Lord, through the intercession of Mary

- Grant that the Church may always stay united to Christ, following the example of the Virgin Mary.
- Help all consecrated people to fulfil your will, taking up the cross every day with joy and hope.
- Comfort those who live far from home and native place and help them in their labors.
- Strengthen the sick, the imprisoned, and those who suffer for the sake of the faith or justice.
- Sustain us in our commitment to be faithful to our vocation in little things in order to be worthy of your promises.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Under the protection of the Virgin Mary, Lord grant us the courage of heart we need in difficult times and joy in the

following of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

3. OUR MODEL FOR FOLLOWING JESUS (CC 20, 23, 28)

Introduction

As our model for following Jesus (cf. CC 20, 23, 28), we find the inspiration for our missionary vocation in Mary (cf. MCT 150).

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, receive the hopes and sufferings, the joys and hardships of each day in the following of Jesus. May your Spirit encourage us to be faithful to listening once more to your saving Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- *1 Cor 7:32-35: I want you to be free of all concerns... in order to devote yourselves more worthily and assiduously to the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33):

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R/. *Those who seek the Lord lack for nothing.*

Glorify the Lord with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
when the afflicted man cried, the Lord heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

Fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for nought is lacking to those who fear him.
the great grow poor and hungry;
but those who seek the Lord want for no good thing.

- *Jn 2:1-12: Do everything He tells you*

Points for Reflection

- In the Hebrew Bible, God forsakes the Temple to live among human beings. Mary inaugurates God's saving presence among people, become temples of God. Consecrated by the action of the Spirit, Mary responds to God's call with her word of self-offering, of belonging to Him, of serving his salvific plans with complete availability.
- Mary invites everyone to obey Christ, joyfully following Jesus on the path of celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven, consecrating ourselves to God in order to be more available for his salvific plan. By completely belonging to God and by totally giving herself to God, Mary is the supreme example of perfect consecration (VC 28).
- Claret, when he presents the "pen-picture" of the missionary, the identity of the Son of the Immaculate Heart

of Mary, emphasizes as the starting point of kind of love that burns to the point that one thinks of nothing other than how to follow and imitate Christ in procuring the glory of God and the salvation of people (cf. CC 9).

- The consecrated life, by profession of the vows, makes present the lifestyle Jesus himself adopted and proposed to his disciples and that was first embraced among us in faith by the Virgin Mary (CC 5). This consecrated life that we thus assume in imitation of Jesus Christ and following Mary's example (cf. CC 20, 23, 28), has as its primary objective "making visible the marvels God does through the frail humanity of the people He has called" (VC 21) and gives prophetic witness to the primacy of God and future good (VC 85).
- In the same way as Mary's virginity did not separate her from human needs, the vow of chastity is not one not to love, but to love more: more intensely and involving more people with a love that is pure, fraternal, free and eternal.

Intercessions

Brothers, let us call upon the Lord our God who has given us the supreme rule for our life of following Jesus as proposed in the Gospel.

Lord, may your Mother's example stimulate us in following Jesus

- That the Virgin Mary, supreme example of perfect consecration, may help all Christians give themselves to the service of God and people according to their particular vocation.
- That all believers give primacy to God in their lives and not be carried away by this world's values.

- That the witness of consecrated people may challenge those who live far from the Lord and sustain them in the path of grace.
- That many may recognize in religious profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, a privileged way of holiness and come to follow it.
- That Mary's presence in our Congregation may always encourage us to live consecrated to God in the common life through profession of the evangelical counsels and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you have given us in Mary an example for our missionary life and an image of our future glory. Grant to those who even now are pilgrims in this world the grace to love you above all things and to give witness to the resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

4. FIRST AMONG THE POOR OF YAHWEH (CC 23)

Introduction

God chooses weak human beings to perform mighty works: creating the universe out of nothing, making poverty wealthy through his grace, making great things come from little things. Mary, the first among the poor of Yahweh (CC 23) discloses this plan of God to us.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. In Mary we recognize your fidelity to the promises you made to our ancestors. Open our eyes and our minds to recognize your intervention in us who, because of our poverty, can only hope in You, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- **1 Cor 1:26-31:** *God has chosen the weak of this world to confound the strong*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 69)

Deign, O God, to rescue me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let them be put to shame and confounded
Who seek my life.

R/. My God, come to my help

But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you,
and may those who love your salvation
say ever, "God be glorified!"

But I am afflicted and poor;
O God, hasten to me!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, hold not back!

- **Lk 1:46-55:** *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*

Points for Reflection

- God has chosen the poor and the despised of this world to confound the strong. What is the reason for this most paradoxical choice? First, these are people who have given up relying on themselves and recognize the gratuitousness of salvation. But it is also because God loves the poor, those who are deprived of everything and have to trust in God's providence. These are the ones who will inherit the Kingdom of heaven.
- Mary belongs to the world of the poor because of her modest economic circumstances, as we see in the offering she makes at the presentation of her Son in the Temple (Luke 2:24), but also because, by her attitude of poverty, she places herself at the head of the poor of Israel who wait for and welcome salvation (Zeph 3:14-18).
- By professing poverty, "we live and prolong in the Church the poverty of Christ himself, who, being rich, became for our sake 'so that we might be enriched by his poverty' (PC 13). By practising it in a real and effective way (cf. PC 13) we conform ourselves to the redeeming love of Christ, by which he humbled himself and assumed the condition of the poor and human suffering in order to save us" (PE 75).
- Our Founder "in order to imitate Christ and the Apostles...had no wish to possess anything. He looked for no material reward for his apostolic labors. He lived on alms and enjoyed ministering to the simplest and humblest people. He never relied on worldly power or display. By living and acting in poverty, he wanted to show his opposition to the increasing materialism that began to develop during his time and to prevent the needy from raising objections to the value and authenticity of his ministry. No material interest was ever apparent in any

of his enterprises—only the desire to further the spread of the Gospel and to reach the widest possible circles with his influence” (PE 76).

- “It costs to be poor and to find the road to poverty. We are convinced that our ministry only acquires great prophetic power when the Word we proclaim is backed up by our apostolic poverty, an authentic option for the poor, an economy in solidarity, and our own hard work. The market economy in which we are immersed obliges us to constantly rethink our economies and our lifestyle” (IPM 25).

Intercession

Let us ask God our Father to hear the cry of those who put their trust in Him and give them what they need to serve Him with freedom of spirit, and let us say to Him:

Lord, may we always seek your Kingdom and your justice

- God you kept your word and brought your people Israel into the Promised Land.
- Provident God you fed your people in the desert.
- God you wanted your Son to become poor in order to make us rich.
- Saving God, you chose Mary, first among the poor, as the Mother of your Son.
- Merciful God you have promised the Kingdom to the poor.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, our God, you allow us, like the Virgin Mary, to share the poverty of Jesus Christ. Grant that a spirit of poverty may permeate our life and activity and that by sharing our goods with the needy we make credible the Gospel of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

5. TOTALLY DEDICATED TO THE PERSON AND WORK OF HER SON (CC 28)

Introduction

Mary “by embracing with her whole heart and without any stain of sin God’s saving will, consecrated herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son” (LG 56). Moved by the Holy Spirit, we also want to dedicatedly hand ourselves over to Him.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, we ask that, nourished by her love, stimulated by her example, supported by her prayer, the Virgin may help us serve Christ in our brothers and sisters and to work tirelessly for the Kingdom. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word**Scripture Readings**

- Rom 14:7-9: *Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's*
(or Gal 2:19-20: *It is Christ who lives in me*)

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 115)

I believed even when I said:
"I am greatly afflicted;"
when I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable."

R/. *I will fulfil my vows to You, O Lord.*

How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good he has done for me?
the cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will pay
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

- Lk 2:41-51: *Did you not know I had to be about my Father's business?*

Points for Reflection

- The Virgin was not a merely passive instrument in God's hands, but co-operated in the salvation of humankind with faith and freely given obedience. St. Irenaeus says that "by obeying she became the source of her own salvation and that of the whole human race." Thus, in the same way as Eve was associated with Adam's fall and is

the "mother of death," Mary is associated with Christ in the moment of redemption, and is the "mother of life."

- Mary was united with her Son in all the decisive moments of her life, from the moment of the Incarnation up to Calvary, at the foot of the cross, offering to the Father the sacrifice of her Son and her own sacrifice, as a contribution to our salvation. She also had difficulty understanding the demands of the faith: thus Mary did not understand what her Son was trying to say when they found him in the Temple in the midst of the teachers, but "she preserved all this in her heart."
- B baptism we are united with Christ, we become his property in order to belong to no one else but Him. That means assuming an attitude to obedience toward the Father, renouncing the right to conduct our lives autonomously, or following the dictates of the flesh. Obedience makes us conformable to Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient even unto death, death on a cross, and are united in all we do with the saving will of God. (Cf. CC 28).
- As missionaries we conform ourselves to Jesus Christ, who became obedient even unto death. We have no other road than that of Jesus and Mary: to be totally united to the Father's saving will, remembering that there is no obedience without love and without the firm decision to extend his passionate and benevolent love to the world.
- Our mission is that of "proclaiming the full mystery of Christ," according to the special vocation we have received, which is carried out by proclamation but also by means of the clear sign of one's own life and by commitment to transform the world according to the Beatitudes. This means, for us, being sensitive to what is most urgent, opportune and effective, and also involves

total availability and the sense of catholicity, i.e., being open fraternally to all sides, all peoples and all ways of life.

Intercessions

Let us call on God our Father, who has called us to conform ourselves to his Son Jesus Christ who became obedient even unto death on a cross. Let us say to Him:

Lord, may your Mother form us in the image of Jesus

- Lord, You desire that all people come to knowledge of the truth and be saved. Illumine them with the light of faith.
- Lord, may the Pope, the bishops and all the ministers of the Church proclaim the Gospel by their words and their holy lives.
- Lord, stir up abundant vocations of special consecration, especially in our Congregation, so that your mission of salvation may continue in the world.
- Lord, grant that the Sons of the Heart of Mary may grow in your love that we may be impelled to obey you promptly and perfectly and be available to proclaim the Gospel.
- That all those who have lost their faith or who live as if they had none return to the Church.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, you wanted to associate your work of redemption with the Virgin Mary and you have also granted to us the gift

of following Christ by proclaiming the Gospel. Grant that we may use every means possible to extend the Good News of the Kingdom throughout the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

6. MOTHER OF CHRIST AND OUR MOTHER (CC 36, 61)

Introduction

“Conceiving Christ, giving birth to Him, nurturing Him, presenting Him to the Father in the Temple, suffering with her Son as He was dying on the cross, Mary cooperated in a unique way by obedience, faith, hope and burning love, in the restoration of the supernatural life of souls. For this reason she is our Mother in the order of grace” (LG 61). Her motherhood endures without ceasing in the economy of grace (cf. LG 62).

Let us celebrate our Mother with the love of sons and make her mission our own: to give Jesus to the world.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, as you were dying you gave your Mother to us as our Mother in order to continue in us the mission she did along with you. Grant that She may form us to be configured in your image, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

The Word**Scripture Readings**

- **Acts 1:14; 2:1-4:** *They persevered in prayer... in the company... of Mary, the Mother of Jesus*
(or **Rom 8:14-17:** *The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God*)

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 102)

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

R/. *The Lord is kind and merciful*

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed;
he remembers that we are dust.
Bless the Lord, all his works,
everywhere in his domain.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

- **Jn 19:25-27:** *There is your Mother*

Points for Reflection

- We look to the Virgin Mary to verify the Christ of our faith. Mary guarantees for us that Jesus is truly human and truly divine by virtue of her virginal motherhood. The act of faith does not orient us toward an ideal,

but toward a person: Christ—not a fantasised, idealised Christ, but the true Christ, the Son of the Virgin Mary. To affirm that Mary is the Mother of the Lord is to affirm that God has become one of us in order to save us.

- From being the Mother of Jesus, Mary becomes his disciple in order to receive from Him later on a universal motherhood. When her physical motherhood seems to end with the death of Christ, He expands the heart of Mary so that she can be the mother of all humankind. Mary goes from being the Mother of Jesus to being his disciple and from there to being the Mother of the human race.
- Mary is present at the birth of the Church and, assumed into heaven, she continues to exercise a salvific influence in behalf of the People of God. By grace she shares in the condition of the Risen Christ; freed from material limitations, she can be present to Christians everywhere at every moment of history, and she collaborates in the communication of divine life to human beings. She is our Mother in the order of grace.
- Our Father Founder recognized in the revelation of Jesus on Calvary the role of the Virgin in his life as disciple and apostle through the actions of accepting her spiritual motherhood—Mother, here is your son—and dedicating himself to her love and service. “Most Blessed Mother, may the courtesy of your Immaculate Heart in accepting us as your Sons, be praised a thousand times! Mother, make us cooperate with such kindness by becoming daily more humble, fervent and zealous for the salvation of souls” (Aut. 493).
- The Congregation felt the same desire to recognize what the Mother of Jesus means for it and manifested it in its own dedication and consecration. “Since we are called

and truly are Sons of her Heart, we accompany her in love and trust” (CC 8) and we dedicate ourselves “in special service to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in order to fulfil the aim for which this Congregation has been established in the Church,” we say at our profession (CC 159).

- As Mother, the Heart of Mary makes it possible for God through his Spirit to conform us to Christ and his mystery. One who trusts himself to Mary as her son awaits configuration to Christ through her role as mother.

Intercessions

Let us ask the Lord that his Mother may help us with her protection:

Make us worthy sons of her heart

- Lord, protect the Holy Father and all the shepherds of the Church so that they may be faithful to their mission of giving us Jesus.
- Bless our parents and all those who started us on the road of faith and missionary life, helping us to know and love Jesus.
- Grant the gift of love to the parents of families so that they may know how to transmit the love of Christ.
- Sustain widows, protect orphans, comfort the sorrowing and all those who live alone, increase the hope of the aged and the dying.
- Grant that we may experience the constant protection of Mary, your Mother and ours, and conform us totally to you.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for having given us your Mother as our Mother. Grant that we may welcome her with all our heart and always behave as worthy sons of her Heart. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

7. FORMATRIX OF APOSTLES (CC 73)

Introduction

“As Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, She forms us in the forge of her mercy and love and makes us instruments of her maternal love for humanity in the exercise of our apostolic service” (Dir 34). We entrust ourselves to Her and place ourselves in her hands.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, we humbly ask you that the Virgin Mary may be our Mother, Teacher, Formatrix and Directress and that we may always behave as worthy sons of hers. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- 1 Cor 4:1-2; 14-15: *Through the Gospel I will beget you for Christ*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 36)

Trust in the Lord and do good,
 that you may dwell in the land and enjoy security.
 Take delight in the Lord,
 and he will grant you your heart's requests.

R/. *Trust in the Lord and follow his way*

Commit to the Lord your way;
 trust in him, and he will act.
 He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
 bright as noonday shall be your vindication.

The salvation of the just is from the Lord;
 he is their refuge in time of distress.
 And the Lord helps them and delivers them;
 he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
 Because they take refuge in him.

- **Lk 2:39-45:** *She went with haste to the hill country...and greeted Elizabeth*

Points for Reflection

- Mary, once she has received the Spirit at the announcement of the angel, feels the need to go to others. She hurries to bring the Good News to the poor: with haste, with no delay, because she feels the urgency of proclaiming the Kingdom of God (cf. Lk 10:4).
- But along with this purpose of proclaiming the Kingdom and bringing salvation, Mary feels the need to be with her cousin Elizabeth because she knows she needs help and she hurries to meet her. The exercise of love, sensitivity to the needs of others is also seen in the initiative she takes at the wedding reception in Cana when she perceives the couple are close to running out of wine and indicates: "Do whatever He tells you."

- Whoever does not understand that the gift of God has to be proclaimed to others and does not turn this into praise and adoration, remains silent. Knowing we are Sons of the Heart of Mary impels us to proclaim the marvels of God—those he worked in Mary and those He is also working in us.
- Like our Holy Founder, we know we are formed in the forge of Mary's Heart. By her motherly action, Mary "forms us as true and authentic missionaries and apostles, as she formed Jesus as missionary of the Father and as she formed Claret the apostolic missionary. More specifically, by her motherly action Mary forms us, through an internal process, as ministers of the Word, as evangelizers to extend the Kingdom of God throughout the world. She is also the godmother who accompanies us as we grow in faith (PGF 99 c).
- We are missionaries in order to prolong in the world and over the course of time the motherly role of Mary in the apostolic mission (CC 8), in proclaiming the full mystery of Christ. "Assumed into heaven, She has not given up this saving mission (motherhood in the economy of grace), but with manifold intercessions She continues obtaining for us the gifts of salvation. With her motherly love She cares for the brothers and sisters of her Son, who are still on pilgrimage and find themselves in danger and anxiety" (LG 62). "The presence of Mary in the Claretian family should bring light and fruitfulness to our urgent and effective endeavors as missionaries and servants of the Word. She is the star of evangelization" (MCT 151).

Intercessions

Formed in the forge of her Heart, through the intercession of the Heart of Mary, let us pray to the Lord for all those who await a word of hope and salvation.

Lord, make us instruments of your love

- That our dedication to the Lord may grow through the motherly action of the Virgin and may be nourished by her example.
- That the formation personnel in the Congregation may know how to transmit and infuse a deep love for Christ and Mary.
- That from the beginning of our formation as Claretian missionaries we may know how to find in the Heart of Mary inspiration for our own life and choices.
- That by letting ourselves be guided by Mary we may know how to translate and proclaim the mystery of Jesus into human, understandable language.
- That our Cordi-Marian spirituality may help us persevere in our vocation and exercise our apostolic ministry with generosity.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, blessed are You for having called us to be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Grant that we allow ourselves to be formed in the forge of her love in order to be servants of your Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song**8. WITH ALL HER HEART (CC 36)****Introduction**

The Heart of Mary is nothing more than another title for the Virgin Mary. It is a way of emphasizing the interiority of the Virgin, her motherly love, her attitude in relationship to Jesus and to ourselves, her sons. In her Heart we find welcome, understanding and tenderness.

Opening Song**Opening Prayer**

Enkindle in us, Lord, the love that inflamed the Heart of Mary so that we may love You above all things and may love our neighbor as You have loved us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word**Scripture Readings**

- 1 Cor 12:31—13:13: *If I have not love, I am nothing*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 26)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
Of whom should I be afraid?

R/. *I will seek your face, O Lord*

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks;
your presence, O Lord, I seek
hide not your face from me.

Show me, O Lord, your way,
and lead me on a level path,
because of my adversaries.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted and wait for the Lord.

- *Lk 2:15-20: Mary treasured all these things in her heart and the shepherds went back praising God for what they had seen and heard*

Points for Reflection

- The Holy Spirit descended on Mary and created in her a new heart, the “new heart” promised by the prophets and that impels her to proclaim the Good News. The prophets continually reproach the people of Israel for the infidelities, their hardness of heart, their breaking of the covenant established with the Lord. They announce a new covenant, through which the Lord will remove his people’s “heart of stone” and will give them a “new heart,” a “new spirit.”
- In the Hebrew Bible the heart is not so much the seat of affectivity but the organ of discernment that directs the will, desire, moral conduct. The heart of stone is hard, rebels against God’s will and is incapable of accepting it, while the new heart, from within the person, enables him or her to obey God by a free and voluntary act. Thus we see it in Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Beginning with novitiate, the time of initiation into the missionary life, we should discover in Mary the Mother and Formatrix that Jesus has given to his disciples, joyfully welcoming her as one of our most precious possessions. And we should recognize her in the symbol of her heart; with all the richness this symbol has in the

Bible and in our spiritual tradition. Looking at Mary, we are called to respond affirmatively to the Spirit, without yielding to self-centeredness, to close-mindedness about God and people. Through Mary’s influence we learn to give ourselves to the service of God and our brothers and sisters without reservations, with generosity.

- But devotion to the Heart of Mary helps us also discover the spiritual demands of conservation to the Father, associated with Christ, in the enterprise of the salvation of humankind. “The figure, the image of the Heart of Mary is in the Missionary Son; that idea is the foundation for his soul, in his mind, in his imagination, in his heart, in his emotions, in his words, in his missionary activity” (N. García, Piety, Col CC 658). Without Jesus and Mary one cannot embody the definition of the missionary proposed by our Father Founder.
- The Church, in its apostolic labor, is fixed on Her who bore Christ... The Virgin was, in her life, the exemplar of that motherly love it is needed in order to animate all those who, in the apostolic mission of the Church, cooperate in human rebirth” (LG 65). “Our prophetic lifestyle receives a distinctive imprint from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of the Congregation. She teaches us that without heart, without tenderness, without love, there is no credible prophecy” (IPM 20).

Intercessions

With the tenderness and love of Mary’s Heart let us present our petitions to the Lord for the Church and for the world.

Lord, give us a new heart

- Lord, we pray for the Church that it may always be at the service of the evangelization of the peoples.

- Lord, we pray that all people of good will may be sensitive to your call.
- Lord, we pray for the poor, the marginalized, those who find themselves alone, those who are afflicted or who are tempted, that they may hear a word of comfort and find a remedy for their problems.
- Lord, we pray that you will raise up in the Church and in our Congregation priests, missionaries, catechists and committed lay people who show, with their words and with their life, your love and kindness to all people.
- We pray that you will grant to us who call ourselves and who truly are the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary a heart like our Mother's so that we may conform ourselves more and more to Jesus Christ and truly proclaim his Good News.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Lord, enkindle in our hearts the fire that ceaselessly burned in the Heart of Mary so that, animated by the same things she loved, we may spread that fire wherever we go and lead all people to love and serve You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

9. FOUNDRESS AND PATRONESS OF THE CONGREGATION (CC 8)

Introduction

“The living of our Cordi-Marian sonship provides us with a special dynamism to fulfil the kind of being and mission that define the Claretian religious [in the Church]” (2VR 7f). The founding of our Congregation is attributed to Mary: we acknowledge her as our Mother, Teacher, Directress and Formatrix.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, grant that we who acknowledge the Virgin Mary as our Mother and Patroness, may feel her motherly presence and the stimulus of her example and may we experience her intercession in our lives each day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Scripture Readings

- *Rom 10:9-18: Faith in the heart leads to justification. But how can they believe unless there is someone to preach to them?*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
 beside restful waters he leads me;
 he refreshes my soul.

R/. *Your rod and your staff give me courage, O Lord*

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

with your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

for years to come.

- **Lk 1:46-55:** *My soul glorifies the Lord...All generations will call me blessed.*

Points for Reflection

- “All generations will call me blessed.” Mary is proclaimed blessed because God has been pleased to look upon her and to take her out of the anonymity of her life, raising her to a state where all people recognize her as loved and saved by God. They recognize that God has done great things in her. Mary receives the praise of Christians but she deflects them toward the source of her greatness, who is God her Savior. This is what her mission is: to bring people to God.
- Mary's presence at Pentecost is not an accidental presence, but a very significant one: it explains the motherhood beloved by Jesus, which consists in imploring the gift of the Holy Spirit and in co-operating in the supernatural rebirth of the human race.

- Our Father Founder stated categorically that the Virgin Mary had founded the Congregation. When he relates his supernatural experience at the moment of the foundation, he was aware that he was acting by an internal force that he attributed to Mary: he knew he was her instrument. Mary thus raises up in the Church a group of missionaries who under the action of the Holy Spirit, continue her maternal mission in the Church of giving birth to Christ in the heart of each person. Thus, through our apostolic mission, we collaborate with the mysterious motherly role of the Virgin Mary.
- Pope John Paul II recalled this peculiarity of our spirit, which in our Father Founder constantly appears with outstanding power: “It must continue to be your way of being and feeling. I refer to your clear awareness of being a Son of the Heart of Mary and being an instrument of salvation in Her hands. You know perfectly well that this awareness of Marian sonship is at the root, not only of the apostolic activity of the Holy Founder, but also, and in a specific way, that it is what cements together the very foundation of your Congregation. Throughout your history, this characteristic of Marian sonship has always remained an important element of your spirituality and evangelizing activity. Never let it weaken” (John Paul II at the 20th General Chapter, Rome 1985).

Intercessions

Let us entrust the life and mission of our Congregation to the Heart of Mary, our Patroness and Foundress, and let us say:

Lord, bless our Congregation through the intercession of the Heart of Mary

- Lord, strengthen the missionary force of the Congrega-

tion in Africa, in its dedication to initial evangelization, in promoting inter-religious dialogue, in seeking solutions for social needs, and in forming laity and catechists.

- Lord, keep the eyes of the Congregation in Latin America and the Caribbean open in order to courageously confront the challenges of that reality, to live and work with the poor and excluded, to promote and defend life.
- Raise up abundant vocations in North America who can care for the many immigrants who are seeking a better life and form laity according to the Gospel by all possible means, especially through the social communications media.
- Lord, bless the work that is developing in Asia on behalf of the poor and marginated, in dialogue with other religions, in formation of agents of evangelizations, especially religious.
- Lord, grant great success to the ministry of educating young people, of creating living and united Christian communities, of forming leaders, lay and religious, for the popular evangelization that is being given impetus in Europe.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

O God, you never cease to work marvels for your Church and you raised up St. Anthony Mary Claret to found our Congregation by the special intervention of the Virgin Mary. Grant to our Congregation stability, vigor and great success in its apostolic labors. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

2. Triduum to Our Holy Founder

149. Celebration with the People

- a. If the triduum is a separate act, it should include the elements presented below, to use the models for a celebration of the Word or some other form proposed below.
- b. If the triduum to our Holy Founder is joined to the celebration of the Eucharist, and if the liturgical calendar permits, it is most appropriate to use one of the forms in the Votive Masses for Particular Needs and their corresponding Lectionary, and dedicate the homily to the topic or core idea chosen for prayer that day.

150. Celebration in the Claretian Community

It is most appropriate to respect the sense and development of each celebration and not mix what is contained in them. Thus the triduum is not made within the recitation of Vespers, but before or after them, although it may substitute for some pious exercise.

The materials for this triduum are divided into 3 days (or cores), each one of which has 3 sections (I, II, III). This allows for making 1) the triduum as it is given here with all the elements, 2) a selective triduum using only one section for each day, or 3) a novena (using one of the 9 sections each day).

Each community can adapt the contents according to customs or the people's way of thinking⁷

⁷The appendix contains material each community can use in organizing the triduum.

First Day

THE CLARETIAN EXPERIENCE OF GOD AS FATHER

Introduction

The basic attitude that shapes the spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret and to which the life of every Claretian must conform is the profound experience of God as Father.

Opening Song**Opening Prayer**

Lord, open our minds and hearts to recognize the great love you have for us so that our whole life may be devoted to praising your glory. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I

Commentator: *A major consequence of our awareness of being beloved sons of the Father and of his providence is seeking always and in everything the glory of God, loving Him above all things.*

Scripture Reading

— **Eph 1:1-12:** *He has blessed us with every kind of blessing in order for us to praise the glory of his grace*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 106)

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his kindness endures forever.
Thus let the redeemed of the Lord say,
those he has rescued from the hand of the foe,
and gathered from all the nations:

From the north and the south, from the east and the west.

R/. *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good*

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness,
And his wondrous deed to the children of men,
Because he satisfied the longing soul,
And filled the hungry soul with good things.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness,
And his wondrous deeds to the children of men,
Let them make thank offerings
And declare his works with shouts of joy.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: St. Anthony Mary Claret is conscious of the love and providence of God that has so often saved him from danger and has granted him special graces (cf. Aut 42, 125, 136, 327). Starting from his experience, he exhorts us to love God above all things:

Reader: “Since you call God Father (as so He is), behave like a good son. Be afraid to cause him the slightest displeasure and strive to please Him in all things, as Jesus Christ has taught us.

... Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your powers and with all your understanding.

God is loved with one’s whole heart when nothing is loved that offends God, when nothing is said that God has forbidden. God is loved with one’s whole heart when He is loved with all one’s affection, with no other love mixed in, or, if one loves something else, it is only for God, either because God has commanded it or because it is something that leads to and helps us love God.

God is loved with one’s whole soul when one uses one’s

soul to love more, since the soul has three powers: memory, understanding and will. One uses memory to recall the temporal and eternal evils which God has preserved one from or from which God has delivered one. One also recalls the good things God has given, both corporal and spiritual, and the temporal and eternal things for which one hopes. Thus, filled with gratitude, one can do no less than praise the Giver of these goods. With the understanding one meditates on who God is and who the human being is, what benefits one has received or is waiting to receive. In this meditation the fire of God's love is kindled in the person, as the prophet king says."

(St. Anthony Mary Claret: Ascetical Letter, in *Escritos espirituales*, BAC 1985, p. 116 f.)

Silence

(one recalls the proofs of God's love and providence in one's own life)

Intercessions

Father, you have created us to know, love and serve you,
 Lord, may you be blest forever
 We depend on You for everything and we have nothing we
 have not received from You,
 May we always and everywhere procure your greater glory
 because with you we can do everything and apart from
 You, absolutely nothing.

II

Commentator: Seeking the glory of God in all things is being about the Father's business, as Jesus was, and always doing God's.

Scripture Reading

— Jn 7:16b-18: *He who wants to fulfil God's will...seeks the glory of the One He has sent*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118:89-96)

Your word, O Lord, endures forever;
 it is firm as the heavens.
 Through all generations your truth endures;
 you have established the earth, and it stands firm:
 According to your ordinances they still stand firm;
 All things serve you.

R/. *Your word, O Lord, endures forever*

Had not your law been my delight,
 I should have perished in my affliction.
 Never will I forget your precepts,
 for through them you gave me life.
 I am yours, save me,
 for I have sought your precepts.

Sinners wait to destroy me,
 but I pay heed to your decrees.
 I see that all fulfilment has its limits;
 broad indeed is your command.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: St. Anthony Mary Claret unconditionally accepts the Fathers's will. To fulfil it in everything is the expression of his grateful, filial love:

Reader: "How good you are, my father! Let me serve you always with fidelity and love. Give me your constant grace to know what pleases you and the willpower to put it into effect. My Lord and Father, I want nothing more than to know

your holy will, so that I may do it; nothing more than to love you with all my heart, and serve you with all fidelity. My Mother—Mother of Fair Love—help me!” (Aut 136).

Silence

Intercessions

That we may have no other concern than to be about the Father’s business.

May your name be sanctified, O Lord

That we may seek only to fulfil your will in the Congregation.

Grant us the will power to work for what pleases you.

III

Commentator: Filial love for the Father made St. Anthony Mary Claret work tirelessly for the salvation of the people, his brothers and sisters, so that, through grace, humanity might become one great family of God.

Scripture Reading

— *Jn 17:1-10: I have given you glory upon earth by finishing the work You have me to do*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95)

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
announce his salvation, day after day.

R/. *Proclaim his salvation day after day*

Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
How great is the Lord, and highly to be praised
awesome is he, beyond all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendour and majesty go before him;
praise and grandeur are in his sanctuary.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,
give to the Lord glory and praise;
give to the Lord the glory due his name.
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: As a beloved son of God, St. Anthony Mary Claret wanted to seek nothing else than that God might be known, loved and served by all. Thus he consecrated his life to working for the glory and spread of God’s Kingdom.

Reader: “You know that people nearly always do whatever it is they do for one or another of the following reasons: (1) for gain or money, (2) for pleasure, (3) for fame. I have not come to preach a mission in this town for any of these three reasons. Not for money, because I don’t want a penny from anyone and I won’t take one. Not for pleasure, for what pleasure could I get from wearing myself out from early in the morning until night? ... Maybe I do it for fame? Hardly. You must be well aware of the calumnies I’m exposed to. One person may praise me, but another makes all sorts of charges against me, as the Jews did against Jesus ... I have no mere earthly aim but a far nobler one. My aim is make God better known, loved and served by everyone. If only I had all

human hearts, with which to love God! My God, people do not know you! If they did, you would be far more loved than you are!... Another of my aims is to prevent all sins and offences that are being committed against God ... How, then, could I do enough when I see God offended and outraged? If you saw your father being beaten and stabbed, wouldn't you run to defend him? Wouldn't it be a crime for you to look on indifferently at your father in such a plight? Well then, wouldn't I be the greatest criminal in the world if I didn't try to prevent the outrages that people are perpetrating against God, who is my Father?"

(Aut from nos. 200-204).

Silence

Intercessions

That all people may know You, the true God, and your Son
Jesus Christ,

O Lord, may your Kingdom come to us

That all your ministers and evangelizers may feel impelled
by love,

That, following Claret's example, we may love our brothers
and sisters with the same love with which God loves
them.

Closing Prayer

My Lord and Father, that I may know You and make
You known, that I may love You and make You loved, that I
may serve You and make You served, that I may praise You
and make You praised by all your creatures. Through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

Second Day

CONFORMITY TO CHRIST

Introduction

The spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret is Christo-centric. "The primary element in the vocation of our Holy Founder is complete consecration to Jesus Christ in order to follow Him and imitate Him as closely as possible in His evangelical life and in the manner of His Apostles, working and suffering to lead people to the glorification of the Father. This eagerness to follow Christ closely led him not only to imitate His conduct but also to assimilate His spirit in the intimacy he enjoyed as the Son, as in the outpouring of energy to which his zeal for the glory of the Father impelled him" (PE 13).

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, You have the words of everlasting life. We have known and believed that you are the Holy One of God. Increase our little faith so that we may always follow you, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

I

Commentator: For our Father Founder Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son sent by the Father, made flesh of the Virgin Mary, anointed by the Spirit. The Church experiences and commends itself to Mary's motherly love in order to be united more closely with Jesus (cf. LG 62). Thus we accept her motherly role so that she may form Jesus in us, as she did in St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Scripture Reading

— **Acts 2:22-23; 32-33:** *God accredited Him with signs and wonders...and He received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 106):

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise,
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord.

R/. *Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord*

Look to the Lord in his strength;
seek to serve him constantly.
Recall the wondrous deeds that he has wrought,
his portents and the judgements he has uttered.

When they were few in number,
a handful, and strangers there,
wandering from nation to nation,
he let no one oppress them,
and for their sake he rebuked kings:
“Touch not my anointed,
and to my prophets do no harm.”

Claretian Reading

Reader: “I am ever more deeply impressed at the thought of Jesus moving from town to town, preaching everywhere—not just in big cities, but in little villages and even to a single woman. When He spoke to the Samaritan woman, He was tired and thirsty from travelling, and the moment was as

inconvenient for Him as it was for the woman. From the very beginning I have been thrilled by the preaching style of Jesus, his likenesses and parables. And how He was persecuted! He was a sign of contradiction, persecuted for his teaching, his works and his very person. Finally, they took his life amid affronts; torments and insults, making Him suffer the most shameful and painful death imaginable. I strove to imitate Jesus who tells all of us: ‘Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ I constantly thought about Jesus; in the crib, in the carpenter’s shop, on Calvary. I meditated on his words, his sermons, and his actions; on the way He ate, dressed and travelled from town to town. I took courage from his example and would ask myself, ‘How would Jesus act in this case?’ Striving to imitate Him filled me with contentment and joy because I was pleased to think that my model was also my Father, my Master and my Lord” (Aut 221-222, 356).

Silence**Intercessions**

Jesus, Son and the One sent by the Father,

Have mercy on me.

Jesus, Son of Mary,

Jesus, anointed by the Holy Spirit.

II

Commentator: St. Anthony Mary Claret, so deeply in love with Jesus, sought always to imitate Him in his evangelical life in the style of the Apostles, but above all he managed to assimilate his spirit.

Scripture Reading

— **Acts 1:12-15, 21-22:** *One who lived with us the whole time Jesus lived with us should be named as witness with us to his resurrection.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 112)

Praise, you servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
both now and forever.
From the rising to the setting of the sun
is the name of the Lord to be praised.

R/. *Praise the name of the Lord*

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens is his glory.
Who is like the Lord our God, who is enthroned on
high
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor
to seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people.
He establishes in her home the barren wife
as the joyful mother of children.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: Our religious life presupposes a total self-giving to God supremely loved. St. Anthony Mary Claret with his own example—based on the lifestyle of Jesus and Mary—shows us how we have to live: leaving everything like the Apostles to follow Jesus in proclaiming the Gospel, thinking only about serving Him and his greater glory:

Reader: “Seeing that the Lord, out of sheer good will and no merit on my part, was calling me to stem the torment of corruption and cure the ills of a moribund society, I thought that I should dedicate myself to studying and gaining a thorough knowledge of the maladies of this social body. I did so, in fact, and found that this world is nothing but the love of riches, the love of honor and the love of sensual pleasure... I believed that this dreadful giant, which worldly people call all-powerful, had to be confronted with the holy virtue of poverty. So wherever I encountered greed, I countered it with poverty. I had nothing, wanted nothing, refused everything. I was content with the clothes I had on and the food that was set before me. I carried all I had in a bandana. The contents of my luggage were a full-year Breviary, a sheaf of sermons, a pair of socks, an extra shirt—nothing more...”

I always remembered that Jesus had become poor Himself; He chose to be born, to live and to die in the utmost poverty. I thought of how Mary, too, had always wanted to be poor. And I thought, too, of how the Apostles left everything to follow Jesus Christ. Sometimes the Lord made me feel the pinch of poverty but only for a short time. Then He would console me with whatever I needed, and the joy I experienced in feeling poverty was so great that the rich could never enjoy all their riches as much as I enjoyed my beloved poverty” (Aut 357, 359, 363).

Silence**Intercessions**

That we may embrace the poverty proposed by Jesus and the example of Mary as a gift to consecrate us to the things of the Father.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

That, by sharing the poverty of Jesus and like the Apostles who left everything and followed the Lord, we may remind everyone of the good things of the world to come.

That, like Mary, totally consecrated as handmaid of the Lord to the Person and work of her Son, we may be united in everything to God's saving will.

III

Commentator: Being identified with the redeeming sacrifice of Christ, the Eucharist, the sacrament of the sacrifice and presence of Christ, was of supreme importance in the spiritual and apostolic life of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Scripture Reading

— 1 Cor 11:23-26: *Every time you eat this bread, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 39)

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts and sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold, I come;
in the written scroll it is prescribed for me.
To do your will."

R/. *The Lord has redeemed us with the blood of his Son*

O my God, you are my delight,
and your law is within my heart.
I announced your salvation
in the great assembly;
I did not restrain my lips,
as you, O Lord, know.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: The Constitutions tell us that in the Eucharist we are united "to Christ our Lord as He proclaims the words of life, offers Himself for his brothers and sisters, honors his Father and builds up the unity of the Church" (n. 35). They embody exactly the experience of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Reader: "On August 26, 1861, at 7:00 in the evening, while I was at prayer in the Church of the Rosary at La Granja, the Lord granted me the great grace of keeping the sacramental species intact within me and of having the Blessed Sacrament always present, day and night, in my breast. Because of this I must always be very recollected and inwardly devout. Furthermore, I must pray and confront all the evils of Spain, as the Lord has told me.

1862. On May 11, 1862, at 6:30 in the evening, while I was in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament at the palace of Aranjuez, I offered myself to Jesus and Mary to preach, exhort, labor, and suffer even death itself and the Lord accepted my offering.

My Father, take this poor heart of mine and devour it as I do you, so that I may be changed totally into You. At the words of consecration that substance of bread and wine are changed into the substance of your body and blood. Almighty Lord, consecrate me; speak over me the words that will change me totally into you" (Aut 694, 698, 756).

Silence

Intercessions

Lord, You are the bread that gives life.

Lord, give us this bread

Lord, You are the bread broken for our salvation.

Lord, You are the bread we share and which makes us one.

Closing Prayer

Lord, you invite us to share your life and your mission. You give us your body to eat. Grant that we may desire nothing other than your will and that, by loving you as you love us and as you desire that we love, we may desire only to live through you and for you and that you may be more than enough for us. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

Third Day

A MISSIONARY IMPELLED BY LOVE

Introduction

St. Anthony Mary Claret felt called by the power of the Holy Spirit to be consecrated entirely to Christ and to preach the Gospel. He perfectly synthesized his mission and his evangelical life. He lived dedicated to mission as his own way of giving himself to God, of living united to Christ and the Church. And in his mission he discovered the need to live evangelically, imitating the life of the Lord and of the Apostles, totally offering himself up and being dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Lord, impart to us the Spirit, which you granted to our Father, St. Anthony Mary Claret, so that with this gift of your grace we may enrich the life of the Church and make its mission in the world more fruitful. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Commentator: *Sent.* Being missionaries implies having a clear awareness of being sent. It is a grace that is received, and as such is not effected by one's own initiative, but only by obedience to the One who sends. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sent his Apostles. The missions Jesus received from the Father is the same one He entrusted to his Apostles. The success of the mission cannot be attributed to the one sent; it is the Lord who makes it bear fruit.

Scripture Reading

— 1 Cor 3:5-9; 4:1-2, 6-7: *We are co-workers with God*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 36)

Trust in the Lord and do good,
That you may dwell in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
And he will grant you your heart's requests.

R/. *The just will see the saving power of God*

Commit to the Lord your way;
Trust in him, and he will act.
He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
Bright as the noonday shall be your justification.

Trust in the Lord and wait for him.
The salvation of the just is from the Lord;
He is their refuge in time of distress.
And the Lord helps them and delivers them
Because they take refuge in him.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: St. Anthony Mary Claret, a missionary by vocation and by conviction, understands as something

basic that being sent by his superiors guarantees that he is not acting on his own but in obedience to God's will.

Reader: "Other bishops often asked my own bishop to let me preach missions in their dioceses. As long as he granted their requests, I would go, for it was my inflexible rule never to preach in my church or diocese except at the express command of my bishop, for two weighty reasons. First, because it meant I would be acting out of holy obedience, a virtue that is so pleasing to God that He rewards it instantly. In acting thus I was assured of doing God's will and being sent by Him, not by my whim. Besides I could see God's blessing in the results that were forthcoming. The second reason was one of convenience. Because there were so many demands for my services from far and near, I could satisfy them all by saying, 'I'll be very happy to go if my bishop sends me.' Thus they would leave me in peace and arrange things through him, so that it was up to him to send me.

I had come to realize that a missionary should never thrust himself into an assignment. He should offer his services to the bishop, saying, 'Here I am, send me'. But he should not go until his bishop sends him, because when he is sent, it will be God's sending. All the Old Testament prophets were sent by God. Jesus Christ himself was sent from God; and Jesus in turn sent his Apostles. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Aut 194-195).

Silence

Intercessions

Lord, grant us the dispositions we need in order to be able to be sent where we may be needed.

Lord, make us fitting ministers of your Word

Lord, grant us the trust we need in order to exercise in your name the ministry you may entrust to us through the Congregation.

Lord, grant us the grace to entrust ourselves to Mary, Formatrix of Apostles, that we may make your name known to the world and spread the Kingdom of heaven throughout the earth.

II

Commentator: *Apostle Out of Love.* "As a profoundly supernatural activity, the true apostolate is an exercise of faith, hope and the love that the Holy Spirit pours out into the faithful sons and daughters of the Church (cf. AA 3). For a faithful carrying out of ministry it is indispensable to live intimately in union with Christ, Savior and Shepherd, especially through the fruitful celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice and a frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance" (PE 31).

Scripture Reading

— 1 Cor 12:31—13:1-3, 8-13: *If I have not love, I gain nothing*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 130)

Lord, my heart is not proud,
Nor are my eyes haughty;
I busy not myself with great things,
Nor with things too sublime for me.
Nay, rather I have stilled and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child on its mother's lap

R/. *Lord, I seek You with simplicity of heart*

O Israel, hope in the Lord,
Both now and forever.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: “The same Holy Spirit, by appearing in the form of tongues of fire above the Apostles on Pentecost, showed us the truth quite clearly: an apostolic missionary must have both heart and tongue ablaze with charity. One day the Venerable Avila was asked by a young priest what he should do to become a good preacher. His ready answer was, ‘Love much’. And both experience and the history of the Church teach us that the greatest preachers have always been the most fervent lovers.

In truth, the fire of love acts in a minister of the Lord in much the same way that material fire acts in the engine of a locomotive or a ship: it enables them to move the heaviest cargo with the greatest of ease. What good would either of these two machines be without fire and steam to move them? None at all. What good is a priest who has finished all his studies and holds degrees in theology and canon and civil law if he lacks the fire of love? None at all. He is no good for others because he is like a locomotive without steam. Instead of being a help, as he should, he may only be a hindrance. He is no good even for himself. As St. Paul says, “If I speak with human and angelic tongues as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal” (Aut. 440-441; nos. 442-444 may also be read).

Silence**Intercessions**

Lord, help us live firmly and constantly united to Christ, according to our charism, as it is proposed in the Constitutions.

Lord, make us hungry and thirsty for your love

Lord, let us grow in apostolic love in order to love you and to love our brothers and sisters as you love us.

Lord, make us experience the joy of the resurrection in order to go out to the entire world, impelled by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

III

Commentator: *Detached and free for mission.* The missionary, as a follower of Jesus and associate in the work of redemption, must never forget the Lord’s words: “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up the cross” and “whoever loses his life for my sake for the Gospel will save it.”

Scripture Reading

— 2 Cor 4:1, 7-12: *We bear in our body the death of Jesus.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 6)

O Lord, reproach me not in your anger,
nor chastise me in your wrath.
Have pity on me, Lord, for I am languishing;
heal me, Lord, for my body is in terror.
My soul, too, is utterly terrified;
but you, O Lord, how long?

R/. Lord, save me by your mercy

Return, O Lord; save my life,
rescue me because of your kindness
For among the dead no one remembers you;
in the nether world who gives you thanks?

Depart from me, all evildoers,
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
the Lord has accepted my prayer.

Claretian Reading

Commentator: "I resolved that in my outward being I would be modest and recollected; that in my inner being I would be continuously and fervently absorbed with God; that in my work I would be patient, silent and long-suffering. I proposed, furthermore, to fulfil the law of God and the Church exactly, as well as the duties that God demands of my state; to do good to all; to shun sins, faults and imperfections; and to practice the virtues.

In all life's disagreeable, sad and humiliating events I always remind myself that they come from God's hand, for my betterment. And so, as soon as I think of it, I manage to turn to God in silent resignation to his holy will, remembering that our Lord said not a hair can fall from my head unless it is the will of the Heavenly Father, who loves me so much.

I believe that everything comes from God and that God expects of me the tribute of suffering patiently for his love's sake every injury to my body, soul and honor. I believe that I do the most for God's greater glory when I hold my tongue and suffer like Jesus, who died on the cross, deprived of everything.

Doing and suffering are the greatest proofs of love" (Aut 419-420; 423-424).

Silence**Intercessions**

Since we glorify and bear God in our bodies, grant us, Lord, to control our emotions and be frugal in the use of things.

O Lord, your cross is our glory

Increase our faith, Lord, so that we may be able to rejoice in every adversity.

Help us, Lord, to give our lives for our brothers and sisters and to be united with all those who suffer illness, injustice and oppression so that all may attain salvation.

Closing Prayer

Lord, grant us the faith that inflamed the Prophets, the Apostles and the Martyrs so that we may be able to embrace, with a joyful spirit, poverty, self-denial and sacrifice in order to spread the Reign of Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

3. Triduum for the Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation

151.

First Day

MISSIONARIES IN THE STYLE OF CLARET

Opening Song**Greeting**

The Lord, who has called us to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Anthony Mary Claret, be with you.

Opening Prayer

Lord, pour out the spirit You gave to St. Anthony Mary Claret on us whom You have called to follow Jesus in the Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that we may announce the Gospel to all people. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

— Mt 28:16-20: *Go and make disciples of all nations*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 116)

Praise the Lord, all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples.

R/. *Lord, may the light of the Gospel illumine the entire world*

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.

Reflection: MCT 51-53

Intercessions

For having chosen us to be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For having given us St. Anthony Mary Claret as our Father and example,

For the witness of the faith and fidelity of so many of our brothers who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Gospel, even unto the shedding of their blood,

For the spread of the Congregation over the course of its history and throughout the length and breadth of the whole world,

For all the Congregations and members of the Claretian Family who share the charism and mission of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Father of kindness and mercy,
we praise and bless you
for having raised up in the Church
the charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret
and for having founded our Congregation.
We humbly beg you
to send new workers to our Congregation,
and impart your Spirit to those you have chosen.
Strengthen all of us in our missionary vocation,
and grant that, impelled by Christ's love,
as true Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
we may proclaim to all peoples the Good News of the Kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

Second Day

MISSIONARIES IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

Opening Song

Greeting

May the Lord, who has made us in the Church strong helpers of the Bishops in the ministry of the Word, be with you.

Opening Prayer

Lord, may your Word and the teaching and example of St. Anthony Mary Claret impel us, with all our might, to serve in the building up and growth of the Church. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

— Rom 12:3-13: *We have different gifts according to the grace we have been given*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 121)

I rejoiced because he said to me,
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R/. *Lord, may peace be with all*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good.

Reflection: MCT 140-141 (*or: PE 9-10*)

Intercessions

For not being open enough to the universal Church and to the particular Churches whom we serve.
Lord, have mercy.

For our failures in love and obedience to our Bishops and for not having been strong collaborators with them in the ministry of the Word.

For our lack of openness to the priests, religious and lay people who work in our particular Churches.

For not having sufficiently offered the riches of our charism to particular Churches.

For being blind to the manifestations of the Spirit in the Church communities in which we are inserted.

Our Father

Closing Prayer (*as on the first day*)

Closing Song

Third Day

MISSIONARIES LIVING IN COMMUNION

Opening Song

Greeting

May the Lord, who called us and gathered us together through the Spirit to be part of the family of our Congregation under the influence and example of St. Anthony Mary Claret, be with you.

Prayer

Gathered into one community in order to collaborate in the ministry of the Word, Lord grant that we may pool our personal gifts for the service of the common mission. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

— Jn 15:12-17: *I have chosen you to go forth and bear fruit.*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 132)

Behold, how good it is, and how pleasant,
where brethren dwell as one!

R/. *We are one in the love of the Lord*

It is a dew like that of Hermon,
which comes down upon the mountains of Zion,
for there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
life forever.

Reflection: MCT 130-133

Intercessions

For the Congregation and each of the Claretian Missionaries, that they may form one community of witnesses and heralds of the Gospel.

Hear us, O Lord

For all those called to Claretian missionary life that they may respond generously to the Lord and collaborate in the universal mission of the Congregation according to their own vocation.

For those among us who are ill and aged that, by preparing and suffering for the Church, they may share in the mission of the Congregation with hope and joy.

For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and have shared in the Claretian fellowship that the Lord may welcome them into the community of saints and the elect.

For all of us, that we may always work together in building community and find in it our complete personal fulfillment.

Our Father

Closing Prayer (*as on the first day*)

Closing Song

4. Patron Saints of the Congregation

152. “Our worship is especially joined with that of the heavenly Church, in the first place by our communion with, and commemoration of, the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also with that of St. Joseph, St. Michael and all the holy Angels, the Apostles and other saints who, because of their truly missionary spirit, are our traditional Patrons, namely St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Teresa of Jesus, St. Catherine of Siena” (CC 35).

“Other devotions, such as the Marian Month and the Triduum to St. Joseph, are recommended. These should be performed with simplicity and draw their inspiration from the liturgy” (Dir 88).

Co-Patrons: Claretian References**St. Joseph**

“On May 7, 1865, at 3:00 in the afternoon, the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, Jesus told me to be very devout to St. Joseph and to approach him with confidence” (Aut. 831).

St. Catherine of Siena

“Charity urges and impels me, it makes me run from town to town, shouting...I often ask God, as St. Catherine of Siena did: “Lord, let me stand at the gates of hell and stop anyone from entering, by telling each of them, ‘Where are

you going, poor fool? Turn back! Make a good confession and save your soul. Don't come here, to be lost for all eternity!" (Aut. 212).

Peter and Paul

"Love in a man who preaches the Word of God is like fire in a musket. We can see this in the case of St. Peter, who walked out of the upper room afire with the love he had received from the Holy Spirit, with the result that through just two sermons he converted 8,000 people, three in the first and five in the second" (Aut. 439).

But the zeal of St. Paul has always awakened my deepest enthusiasm. He went from place to place, a vessel of election, carrying the teaching of Jesus Christ!" (Aut. 224).

James and John

"The Lord wants me and my companions to imitate the apostles James and John in zeal, chastity and love for Jesus and Mary" (Aut. 686).

St. Michael and the Guardian Angels

"I never forgot to invoke St. Michael and the guardian angels—especially my own, and those of the kingdom, the province, the city in which I was preaching, and of each individual present (Aut. 268).

I have had visible knowledge of the protection of the holy guardian angels" (Aut. 269).

St. Teresa of Jesus

"This year I reread the works of St. Teresa of Jesus, and the Lord blessed this reading with great gifts of knowledge.

How good the Lord is! Since he foreknew the great trials I would have to undergo, He forearmed me with great insights and spiritual help" (Aut. 797).

Material for a Triduum to St. Joseph

153. SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Readings

2 Sam 7:4-5^a, 12-14^a, 16: *The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.*

2 Sam 7:25-29: *Faithfulness to the promises.*

Wisdom 10:9-12: *Wisdom guides the just.*

Mt 1:16, 18-21: *Joseph did what the angel of the Lord commanded him.*

Mt 13:54-58: *Isn't he the son of the carpenter?*

Mt 25:14-21: *Reliable and faithful servant, enter into the banquet of the Lord.*

Lk 2:41-51a: *Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow.*

Lk 12:35-44: *This is the faithful and caring servant.*

Rom 4:13, 16, 18, 22: *Hoping against hope, he believed.*

Heb 11:1-16: *The faith of the holy Patriarchs.*

Psalms

Ps 20:2-8, 4

Ps 14

Ps 91

Ps 111

Ps 112

Ps 127

Ps 145

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

154. JOSEPH, BELIEVER IN THE PROMISES

“I will make you father of many nations.”

The words that God addressed to Abraham, already old and childless, the liturgy applies to St. Joseph, who had absolutely no descendants according to the flesh; and we, as we reflect on the events of his life, can fully appreciate why the liturgy makes this accommodation. The reason is that, after having been a special instrument of Providence for Jesus and Mary, especially during Herod’s persecution, St. Joseph continues to exercise his providential and “fatherly” mission in the life of the Church and of all people...

As you look at St. Joseph from your special perspective as consecrated people, you see reflected in his virginal chastity and his spiritual fatherhood the highest ideals of your vocation. He teaches you the love of recollection and prayer, generous fidelity to the commitment you have assumed before God and the Church, selfless dedication to the community where Providence has placed you, however small and insignificant it may be. In the light of his example you can learn and appreciate the value of all that is humble, hidden, of that which without show or noise has decisive effects, in the soundless depths of the heart...

“He will say to me: You are my father.” Like St. Joseph, you also call on the heavenly Father with assiduous and fervent prayer and you will experience, as he did, the truth of the Psalmist’s words: “He will enjoy my favor forever and my covenant with him shall endure.” (*John Paul II, Homily in Termoli, 19 March 1998*)

155. JOSEPH, THE JUST MAN

The Church was born and exists so that the promise,

once made to Abraham, can be fulfilled in the world. The Church is linked in its very beginnings—the fulfilment of the world’s hope—also with the faith of Joseph of Nazareth.

What emanates from his whole figure is faith, the faith truly inherited from Abraham. His faith is the most perfect counterpart to that of Mary of Nazareth. The two of them—Mary and Joseph—are united by this wondrous bond. In the eyes of the world their bond is one of marriage. In the eyes of God and the Church, they are wed in the Holy Spirit.

Joseph of Nazareth is the “just man,” because “he lives the faith totally.” He is holy because his faith is truly heroic.

Scripture says little about him. There is no record of any word spoken by Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth. Nevertheless, even without words, he shows the depth of his faith, his greatness.

St. Joseph is great in the spirit. He is great in the faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the living God.

He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in promptly accepting the truth contained in the word of the living God—welcoming it and carrying it out in love.

Thus Joseph of Nazareth becomes a truly wondrous witness to the divine mystery. He becomes a servant of the Tabernacle that God chooses for himself on earth in order to carry out the work of salvation. (*John Paul II, Homily in Livorno, 19 March 1982*)

156. THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

“What you do, do with all your soul, as serving the Lord. Serve Christ the Lord.”

How can we not see in these words the program and the summary of the whole life of St. Joseph, whose witness of generous dedication to work the Church proposes for our reflection...?

St. Joseph, the just man, spent a great part of his life working, at the carpenter's bench, in a humble village in Palestine—a life like that of many other men of his times, committed like him to the same hard work. And yet a life that was so outstanding and worthy of admiration, which leads the Church to propose it as the exemplary model for all the workers of the world.

What is the reason for this distinction? It is not difficult to see. His life is directed toward Christ, who makes all St. Joseph's hard work worthwhile. The presence of the Incarnate Word in the home in Nazareth, the Son of God and the Son of his wife, Mary, gave Joseph the reason to go back to the carpenter's bench day after day to earn what was needed to sustain his family by the sweat of his brow. Truly "everything he did," Joseph "did for the Lord" and did "with all his heart." (*John Paul II. At Regina Coeli Prison, 1 May 1982*)

157.

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy
 Christ, have mercy
 Lord, have mercy
 Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us
 God, the Father of heaven
have mercy on us
 God the Son, Redeemer of the World
 God the Holy Spirit
 Holy Trinity, One God
 Holy Mary *pray for us*
 St. Joseph
 Illustrious Descendant of David
 Light of the Patriarchs

Spouse of the Mother of God
 Chaste Guardian of the Virgin
 Teacher of the Son of God
 Diligent Defender of Christ
 Head of the Holy Family
 Joseph most just
 Joseph most chaste
 Joseph most prudent
 Joseph most strong
 Joseph most obedient
 Joseph most faithful
 Mirror of Patience
 Lover of the Poor
 Example for Workers
 Honor of Family Life
 Guardian of Virgins
 Support of Families
 Comfort of the afflicted
 Hope of the sick
 Patron of the dying
 Protector of the Holy Church
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world –
spare us, O Lord
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world –
graciously hear us, O Lord
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world –
have mercy on us

V/. The Lord made you master of his household

R/. In charge of all his possessions

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you chose St. Joseph as husband of Mary, the Mother of your Son. Grant, we implore you that we who venerate him on earth as protector

may deserve to have him as intercessor in heaven. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph

158. *Blessed Joseph*

Blessed Joseph,
by the love which kept you united to the Virgin Mother of
God
and by the fatherly love with which you cared for the Child
Jesus,
we humbly ask you to look with kindness on the family of
your Son,
acquired by his blood, and with your help aid us in our
needs.
Keep us from all error and every kind of sin;
help us in our struggle against the power of evil,
and defend the Church of God against all adversity;
protect each one of us,
that, by following your example and sustained
by your help,
we may live in holiness,
die piously and attain eternal blessedness.

159. *Prayer to St. Joseph (by Leo XIII)*

To you, blessed Joseph,
we come in our need
and we invoke your patronage with the Virgin Mary,
your spouse.
By the holy love that united you with Mary,
the Mother of God,
and by your fatherly care of the Child Jesus,

look kindly on the people that Christ won by his blood,
with your aid help us in our needs.
Guardian of the Holy Family,
protect the Church from the evils that scourge the world,
and give us by your favor strength in the fight against evil.
Help us to live holy lives,
to die in God's peace,
and to attain eternal blessedness in heaven.

160. *Prayer to St. Joseph (by John XXIII)*

O St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus,
most chaste spouse of Mary,
you completely fulfilled your duty in life,
supporting with the work of your hands,
the holy Family of Nazareth.
Protect with your favor those who call upon you.
You know our dreams, our anxieties and our hopes:
We come to you,
because we know we will find a protector in you.
You also experienced temptation and weariness:
But your spirit, filled with deep peace,
exulted with joy at the intimacy with the Son of God who had
been entrusted to you
and with Mary, his Mother.
Help us to understand that we are not alone in our work,
to know how to discover Jesus working along side us,
to welcome Him with grace and guard him faithfully as you
did.
And obtain for us the grace that our Congregation
may be completely sanctified in love,
in patience, in justice and in love of God.
Amen.

161. Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Joseph, chaste spouse of Mary
and Davidic father of the Messiah.

Blessed are you among men
and blessed is Jesus, the Son of God entrusted to you.

St. Joseph,

patron of the universal Church and of our Congregation,

keep our communities and our families

in peace and divine grace

and help us at the hour of our death.

Amen.

162. Prayer to St. Joseph

Holy Father, you chose St. Joseph
for a singular duty

and granted him the graces necessary
to fulfil it in the family home in Nazareth.

Grant also to us
the graces we need

to be faithful in carrying out
our ministry

according to the spirit and charism of the Congregation.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

163.

Intercessions through the Co-Patrons of the Congregation

Through the intercession of our Holy Patrons, in which our Holy Founder saw an example of life and apostolate, let us pray to God, the Father of goodness.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, who welcomed with her whole Heart the saving work of Christ, grant us, Lord, the strength we need to struggle against the powers of darkness, armed with the two-edged sword of God's Word. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, we ask you, Lord, to convert sinners, and to grant us serenity in suffering and meekness in adversity. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of St. Michael and all the Angels, we ask you, Lord, to grant your protection to all ministers of the Gospel, that they may grow in perfection and fight effectively against the power of the Evil One. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of the Apostles, called to be with your Son and to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, grant us assiduousness in our trying to be with the Lord and authenticity in our witness to the Gospel. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of St. Alphonsus Liguori, grant us, Lord, humbleness of heart, poverty of spirit and obedience to your holy will. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of St. Ignatius Loyola, we ask you, Lord, for rest from our labors so we may seek you in solitude and assistance to communicate your love to your brothers and sisters, so that sinners may be converted, the just may persevere in grace and be perfected by it. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of St. Teresa of Jesus, reveal, Lord, your divine secrets to us and grant us sensitivity "to see how many souls may be lost," so that in their salvation

may be our concern, our desires, our tears and our petitions. Let us pray to the Lord.

Through the intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, O eternal God, turn your eyes of mercy, like the Good Shepherd, on your many lost sheep who, although outside the fold of the Church, are yours, since you have purchased them with your blood. Let us pray to the Lord.

In the words of our Holy Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and through his intercession, let us pray together:

My God and Father, that I may know you and make you known,
that I may love you and make you loved;
that I may serve you and make you served;
that I may praise you and make all creatures praise you.
My Father, grant me,
that all sinners may be converted,
that all the just may persevere in grace
and that all may attain eternal glory.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

164.

Litany to the Holy Evangelizers from the Claretian Family

Lord, have mercy – *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, have mercy – *Christ, have mercy*
Lord, have mercy – *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, hear us – *Christ, hear us*
Christ, graciously hear us – *Christ, graciously hear us*
God the Father of heaven – *have mercy on us*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world – *have mercy on us*

God, the Holy Spirit – *have mercy on us*
Holy Trinity, one God – *have mercy on us*
Holy Mary – *Pray for us*
Holy Angels of God
Saint Joseph, husband of Mary
Saint Peter and Saint Paul
All holy Apostles and Evangelists
Saint Dominic de Guzmán
Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Francis Xavier
Saint Alphonsus Mary Liguori
Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint Catherine of Siena
Saint Maria Micaela of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Saint Joaquina de Vedruna
Saint María Jesús Sancho
Blessed Felipe de Jesús Munárriz
Blessed Juan Díaz Nosti
Blessed Leoncio Pérez
Blessed Sebastián Calvo
Blessed Pedro Cunill
Blessed José Pavón
Blessed Nicasio Sierra
Blessed Wenceslao María Clarís
Blessed Gregorio Chirivás
Blessed Secundino María Ortega
Blessed Javier Bandrés
Blessed José Brengaret
Blessed Antolín María Calvo
Blessed Tomas Capdevila
Blessed Esteban Casadevall
Blessed Eusebio Codina
Blessed Juan Codinachs
Blessed Antonio María Dalmau
Blessed Juan Echarri
Blessed Pedro García Bernal
Blessed Hilario María Llorente

Blessed Ramón Novich
 Blessed José Ormo
 Blessed Salvador Pigem
 Blessed Teodoro Ruiz de Larrinaga
 Blessed Juan Sánchez Munarriz
 Blessed Manuel Torras
 Blessed Manuel Buil
 Blessed Alfonso Miguel
 Blessed Luis Masferrer
 Blessed José María Amorós
 Blessed José María Badía
 Blessed Juan Baixeras
 Blessed José María Blasco
 Blessed Rafael Briega
 Blessed Luis Escalé
 Blessed José Figueró
 Blessed Ramón Illa
 Blessed Luis Lladó
 Blessed Miguel Masip
 Blessed Faustino Pérez
 Blessed Sebastián Riera
 Blessed Eduardo Ripoll
 Blessed José Ros
 Blessed Francisco María Roura
 Blessed Alfonso Sorribes
 Blessed Agustín Viela
 Blessed Francisco Castán
 Blessed Manuel Martínez Jarauta
 Blessed Jaime Falgarona
 Blessed Atanasio Vidaurreta
 Blessed Maria Patrocinio Giner
 Christ, hear us – *Christ, hear us*
 Christ, graciously hear us – *Christ, graciously hear us*
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world –
Have mercy on us.

5. Martyrs of the Claretian Family

Prayers to the Blessed Martyrs of Barbastro

165. Prayer to the Martyrs of Barbastro

God, our Father,
 you gave Philip of Jesus Munárriz and his companions,
 the grace of fidelity to their missionary vocation
 by following Christ to martyrdom,
 and you made them witnesses to perfect charity
 in forgiving their persecutors:
 grant us, through their intercession,
 the grace to persevere steadfastly in faith,
 and in sincere charity
 that we may love Christ in all our brothers and sisters.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

166. The Martyrs of Barbastro

God, our Father,
 in the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro you have given us
 a model of fidelity to the cause of Jesus,
 of love for the Heart of Mary and for the Church,
 of loyalty to our brothers and forgiveness of our enemies.
 Grant that we may follow their example
 in living faithfully and joyfully in our Congregation
 and in proclaiming the Gospel
 for the glory of God and the salvation of all humankind
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

167.

The Martyrs' Way of the Cross

Besides the Scripture texts, offered for reflection are writings of the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro and the testimony of Pablo Hall and Atilio Parussini, the Argentine Claretians who shared imprisonment with the Martyrs until 13 August 1936.

FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

At that time: "The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedrin, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death. They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man has declared, 'I can destroy God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.'" The high priest rose to his feet and addressed him, 'Have you no answer to the testimony levelled against you?' But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him, 'I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say it. But I tell you this: Soon you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven'. At this the high priest tore his robes: 'He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? Remember, you heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death!'" (Mt 26:59-66).

In our time: One of the Martyrs writes: "We have not been found to be involved in any political cause. And although we have not been given any kind of trial, we are all content to die for Christ, for His Church and for the faith of Spain. For the Martyrs, Manuel Martínez CMF." And the mi-

litiamen themselves confess: "We do not hate you personally; we hate your profession, your black habit, the cassock, that filthy rag: take off that rag and you will be like us and we will set you free." "We are killing you because you're fanatics and hypocrites and don't want to take up arms to fight for the people."

** Let us pray:*

Lord, You were abandoned by everyone and found no one to testify on your behalf. Show us the vulnerability of God that is offered to people, help us to accept the salvation that comes from your humiliation and your silence and bring good out of evil. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES UP THE CROSS

At that time: "Finally, when they had finished making a fool of him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucifixion" (Mt 27:31). "Carrying the cross by himself [Jesus] went out to what is called the Place of the Skull" (Jn 19:17).

In our time: Ramón Illa writes: "We have been in this jail since July 20th. The whole community is here...Eight days ago they shot our reverend Father Superior and some other Fathers. Happy they, and happy we who will follow them. I wouldn't exchange my jail for the gift of working miracles, nor my martyrdom for the apostolate, which has been my life's dream...Thanks be to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.'

** Let us pray:*

Lord, grant that your blood will not be fruitless in us, that we may be healed by your wounds, that we may find in

them the courage and freedom to love You above all things and to serve You wherever and however You determine. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

In that time: Jesus falls the first time: “Do me justice, O God, and rescue me from these deceitful and impious people’ (Ps 43)

In our time: Fr. Juan Díaz Nosti spoke to the seminarists an hour before they were arrested, encouraging them, in such uncertain circumstances, “to greater prayer, to tranquility and peace: that we may throw ourselves into the arms of Providence, that what God may send us will be the best thing for us; that if we are imprisoned, it will be a great glory to suffer persecution for justice’ sake, to suffer for God, and if it comes to the supreme moment of giving ourselves up to death, what joy, what glory, what honor to give our lives for Christ, to die for our ideals!”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, give us a living faith, like that which inflamed the Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs, and that moved so many preachers of the divine word to embrace poverty, self-denial and sacrifice in order to spread the Kingdom of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

In that time: “There were also women present who had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee. Among them was Mary, his Mother” (Mk 15:40).

In our time: Several Martyrs wrote to their mothers, like Salvador Pígem “Mama, don’t cry. Jesus asks me for my

blood; I am going to shed it out of love for him. I will be a martyr; I’m going to heaven. I will be waiting for you there.” And Agustine Viela: “The most they can do is kill us out of hatred for God. Then we would be martyrs, and could there be any greater glory for a mother than to be able to say that her son died for God and for the Immaculate Virgin? Please don’t be too upset or saddened by what they may do to us, rather rejoice in seeing your son persecuted for the sake of God.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, You have loved enough to give us your own Mother as our Mother. By the intercession of the Heart of Mary, grant that we may experience the power of your love and that we may accept, as She did, being sharers in, and instruments of, your saying action on behalf of all people. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

FIFTH STATION: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

In that time: “As they led him away, they laid hold of one Simon the Cyrenean who was coming in from the fields. They put the crossbeam on Simon’s shoulder for him to carry along behind Jesus” (Lk 23:26).

In our time: “Since I won’t be able to go to China as I had wished,” confessed Rafael Briega, “I heartily offer my blood for the missions in China and I will pray for them from heaven.” And Ramón Novich and others repeated that “since we will not be able to exercise the sacred ministry on earth, working for the conversion of sinners, we will, like St. Therese of the Child Jesus, spend our heaven doing good upon earth.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, you have bidden us to take up your cross and share your fate. Encourage us in our struggles so that we

in turn may strengthen others with the courage we have received from you, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

In that time: “So marred was his look beyond that of human appearance” (Is 52:14).

In our time: The Martyrs wanted to reproduce the image of Jesus, his feelings, his love, his forgiveness, as Esteban Casadevall told Pablo Hall before he was set free: “I die content. I am happy, like the apostles were because the Lord allowed them to suffer something out of love for Him before they did. I confidently hope that the Lord and the Heart of Mary will carry me promptly to heaven. With all my heart I forgive those who hurt us, persecute us and will kill us, and with Jesus Christ, dying on the cross, I want to say to the eternal Father: ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do’. Their leaders and the hatred they have for us are blind. If they knew what they were doing, they certainly wouldn’t do it. We have already prayed for their conversion. I feel truly sorry for them and from heaven I hope to obtain that God will open their eyes to see how things truly are and be converted. Frankly I have no difficulty forgiving them. Just think what good they are doing for me, despite the hatred they have for me!... Tell Fr. General that I am going to die content in the Congregation of Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that I confidently hope for the fulfilment of the promise made by the Most Holy Virgin to those who die within the Congregation.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, You have called us to represent in the Church the same kind of life Jesus chose for Himself, bearing witness to the Gospel. Grant that we may have the same feelings that

Jesus Christ had, that made him empty Himself and take on the form of a Servant and who now lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

In that time: Jesus falls the second time. “I am powerless, I have lost everything. Darkness enfolds me and I am lost. Who can raise me up? Why does he who is coming to save me delay so long?” (Jer 8:18-23).

In our time: Fear of wavering, suspicion of his weakness, especially plagued José M^a Blasco, despite his having written: “I pray that when this little paper is found it will inform my family that Mr. José María Blasco died a martyr on July 25th, shedding his blood for Jesus Christ, in Barbastro. Signed: José M^a Blasco.” He was afraid of his very fear, insecurity, and terror over a catastrophic weakening. Pablo Hall says the Martyr “thought that, in conscience, before he risked becoming an apostate, he should or would flee, or at least try to. ‘If I could do it without failing in my obligations or causing scandal.’” What seemed a weakness ended up being his greatness, as St. Paul said “When I am weak, then am I strong.” “In the final days he was as animated as any of them and his fear had gone out of him.”

** Let us pray:*

At the times when our confidence fails or when we experience our limitations, Lord, make us remember that you choose weak and fragile instruments to confound the strong so that we place all our trust in you and await from You, above all, the ability to carry out our mission well. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS COMFORTS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

In that time: A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him (Lk 23:27).

In our time: Ramón Illa writes to his sister Rosario in 1932: “May the Child Jesus bring peace and the abundance of grace; above all his peace, that peace of his, since it seems He will not allow us to enjoy the peace this world gives. I believe it is well done: yes, we await great things. The Church weeps like a widow, but she crowns us, her chosen sons, the religions, with the greater blessing of those who are persecuted. God may also want them to don the purple of martyrdom. We are not of the world, and thus the world persecutes us. Many times I have thought about it, and it almost makes me want to ask our Lord for persecution.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord Jesus, You offer us the consolation of the faith as we share in your sufferings. Help us to be united with those who suffer and give hope to the fallen to make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ in behalf of his Body, the Church. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

In that time: Jesus Christ “though he was in the form of God...emptied himself and took the form of a slave...He humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross” (Phil 2:6-8).

In our time: Pablo Hall, relating his last conversation with the Martyr Esteban Casadevall, recounts that: “We said good-bye and that was the first time he broke into tears... But he quickly recovered his composure and, making a slight effort, said: Well, I mustn’t cry.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, help us to be on guard not to fall into temptation and to progress effectively in following You and grant that we may always count on the aid of our brothers in order to be faithful to the spirit of the Founder and to attain perfect love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

In that time: They divided his garments and cast lots for his tunic (Jn 19:24).

In our time: Luis Masferrer said: “...They will hurl insults at us, they will mistreat us and try to take away our holy fear of God, the safeguard of our soul, and the love of our Mother, who guards the fear of God in our heart: but in the end they will not be able to do it. They will kill us, shoot us, hack us to pieces if they want, but their ignoble end must not be achieved...I for my part have determined to always and everywhere wear like a badge on my chest my consecration to my sweet Mother, signed in my blood, and I will allow no one to take it from me.”

** Let us pray:*

Lord, help us, in imitation of Jesus Christ, to be truly poor in fact and in spirit, sharing the condition of the poor, and make us joyful in experiencing the effect of poverty without doubting your Providence. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

In that time: “[The soldiers] crucified Jesus...It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him” (Mk 15:24-25). “It was now around midday, and darkness came

over the whole land until mid afternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' After he said this, he expired" (Lk 23:44-45).

In our time: With profound conformity with Christ and solidarity with those who suffer, the Martyr Juan Sánchez Munárriz said: "With a heart filled with holy joy, I confidently await the supreme moment of my life, martyrdom, which I offer for the salvation of all the poor people who have to breathe their last breath on the day on which I pour out my blood in order to remain faithful and loyal to the divine Commander, Jesus Christ. I forgive with my whole heart all those who, voluntarily or involuntarily, have offended me. I die content. Farewell until heaven. Juan Sánchez Munárriz."

** Let us pray:*

Lord, your cross is a scandal to some, folly to others. From it You show us your love and You offer us your forgiveness. We thank you for having revealed that this is the sign of God's power and wisdom. Grant that we may rejoice in all adversity until we can say: 'God forbid that I should glory save in your cross, O Jesus, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world.' You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

In that time: Jesus died alone on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Then Jesus, uttering a loud cry, breathed his last" (Mk 15:34-37).

In our time: Our Martyrs wrote on their Testament: "We all die happy, with no regrets or misgivings. We are all pray-

ing God that the blood that falls from our wounds will not be shed in vengeance, but will rather transfuse your veins and stimulate your growth and expansion throughout the world. Farewell, beloved Congregation. Your sons, martyrs of Barbastro, salute you from prison and offer you our sufferings and anguish as a holocaust to expiate for our failings and as a witness to our faithful, generous and everlasting love."

** Let us pray:*

Help us to love you, Lord, with all our heart, with all our being, with all our strength. Accept our thoughts, desires, words and actions, both that we have had and that we may have. May we use what we have for your greater honor and glory according to your will. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

In that time: Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clops, and Mary Magdalene" (Jn 19:25).

In our time: Our Martyrs sang with total conviction this traditional song of the Congregation:

Perhaps you may see me lying on the ground,
the last of my blood pouring forth!
Then look instead at my forehead
and see emblazoned there the ideal.
And what ideal?
for you, my King, to shed my blood.

By chance you may, as I lay alone and bleeding,
hear my last weak moan!
Jesus then will I have conquered
and will have fulfilled my ideal.

And what ideal?

For you, my King, to shed my blood.

Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven,
grant me your sweet consolation
when in the battle your faithful soldier
falls embracing his ideal
and what ideal?

For you, my Queen, to shed my blood.

** Let us pray:*

Lord, give us the strength we need for our missionary life to keep growing and for our ministry to be more fruitful day by day, united to Christ who proclaims the word of life, who offers Himself for his brothers and sisters, honors You and builds up the unity of the Church. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

In that time: Joseph of Arimatea laid the body of Jesus in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock (Mk 15:46).

In our time: The Martyrs expressed their faith in the final victory this way: "Long live the Congregation: holy persecuted and martyred! Live immortally, beloved Congregation, and as long as you have sons in prison like those you have in Barbastro, never doubt that your destiny is eternal. I would have wished to fight among your ranks, blessed be God! Faustino Pérez." Rafael Briega also addressed a final message to the Congregation that is filled with hope: "Rejoice, beloved Congregation, because 58 of your sons are entering the heavenly Congregation, pure as lilies and on fire with the love of God and love for the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary."

** Let us pray:*

Animated by your Spirit that raised You up from among the martyrs, Lord Jesus, we want to make you present, by the power of your word and the humility of our self-giving, wherever people live without hope due to the absence of God, hatred, injustice, loneliness, suffering or oppression. You who are always with us and who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

God, our Father, in the Martyrs of Barbastro You have given us a model of fidelity to the cause of Jesus, of love for the Heart of Mary and the Church, of loyalty to one's brothers and of forgiveness of one's enemies. By their intercession grant us to imitate their example in the faithful and joyous life of our Congregation and in proclaiming the Gospel for the glory of God and the salvation of all. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

168.

Prayer to the Martyr M. Patrocinio Giner RMI

Great and merciful God,
you granted the virgin Blessed María Patrocinio
the grace to be generous in serving her brothers and sisters
and to be strong in the face of martyrdom,
even forgiving her executioners.
Grant us, through her intercession,
that we may readily follow in the footsteps of Christ along
the way of the Cross
in order to be able to share one day in the glory of the resurrection.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

6. Petitions for Beatification/Canonization

169. Prayer

God, our Father
 you have carefully chosen
 all the Sons of the Heart of the Virgin Mary
 and have willed some of them to be outstanding examples
 of virtue.

Make the Church fruitful by their glorification
 and make them models for us to imitate.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

170. Prayer

O Lord,
 You desire the sanctification of all those you have called to
 the Congregation,
 grant that those who have followed most closely in the foot-
 steps of our Holy Founder
 and have valiantly confessed the Christian faith,
 may be glorified here on earth and numbered among your
 saints in heaven.
 Amen.

171. Prayer

O God, You raise up the lowly and reject the proud.
 Deign to glorify your servant, **N**.
 And make his (her) name resplendent among the saints.
 Multiply your graces on behalf of those who entreat You
 through his (her) intercession.
 And grant that the Church may one day honor his (her)
 memory.

and propose him (her) as a model to imitate
 and as a protector who may help us bear up
 under the difficulties of our missionary life
 and attain everlasting life.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

172. Prayer to ask for beatification

Lord, our God,
 you have chosen us as Missionary Sons of the Immaculate
 Heart of Mary,
 and have made resplendent some of our brothers
 as examples of special sanctity in the missionary life,
 deign to enrich the Church and make it fruitful by their
 glorification,
 and make each of us, following their witness to the Gospel,
 ardently work at seeking in all things
 your glory and the salvation of all humankind.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

IX. PROFESSIONS AND RENEWAL OF VOWS

173. In the Ritual proper to the Congregation there are texts for the acceptance of novices, first profession, renewal of vows, perpetual profession and celebration of the silver and golden jubilees of profession.

It has been the tradition in the Congregation, at the end of spiritual exercises, to renew profession as an act of devotion (Spiritual Directory 1957, pp. 85ff.).

It must be remembered that "the liturgical rite only deals with renewal of vows that have the force of law. Within religious families it has become the prevailing custom to renew vows as an act of piety. This can be done in different ways, but it should not be done publicly at Mass since it is essentially a private devotion" (Order of Religious Profession (February, 1970), n. 7).

174. *Formula of Profession*

In answer to God's call, I.....,
desire to seek his glory more earnestly,
to devote myself to him more fully
and to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did,
in the ministry of Salvation throughout the world.

Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered here,
(*through your hands....*)

I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit to God the Father,
through Jesus Christ, his Son
and I offer myself in special service
to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
in order to fulfil the aim
for which this Congregation has been established in the
Church.

Therefore, I vow to God chastity, poverty and obedience
forever
and I promise to live in the community of apostolic life
of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate
Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
according to its Constitution, which I will observe with all
possible care.

Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to be witness
to my profession.

Pray for me, that in serving God and the Church
I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder, St. Anthony
Mary Claret,
and that I may reach the perfection of chastity.
Amen.

*Another formula for private renewal of profession may be
found in appendix 3.*

X. WHEN A MISSIONARY IS ILL OR DIES

1. During Sickness

175. “Since Christ suffered for us and left us an example, we should bear our own illness and suffering with submission to God’s loving will, realizing that through our infirmity we fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. Let us, then, show great patience when we are ill or lack anything because of our poverty. In this way we will preach to others through the witness of our life.

“We should all show special love for our brothers who are ill, as members of the suffering Christ. We should gladly visit them and help them, seeing Christ in them. Superiors and those entrusted with the care of the sick, on their part, should make sure, with all diligence and charity, that our sick brothers are provided with everything they need either to recover their health or to bear their illness with the serenity of spirit and Christian patience” (Dir 52; cf. CC 45).

There are some prayers for our sick members in part 7 of chapter II – “Claretian Prayers” – of this Directory. One can also use those contained in the Ritual for the Anointing of the Sick, or, if the rubrics permit, celebrate the Mass for the Sick or for the Dying.

When any of us is gravely ill, he should also unite himself more closely to Christ through the Sacraments of the Sick and offer his life to God for the salvation of all people,

placing all his trust in the One who is our resurrection and our life" (CC 45). The Sacrament of Anointing should be administered. This should be done in community, if possible, as the Ritual indicates, in order to manifest the ecclesial dimension of the sacrament, since the presence of the community is company, comfort, and intercession. Its presence is, above all, a sign: if the Christian is saved by being part of the People of God, then the hour of attaining salvation is also lived within the pilgrim people who commend him to his share of glory that already awaits him in heaven. The Church, the community, prays for the sick member and with him, to help him overcome anxiety in facing death, uniting his death to that of Christ, whose death conquered ours, and to accept it with hope of life in heaven and resurrection (Ritual for the Anointing of the Sick, nos. 74 and 83).

When death is imminent, the commendation of the soul is done.

2. Commendation of the Dying to God

176. Short Forms

- Who can separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom 8:35).
- In life and in death we are the Lord's (Rom 14:8).
- We have home that lasts forever in the heavens (2 Cor 5:1).
- We are always with the Lord (1 Thes 4:17).
- We will see God as He is (1 Jn 3:2).
- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul (Ps 24:1).
- The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 26:1).
- I believe I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living (Ps 26:13).

- My soul is thirsting for the living God (Ps 41:3).
- Even though I walk through the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are at my side (Ps 22:4).
- I solemnly assure you: This day you will be with me in Paradise (Lk 23:43).
- The Lord says, "I am going to prepare a place for you and I will come back to take you with me" (Jn 14:2-3).
- All who believe in the Son have eternal life (Jn 6:40).
- Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit (Ps 30:6a).
- Lord Jesus, receive my spirit (Acts 7:59).
- Holy Mary, pray for me.
- St. Joseph, pray for me.
- Jesus, Joseph and Mary, assist me in my agony.

177. Prayers for the commendation of the soul

1. Go forth, Christian soul, from this world in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you.

May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.

2. I commend you, my dear brother, to almighty God, and entrust you to your Creator. May you return to him who formed you from the dust of the earth. May Holy Mary, the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.

May Christ who was crucified for you bring you freedom and peace. May Christ who died for you admit you into his garden of paradise. May Christ, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you as one of his flock. May he forgive all your sins, and set you among those he has chosen. May you see your Redeemer face to face, and enjoy the vision of God forever. Amen.

3. Lord Jesus, Savior of the world, we pray for your servant **N.** and commend him to your mercy. For his sake you came down from heaven; receive him now into the joy of your kingdom. For though he has sinned, he has not denied the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but has believed in God and worshipped his Creator who made all things, and desired to be totally of God and dedicate himself entirely to the kingdom.

178. When death has occurred, the following is said:

- V/.** Saints of God, come to his aid! Come to meet him, angels of the Lord!
- R/.** Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.
- V/.** May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; May angels lead you to Abraham's side.
- R/.** Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.
- V/.** Give him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him forever.
- R/.** Receive his soul and present him to God The Most High.

Let us pray:

Lord, we commend to you **N.**, your servant. In this world he has died, may he live with you forever. In your mercy and love, blot out any sins he has committed through human weakness and fulfil his hope in you who are our resurrection and our life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

3. When a Missionary Dies

179. At the wake it is the custom of the Congregation to have some moment of community prayer before the body. Here

are some elements offered for the celebration of the Word. One can use some symbols (paschal candle, Bible, stole, holy water, etc.) which one can explain at the beginning.

Elements for a Celebration with the Missionary's Body Present

Introduction *that situates and gives the reason for this celebration. The one who presides addresses the community in these, or similar, words:*

Our celebration, in the presence of the body of our brother **N.**, is a way of expressing our fraternal communion and of fulfilling the precept of the Lord: "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you." Love brings us now to pray for our brother who has shared his life with us and has dedicated himself to the service of the Gospel. We are going to pray that the Lord will receive him into the kingdom that he has proclaimed. The Word of God is going to enlighten us and strengthen our faith and our hope.

Choosing of Various Symbols and Their Explanation

Next some of the symbols placed in the area where the body is laid out may be explained:

- The Paschal candle, symbol of the Risen Christ, our hope;
- The Word of God, of which he has been made the minister to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Christ;
- A vessel of holy water, that recalls baptism, by which he has died and risen with Christ;
- the Constitutions, that have been the norm and guide for the life of our brother;

- incense, as recognition of the “good aroma of Christ” (2 Cor 2:15) that, despite his sins or deficiencies, our deceased brother has diffused by his consecrated life and his ministry;
- an image of the Heart of Mary (or the deceased’s rosary), to whose service he has been dedicated by his profession in order to be conformed to the mystery of Christ and to cooperate in her maternal office in the apostolic mission (CC 8).

Song and Prayer

All may sing or recite Psalm 22,
and conclude with this prayer—or another appropriate one—prayed by the Presider:

Let us pray:

Hear, O Lord, in your kindness, our prayers by which we now implore your mercy for your servant **N.**, whom you have called from this world. Deign to lead him to a place of light and peace so he may have a place in the assembly of the saints. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Or:

Lord, you have granted our brother **N.** the gift of following Christ in communion of life and of proclaiming the Gospel, as a Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Allow him now to share forever in your glory, with Mary and all the saints who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Or (for a priest):

Lord, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders you have configured our brother **N.** to Christ the Priest, and have granted him the gift of sharing his death and his life in this world. Take him now to share in his glory in heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Reading of the Word of God

One may choose one or several of the readings given here, or of those that are found in the Order of Christian Funerals. If several are read, they are interspersed with psalms or other appropriate songs.

Wis 3:1-9: He received them as sacrificial offerings.

Wis 4:7-15: An unsullied life is the attainment of old age.

Is 25-6a, 7-9: He will destroy death forever.

Dan 12:1-3: Those who sleep in the dust will awaken.

Ps 24:6-7bc, 17-18, 20-21: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Ps 102:8, 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Ps 129:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 7-8: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Rom 5:17-21: Where sin has reigned, grace will abound.

Rom 6:3-9: Let us walk in newness of life.

Rom 8:14-17: Sharing in his sufferings is a sign that we will share in his glory.

Rom 14:7-9, 10b-12: In life and in death we are the Lord’s.

1 Cor 15:20-24a, 25-28: Through Christ all will come back to life.

Mt 5:1-12a: Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great.

Mt 25:31-40: Whenever you did this for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.

- Lk 23:44-49: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
 Jn 6:37-40: He who believes in the Son has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.
 Jn 11:17-27: I am the resurrection and the life.

Prayer of the Faithful

One may use the following prayers or others, either spontaneous or taken from the Order of Christian Funerals.

Let us pray to Christ, the Lord of Life who, risen from the dead, is seated at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for us.

- Lord Jesus, you have proclaimed that those who share in your own blessedness are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for justice, the merciful, the single-hearted, and the peacemakers. Grant that our Brother **N.** may now live the promise of salvation in all its fullness. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you sent our brother **N.** to proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in this world; let him now share your glory. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you have called on us to forgive everyone with a generous heart, if we have some cause for grievance against them. Forgive now the faults of our brother **N.** who has been committed to you throughout his life and let him rejoice in your infinite mercy and love. We pray to the Lord.
- Lord, you gave your life for the salvation of all and you are our resurrection and our life. Receive into your kingdom our brother **N.**, those who have gone before us marked by the sign of faith, and all who have left this world in your friendship. We pray to the Lord.

- Lord, you have the words of everlasting life, help us to grow in faith, live it with hope and be faithful to our vocation. We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

All say the Our Father together and the Presider concludes with this prayer, or some other appropriate one:

O God,
 by the Paschal Mystery of your Son
 you give us the hope of our resurrection,
 we humbly beg you
 that our Brother **N.**
 and all those who share in our Claretian fellowship
 may attain the joy of eternal life.
 Through the same Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

- Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
- And let perpetual light shine upon them
- May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
- Amen.

The Salve Regina or some other Marian hymn is sung.

4. Funeral Rites

180. “When a missionary dies, we should celebrate the last rites with devotion, fraternal love and simplicity. We should remember all our brothers who have gone before us in the service of the Gospel, commending them to the Lord with the prescribed prayers, especially the celebration of the Eucharist.

We should show the same reverence and respect for our departed parents and for deceased collaborators of the Congregation" (CC 19).

"When a missionary dies, he will be buried at the place of his death and the funeral rites will be celebrated according to the prescription of no. 19 of our Constitutions.

The following suffrages are to be offered on behalf of the deceased:

- a) For those who have died in the Congregation, either as professed members or as novices:
 - Sixty Masses for each deceased member of the respective community. If the members of the community cannot celebrate them, they should have them celebrated through the provincial or general Mass collector.
 - One Mass on the first death anniversary of each deceased member of the respective community, if possible in a community concelebration.
 - Four yearly Masses in each community for the deceased members of the Congregation in general.
- b) An annual Mass in each community for the deceased parents of its members.
- c) When the father or mother of one of our missionaries dies, three Masses will be said for them in the community in which any of their sons reside.
- d) For our deceased benefactors, an annual Mass will be offered in each community (Dir 54).

181. The Congregation's liturgical calendar established 5 November as the commemoration of all the deceased of the Congregation. If it falls on Sunday, the commemoration is transferred to the next day. The texts from the Missal and Lectiory or those proper to the Congregation may be used.

XI. PRAYERS FOR THE CHAPTER

182. From the date of the circular letter of convocation onwards, the capitular period proper begins, during which the prayers assigned by the General or Provincial Superior, as the case may be, must be said" (Dir. 386c).

It is fitting that the assigned prayers include an invocation of the Holy Spirit, of the Heart of Mary and of our Holy Founder. Without prejudice to what may actually be assigned by the Superiors, some models for prayers are given here.

1. Before the Chapter

183. PRAYER FOR CHAPTER (OR DURING THE CHAPTER)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

184. SEQUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Veni, Sancte Spiritus,
et emitte cœlitus
lucis tuæ radium.

Veni, pater pauperum,
veni dator munerum,
veni lumen cordium.

Consolator optime,
dulcis hospes animæ,
dulce refrigerium.

In labore requies,
in æstu temperies,
in fletu solatium.

O lux beatissima,
reple cordis intima
tuorum fidelium.

Sine tuo numine
nihil est in homine
Nihil est innoxium.

Lava quod est sordidum
Riga quod est aridum,
sana quod est saucium.

Flecte quod est rigidum,
fove quod est frigidum,
rege quod est devium.

Da tuis fidelibus
in te confidentibus
Sacrum septennarium.

Da virtutis meritum,
da salutis exitum,
da perenne gaudium.
Amen.

Come Holy Spirit,
And from heaven direct on us
The rays of your light.

Come, Father of the poor,
Come, giver of God's gifts;
Come, light of human hearts.

Kindly Paraclete,
In your gracious visits to human souls,
You bring relief and consolation.

If it is weary with toil, you bring it ease;
In the heat of temptation, your grace cools it;
If sorrowful, your words console it.

Light most blessed,
Shine on the hearts of your faithful—
Even into their darkest corners.

For without your aid
Man can do nothing good
And everything is sinful.

Wash clean the sinful soul,
Rain down your grace on the parched soul,
And heal the injured soul.

Soften the hard heart,
Cherish and warm the ice-cold heart;
And give direction to the wayward.

Give your seven holy gifts
To your faithful
For their trust is in You.

Give them reward for their virtuous acts;
Give them a death that ensures salvation;
Give them unending bliss.
Amen.

185. LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lord, have mercy	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christ, have mercy	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
Lord, have mercy	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Father almighty,	<i>Forgive us</i>
Jesus the Son, Redeemer of the world	<i>Save us</i>
Spirit of the Father and the Son	<i>Sanctify us</i>
Holy Trinity, one God	<i>Hear us</i>
Heavenly Spouse of the Virgin Mary	<i>Come to us</i>
Source of all good	
Font of living water	
Spirit of love and truth	
Spirit of wisdom and knowledge	
Spirit of counsel and fortitude	
Spirit of mercy	
Spirit of humanity and chastity	
Spirit-Consular	
Spirit of grace and prayer	
Spirit of peace and humility	
Spirit-Sanctified	
Spirit who guides and governs the Church	
Gift of God Most High	
Spirit who fills the universe	
Spirit of adoption of the children of God	
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world	<i>Send us your Spirit</i>
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world	<i>Fill us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit</i>
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world	<i>Give us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.</i>

Let us pray:

Father of mercies, grant that your divine Spirit may enlighten us, inflame us, sanctify us that it may permeate us and bring forth a harvest of good works.
Through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

186. PRAYER FOR THE CHAPTER

Spirit of God,
sent by the Father in Jesus' name,
you infallibly aid and guide the Church,
pour out on the chapter the fullness of your gifts.

Gentle Teacher and Consoler,
illumine the minds of the Chapter members,
make this Chapter bear fruit in abundance,
new vigor in the pursuit of holiness and apostolate,
especially in spreading the light
and the power of the Gospel among humankind.

Sweet Guest of our souls,
strengthen our minds in the truth,
dispose the hearts of all to obedience
so that the final resolutions of the Chapter
may find generous welcome and full compliance.

Renew in our Congregation,
and, in each one of us,
the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret,
our Father.

Grant us that,
gathered as one family in intense prayer,

around the Heart of Mary, our Mother,
we may always procure only
the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.
Amen.

187. INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

Let us glorify the Father who has called us in his Son, Jesus,
to share the missionary life and let us say to him:
Grant us the anointing of your Spirit

In recalling the gift of our vocation to a missionary Congregation,

- we ask You that the members of the Chapter, guided by the Spirit, may seek to be faithful to the proclamation of the kingdom.

Called to follow Jesus, the One sent by the Father,

- we ask You to anoint us with the same Spirit in order to give witness to the Resurrection.

Strengthened by the living memory of St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Holy Founder,

- we ask You that the Chapter may seek the glory of God, the sanctification of the missionaries and the salvation all humankind.

Impelled by the love for God and for our brothers and you have poured out into our hearts,

- we ask You to grant that we may build new communities with a common missionary project in order to proclaim and live the Gospel.

God, our Father,
through the intercession of Mary,
Mother and Foundress of our Congregation,
send us your Spirit

to make us feel driven, like your Son, Jesus,
by love for you and for humankind,
so we might have eyes that penetrate and ears that are
attentive

to the demands of the world,
and that we remain united despite our differences,
gathered together in this missionary community
and carrying out the mission we have received
through St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

2. At the Beginning of the Chapter of Its Sessions

188. The Constitutions of 1924 (I, 51) indicate that the General Chapter is to begin with a day of retreat and each session with the invoking of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Patron Saints of the Congregation. The same can be said of the Provincial Chapter.

It is very common to have the Chapter begin with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and invoking the intercession of the Heart of Mary and the Holy Founder.

At the beginning of the sessions some of the prayers from the second chapter of this Directory could be used.

3. Before the Election of the Provincial Superior

189. On the day of the election of the Superior, according to the Constitutions of 1924 (I., 55) the Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated, the Litany of the Saints recited, and the Co-Patrons of the Congregation, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoked.

There may be a prayer vigil on the eve of the election or celebration of the Eucharist in honor of the Holy Spirit.

Immediately before the election, there is an invocation of the Holy Spirit (using the hymn *Veni Creator, Spiritus* or another appropriate hymn), the Heart of Mary and the Holy Founder.

4. Thanksgiving After the Election of the Provincial Superior

190. After greeting the new Superior, the Chapter members may gather in the chapel for the Act of Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity (cf. chapter XII, no. 193), if the Superior is taking office immediately, and sing the *Te Deum* or the *Magnificat*.

5. At the Closing of the Chapter

191. If the Chapter ends with the Eucharist, and if the rubrics permit, the texts for the Votive Mass of Thanksgiving may be used. There also can be a service of the Word with the theme of thanksgiving and acceptance of the commitment to support the resolutions of the Chapter.

XII. TAKING OF POSSESSION BY THE SUPERIOR

192. “Formal taking of possession is prescribed only for the office of Superior.

If he is elected, notification and publication of his confirmation suffices, if it is necessary. If the corresponding major government appoints him, it suffices that the document of appointment be read to the community.

The taking of possession should be completed by making a profession of faith (can 833.8; CC 94), the handing over and acceptance of all books pertaining to government and administration...” (Dir 359).

193.

AT A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Song

Greeting by the Presider (*in these or similar words*)

The grace of God our Father, who has called us in Christ and has gathered us in this community of apostolic life for service to the People of God, be with you.

R/. And also with you

Prayer

O God, you have set up our community for living in communion and carrying out the one mission of your Son. Hear our prayers and grant that we may grow in love for you and our brothers, so that, under the guidance of the one who is the sign of communion and the bond of charity in our community, we may unite our thoughts and actions in order to carry out the mission you entrust to us in serving the People of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Reading of the Constitutions (nn. 102-105) and the Decree of Appointment.

Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity

I, **N.**, faithfully endorse and profess each and every one of those things contained in the creed of the faith, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of everything visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, born of the Father before all ages: God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with Father, by whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven. By the working of the Holy Spirit he was conceived of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered, died and was buried. He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father

and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

I also firmly believe in everything contained in the Word of God, either written or transmitted by tradition, and what the Church proposes for beliefs as divinely revealed, through a solemn judgement or through the ordinary and universal Magisterium.

I accept and firmly hold, in the same way, each and every one of the things contained in the teachings on faith and morals proposed by the Church in a definitive way.

I adhere, moreover, with religious obedience of both will and intellect to the doctrines enunciated by the Roman Pontiff or by the College of Bishops when they exercise the authentic Magisterium, even though they do not have the intention of proclaiming them by a definitive act.

I, **N.**, designated legitimately as Superior of this Community of, promise and swear, in the presence of God by whom I must be judged, to faithfully discharge my office with God's help, and to safeguard with all diligence the secrecy to which I am obliged by my office.

So help me God and these Holy Gospels on which my hand rests.

Community of day month ... year

Reading of the Word of God

One may choose one of the following texts or another that is appropriate:

2 Cor 5:14-20: *The service of reconciliation he has entrusted to us*

Eph 4:1-6: *He strengthens us to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the bond of peace*

Eph 4:11-16: *The diversity of gifts for building up the Body of Christ*

Phil 2:1-4: *Be united in spirit and at peace; always consider others superior to yourselves*

Mt 20:25-28: *The one who would be great among you must serve the rest*

Mk 9:33-37: *Who is the greatest?*

Jn 15:9-17: *You have not chosen me, I have chosen you*

Psalm

One may choose one of the following or another, or an appropriate song:

Ps 22: *The Lord is my Shepherd*

Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 23: *Taste and see how good the Lord is*

Ps 83:3-4, 5-6^a, 8^a, 11: *Happy are they who dwell in your house, O Lord*

Ps 88:4-5, 21-22, 25, 27: *I will forever sing the mercies of the Lord*

Ps 99:2, 3, 4, 5: *We are his people, the sheep of his flock*

Short Homily by the new Superior**Intercessions**

(one may take them from here, choosing one of each letter):

Let us pray to God, our Father to pour out his grace abundantly over his Church and our Congregation.

Let us respond to each of the petitions:

Remember your people Lord.

— a. That our Superior may exercise his authority according to the Constitutions, and that he may give his life for his brothers in a spirit of service.

— a. That the Lord will grant his grace to our Superior so that, in communion with his brothers, and he may seek God's will in everything and be given the strength to fulfil it.

— a. That our Superior may promote the collaboration of all the members of the community in everything for the good of the Church and the Congregation.

— b. That the Lord will keep our community united in mind and heart so that the world may be recreated in Christ.

— b. That all members of our community will offer their aid to the new Superior and their brothers through prayer, counsel, and fraternal dialogue, seeking the will of God.

— b. That we may be concerned for one another, making a mutual effort to fulfil the precept of the Lord to love another as He has loved us.

— c. That the local government going out of office may receive from the Lord the reward it merits for its dedicated service to the community.

— c. That the members of the local government going out of office will always find us grateful, recognizing their dedication, and always be enriched by God's loving blessing.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Marian Antiphon or Song

194.

AT THE RECITATION OF LAUDS OR VESPERS

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. After the opening invocation, the secretary of the community reads nn. 102-105 of the Constitutions and the document of appointment.
3. Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity (*as on page 245*).
4. The singing of the hymn and the recitation of the psalms follows.
5. After the short reading, the new Superior addresses some words to the community in which he expresses the meaning of his ministry in the community.
6. In the intercessions, before the prayer for the dead, there may be a special prayer for the new Superior, the community and the government going out of office (*see above*).

196.

AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

1. If the liturgical calendar permits, one may use the Votive Mass for the Heart of Mary, for Fr. Claret or for the Community, from the Missal proper to the Congregation. The readings can be of the weekday, of the votive Mass or some other texts that deal with the ministry of government in the Christian community.
2. It is good that the new superior presides over the Eucharist.
3. After the entrance hymn and then the greeting, the secretary reads nos. 102-105 of the Constitutions, and the document of appointment.
4. The Superior makes the profession of faith and the oath of fidelity (*see below*).
5. The celebration of the Eucharist continues in the usual way.
6. After the readings, the new Superior gives the homily, based on the Scripture readings and explaining the meaning of his ministry in the community.
7. In the Prayer of the Faithful there may a special petition for the new Superior, the community and the government going out of office.
8. It would be appropriate for the Superior to personally give the sign of peace to each of the members of the community.

XIII. CANONICAL VISITATION

196. The canonical visitation is an “extraordinary act of government serving to strengthen the bond of unity in the Congregation and to direct its life and mission toward its goal” (CC 128).

The Constitutions mandate that the Visitor take part in the daily life of the brothers, listening to them with openness and convoking a plenary meeting of the community.

Traditionally the visitation begins with a prayer service at which the visitation is declared officially open and its purposes are recalled. At the end of this, or at some other time, it is appropriate for the community to gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

It is most appropriate for the reading of the sections of the Constitutions related to the visitation at its opening, as well as the reading of the Minutes at the closing of the visitation, to be done at a community meeting.

1. Opening of the Visitation

197.

AT A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Song

Greeting by the Visitor

The grace of God our Father, who brings us to full maturity in Christ by the power of his Spirit so that we may communicate the grace of the Gospel to others, be with you.

R/. And also with you.

He may then go on more spontaneously to say how happy he is to be able to share with the brothers their daily life, their works and their hopes and difficulties.

Reading of the Word of God

(The readings below may be used, or some other appropriate one chosen:)

2 Cor 5:20—6, 2: *Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation*

Phil 3:7-16: *Let us go forward from where we are*

Lk 1:39-47: *Mary went in haste and greeted Elizabeth*

Lk 24:13-35: *Didn't our hearts burn within us when he explained the Scriptures to us?*

Short Homily

The Visitor comments on the Scripture text and further specifies the meaning of the visitation in our Congregation.

The Visitor invites the community to pray:

When we make our profession, we ask our brothers to pray that, in our service to God and to the Church, we may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and attain perfect charity. And the Church exhorts us to base our earnest search for vigor in our missionary life on the Constitutions. Thus, at the beginning of this canoni-

cal visitation, that attempts to stimulate our minds and wills to fidelity, in the light of the Constitutions we ask this grace from God who has called us.

(The petitions that follow may be used, or others appropriate at the time)

- We ask that the love of God and of our brothers that has been poured out into our hearts by the Spirit may not cease to build up our community and govern and inform our missionary life.
“Make us effective instruments to proclaim the kingdom of heaven”
- May our missionary life be incarnated in the community we form and, united as brothers, may we share the community’s mission however we can.
- In missionary community, may we pursue the fullness of personhood to which we have been called through community prayer, family life and sharing in the orderly operation and governance of the community.
- Let us pray that, in the ministry of the Word that is our special vocation in the Church, we may share the hopes and sorrows of all people. May we foster the sense of intuition, availability and catholicity in our mission and may the Lord give us the strength and fidelity we need to fulfil it.
- That we may develop our charism in service to the Church and the world, truly incarnated in the conditions and needs of the local Church and the world around us.
- Let us pray that the Lord will grant us, during the visitation, the grace to renew our intention to progress in the way of the Lord, open to the observations, recommendations and pastoral suggestions given us by the Visitor.

Others may be added

Concluding Prayer, recited by all:

O Lord, renew,
 in our Congregation and in our community,
 the spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret,
 our father,
 so that, filled with that spirit and invigorated by it,
 we may be strengthened to love what he loved,
 and put into practice what he taught.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

Blessing**Closing Song****198.****AT THE CELEBRATION OF LAUDS OR VESPERS**

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. The Visitor addresses the community, commenting on the Scripture reading and explaining the meaning of the canonical visitation.
3. The recitation of the Hour proceeds as usual.
4. In the intercessions (at Vespers, before the prayer for the dead), there may be a special petition for the fruitfulness of the visitation (*which may be chosen from among those in Model 1*).

2. Closing of the Visitation**199.**

AT A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Song**Greeting by the Visitor**

Blessed by God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us the gift of following Christ in communion of life and in proclaiming the Gospel to every creature.

R/. *Blessed by the Lord forever*

Reading of the Word of God

(Those below, or other appropriate readings, may be used):

- Dt 26:16-19:** *Observe these statutes with all your heart and all your soul*
- Mt 5:13-16:** *You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world*
- Mt 5:17-19:** *I have come, not to abolish the Law, but to fulfil it*
- Mt 7:17-27:** *Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven*
- Jn 15:1-10:** *The one who remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.*

Short Homily**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition** (*other appropriate prayers may be substituted*)

1. We thank you, Lord, for calling us to collaborate with Christ in the work you have entrusted to Him;

— grant us your spirit to contemplate Him diligently and imitate Him through the vows and virtues in this missionary community according to our proper charism in the Church.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

2. We thank you, Lord, because your Son, impelled by ardent love for You, his Father, and for all people, dedicated Himself to working even unto death;
 - grant that we, moved by apostolic zeal and the joy of the Spirit, may love all humankind and desire and procure for them the blessedness of the kingdom already begun here on earth.
3. We thank you, Lord, because we share a common mission according to the gifts and talents of each individual, and for gathering us into the same community;
 - help us to seek together and come to know your will in order to carry out our common mission according to the distinct circumstances of the times, of places and of people.
4. We thank you, Lord, for beginning this good work in us and, with your providence, bringing it to fulfilment on the day of Christ Jesus;
 - we ask you, that in carrying out our mandate and in fulfilling our duties, we may contribute all our individual energies.
5. We thank you, Lord, because you have made us your image and members of the Body of Christ;
 - may we grow in practising all the virtues, responding with thanks and friendliness to all corrections and recommendations we receive, and always offer our pardon and peace to others.

Others may be added.

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

We humbly beg you, Lord, our God,
to make of one heart
all who follow the spirit of your servant, Anthony Mary
so that, in the harmony of mutual love,
we may testify to your love in the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

Closing Song

200.

AT THE CELEBRATION OF LAUDS OR VESPERS

1. The office of the day is used, according to the liturgical calendar.
2. Short Homily
3. In the intercessions (*at Vespers, before the prayer for the dead*) there may be a special intercession for the fruitfulness of the visitation (*which may be taken from those given in Model 1*).

XIV. BLESSINGS

1. Blessings at Meals

FEAST OF THE VIRGIN MARY

201. Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.
Blessed the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of your Mother
you changed water into wine at Cana in Galilee,
bless this food, which we are about to eat,
and grant that we, who remember the Virgin Mary today,
may place ourselves, as she did
at the service of your plan of salvation of all humankind.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

ST. JOSEPH (19 MARCH, 1 MAY)

202. The Lord loved him because he was just a man
and rewarded him a hundred-fold for his labor.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

O provident God, You confided your only-begotten Son
and his Mother, Mary,
to the faithful care of St. Joseph.

Bless this bread, made the sweat of our brow,
and grant that we may work without ceasing to extend
your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FEAST OF THE HEART OF MARY

203. We give you thanks, Lord, and we bless you
For the priceless gift of being called, and truly being,
“Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”
Blessed be the Lord, forever.

Lord, our God,
you have deigned to call us together in this congregation
making us sons of the Immaculate Heart of your Mother.
grant that we may intensely live our filial piety
toward Mary
and bless us who are now gathered around this table
at which we express and share our fellowship.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, CO-PATRON (29 APRIL)

204. We praise you, Lord, because in St. Catherine of Siena
you show us your power and your wisdom.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
you made St. Catherine of Siena
burn with love for you and for the Church.
As we bless the food we are about to eat,

grant that we may always remain in your presence
and be agents of communion in your Church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

FEASTS OF THE APOSTLES, CO-PATRONS (3 AND 14 MAY, 29 JUNE, 3 AND 25 JULY, 24 AUGUST, 21 SEPTEMBER, 28 OCTOBER, 30 NOVEMBER, 27 DECEMBER)

205. Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, sent to bear witness to
the Father.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, may you be blessed by the fruit of the earth and the
work of human hands
which help this community of apostolic life
to be faithful in your holy service.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

206. We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because you prolong your presence and your Word
in the world.
by means of the Apostle.
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, you sent us as you sent the Apostles to proclaim
the Good News of the Kingdom.
bless this food we are about to eat
And make us fit ministers of your Word, tireless apostles
of your kingdom.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

207. Lord Jesus, you were hoped for by the prophets and proclaimed by the apostles and evangelist:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord Jesus, out of love for the Father and for your brothers and sisters,
you dedicated yourself to working even unto death and made the Apostles witnesses to your life and resurrection.

Bless this table and give us the joy of your living presence among us.

You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

208. Lord Jesus, you called your Apostles so they might be with you and so that you might send them out to preach:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, you have entrusted your Apostles with going out to the whole world and preaching the Good News,
and you have called us to a life of apostolic perfection.
Bless our table and allow us to share one day in the banquet in your kingdom
where you live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION
(16 JULY)

209. Blessed are you, Lord for having raised up in the Church
Our Congregation Missionaries:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
for your greater glory, our sanctification and the salvation of all humankind
you founded our Congregation by the special intervention of the Virgin Mary through St. Anthony Mary Claret.
We thank you for the food you bless us with today;
grant us to be more faithful to your call every day, according to our missionary charism in the Church.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, CO-PATRON (31 JULY)

210. We glorify you, O Lord, and we praise you for giving every good gift to those who love you:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God, you raised up St. Ignatius Loyola in your Church
to extend the glory of your name throughout the whole world:
Bless this food and give a hunger and thirst for justice to extend your greater glory throughout the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, CO-PATRON (1 AUGUST)

211. The saints are the friends of God who bear witness to Him by their holiness of life:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God,
you made St. Alphonsus Liguori
a wise and zealous preacher of your Word:

Pour out your blessing upon us
 In our sharing of the food prepared for us
 as a sign of our common faith and our mission.
 may we also share with the needy
 your holy Word and the goods with which you bless us.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

THE BLESSED MARTYRS OF BARBASTRO (13 AUGUST)

212. Lord Jesus,
 you have allowed us to be baptized with your own baptism
 and have given us the power to drink the cup the Father has
 given you:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, you have given the gift of faith to the prophets and
 apostles,
 and also you have given to the Claretian Martyrs of
 Barbastro,
 the generosity of their dedication to you even unto
 martyrdom:
 Strengthen our bodies with the food we are about to eat
 and infuse us with the strength we need to always live the
 faith
 and our dedication to serving you.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

STS. MICHAEL, RAPHAEL AND GABRIEL, AND THE GUARDIAN ANGELS, CO-PATRONS (29 SEPTEMBER, 2 OCTOBER)

213. With the choirs of angels we praise you, O Lord,
 and we bless you:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, our God, you always show us your providence.
 Bless our table, the sign of your generosity to us.
 And grant that we may never lack the help of those who
 serve you in heaven
 so that we may praise you for all eternity.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

ST. TERESA OF JESUS, CO-PATRON (15 OCTOBER)

214. Our Spirit thirsts for you, O Lord, like a dry,
 weary land without water:
 Blessed be the Lord forever.

O God, you raised up St. Teresa of Jesus in your Church
 and through her have shown us the way of perfection:
 Grant that we may desire no other bodily nourishment
 than the daily bread of your Word and your Body
 so that we may efficaciously desire our sanctification
 in proclaiming your kingdom according to our charism in
 the Church.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET, OUR FOUNDER (24 OCTOBER)

215. Blessed are you, Lord Jesus,
the Son sent by the Father:
Blessed be the Lord forever.

Lord, bless the food that we are about to eat
and fill us with the same spirit
that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, our Father,
so that, impelled by it,
we may always be ready to proclaim your kingdom
and give our lives for our brothers and sisters.
You who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

2. Blessings of a New House of the Congregation**216.**

C.: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A.: Amen.

C.: May God, the origin and source of all holiness, who has called us like the Apostles and granted us the gift of following Christ in communion in life, be with you.

A.: And also with you,

Greeting

(in these or similar words) and Opening Prayer:

C.: Where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, there is Christ in their midst. We are going to bless this house, in which will live those gathered together by love for Christ and for their brothers, with the purpose of repre-

senting in the Church the virginity, poverty and obedience of Christ dedicated to the preaching of the Gospel. We implore the kindness of Him from whom all good gifts come and entreat Him to bring the good work begun by Him to a fruitful outcome, as we, like Jesus, seek in everything, and use every means possible, that God may be known, loved and served by all. May our fellowship always be nourished with common prayer and be fostered by a family lifestyle, simple and open. May each one who lies here collaborate according to his own vocation in the ministry of the Word and attain the fullness of personhood to which we are called.

Let us pray:

O God, you are very active in our desires and our works. We bless you because, in our pilgrimage here on earth, you have granted us the gift of yearning of your courts. Grant, we beg you, that the missionaries who are going to dwell in this house may live in intimate communion and friendship with Christ the Evangelizer, and by their affability, joy of spirit and modesty, show forth your presence in the world. May they know how to discern, in the light of the Spirit, the challenges of our times and translate them, with courage and boldness, into options and projects consistent with our charism and the demands of our moment in history. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A.: Amen.

Reading of the Word of God

(one of these, or another appropriate text, may be used):

Heb 13:1-3; 5-7; 14-17: *We have no permanent city here on earth*

Jn 1:35-42: *They stayed with Jesus that day*

Intercessions

Christ the Lord promised to remain in the midst of his disciples until the end of time. Let us pray to Him with humility and trustful love:

Lord, stay with us.

You were made flesh of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit and you desired to dwell among us. We gratefully welcome you into our home.

You desired to live humbly in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Help us always to adopt in this house an austere lifestyle, sharing the lot of the poor.

You promised to be in the midst of those gathered in your Name. Turn our eyes toward those your love has gathered into one family.

You, who had nowhere on earth to lay your head, have animated our life and our apostolate with the spirit of poverty. May our goods always be at the disposal of others.

You promised to receive into everlasting dwelling places those who receive you with kindness in the person of the guests. Teach us to recognize you in our brothers and sisters and to welcome with fraternal love those who come to our community.

Blessing Prayer

O God, inspiration and author of every holy desire, kindly hear our prayers.

Grant all who dwell in this house the grace of your kindness.

May this be a place where, constantly, your Word is listened to in assiduous contemplation and treasured in the heart.

A place where a fraternal life is lived that makes our missionary service of the Word more credible.

A place where the hopes and joys, the sadness and anxieties of all people are shared.

A place where our community mission of proclaiming the life, and death and resurrection of the Lord until he comes again is carried out, so that we may win as many people as possible for Christ.

Amen.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ, you assured those who profess the evangelical counsels

that they have a dwelling place prepared for them in heaven.

Keep under your protection

this house that we now bless.

May those who live in it maintain the bond of fraternal love, in an attitude of generous service to you and their brothers.

May they bear witness to the Gospel by their lives, and desire and procure for all people

The blessedness of the kingdom already begun here on earth.

You who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

(The celebrant sprinkles those present, and the house, with holy water while an appropriate song is sung.)

Blessing

O God, you have granted us to dwell in this house, guard us from all internal and external disturbance, fill us with the spirit that inspired St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Give us perseverance and fidelity in the service of God and the Church and allow us to attain the gift of perfect charity.

Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
all of you present here
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, (+)
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Or:

May God, the Almighty Father bless you,
so that in this community you may constantly be propelled
towards the perfection of charity.
Amen.

May Christ the Lord
dwell in your hearts through faith
and sustain your missionary commitment
to transform the world by your missionary service of the
Word.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
live with you and be with you,
while you remain united in prayer with Mary,
the Mother of Jesus.
Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
all of you present here
in the name of the Father, of the Son + and of the
Holy Spirit
Amen.

3. Blessing of Those Who Are Sent to Proclaim the Gospel

217.

AT A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Greeting and opening prayer:

C.: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A.: Amen.

C.: The Lord who called you like the Apostles and sent you to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom, be with you.

T.: And also with you.

C.: My dear brothers: By participating in this celebration, you are restoring in a certain way what the primitive Church did when, filled with joy, it sent some of its sons and daughters to the other people to help their brothers and sisters in the faith or those who did not even know Christ.

The sending of these brothers and sisters to different places, motivated by the needs of the Church, strengthens the bonds that unite us to those particular churches as our prayer will now show.

Let us pray:

O God, you want all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. Look at the vastness of the harvest and send workers so the Gospel may be proclaimed to every creature. May your flock, gathered together by the Word of Life and sustained by the power of sacraments, journey along the paths of salvation and love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Reading of the Word of God

(a reading may be chosen from the lectionary from the Votive Mass for the spread of the Gospel).

Before the reading of the Gospel, the missionaries are presented to the faithful, saying, for example:

From (or associated with) our Congregation of Claretian Missionaries, impelled by love and obedience, these men (and women) are leaving to preach the Gospel:

- Father (Brother, Student) **N.** assigned to **N.**
- Mr. (Mrs., Miss) **N.** (doctor, catechist, etc.) going to **N.**

After the homily, the missionaries rise and approach the celebrant.

Intercessions and Blessing Prayer

Let us call on God, the merciful Father, who anointed his Son with the Holy Spirit to proclaim Good News to the poor, to bind up broken hearts and to comfort the afflicted. Let us say with confidence:

Lord, may your people always praise you.

Merciful and eternal God, you want all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. We thank you for giving the world your Son as its Teacher and Redeemer.

You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to evangelize the poor, to Proclaim liberty to captives and announce a year of favor. Grant that God may be known, loved and served by all, and that all may rejoice in the blessedness of the kingdom already begun on earth.

You have called all people out of the darkness into your wonderful light. Grant that, by initiating Jesus' preference for the poor, answering the call of the Church and fol-

lowing the example of our Founder, we may be fit ministers of the Word in order to spread the Kingdom of heaven throughout the world.

Give us upright and sincere hearts to listen to your Word and grant that we ourselves may be converted to the Gospel and be on fire with the love of Christ that must impel us.

We praise you, O God, and we bless you, because according to the ineffable plan of your mercy, you sent your Son, made flesh of the Virgin Mary by the working of the Holy Spirit, and anointed Him with the same Spirit to evangelize the poor.

to fill them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In order that He might complete the work of our redemption, he founded the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation and sent the Apostles and others to preach the Gospel to every creature as they went throughout the entire world.

We now ask you, Lord, to look with kindness on these, your servants, who are being sent to proclaim the mystery of the Cross of Christ and the glory of the Lord.

With your mighty arm, Lord guide their footsteps, give them faithfulness and courage in the face of those who oppose the kingdom of God, so that weariness or discouragement may not overwhelm them.

May they, who are, by their vocation, hearers and servants of the Word,

Be empowered to see the presence of the Spirit in
 the peoples to whom they are sent.
 Father, deign to pour out the Holy Spirit into their hearts
 So that, by being all things to all people,
 they may draw many people to you,
 so that they may praise you unceasingly in the holy Church.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen.

Giving of the Cross

O Lord, Father of holiness,
 you made your Son's Cross
 the source of all blessing
 and the origin of every grace.
 Deign to bless (+) these crosses
 and may those who bear them for everyone to see,
 permeated by your Spirit,
 win as many people as possible for Christ.
 Who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
 Amen.

The missionaries approach the celebrant who gives them the cross,
 saying:

Receive this sign of Christ's love and our faith;
 preach Christ, and Him crucified,
 and carry the Cross throughout the world in service of the
 Gospel
 in order to glorify the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

Final Blessing

O God, in Christ you have shown us your truth and your
 love.

Make us messengers of the Gospel
 and witnesses to your love in the world.
 Amen.

May Jesus the Lord, who promised to be with his Church
 until the end of the world,
 guide your steps and confirm your words.
 Amen.

May the Spirit of the Lord may upon you,
 so that, as you travel the highways of the world,
 you may proclaim the Gospel to the poor
 and heal the broken-hearted.
 Amen.

And may Almighty God bless
 all of you present here
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy
 Spirit.
 Amen.

218.

AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

During optional and memorial weekday without feast, one can celebrate the Votive Mass for the Spread of the Gospel.

Before the Gospel, the missionaries are presented and the celebrant says to them:

Announce the Gospel that s proclaimed in this house of the
 Lord
 by your words and actions

to invite all people to convert to the Faith,
or to renew their life in Christ
and help them to bring it to perfection.

After the homily, the prayer of blessing and the giving of the cross
is done as above (n. 217). The Mass continues as usual.

XV. APPENDICES

219.

1. FAVORITE SCRIPTURE TEXTS OF OUR HOLY FOUNDER

- Dt 6:2 ff.: keep this so you will be happy and prosper*
Is 41:8-17: you are my servant; be not afraid for I am with you
Is 61:1-2: The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me
Ezek 3:17-19: You have made me watchman over the House of Israel
Mt 10:5-15: Jesus sent them after giving them these instructions....
Mt 11:28-29: come to me, all you who are weary
Mt 16:24: if anyone wishes to come after me
Mt 22:36 ff.: what is the greatest commandment of the Law?
Mk 10:14-16: let the children come to me
Mk 10:43-45: he who would be greatest among you must be your servant
Mk 16:15: Go out to all the world and proclaim the Good News
Lk 2:48-49: Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?
Lk 4:18: the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me
Lk 9:58: the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head

Lk 12:51: seek first the kingdom and all other things will be given you besides

Jn 14:23: if anyone loves, he will keep my Word

Jn 18:11: Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?

Jn 20:21: as the Father has sent me I also send you

Ac 5:41: they left full of joy that they have been judged worthy of suffering for Him

Rom 8:35 ff.: Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

2 Cor 3:6: He made us qualified ministers of a new covenant

2 Cor 5:14: the love of Christ impels us

Gal 1:15 ff.: He called me by his grace to announce Him to Gentiles

Gal 2:20: it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me

Gal 6:14: God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross or our Lord, Jesus Christ

Eph 6:11-12: clothe yourselves in the armour of God

Col 1:24: I make up in my flesh what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ

1 Tim 4:6: if you teach these things, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus

2 Tim 2:10: I bear with all this for the sake of those who God has chosen

2 Tim 4:2: Proclaim the Word in season and out of season

2. TEXTS ON OUR CHARISM

220. Aut 489

“I talked with a number of priests whom the Lord had given the same spirit that motivated me. These were Frs. Esteban Sala, José Xifré, Domingo Fábrega, Manuel Vilaró, Jaime Clotet. I, Antonio Claret, was last of all. And indeed, they were all better educated and more virtuous than I so that I felt happy and content to consider myself their servant.”

221. Aut 490

“On 16 July 1849, after we had gathered together in the seminary with the approval of the bishop and the rector, we began our own Spiritual Exercises, which we followed with all exactness and fervor. Because 16 July is the Feast of the Holy Cross and our Lady of Mount Carmel, I based my words on those words of the 22nd Psalm: “Your rod and your staff give me courage’ (v.4). alluding to the devotion and confidence we should place in the holy Cross and the Blessed Virgin Mary and applying it also to the project that was beginning. We left those Exercises full of fervor, bound and determined to persevere, and, thanks be to God and Mary, all have persevered. To have already gone to the glory of heaven, enjoying God and the reward of their apostolic labors and praying for their brothers.”

222. Aut 491

“Thus we had begun and thus we continued, living together strictly in community. All of us were going out regularly to work in the sacred ministry.”

223. Aut 494

“I tell myself: A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love, who spreads its flames wherever he goes. He desires mightily and strives by all means possible to set the whole world on fire with God’s love. Nothing daunts him; he delights in privations, welcomes work, embraces sacrifices, smiles at slander and rejoices in suffering. His only concern is how he can best follow Jesus Christ and imitate Him in working, suffering and striving constantly and single-mindedly for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.”

224. Aut 609

“I often wondered how it was possible for so much peace, joy and harmony to reign for so long a time among such a large group. I always ended up by saying the same thing, “This is the finger of God.’ This is a singular grace God has given us in his infinite mercy and kindness. I know that God was blessing the efforts we were putting forth when He gave us such a special grace.”

225. Aut 686

On 24 September, the Feast of our Lady of Mercy, at 11:30 in the morning, the Lord gave me an understanding of another passage in the Apocalypse (10:1): “Then I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow about his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. In his hand he held a little scroll that had been opened. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land [first in his diocese of Cuba and later in other dioceses], and then he gave a loud cry like the roar of a lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders

raised their voices too.’ Here come the sons of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It says seven, but seven is an indefinite number, meaning all. They are also called thunders because of their love and zeal, like that of Sts. James and John, who were called the sons of thunder. And the Lord wants me and my companions to imitate the Apostle James and John in zeal, chastity and love for Jesus and Mary.”

226. Aut 687

“The Lord told me both for myself and for all those missionary companions of mine, ‘You yourselves will not be the speakers; the Spirit of your Father (and of your Mother) will be speaking in you.’ So true is this that each one of us will be able to say, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted.”

227. Letter of our Holy Founder to the Apostolic Nuncio
(Vic, 12 August 1849)

“Seeing the great lack of apostolic preachers of the Gospel in our Spanish territory, and the great desire the people have to hear to the Word of God and the many requests from all over the Spain to have someone come to their cities and people to preach the Gospel, I am determined to form a group of some few zealous companions and train them so we can do for others what I cannot do by myself.”

228. Letter of the Holy Founder to Bishop José Caixal

“The Missionaries continue to be quite well and they couldn’t move any more quickly than they are. We are very busy from 4 in the morning until 10 at night. We go about

our business is such a way that, like an unbroken chain, one activity is linked to another. Our activities are mental and vocal prayer, the Divine office, conferences, catechizing, preaching, hearing confessions, morality, mysticism and asceticism. There are internal and external conferences. In the internal ones we are the chosen ones, and we are seven, and we do exercises in all the virtues, especially in humility and charity, and in this school we live in community a life truly poor and apostolic. Fifty-six ecclesiastics take part in the external conferences and some of them leave as very outstanding preachers. Some have asked to live with us, but were proceeding very carefully and examining their physical and moral condition. It is necessary to proceed with caution in these matters, because a mangy sheep would infect all the others.”

229. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré
(Madrid, 7 May 1858)

“It is true our Congregation is very small; but it doesn’t matter. It is more important to be few, very strongly united and fervent, than to be many and divided. In time we will increase.”

230. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré
(Madrid, 30 November 1858)

“Let us ask the heavenly Father to send laborers, because, it is true, the laborers are few and the harvest great both within Spain and outside it ... Remember well what the Divine Master said to the Apostles and, in them to us... ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and everything will be given to you besides’ ... Don’t stop admitting those you consider fit because of their knowledge and virtue and who you feel will be useful, even though they are young and are

not all ordained. Also you don’t want there to be more than 12 priests, both young and old, in a house, in honor of the 12 Apostles. You have to do what beekeepers do: form new hives, until there is one in each diocese, and then you need to send them out to foreign nations.”

231. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré
(Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, 13 July 1859)

“The enemy has a great fear of these Constitutions and thus he has persecuted us so much. Let us be faithful in observing them and God will always make things turn out to our benefit.”

232. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. Jaime Clotet
(Madrid, 1 July 1861)

“Tell [the missionaries] to read the Rule or the Constitutions very often and faithfully observe them.

I see in history that religions later extended beyond the kingdoms in which they were founded to other parts of the world. Then why shouldn’t ours at least extend throughout this one kingdom?”

233. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré
(Rome, 20 August 1861)

“I see you are asking me how to extend the Congregation, and it seems good to me that it at least spreads to the interior of Spain – but there may be greater needs... . Meanwhile tell my dearly beloved brother Missionaries to be enthusiastic and to work however they can so that God and the Blessed Virgin Mary may be pleased. I have such tenderness for the Priests dedicated to the missions that I would give them my blood and my life. I would kiss their feet a thou-

sand times. I would make their beds, cook their meals, and go out searching for a morsel so they might eat. I love them so much when I consider that they work so that God may be known and love more and more, so that souls may be saved and not condemned. I don't know how I feel... as I'm writing this I have to lay down my pen and wipe my eyes... O Sons of the Immaculate Heart of my most beloved Mother!... I want to write to you and I can't because my eyes are filled with tears. Preach, and pray for me.

Farewell, dear brother: here's the little note you wanted for each of the Missionaries to cope and carry with them."

234. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré

(Rome, 16 August 1869)

"It's been 20 years since Jesus and Mary began our Congregation, and it has endured up to now when the Lord has permitted this persecution we are undergoing – not to wipe it out, but to increase and extend it. Remember what I said to you last year when the revolution started: that it would be for the Congregation, like snow is for a planted field. The snow doesn't kill the wheat but makes it revive. So it will be the revolution: it will not kill the Congregation, but revive it and make it take root more and more, The members will become more perfect and bear more fruit. How? Let's see.... Each individual will keep the Rule and Constitutions more perfectly. This is the will of God for your sanctification.

Look at no. 63 (c. 16) of the Constitutions and reflect on what it says: Catechize the little ones, the poor and the unlearned...

As Superior General, when circumstances permit and you think it appropriate, you might appoint one or two members who are well-read to conduct a school for children like the Christian Brothers do in so many places in France,

Italy, etc., and do so well. I think they're the ones who do the most good in the Church and from whom much can be hoped for.

This special mission has likewise been confided to the Congregation in Spain by God and the Blessed Virgin.... I don't mean to imply by this that everyone should be occupied with these schools. I mean to say they should begin little by little. Be careful to appoint ones you see are eager to do it or who ask to do it.

These schools will grow in accord with how faithfully they respond to grace. God and the Blessed Virgin will see there are those who can work in this area without losing sight of their primary objective. One must do this and not omit that (*Haec oportet facere, et illa nom ommittere*)."

235. Letter of the Holy Founder to Fr. José Xifré

(Rome, 16 November 1869)

"They say America is a vast field and very fertile, and that in time many more souls will go to heaven from there than from Europe. This part of the World is like an old vine that doesn't bear much fruit; America is the young vine."

236. Account by Fr. Clotet

Six good priests in the humble room of a seminarian, with no furniture other than a rickety table, a statue, and two wooden benches, cast off household items that need repair. They are seriously discussing how to realize the great enterprise they have dreamed of for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. For the prudent people of this world it would seem no more than the expression of some good intentions... Truly, those beginnings were so humble that no one there that day could foresee the wondrous results that meeting was to have.

... At 3 in the afternoon we were meeting in that place in the seminary. Before beginning the opening of the Exercises, Fr. Anthony Claret said, "Today a great work is beginning." Fr. Manuel Vilaró, replied, smiling and laughing, "What can we do; we're so young and few?" You'll see – replied the Servant of God – if we are young and few the power and mercy of God will shine all the more resplendently."

Truly, those beginnings were so humble that no one there that day could foresee the wondrous results that meeting was to have, but as the Founder said: "Today a great work is beginning." One of them smiled, thus expressing the nervousness that arose when they considered the difficult circumstances they were in. When the Father saw it, he turned toward him and said prophetically: "You don't have to believe it; you'll see it." And we have seen it come to pass.

The Congregation began functioning by calling fervently on the Holy Spirit, and placing itself under the protection of Jesus and Mary. This happy idea was suggested by the Founder. For the text of this homey little chat he was having with us, he used the historic words: "Your rod and your staff give me courage" that was being used for the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and the Triumph of the Holy Cross celebrated on that day. He applied it to the new-born Congregation, whose spirit and orientation began to take shape that afternoon."

237. Account by Fr. José Xifré

"The founders began with formal Exercises lasting 10 days during which they kept absolute silence, fervour and recollection. During these days our Father Founder directed all the acts himself, preaching twice a day, performing many acts of humility and mortification that were very edifying. He spoke about and proposed the kind of apostolic life, both privately and publicly, the Missionaries should observe.

During these Exercises he also proposed practical means for the spiritual and intellectual life that later would be used by the Missionaries when they were at home, and even when they were away on preaching assignments."

238. Account by Fr. Jaime Clotet

"They should be poor in appearance, dissociated from worldliness, and simple and obedient. In the three conferences they had while they were in the house, they heard instructions that would give them the docility of the true children, hanging on the words of their Teacher. Their delight was in serving one another at table and even in the meanest duties. They had neither servants nor coadjutor Brothers, making up for this lack themselves with their holy imitation, especially during the illness of one of them that happened a short time later... the effects of the love they had for Jesus and the protection his Most Holy Mother gave them were Visible and admirable."

... Some time later, having mastered the technique of ministry and appropriately practicing virtue, our Fathers went out to give missions and exercises, so afire with zeal that the results their labors produced everywhere are in describable. Speaking about this years later, the Most Rev. Fr. Domingo Costa, a Dominican missionary in California wrote: 'It seemed like these Fathers walked out of the Cenacle. I saw it. It was just like Pentecost."

239. Account by Fr. Jaime Clotet

"In Imitation of our beloved Father Founder, we went on foot, even though the villages to which we were sent were many hours away. We received neither money nor an equivalent for our apostolic works. In some villages we were not guests in the rectory but in some other house that was

shown us so that we could be freer and we would ask to follow our rules as if were home. We lived on alms, or else on frugal food of the kind that the people spontaneously brought us. At the end of the mission we distributed what was left over among the poor.”

240. Letter of Father Xifré to Father Vallier

(October, 5th 1870)

“On that continent [America] the need is extremely great.

Don’t imagine that you have to do everything, nor that the Congregation has to provide for every need. It is necessary to do what can done well and not busy yourself about the rest of it.

Let me take the opportunity to tell you that the desire to do good has to be tempered, and must never be carried out by means contrary to the proper understanding of the love that it must spontaneously spring from. Thus, you should never undertake works that are beyond your ability, nor work more hours than your strength can sustain, whatever the need. In addition, never omit the Divine office or the meditation that is prescribed, no matter what the custom, the authorization or need is. Those two things are the food of the soul, which never should or can be left out in our Congregation.

When the Founder went to the Canary Island, and later to Cuba, he found as much, if not more, spiritual need as you there and, nevertheless, he never omitted the two things referred to. He told me so a few days ago, and bade me write it to you. He, despite everything, set aside certain hours of his day to meet the needs of body and soul, and used the remaining hours for the rest. Do this and nothing different, no matter how much it leaves people without confession; and without forming a judgment about the conduct of other

institutes, since monastic practice has grown lax in this regard, something lamented by the Pope and all pious people. And, most definitely, in that country the laxity is much more dangerous. Thus, let us take the greatest care never to forget the spirit and the Constitutions of the Congregation, which we should always faithfully observe in all places and in all parts of the world. Don’t let anyone or anything worry you: pay attention to God, hope in Him, and everything will turn out all right.”

241. Letter of the Martyrs of Barbastro to the Congregation

“Beloved Congregation: the day before yesterday, the 11th, six of our brothers died with a generosity befitting martyrs. Today, the 13th, twenty more have won the palm of victory. And tomorrow, the 14th, the remaining twenty-one of us expect to die. Glory to God! Glory to God! How heroically your sons have borne themselves, beloved Congregation! We are spending the day encouraging one another for martyrdom, and praying for our enemies and our beloved Congregation. When the moment comes for them to designate the new victims, we all feel a holy serenity and an eagerness to hear our own names called, so that we can join the ranks of the chosen. We have been looking forward to this moment with generous impatience. When it came for those already chosen, some of them kissed the ropes that bound them, while others spoke words of pardon to the armed mob. As they drove off in the van towards the cemetery, we could hear them shouting, ‘Long live Christ the King!’ The angry mob answered, ‘Death to him! Death to him!’ – but nothing intimidated them. They are your sons, beloved Congregation, these young men, surrounded by pistol and rifles, yet they have the calm courage and daring to cry out ‘Long live Christ the King!’ on their way to the cemetery.

Tomorrow the rest of us will go, and we have already chosen the passwords we will shout, even as the shots are being fired: to the Heart of our Mother, to Christ the King, to the Catholic Church, and to you, the common Mother of us all. My comrades tell me that I must begin the 'Vivas' and then they will respond. I will shout at the top of my lungs, and in our enthusiastic cries you will be able to discern how much we love you, beloved Congregation, since we will carry the memory of you even unto those deep regions of suffering and death.

We will die happy with no regrets or misgivings. We all die praying God that the blood that falls from our wounds will not be shed in vengeance, but will transfuse your veins and stimulate your growth and expansion throughout the world. Farewell, beloved Congregation. Your sons, martyrs of Barbastro, salute you from prison and offer you our sufferings and anguish as a holocaust to expiate for our failings and as a witness to our faithful, generous and everlasting love. The martyrs of tomorrow, the 14th are fully aware they die on the Eve of the Assumption. And what a special awareness it is! We are dying because we wear the cassock, and we are dying on precisely the same day we were invested in it.

The martyrs of Barbastro greet you, as I do, the last the most unworthy of their number, Faustino Pérez, CMF.

Long live Christ the King! Long live the heart of Mary! Long live the Congregation! Farewell, beloved Congregation. We are going to heaven to pray for you. Farewell! Farewell!"

3. OTHER TEXTS

242. Filial and Apostolic Prayer to the Heart of Mary

O Virgin Mother of God,
 I dedicate myself as your son.
 I entrust myself to your motherly care
 that you may form Jesus in me –
 Jesus, the Son sent by the Father,
 and anointed by the Holy Spirit
 to proclaim Good News to the poor.
 Teach me to treasure the Word in my heart, as you did,
 until it transforms me into a living Gospel.
 Ask the Spirit to empower me.
 that I may bear witness to Christ among humankind.
 Fill me with your motherly love
 that I may reveal the Father to them
 and make them feel the joy of being sons and daughters of
 God
 In the fraternal communion of Church.
 Mother, here is your son. Form me.
 Mother, here is your son. Send me.
 Mother, here is your son. Speak through me. Love through
 me.
 Watch over me that, after preaching the Gospel to others,
 I may not be excluded from the King.
 In you, my Mother,
 I have placed all my trust.
 Let me never be put to shame. Amen.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

243. Model A

1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song.
2. Silence
3. Short reading of a Gospel passage dealing with the Eucharist
4. Silence
5. Sung Eucharistic antiphon (that may be repeated several times)
6. Short reading of another Eucharistic Gospel passage
7. Silence
8. Sung Eucharistic antiphon (that may be repeated several times)
9. Intercession and Our Father
10. Eucharistic song for reservation
11. Prayer and Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament
12. Final acclamation

Model B

1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with an appropriate Eucharistic song.
2. Opening prayer
3. Reading of a short Gospel passage that calls to conversion
4. Silence
5. Intercession to ask for forgiveness
6. Sung acclamation
7. Reading of a short Gospel passage that calls to adoration
8. Silence
9. Invocations of adoration

10. Sung acclamation
11. Reading of a short Gospel passage that calls to thanksgiving
12. Silence
13. Invocations of thanksgiving
14. Sung acclamation
15. Our Father
16. Eucharistic song for reservation
17. Prayer and Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament
18. Final acclamation

Material for the Novena to the Heart of Mary

244. MODELS

a) First Model

- Introduction and Entrance Song
- Prayer
- The Word of God:
- Scripture Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Homily
- Silence and Personal Reflection
- Reading of Other Texts (Documents of the Church, like *Vita Consecrata*, or the Congregation – Constitution or Chapter Documents, a reading from the Fathers, etc.)
- Silence or Shared Reflection
- Petitions
- Closing Prayer and Hymn to the Heart of Mary

b) **Second Model**

- Entrance Song
- Greeting the Presider
- Short Reading of the Word of God
- Brief pause for Silence or Shared Reflection
- Invocation to Mary and the recitation of the "Hail Mary" after each one
- Closing Prayer and Hymn to the Heart of Mary

245. INVOCATIONS FOR THE NOVENA TO THE HEART OF MARY

One can use some of the litanies composed by our Holy Founder, those based on the Constitutions, those to the Heart of Mary or the Litany of Loreto. The following are some others:

1

- Happy are you, Mary, who have believed
- Happy are you, Mary, because the Lord is with you
- Happy are you, Mary, because the Spirit has overshadowed you

2

- Blest are you, Daughter of the Father
- Blest are you, Mother of the Son
- Blest are you, Spouse of the Spirit

3

- Father, for Mary, the exemplar of one who welcomes and lives the Word

⁸cf. nn. 17, 22, 25, 105

- *We praise and bless you*
- Jesus, Son of God, for Mary, who generously cooperated in the work of our redemption
- *We praise and bless you*
- Holy Spirit, for Mary, mirror the Church without stain or wrinkle
- *We praise and bless you*

4

- Mary, Woman and Mother with faithful Heart
- *Blessed are you among women*
- Mary, faithful servant of God
- *Blessed are you among women*
- Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother
- *Blessed are you among women*

246.

These may be taken from the first part of this prayer book (Prayers to the Heart of Mary). The psalm prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours that are proper to the Congregation may also serve as inspiration.

247. SCRIPTURE READINGS

In the Lectionary of Masses for the Virgin Mary one can find many appropriate Scripture readings.

248. INTERCESSIONS

These should be adapted to the theme chosen for each day. They can be found in the Liturgical books and in the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the Congregation. Some models are presented here.

1

Through the Heart of Mary let us confidently approach the throne of grace and call on to God, our Father:

Through the intercession of the Heart of Mary, hear us, O Lord

— That the Heart of Mary may obtain from her Son a firm missionary spirituality for all the shepherds of the Church and for all consecrated men and women, let us pray

— That young people, finding inspiration in Mary, may learn to recognize the voice of God and be disposed to follow it in their vocational journey, let us pray.

— That the Spirit of the Lord, through the Heart of Mary, may give strength to the poor, sick, the hopeless and those marginalized by society, let us pray

— That each of the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be a faithful hearer and servant of the Word, like Mary, let us pray.

2

To God the Father, who desires all people to be saved, let us address our prayers through the mediation of the Heart of Mary:

Mary, full of grace, intercede for us

— That those dedicated to the Virgin Mary in special service may cooperate with her maternal role in the apostolic mission, let us pray to the Lord.

— That with filial love and trust in the Heart of Mary we may be fit ministers of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

— That Mary make us authentic prophets and preachers of the Gospel of her Son, let us pray to the Lord.

— That Mary may help us in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel by our taking on the lifestyle she herself embraced in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

3

Let us present our petitions to the Father through the Heart of Mary, saying:

O Mary, confirm us to your Son, Jesus

— That Mary may help us to make the Word and the Eucharist the center of our life, let us pray to the Lord.

— That Mary may make us docile to the sanctifying action of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

— That we may seek our own sanctification in the exercise of the apostolic mission, let us pray to the Lord.

— That, impelled by the love of Christ, we may be free of all impediments in spreading the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

4

Let us ask Christ, our Lord, sent by the Father and born of the Virgin Mary to be our Savior:

Through Mary's intercession, hear our prayer

— Lord Jesus, you called us to be sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to work with you in the work the Father gave you to do. Make us fit instruments to proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

— Lord Jesus, Impelled by a burning love for the Father and for humankind, you gave yourself to working, even unto death. Impelled by the same love, extend this Congregation throughout the whole world.

— Lord Jesus, you have called us together in this community of apostolic life to work together in the ministry of the Word. Help us to put all our gifts at the service of the mission and them fruitful.

— Lord Jesus, you said that anyone who loses his life for your sake and that of the Gospel, will be saved. Give us the grace to praise you in all adversities and to glory in nothing but your Cross.

Triduum to Our Holy Founder

249. MODELS

First Model

1. Introduction
2. Entrance Song
3. Prayer
4. The Word of God:
 - Scripture Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - Homily
 - Silence and Personal Reflection
5. Reading from Claretian Texts (Autobiography, Constitution or other documents of the Congregation)
6. Silence or Shared Reflection
7. Intercessions
8. Closing Prayer
9. Hymn to our Founder

Second Model

1. Entrance Song
2. Greeting by the Presider
3. Short Reading of the Word of God
4. Brief Pause for Silence or Shared Reflection

5. Concluding Prayer
6. Hymn to our Founder

250. PRAYERS

These may be taken from the first part of this prayer book (Prayers to the Holy Founder). The psalm prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours that are proper to the Congregation may also serve as inspiration.

251. SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings should be chosen that fit with the theme around which the Triduum revolves. There are some typically Claretian ones: those found in the Mass for St. Anthony Mary Claret in the Missal proper to the Congregation and in the Office of Readings for the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the Congregation.

Formula for Privately Renewing Profession

(either by individuals or communities)

252. Having recognized the gift of the Lord has granted to me

Of following Christ in communion of life
 And of going out to all the world and proclaiming the Gospel to every creature,
 I renew my dedication to God
 In order to be consecrated by Him
 through the profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience,
 with the purpose of seeking in everything the glory of God, my own sanctification and the salvation of all the people of the world,
 according to the charism of this Congregation of Missionaries

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
as it is set forth in its Constitutions.
I also dedicate myself to the Blessed Virgin Mary with filial
love and trust

In order to be conformed to the mystery of Christ
and to cooperate with her maternal role in the apostolic
mission.

Strengthened by fellowship and mutual prayer,
I commit myself to the intention of pursuing, in this
community of apostolic life,
the fullness of personhood to which I have been called
and to sharing in it the Congregation's mission
In the ministry of the Word at the service of the Church.
May He who began this good work in me.
by my fidelity to the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret,
bring it to fulfilment on the day of Christ Jesus.

253. Prayer Before Beginning Study

God and Lord of all knowledge,
I beg you
to grant me the wisdom
you promised to those who asked it of you,
understanding to know what is obscure or difficult,
and memory to retain it.

And grant that what I apply myself to and learn
may be directed toward your glory.

Holy Mary,
Mother of Divine Grace and Seat of Wisdom,
Pray for us.

4. HYMNS AND TRADITIONAL SONGS

4.1 TO THE HEART OF MARY

277. Song to Mary

Music: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf

Lyrics: Samuel Canilang, cmf



1. In Ma-ry's bos - som a dis -
ci - ple finds a home where there is love
that trans - forms
bos - som a dis - ci - ple finds a forge
where he learns of Christ and his mis - sion.

2. In Ma-ry's



3. In Ma-ry's heart
a dis-ci-ple finds a rea-son to seek the
King-dom a-bove all.

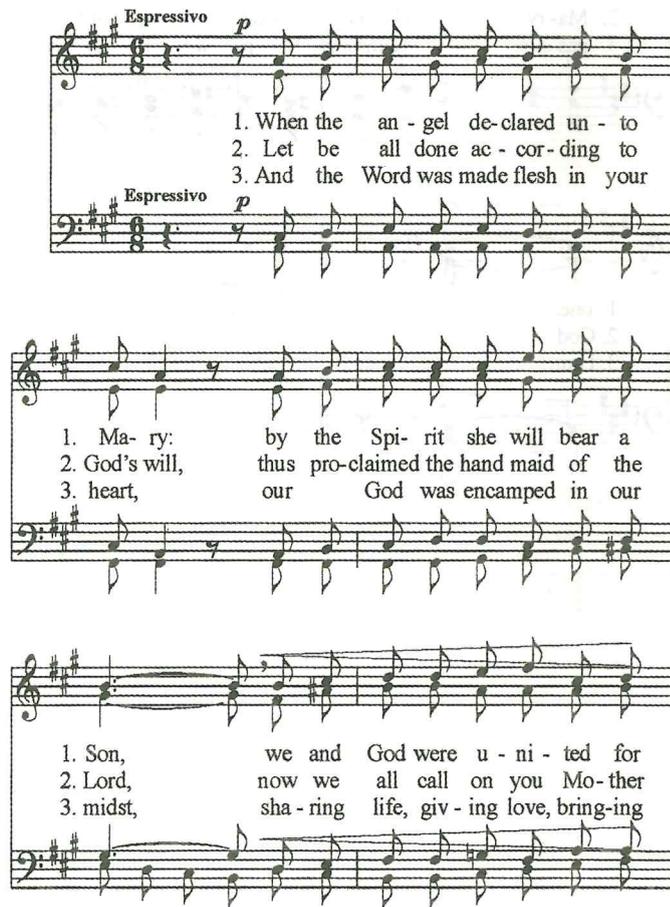
4. In Ma-ry's heart a dis-ci-ple finds the
strength to of-fer his life for God's
peo-ple.

5. In
Ma-ry's life we all find an ins-pi-ra-tion
to fol-low Christ in full com-mu-nion.

Fine

278. Angelus

Music: Tomás Pujadas, cmf
Lyrics: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf



Espressivo *p*

1. When the an-gel de-clared un-to
2. Let be all done ac-cor-ding to
3. And the Word was made flesh in your

Espressivo *p*

1. Ma-ry: by the Spi-rit she will bear a
2. God's will, thus pro-claimed the hand maid of the
3. heart, our God was encamped in our

1. Son, we and God were u-ni-ted for
2. Lord, now we all call on you Mo-ther
3. midst, sha-ring life, giv-ing love, bring-ing



1. e - ver, earth and heav - ens are to be in
 2. Ma - ry: make us Ser - vants of the Word of
 3. pas - sion, and through Ma - ry we all are in



1. one.
 2. God.
 3. Him.

279. Heart of Mary

Music: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf
 Lyrics: Jose Maria Vigil, cmf



Praise to you Heart of
 Ma - ry our Mo - ther,
 firm be - lie - ver in Je - sus the Lord,
 full of grace and love we ac - claim
 you, Queen and Mo - ther of the Peo - ple of
 God, Queen and Mo - ther of the Peo - ple of God.
 In the po - wer and the gift of the S -
 pi - rit, as we share the same bread,
 the same life, glad - ly spread - ing the

Good- News to- ge- ther, we will build up
 God's King- dom in peace,
 glad - ly - spread- ing the Good - News to - ge - ther
 we will build up God's King - dom
 in peace.

280. Heart of Mary, Queen and Mother

Music: Jesús M^a. Beobide, cmf
 Lyrics: CMFs

Moderato
 Heart of Ma- ry, Queen and Mo- ther our i-
 Moderato
 de- al al- ways be. We so ten- der- ly

love you and our hearts we give for you. We want
 al- ways to be your chil- dren like Cla - ret a - pos- tle's
 be. Li - sten mo- ther to our pra- yer co- ming
 deep- ly from our heart, co- ming deep- ly from our
 heart.

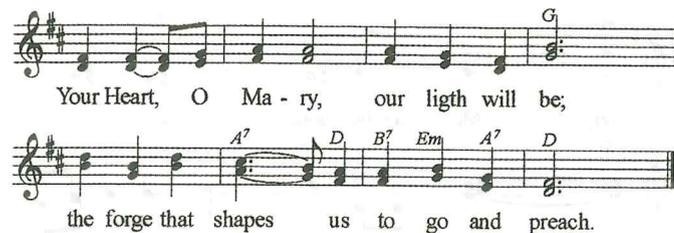
281. O Virgin and Mother of God (Consecration to Mary)*Music: Manuel Tardio, cmf*

Vir - gin and Mo - ther of God,
 sur - ren - der my self to you as your
 son. For the ho - nor and glo - ry of your
 pu - ri - ty I of - fer you my
 soul and bo - dy, my mind and sen - ses and en -
 treat you to ob - tain for me the grace to keep me from
 sin. A - men. Mo - ther, be -
 hold your son; Mo - ther be - hold your

son; Mo - ther, be - hold your
 son. I have placed my con - fi - dence in
 you and shall nev - er be con - foun - ded. A -
 men. Nev - er con - foun - ded. Nev - er. A -
 men. Nev - er. A - men.

282. Your Heart, O Mary*Music: Alabert**Lyrics: CMFs*

Your Heart, O Ma - ry, our ligh will be;
 the forge that shapes us to go and preach.

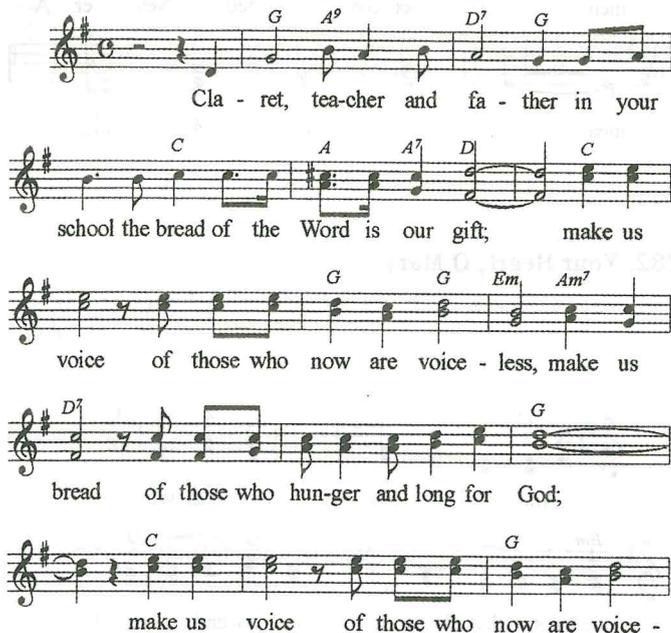


Your Heart, O Ma - ry, our lighth will be;
the forge that shapes us to go and preach.

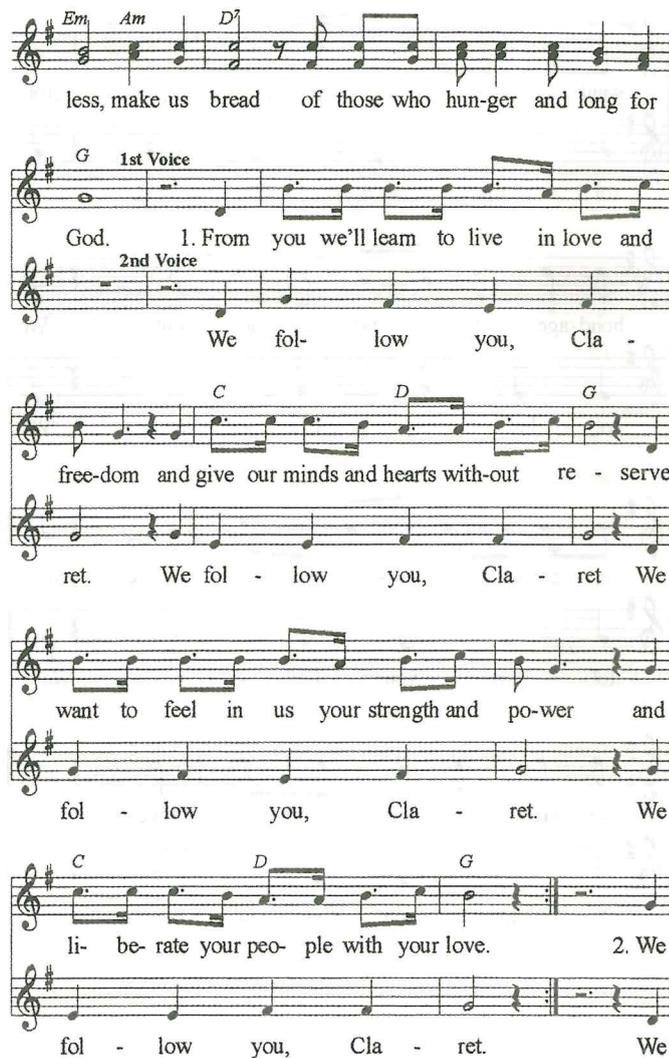
4.2 TO SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET

283. Claret, teacher and father

Music: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf
Lyrics: Luis M. Guerra, cmf



Cla - ret, tea-cher and fa - ther in your
school the bread of the Word is our gift, make us
voice of those who now are voice - less, make us
bread of those who hun-ger and long for God;
make us voice of those who now are voice -



less, make us bread of those who hun-ger and long for
God. 1. From you we'll learn to live in love and
We fol - low you, Cla -
free-dom and give our minds and hearts with-out re - serve
ret. We fol - low you, Cla - ret We
want to feel in us your strength and po-wer and
fol - low you, Cla - ret. We
li - be - rate your peo - ple with your love. 2. We
fol - low you, Cla - ret. We



want to free and li - be - rate your peo-ple from
fol - low you, Cla - ret. We

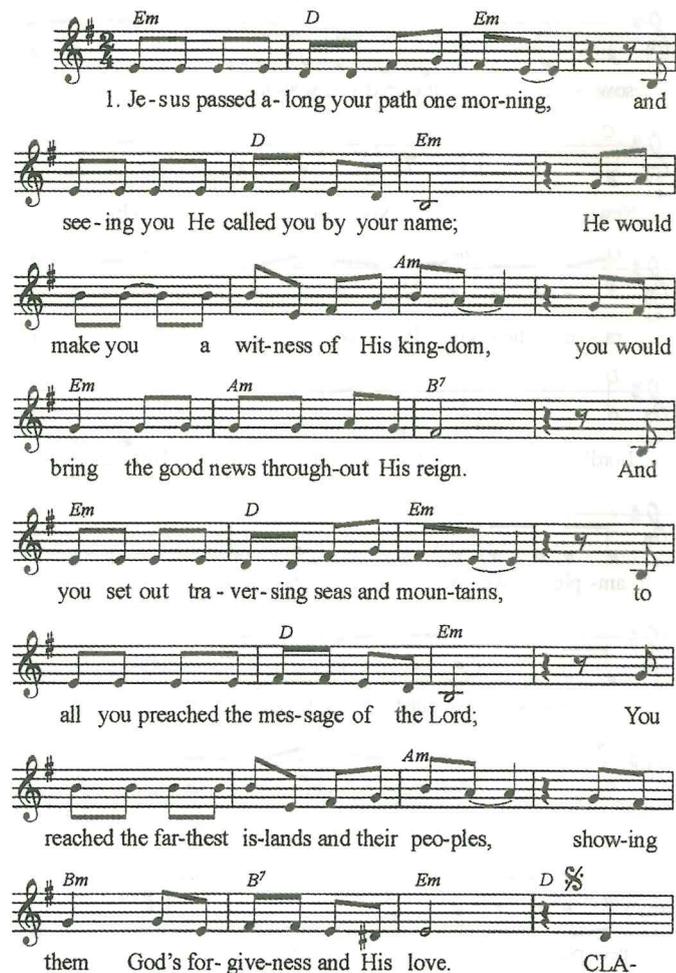
bond-age of e - vil, sin and guilt. We
fol - low you, Cla - ret. We

un - der-stand the e - lo-quence of silence, the
fol - low you, Cla - ret. We

se - cret and real strength of love.
fol - low you, Cla - ret.

284. Jesus passed along (Hymn to St. Anthony Mary Claret)

Music: E. Vicente Mateu
Lyrics: Jesús Vázquez, cmf



1. Je - sus passed a - long your path one mor - ning, and
see - ing you He called you by your name; He would
make you a wit - ness of His king - dom, you would
bring the good news through - out His reign. And
you set out tra - ver - sing seas and moun - tains, to
all you preached the mes - sage of the Lord; You
reached the far - thest is - lands and their peo - ples, show - ing
them God's for - give - ness and His love. CLA -

RET! You are a pil-grim, you are a
sow-er, the seed you scat-ter in the Good
News, you reach all co-lors and
ra-ces: there's on-ly one Fa-ther, on-ly one
Lord! CLA-RET! Through your ex-
am-ple we see our mis-sion; we must be
wit-nes-ses, we must bring hope; we
want to fol-low your foot-steps and tell the
peo-ple that God is love. 2. Your

aim to spread the Gos-pel of your King-dom; your
life was filled with Je-sus and His word; and you
brought Him to vil-la-ges and peo-ples, just like
Ma-ry her Son gave to the world. We
too will fol-low close-ly your ex-am-ple, the
new Cla-re-tian fa-mi-ly in Christ; We
wish to be a bea-con in the dark-ness and to
all bring the hope of a new life.

285. O shepherd*Music:* Ángel Ochagavía, cmf*Lyrics:* Luis M. Guerra, cmf

O shep-herd gen-tle and lov-ing,

Fa-ther Cla-ret, call ma-ny

who will fol-low you and bring the Word of God to

all the na-tions with your same love and your faith.

286. The love of Christ*Music:* Ángel Ochagavía, cmf*Lyrics:* Luis M. Guerra, cmf

The love of Christ im-pels us as it did you;

lead us on, Fa-ther Cla-ret.

Here we are! Send us, Fa-ther to our

mis-sion, faith-ful to Je-sus,

faith-ful to his call.

287. We are, Father Claret*Música:* Ángel Ochagavía, cmf*Letra:* Luis M. Guerra, cmf

We are, Fa-ther Cla-ret, e-cho of

your ins-pired word, bom of your vi-

sion; in crease the num-ber of our ranks, in-

crease our faith and love, ins-pire us and make us

throw the nets in the name of

Je-sus, the Fish-er-man.

4.3 TO THE MARTYRS OF BARBASTRO

288. Martyrs of Barbastro

Music: John & Jane Kubal*Lyrics:* Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga, cmf

1. Bright-er than the ris-ing sun on the al - tar of the
2. In your death you cel-ebra-te Christ the King, His Word, His



1. moun-tain, you hold forth the light of God that springs
2. mem-'ry. Ev - er at His side you die, em-blems



1. from e - ter - nal foun-tains. Mar-tyrs of Bar-
2. of His love and mer- cy. Mar-tyrs of Bar-



1. bas- tro go - ing on the way of the cross,
2. bas- tro march-ing with a cad-ence of song.



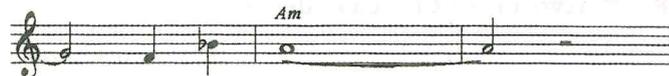
1. con-quer-ers with Je- sus; bro-thers in the hol - o-
2. Mis-sion-ers so faith-ful to the kingdom of glo-ry be-



1. caust. O - ver a peo-ple torn in two,
2. long.



you pour God's peace in the pour - ing out



of your blood.



3. Bro-thers of Cla - ret you die, words of par-don bold - ly
4. Teach us to live lives like yours. Give us strong and last - ing



3. spo - ken; Sons of Ma - ry's Heart so young, spi - rits
4. voic - es. Call our young to the same re - solve with no



3. strong and ne - ver bro - ken. Mar-tyrs of Bar -
4. com - pro - mis - ing choic - es. Mar-tyrs of Bar -



3. bas- tro for the love of your bro-thers and Spain;
4. bas- tro shout-ing «Vi - va Cris - to Rey,»



3. with that dream of pas-sion, you give life to the Chuch through your
4. now the saints of hea-ven with the Church here on earth sing your



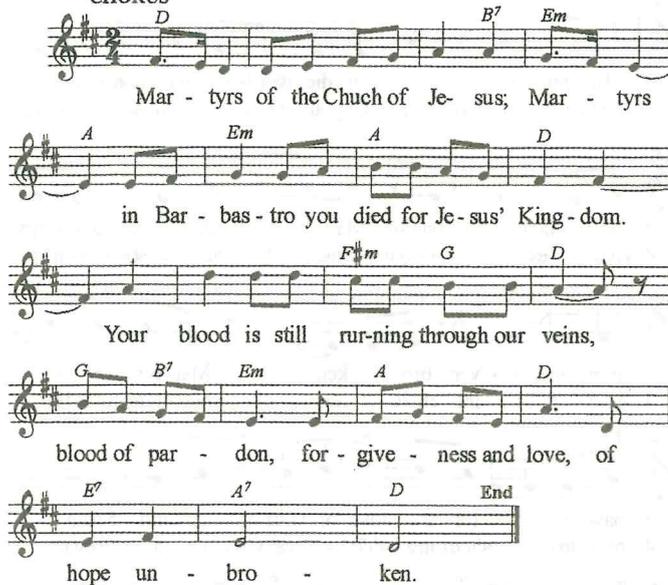
3. pain. Sing your praise,
4. praise.



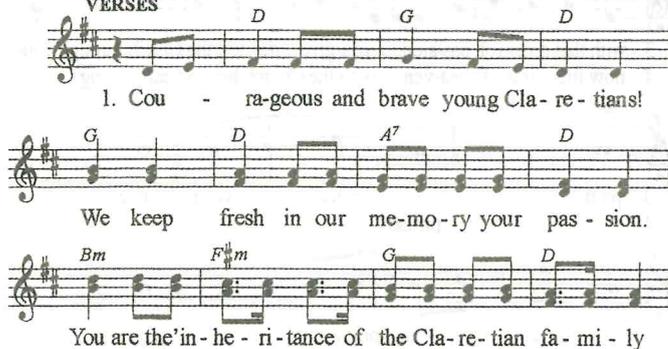
sing your praise.

289. Martyrs of the Church of Jesus

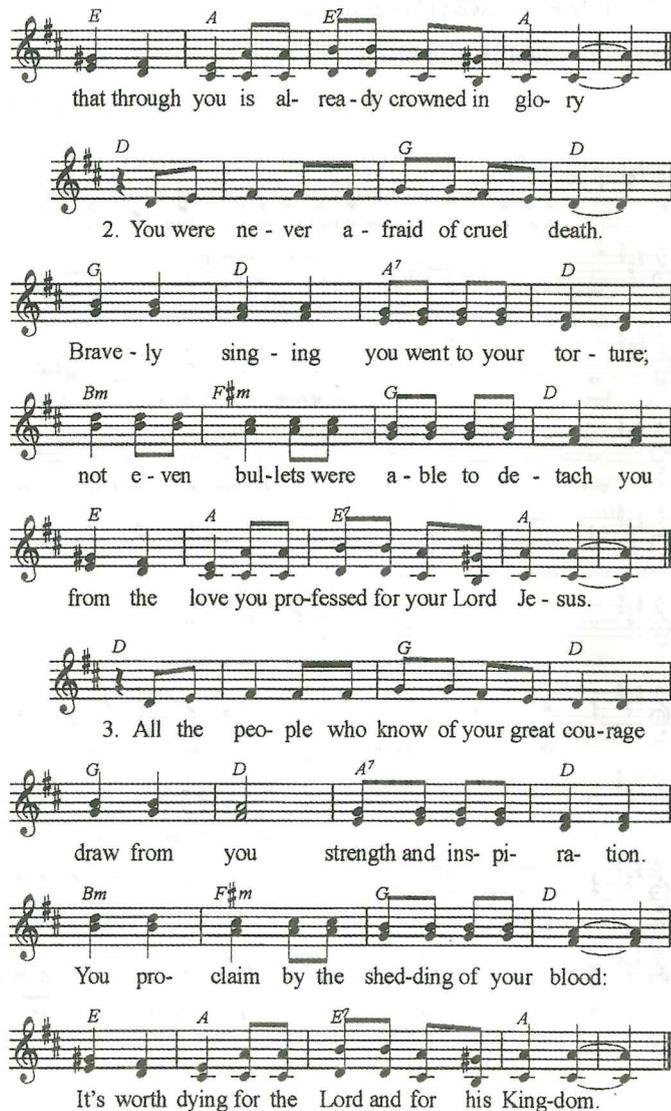
Music: Luis Elizalde
Lyrics: Conrado Bueno, cmf

CHORUS


Mar - tyr's of the Church of Je - sus; Mar - tyr's
in Bar - bas - tro you died for Je - sus' King - dom.
Your blood is still run - ning through our veins,
blood of par - don, for - give - ness and love, of
hope un - bro - ken.

VERSES


1. Cou - ra - geous and brave young Cla - re - tians!
We keep fresh in our me - mo - ry your pas - sion.
You are the 'in - he - ri - tance of the Cla - re - tian fa - mi - ly



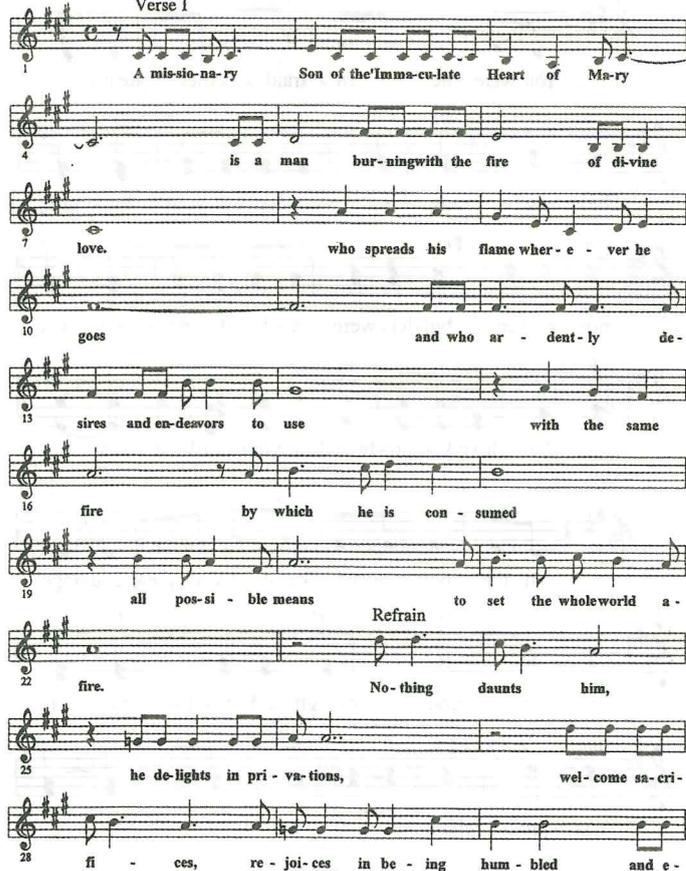
that through you is al - rea - dy crowned in glo - ry
2. You were ne - ver a - fraid of cruel death.
Brave - ly sing - ing you went to your tor - ture,
not e - ven bul - lets were a - ble to de - tach you
from the love you pro - fessed for your Lord Je - sus.
3. All the peo - ple who know of your great cou - rage
draw from you strength and ins - pi - ration.
You pro - claim by the shed - ding of your blood:
It's worth dying for the Lord and for his King - dom.

4.4 OTHER CLARETIAN SONGS

290. The Ideal In His Mind

Music: Eric Dela Merced & Chito Raniva

Verse I



1 A mis-sio-na-ry Son of the Imma-cu-late Heart of Ma-ry
4 is a man bur-ning with the fire of di-vine
7 love. who spreads his flame wher-e - ver he
10 goes and who ar - dent-ly de-
13 sires and en-deavors to use with the same
16 fire by which he is con - sumed
19 all pos-si - ble means Refrain to set the whole world a -
22 fire. No - thing daunts him,
25 he de-lights in pri - va-tions, wel - come sa - cri-
28 fi - ces, re - joi - ces in be - ing hum - bled and e -



31 xalts and glo - ries in tor-ments and per - se -
34 cu - tions. Verse II
37 Fol - lows and i - mi - tate our Lord Je - sus
40 Christ in la - bors and suf - fe -
43 rings and in wor - king with -
46 out e - ver ceas - ing for the great - er
49 glo - ry of God and the sal -
52 va - tion of souls
55 he has this i - de - al al - ways in his
Refrain (Repeat) Canticle (together with Verse II)
58 mind. A mis-sio-na-ry Son of the Imma-cu-late



61 Heart of Ma-ry is a man bur-ning with the
 64 fire of di-vine love in la-bors and suf - fer -
 67 ings and is his joy work-ing con - ti - nual-ly and who
 70 ar - dent-ly de - sires and en-dea-vors to use for the great - er
 73 glo-ry of God with the same fire by which he is con -
 76 sumed for the sal - va-tion of souls as he works to
 79 set the whole world a - fire.

291. Lord, renew in our Congregation

Music: Manuel Tardío, cmf

Lyrics: Claretian Prayer



Lord, re-new in our Con-gre-ga-tion the
 Spi - rit that moved our Fa - ther St. An-tho-ny Cla-
 ref. So that filled and strength-ened by
 it we may come to love what he loved
 and put in- to prac-tice what he taught
 us. So that prac-tice what he taught
 us. A - men.

292. Thanks and praise

Tomás Pujadas, cmf

Thanks and praise we give you. Mo - ther,
for our mis-sio - na - ry vo - ca - tion. Give
us, give us the pre-cious grace of be - ing faith -
full all thru our life.

293. We are missionaries

Music: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf
Lyrics: Luis M. Guerra, cmf

We are mis - sio - na - ries and our
mes-sage is one of peace and glad - ness,
we are chan-nels of par - don and of

grace; Cla - ret is our true lead - er
and we call our Queen our Mo - ther
for we are proud-ly Sons of her Heart.

294. You are calling us

Music: Garrido, cmf
Lyrics: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf

You are cal-ling us to be mis-sio -
na - ries like Cla - ret, fill our hearts with zeal di -
vine, teach us wis - dom, teach us love.

Jesus Christ: Son, Anointed, Apostle

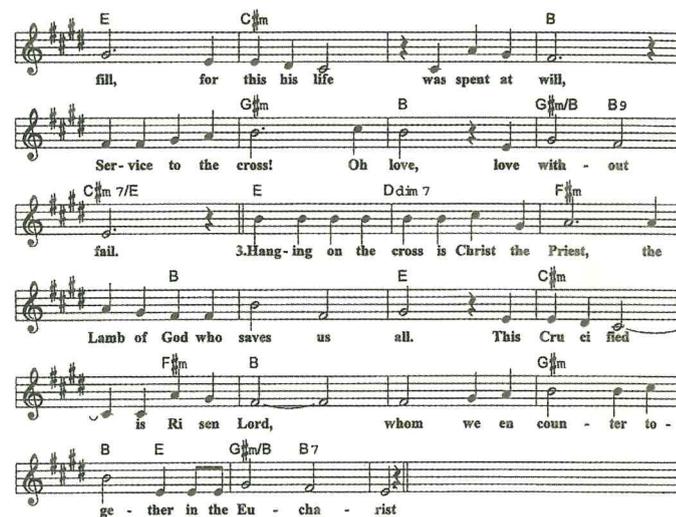
Music: Ángel Ochagavía, cmf

Lyrics: Samuel Canilang, cmf

Allegretto-120



Je - sus, Son of God, Son of Ma - ry, the Ho - ly
Spi - rit's A - noint-ed one, You are the Fa - ther's A -
po - stle to the poor, deaf and
blind. 1.The Fa - ther sent His Son, the Christ, for the
peo - ple so dear to his heart, to make the poor's
bur - den light and to re - co - ver to the
blind their need - ed sight. 2.He preached the King - dom,
He made it real, the peo - ple's dreams were his to ful -



fill, for this his life was spent at will,
Ser - vice to the cross! Oh love, love with - out
fail. 3.Hang - ing on the cross is Christ the Priest, the
Lamb of God who saves us all. This Cru ci - fied
is Ri sen Lord, whom we en coun - ter to -
ge - ther in the Eu - cha - rist

Lyrics based on "Jesus Christ in the C.C."
Cf. "Our Project Of Missionary Life" No. II

5. THEMATIC INDEX

	Page
A	
A Claretian Missionary.....	47
Angelus and Marian Antiphons.....	101
Apostles	
Blessing of the Table	281
Apostolic Fruitfulness	64
Appendices	297
Availability.....	59
B	
Beatification/Canonization	
Prayer to Ask for it	241
Blessings	279
Blessing at Meals	279
Blessing for a New House	286
Blessing of Those Who Are Sent.....	291
C	
Canonical Visitations	271
Closing.....	275
Opening	271

Chapter	
Before the Election	261
Closing	262
Prayer Before the Chapter	255
Thanksgiving After Election	262
Charity	
Apostolic	51, 60
Claret, Impelled by Love	202
Fraternal	73
Church	68
Claret	
Apostolic Prayer	65
Arrival in Cuba	18
Assault in Holguin	18
Beatification	18
Birth	22
Blessing of the Table	288
Canonization	19
Episcopal Ordination	21
Faithful To His Spirit	40
Founder and Model	39
Preservation and Sacramental Species	20
Priestly Ordination	19
Solemnity	21
To Continue His Work	40
Triduum	187, 321
Vocation <i>Magnificat</i>	48
Claretian Calendar	18
Claretian Identity	48
Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro	
Beatification	20
Feast	20
Prayers	230
Way of the Cross	231

Claretian Prayers	23
Come, Holy Spirit	140, 259
Community	61
Congregation	
Blessing the Table	284
Communion of Goods	57
For the Renewal of the Claretian Spirit	46
Litany of Our Congregation	44
Prayer for Our Congregation	43
Prayer for the Day of Founding	42
Triduum for the Anniversary	210
Conformity to Christ	54
Consecration	
Prayer on the Formula of Profession	53
Constitutions	
Examination	133
Prayer	47
Co-patrons	216
Intercessions	225

D

Daily Prayer	84
Death of a Missionary	248
Deceased Members	81
Definition of a Claretian Missionary	47

E

Ejaculations	
To the Heart of Mary	39
Eucharistic	
Eucharistic Worship and Devotions	124

Page

Models and Celebrations	125
Prayers of Petition and Invocation	128
Scripture Readings	128
Examination of Conscience	133

F

Feast of the Congregation	150
Formula of Profession	246
Founding of the Congregation	
Blessing at Meals	284
Prayer for the Day of the Founding	42
Triduum for the Anniversary	210
Fraternal Correction	132

G

God	
Glory to God	25
Experience as Father	288
Love of God	23, 24, 27
Only God	25
Providence	23
To do His Will	58
To Know God in Order to Serve Him	75
Union with God	24

H

Heart of Mary	
Blessing of the Table	281
Dedication to the Heart of Mary	36
Ejaculations	39
Filial and Apostolic Prayer	33, 314

Page

Litanies	33
Novena	150, 316
Offering	37
Prayer for Vocation	74
Prayers	37
Thanksgiving	35
Holy Spirit	
Litany	262
Sequence of the Holy Spirit	260
To Ask for the Spirit	25
<i>Veni, Creator Spiritus</i>	146
<i>Veni Sancte Spiritus</i>	260

I

Illness	248
---------------	-----

L

Lectio Divina	110
Litanies	
For Our Congregation	44
Of Loreto	121
To Mary, Based on the Constitution	32
To Mary, from Claret	30
To Saint Joseph	221
To Saints and Blessed of the Claretian Family	227
To the Heart of Mary	33
To the Holy Spirit	262

M

Marian Antiphons	104
Martyrs of the Claretian Family	230

	Page
Martyrs Way of the Cross	231
Mary	28
<i>Angelus</i>	103
Blessing of Meals	281
Claretian Litany	28
Conformity to Christ	31
Dedicated to Her Son	
First Among the Poor of Yahweh	167
First Disciple of the Lord	155
Formatrix of Apostles	175
Foundress and Patroness of the Congregation	182
Intercessions for Land and Vespers	87
Listening to the Word	152
Litanies Based on the Constitutions	32
Litany of Loreto	121
Marian Antiphons	104
Missionary Son of Mary	31
Model for Following Jesus	159
Mother and Teacher of Missionaries	37
Mother of Christ and Our Mother	161
Mother of Divine Love	30
Mother of the Church	38
Supplication	30
Thanksgiving for Our Vocation	47
With all Her Heart	178
Meekness	52
Mission	65
Apostolic Fruitfulness	66
Instrument of the Kingdom	65
Ministers of the Word	70
Missionary Prayer	68
Promotion of Missionary Vocation	71
The Lord Present in Mission	69

	Page
To Do God's Will	72
To Know God	65
Missionaries	
Blessing of Those Who Are Sent	293
Missionary	
Claret, a Missionary Impelled by Love	202
Faithful Evangelizers	46
In Communion with the Church	212
In the Style of Claret	210
Living in Communion	214
Personal Spirituality	50
Prayer for the Apostolic Fruitfulness	66
Prayer on the Definition	41, 47
Profession of Claretian Identity	48
Meetings	140
Opening and Closing Meetings	140
Models of Celebrations	105
Mortification	52

N

New House	
Blessing	288
Novena to the Heart of Mary	150

P

Patron Saints of the Congregation	216
Personal Prayer	106
Prayers for the Chapter	259
Prayers for the Congregation	41
Claretian Identity and Vocation	41
Of the Congregation	42

Page

Of the Holy Founder	41
Evangelical Counsels and Apostolic Virtues	51
Of Father Founder.....	51
Of the Congregation	53
Prayers for the Deceased Members.....	82
Prayers for the Intercession of our Holy Founder.....	39
Faithful to His Spirit.....	40
To Continue His Work	40
Prayers for those Who Are Sick	78
Prayers for Vocations	74
Prayers of the Founder to God the Father.....	23
All for the Glory of God.....	25
Exercise On the Love of God	27
God the Father, Life, Love and Hope	24
Only God.....	25
Petition for the Gift of Love	24
Providence of God.....	23
To Ask for the Spirit	25
To Ask for Virtues.....	26
To Love and Serve God	24
Union with God	24
Prayers to the Eucharist	126
Prayers to the Heart of Mary	28
Prayers of the Congregation.....	31
Conformity To Christ.....	31
Dedication To the Heart of Mary	36
Ejaculations	39
Filial and Apostolic Prayer	33
Heart of Mary	37
Invocation to Mary, Mother of the Church	38
Litanies Based on the Constitutions	32
Litanies To the Heart of Mary	33
Mother and Teacher	37

Page

Offering To the Heart of Mary	37
Thanksgiving Through the Heart of Mary.....	35
Prayers of the Holy Founder	
Claretian Litany of Invocation to Mary	28
Invocations to Mary	30
Missionary Son of Mary	31
Mother of Divine Love	30
Supplications to Mary	30
Professional and Renewal of Vows	
Formula for Private Renewal	323
Formula of Profession	246
Profession of Claretian Identity	48

R

Reading of the Word of God.....	107
Recollection and Retreats.....	145
Monthly Days of Recollection.....	145
Retreats	146
Reconciliation	132
Rosary	111

S

Saint Joseph.....	218
Scripture Readings	128
Sick Missionaries.....	78, 80
Sickness	248
Songs	254
Spiritual Exercises.....	145
Study	
Prayer Before Beginning the Study	253
Superiors.....	267

Page

T

Thanksgiving for Our Vocation	47
Triduum	
For the Anniversary of the Congregation	210
To our Holy Founder	187
To Saint Joseph	218

V

<i>Veni Creator Spiritus</i>	146
<i>Veni Sancte Spiritus</i>	260
Virtues	26, 51
Vocation <i>Magnificat</i>	41
Vocations	74
Intercessions	74
Prayer for the Intercessions for the Heart of Mary...	74
Prayers for All States of Life	77
Intercessions for Lauds or Vespers	87

6. CLARETIAN SOURCES

Number	Source
2	Aut 125
3	Aut 152
4	AW 706
5	AW 549
6	Aut 444
7	Aut 487
8	Aut 754-756
9	Caminto Recto 76-77
10	AW 618
11	Aut 655
12	Caminto Recto, Ejercicios del amor de Dios, ed. 1930, p. 208
13	Various writings of the Father Founder
14	Aut 154-156; CC 46
15	La Inmaculada victoriosa 3-4
16	Aut 447
17	Aut 270-271
18	CC 8
19	Based on the CC
22	Preface of the Heart of Mary, in MRPf.
25	Collect of the Mass of the Heart of Mary, in MRPf.
27	Paul VI
29	Collect the Mass of St. Anthony M. Claret, in MRPf.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Source</i>
30	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, p. 31
31	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, 9. 453
32	Aut 492-493
33	Aut 494; CC 9
36	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, p. 19
37	Adaptation of the prayer for the 150th Anniv. of Founding of Cong.
40	CC 4, 159, 8
42	CC 9
44	CPR 52 ff.
45	Aut 383
46	Aut 437
47	Aut 363.371
48	Aut 383
49	Aut 427
50	CC 159
51	CC 39
52	CC ch. VI
53	CC 20-22
54	CC ch. II
55	CC 23
56	CC 24
57	CC 24
58	CC 25
59	CC 28-32
60	CC 29-31
61	CC ch. IV
62	CC 29
63	CC 30-31
64	CC 74
65	CC 33
66	CC 42-43
67	CC 40

<i>Number</i>	<i>Source</i>
68	CC 10, 12
70	Mass that Foster Community Life, MRPf.
72	Aut 233
73	Aut 42
74	Aut 744
75	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, pp.44-45
76	CC 40, 41
77	MCT 172
81	CC 46, 40, 51
84	CPR 73 ff.
84	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, p. 20.
86	Collect of the Mass for Claretians Vocations, MRPf.
94	Collect of the Mass for the Deceased of the Congregation, MRPf.
100	Week I Sunday: a) CC 8; b) CC 46 Monday: a) CC 28; b) CC 51 Tuesday: a) CC 5, 34; b) CC 51, 52 Wednesday: a) Aut 492-493; b) CC 9 Thursday: a) CC 3, 39; b) CC 9 Friday: a) CC 8; b) Aut 233 Saturday: a) CC 61; b) CC 66; c) IPM 70
100	Week II Sunday: b) CC 83 Monday: a) CC 48; c) CC 58 Tuesday: a) CC 4; b) Aut 152; c) CC 46 Wednesday: a) CC 73; c) CC 37.7 Thursday: a) CC 81; IPM 43; c) VTM n. 17 Friday: a) IPM 43; c) VTM n. 29 Saturday: a) IPM 19; b) MCT 172
100	Week III Sunday: b) CC 44; c) CC 7 Monday: a) CC 6; b) IPM 47.2

*Number**Source*

	Tuesday: b) CC 63; c) CC 62
	Wednesday: a) CC 41; b) CC 7; IPM 73.2; c) CC 62
	Thursday: a) VTM n. 30; b) CC 39; IPM 16
	Friday: b) 39; c) CC 59
	Saturday: a) CC 24; b) CC 25
100	Week IV
	Sunday: a) CC 20; b) CC 20, 22; c) CC 10, 21
	Monday: a) CC 17; b) CC 13, 14; c) CC 11
	Tuesday: b) CC 44
	Wednesday: a) CC 36; b) CC 9; c) CC 48
	Thursday: c) CC 20
	Friday: a) CC 8; b) CC 6; c) CC 58
	Saturday: a) CC 8, 159; b) CC 58; c) CC 159
114	CC 35, 83
115	CC 40
116	CC 10
117	CC 44
119	CC 62, 61
121a	CC 34, 63, 13, 48
121b	CC 23
122b	CC 35
123a	CC 4
123b	CC 46, 44
129.1	CC 41, 39
129.3	CC 57, 44, 10, 46, 48
129.4	CC 51
132	CC 29
134	CC 52, 29
139	MCT 147
158	Base on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, p. 442.
179.3	CC 4, 83
179.5	CC 4, 46, 16, 45
186	CC 9

*Number**Source*

187	CC 3, 2, 10
193.9	CC 30, 104, 10, 29, 15
197.5	CC 159, 130, 10, 102, 13, 12, 46, 14, 52, 131
199.2	CC 4
199.5	CC 39, 40, 29, 31, 54
216.1	CC 4, 10, 5, 51, 40, 12; Dir 94, 95, 103
216.3	Dir 63; CC 26, 25, 17
216.4	Dir 36; CC 48, 42, 40, 159; Dir 139, 94, 48
217.1	CC 4, 46
217.3	CC 40; Dir 114; CC 73, 34, 3, 4; Dir 97; CC 46; Dir 144, 112
217.4	CC 42; Ritual Pf. n. 78
253	CC 4, 5, 73, 8, 12, 14, 159, 52
254	Based on the Spiritual Directory of 1957, p.75.