

*May his memory be for us
an inspiration and a call to cultivate
the rootedness in Christ,
identification with the Claretian charism,
love for the Congregation,
and missionary passion
for the little ones and the needy.*

Jaime Clotet BICENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH

A PRIVILEGED WITNESS OF THE AWAKENING OF OUR MISSIONARY CHARISM IN THE CHURCH

Remembering the life of Fr. Clotet allows us to approach the sources of our Claretian spirituality in its origin and its first development. Fr. Jaime Clotet was the youngest missionary of the five who gathered with Fr. Claret in the cell of the seminary of Vic on 16 July 1849 for the foundation of our Congregation. He was almost 27 years old (he turned 27 just nine days later).

He was a privileged witness of the awakening of our missionary charism in the Church from a strategic vantage point since he was Sub-Director General for thirty years, from 1858 to 1888. Likewise, he was also the formator of the first generations of Brothers in the Congregation, for whom, as early as 1858, he wrote the *Directori dels Hermanos Adjudants*.

He was the missionary of the first century of our Congregation who most admired the Founder. Although they only lived together for a short time, he had the good fortune to accompany him during his last illness and death in the monastery of Fontfroide (France). The letters he sent daily to the Superior General and other Missionaries and friends informing them of the progress of his illness and death are a true monument of his filial love.

We can consider Fr. Clotet as the main biographer of Father Claret in the first hour of Claretian history. He collected many documents and testimonies of people who had dealt

directly with the Founder. In the weeks following the death of Father Claret, he published in the Diocesan Bulletin of Vic some warm biographical Notes of His Excellency and Illustrious Antonio María Claret. He immediately promoted the publication of Claret's first biography, composed by his friend Francisco de Asís Aguilar, to whom he provided abundant and valuable information. In 1882, he published his *Resumen de la Admirable Vida del Excmo. e Ilmo. Antonio María Claret y Clará*, a biography followed by a rich collection of testimonies. Finally, commissioned by Fr. José Xifré, in 1891-92, he wrote the *Vida Edificante del P. Claret, Misionero y Fundador*, of almost 1,000 pages, which remained unpublished until 2000.

From 1889 onwards, he worked hard for the beatification of the Founder. To Fr. Clotet, we owe a significant part of the documentary wealth we have to delve into the life and spirit of Father Claret. He could be a good patron of Claretian communicators.

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MESSAGE OF FATHER GENERAL ON THE WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Dear brothers,

Happy Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and wishes of the day of Consecrated life.

In the first week of February, we celebrate different events that deepen the various dimensions of our missionary vocation. I think of three events of this week that are very significant for us.

The first is the Memorial Day of Claretian martyrs on first of February. Our 184 martyr brothers who were beatified and those whose cause is being processed, and many more who are not beatified lived the same mystery of shedding their blood for Christ. This is also the day an assassin brutally wounded our Founder because of his stand against slavery and discrimination in Cuba. Our martyrs inspire us to be courageous amid hardships. Standing with Christ to defend the dignity of every human person is worth the cost we pay for it.

On second February, we celebrate the day of the Consecrated people on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This is a day we thank the Lord for our consecrated life. The Lord has given us a charism that treasures and promotes consecrated life in the Church. Our charism impelled us to start the six Institutes of Consecrated life on four continents. We live at a time consecrated life is often ridiculed as obsolete, the vows portrayed as dehumanizing. Without being rooted in Christ, we cannot live our consecrated life with audacity as a counter-cultural sign in the world. Arguments will not convince anybody, but a testimony of life which radiates joy, interior freedom, intimacy with the Lord, fraternal life in community, and self-giving dedication in the mission which our form of life embodies will.

This year, the Pope has called us to give special attention to consecrated women in the Church. We should admit that often we fail to appreciate and value the beauty of their consecrated life and the tremendous good they do in the Church. We shall treasure them on equal terms in life and mission and value our mutual complementarity. I have seen how clericalism, spiritual worldliness, and a false sense of male superiority at times blind our men to know the truth and beauty of the vocation and mission of women religious. In this year, let us make an effort to look at these great evangelizers through the eyes of Christ, and together with them, let us work in the vineyard of the Lord as his brothers and sisters, our family vineyard, the Church.

On fourth February is the death anniversary of venerable Fr. Clotet, the Co-founder of our beloved Congregation. In July, the 25th is the 200th anniversary of his birth. As the youngest in the group, Clotet knew our Founder and his spirit closely. He was Sub-Director General for thirty years, from 1858 to 1888. These celebrations ignite the fire within us and dust off the possible ashes of worldliness that may be smoldering it. We are all in that line joining Claret and are on fire with love today.

One thing is common to all the three events that I have mentioned. It is the rootedness in Christ. Without that, there is no audacity of martyrdom, authentic consecrated life, nor the fire of Claretian charism. Let us seek to be rooted in Christ and audacious in mission.

Mathew Vattamattam, CMF



BEING ROOTED IN CHRIST AND AUDACIOUS IN MISSION IN GERMAN-SPEAKING EUROPE TODAY

We have asked the Provincial Superior of Deutschland, Fr. Callistus Joseph, CMF, to tell us about the X Provincial Chapter of Deutschland presided by Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, on February 7 to 12 at the Dreifaltigkeitsberg House in Germany. The Province takes the same theme of the General Chapter with a bit of modification.

What are the initial preparations done, still in the process? What or how is the itinerary of the process going on?

The preparation of the Chapter started almost a year ago with the creation of five commissions to evaluate the present situation of the Province, primarily focusing on the Prefectures vis a vis the resolutions of the IX Provincial Chapter. The preparation for the General Chapter became very useful when different rounds of conversations took place at various levels. The commissions integrated the outcome of these conversations in preparing the reports.

During the Provincial Assembly in July 2021, all members had the opportunity to continue our conversation as a Province. Each commission presented the outcome of their conversation at the community level, with our collaborators, and among the commission members. At the Assembly, the conversation was inclusive of all the members. Fortunately, 38 of the 44 members of the Province participated in the Assembly.

Commissions gathered again to include the points of conversation shared by all members of the Province. This painstaking exercise was beneficial. It became a more inclusive overview of all the members of the Province.

The commissions gathered again after the General Chapter and integrated the Chapter Promptings into the report. The report of the government and the working paper are already sent to the Chapter members.

What is the uniqueness of this Chapter and the challenges in preparing it?

The uniqueness of this Chapter is that this is the first Chapter in so many years that the Chapter members are all in German-speaking Europe. Thus, the focus will be on our Life and Mission here in German-speaking Europe. This Chapter will be held in the German language. Earlier Chapters had members representing the Missions of Congo, India, and Sri Lanka. All these missions have become Major Organisms in the Congregation in past years.

The present pandemic made the preparation process very challenging. Aside from our Assembly's time in July, all other conversations took place by electronic means. This was not an easy task for some members of the Province who are not accustomed to electronic devices.

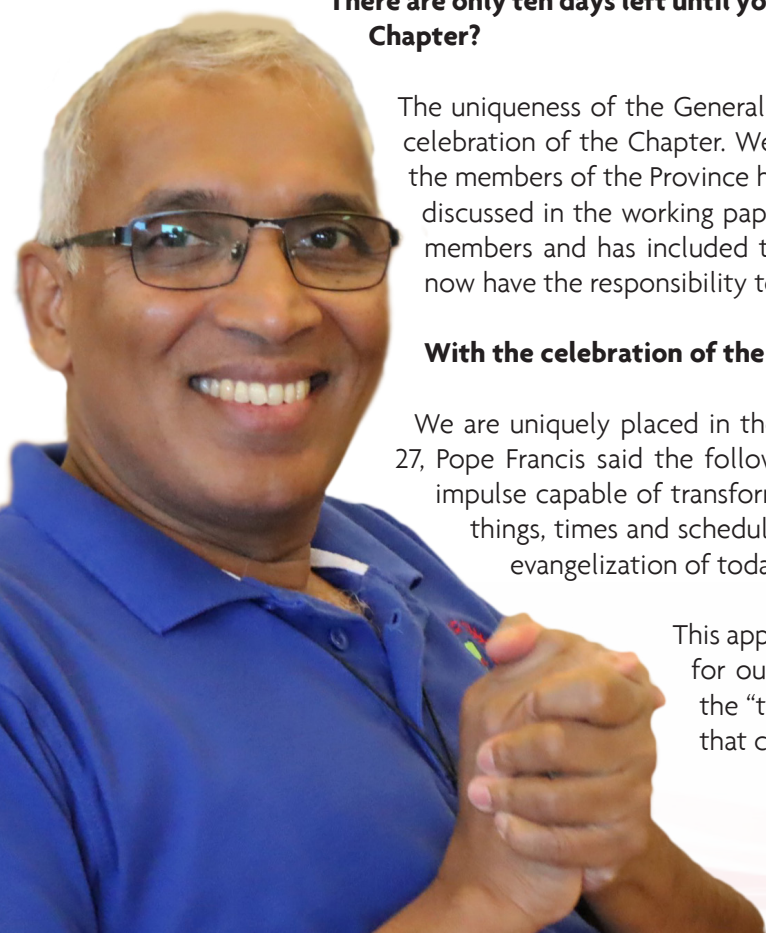
There are only ten days left until your Chapter, does it have any relation with the XXVI General Chapter?

The uniqueness of the General Chapter was the methodology used for preparation and the celebration of the Chapter. We followed the method of conversations at various levels. All the members of the Province had the opportunity to share their views on each of the topics discussed in the working paper. The working paper is not a work of only a few but all the members and has included the contribution of our collaborators. The Chapter members now have the responsibility to discern what God wants from us at the Chapter Hall.

With the celebration of the Chapter, how do you see the future of the Province?

We are uniquely placed in the Church with our missionary Charism. In *Evangelii Gaudium* 27, Pope Francis said the following "I dream of a "missionary option," that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."

This applies to our Province very much today. We are in the Church not for our self-preservation but as missionaries to contribute towards the "transformation of everything." We are the "missionary impulse" that can contribute towards the transformation of everything.



What are your hopes and dreams for the Deutschland Province?

I often think our Province is like the “New Wine now wanting new wineskins.” We have to humbly seek and shape these “new wineskins” as we allow ourselves to be transformed by the Word of God. New missionary horizons will have to be drawn with the missionaries assigned to the Province.

Having our missionaries trained here in Germany gives an added advantage. It is not only that they have had time to deepen their language skills, but they have also learned Theology as reflected today in the country’s present situation. I am confident that our young missionaries will discern the missionary responses we have to give today through our Charism for the transformation of the Church in German-Speaking Europe and the world.

Today, the Church in German-speaking Europe is going through many challenges. Without being absorbed in these troubles or standing aloof, we have the vital task of Proclaiming the Joy of the Gospel. The Word of God will transform us, our structures, and our systems, leading to new ways of living life in its fullness.

Interculturality is our mission today. As brothers coming from different parts of the world but inspired by the Gospel and our Charism, we witness the joy of living a Fraternal life. As we find in *Fratelli Tutti*, the call to live this fraternal life is an important Gospel, a call for the world that is becoming more and more multicultural.

Shared mission and collaboration with those people of goodwill committed to the world’s transformation is an urgent call for us. “Fridays for future” is a protest action of the young people in Europe calling for the Protection of the Earth. We wish to dialogue with the young people by presenting God’s dream of a common home as presented by *Laudato Si’*.

We dream of continuing to inspire young people to be captivated by the Charism of our Founder Claret, whose main goal was the renewal of the Church and World through the Word of God.

We overcome all fear of the new and unknown only by surrendering ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I am sure this Chapter will make us audacious. Nothing will prevent us from spreading the fire of love that burns in our hearts.



A PRIVILEGED WITNESS ...

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Fr. Clotet was a great missionary, especially in his dedication to preaching, especially to the catechesis of the deaf. When these people were excluded from society and neglected in their education, Fr. Clotet devoted himself with love and passion to their evangelization. He published a catechism and a catechist’s manual for them. Various Catalan groups of people with this disability have special gratitude and devotion to him. In Mexico City, there is a school for them dedicated to Fr. Clotet’s memory.

In June 1897, when he was almost blind, he had the good fortune to accompany the Founder’s remains on their transfer from Fontfroide to Vic and to take part in the solemn funeral honors paid to him in the cathedral of Vic. The following year, on 4 February, Fr. Jaume Clotet died in the odor of sanctity in the mission house in Gràcia (Barcelona). After his cause for beatification was introduced, Pope John Paul II declared him Venerable on 13 May 1989. His remains rest in a side altar of the Shrine of the Heart of Mary in Barcelona.

As we celebrate the death anniversary of Fr. Jaume Clotet this month of February, we begin the special preparation to commemorate the bicentenary of his birth on July 25, 2022, in Manresa (Spain). We have five months to prepare ourselves to celebrate with joy and gratitude this Claretian anniversary.

CONGREGATION

CLARET, A TREASURE OF THE CHURCH

Rome, Italy. The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome screened the film “CLARET” and hosted a round table discussion on how to bring a Founder’s life to the cinema on January 13. Pablo Moreno, film director, and Sergio Cardoso, one its actors, gave their impressions and thoughts about the matter as well as their role in the film. Fr. Manuel Tamargo, CMF, representative of the Congregation in the production of “CLARET,” shared Claret’s and the films’ importance in the present time.

The director said that it is not a question of taking the extraordinary things a saint did, but to try to transmit his being so that the viewer encounters him. He further shared the impact that such personalities leave on some actors. Sergio Cardoso, the actor playing the role of the murderer, was one of them. He said he was deeply moved when asked how he felt when he “tried to kill the saint” in the film.

Efforts are now on their way to bring “CLARET” to the big screens of America and other places worldwide in the coming months.

BIBLE AND COMMUNICATIONS

CELEBRATING IN A SPECIAL WAY THE TREASURE IN OUR HEARTS



The Congregation, with the whole Church, celebrated on January 23 the Sunday of the Word of God, a step in realizing of our dream with Claret, of a Congregation that, following the example of Mary, treasures in its heart, fulfills and proclaims the Word of God. The General Prefect of Bible Ministry and Communication, Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, sent a well-prepared guide to the entire Congregation to make the celebration extraordinary and all involving.

From Asia to America, Europe down to Africa, as the sun rises from the east to west, the Claretian communities, parishes, institutions gathered, shared, celebrated the Word, the center and source of strength of the Claretian missions. Some Major Organisms worldwide documented the event, and they are now shared on the Facebook Page of the Congregation.

NUNC 606 - February 2022



SPIRITUALITY

WITNESSES ROOTED IN CHRIST AND AUDACIOUS IN MISSION

On February 1, the Congregation celebrates the obligatory memorial of Blessed Philip of Jesús Munárriz Azcona, priest, and his companions, religious and martyrs. It commemorates all together the 184 Claretian martyrs who have been beatified so far.

The liturgical celebration of the memorial of the Claretian Martyrs, after the celebration of the XXVI General Chapter, invites us to welcome in a special way the first words of the post-capitular exhortation: “Querida Congregación, be rooted in Christ and audacious in mission!” (QC 1). The lives of our confrères are a beautiful and challenging witness of rootedness and boldness. They could not have given their lives with the freedom and courage they did if they had not been deeply united to the Lord.

CLARETIANS

HE FOUGHT FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND “BECAME ONE OF THEM”



Barcelona, Spain. The City Council of Barcelona gave a posthumous award to Msgr. Pere Casaldàliga, CMF, in recognition of his permanent fight against abuses of power and exploitation and his strong commitment to the indigenous peoples’ social justice, equality, and dignity.

During the act at the Saló de Cent of the Barcelona City Hall held on January 27, he was praised for his strong will in helping others change their situation, for denouncing and eradicating the injustices that generated poverty and marginalization, for remaining and becoming one of them.

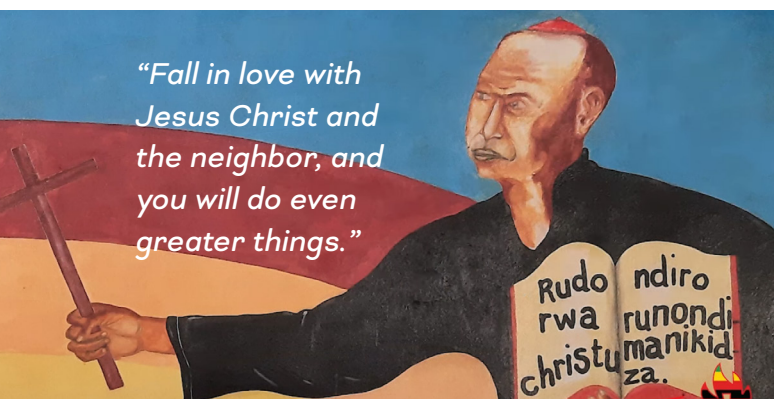


ASCLA NEW PRE-POSTULANCY HOUSE IN BURKINA FASO

Sigvounsé, Burkina-Faso. Polska Province built a new Pre-Postulancy house in Sigvounsé, and new aspirants started to live in it since its soft opening on January 10th. The house will be inaugurated at a later date since there are still some works in progress.

At the joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharistic on the above said date, mission collaborators from the Sisters of Saint Mary of Torfou, Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, Brothers of the Holy Family and some members of the village community joined them in the festivity.

20 YEARS OF CLARETIAN PRESENCE IN ZIMBABWE

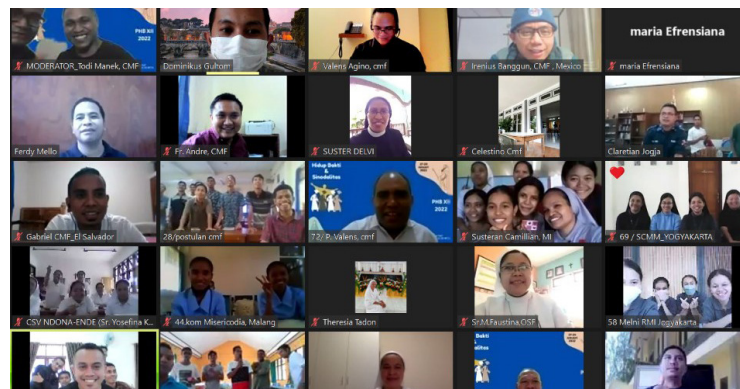


Harare, Zimbabwe. The Claretian Missionaries in Zimbabwe celebrates this year its twenty years of presence in this part of the world. They disseminated a short video on YouTube to commemorate this memorable occasion.

The first three Claretians arrived in Harare on January 29, 2002. After some time learning the language, they settled in Gwave Mission (Gokwe). In 2005, they started Mission of Zhomba (Gokwe) and then onwards opened a community in Ruwa, taking care of Saint Charles Lwanga Parish. First vocations arrived and other missionaries from other Major Organisms came to augment their workforce. In 2012, they opened a seminary in Harare, Claret House, where the aspirants and postulants live and study. In 2021, they had the first native Claretian priests ordained.

The Claretian Missionaries in Zimbabwe are called to live in intercultural communities following Jesus' footsteps, preaching the joy of the Gospel. They run parishes and schools.

ASCLA EAST SYNODALITY AND CONSECRATED LIFE: XIII CONSECRATED LIFE WEEK 2022 OF INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE



Jogjakarta, Indonesia. The thirteenth edition of the Consecrated Life Week of Indonesia-Timor Leste Independent Delegation revolved around the call and challenge of Pope Francis to the Claretians in its services to the Consecrated Life. The 13th edition, with the theme, "Synodality and Consecrated Life," took place online from January 27 to 29.

More participants, particularly the religious of the different religious congregations in Indonesia and East Timor, participated thanks to its online mode including those in other parts of the world—the Philippines, Mexico, El Salvador, France, Italy.

Distinguished speakers shared their knowledge on different perspectives of Synodality. Fr. Valens Agino, CMF, Major Superior of Indonesia-Timor Leste, spoke on Synodality from Sacred Scriptures' perspective; Fr. Yohanes Dari Salib Jeramu, CMF on the theological perspective; Fr. Yoseph Ferdinandus Melo, CMF, in the context of Consecrated Life. On the other hand, Fr. Agustinus Supur, CMF, spoke on Synodality and the Religious Vows and Dr. Norbertus Jegalus on Synodality and Leadership in Consecrated Life. Fr. Methodius Manek, CMF, moderated the sessions.



ASCLA WEST 100 HOURS ONLINE COURSE ON BIBLE STUDY



Bangalore, India. Though the Institute of Consecrated Life (ICL) – Sanyasa is an institute that focuses mainly on the theology of consecrated life, it cannot ignore the fact that the Bible is the solid foundation for consecrated persons.

With this, ICL introduced a new 100 hours online course on Bible Study at the start of this year. Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, inaugurated the course on January 8. As a biblical scholar, Fr. Henry gave a powerful inaugural speech, stressing the importance of the Word in the life of Christians. Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, CMF, the School President and Provincial of Bangalore, encouraged the participants with his remarkable felicitation address.

The classes will run until July 2 of this year on the Zoom platform from 6 to 8 pm on weekends. All in all, 100 hours of lectures. The course begins with an introduction to the Bible and continues with the exposition of all the contents of the Bible. About 75 students, including twenty-five novices from two congregations and and some lay faithful, participate in the course.

ECLA PREPARING MISSIONARIES IN CARING FOR THE YOUTH AND NURTURING VOCATIONS



Spaichingen, Germany. A workshop on the pastoral care of youth and vocations facilitated by Br. Carlos Verga, CMF, General Prefect for Youth Ministry and Vocation, took place in Spaichingen on January 2 to 5. Eighteen participated, of which fourteen of them are young missionaries assigned to the Province from five

different countries. The Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret helped in the organization of a conducive atmosphere for the workshop.

Br. Carlos presented the program using the materials that were created by the Claretian Family team of experts working directly in Youth and Vocation Ministry. There were many group discussions and moments for personal reflection. Three young women from the Deanery of Heuberg came to share their experiences in coordinating youth work and expressed their expectations from the Missionaries.

MICLA JOINT FORCES IN FORMING NEW MISSIONARIES IN THE YOUNG VINEYARD



Córdoba, Argentina. Fr. Marcos Loro, CMF, Provincial Superior of Brasil and President of Association of Claretian Missionaries of America (MICLA), inaugurated on January 3 the new interprovincial Novitiate House of MICLA located in the heart of Argentina.

In the evening of that same day, during Vespers, novices from the different member-Organisms were accepted and began their formative experience. They are Onel Antonio Pérez Morales and Juan de la Cruz Gómez Zamora (Centroamérica); Johan Andrés Rojas Alapey and Miguel Alfonso Peña Pérez (Colombia-Venezuela); Daniel Jubanski, Edivaldo Luis Toagliari, and Rafael Zanetti de Freitas (Brasil); Omar Andrés Guarguati Saavedra, Diego Andrés Leal Salinas, John Alexis Gelves Albarracín, and Ronaldo Benítez Rodríguez (Colombia Oriental - Ecuador); Emiliano Gastón Gastón Medina Vivanco (San José del Sur); and Mario Condori Jachacollo (Peru-Bolivia)

The formation of these young men is entrusted to Fr. Marcos Garnica, CMF (Mexico), the Novice Master, and Frs. Francisco San Martín, CMF (San José del Sur) and Marcio Silva (Brasil).

CLARETIAN FAMILY



CONVERSING WHILE WEAVING: XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY – CORDIMARIAN FILIATION (HICM)

The Daughters of the Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary – Cordimarian Filiation (HICM) celebrated their XI General Assembly in January using a method used during the XXVI General Chapter of our Congregation. The Assembly used the allegory of the loom, making the Assembly another weave in the history of the Congregation. They invited Fr. Gonzalo Fernandez, CMF, in their journey and the execution of the processes of Assembly.

The chronicler fondly narrated the different styles and ways the thread of their loom crossed and weaved through social media. She recounted the unending precious moments of sharing life and stories in the Cenacles of Conversation. They called their group sharing as cenacles of conversation.

On January 23, the members of the Assembly elected Carolina Sanchez as the new General Directress of the Institute for the next six years. She will guide her members in weaving their history. The following day, they have chosen Maria del Mar Alvarez (1st Consultor), Ma Luisa Azor (2nd Consultor), Natalia Fernandez (3rd Consultor), and Elena Rosas (4th Consultor), and together they shall lead their sisters in realizing the dream of their Congregation.

Despite the pandemic, they had the chance to celebrate their joy with the Claretian Family of Madrid. The current pandemic's hassles did not dissuade them from having fun, praying, feasting, and eating together as a family.

Towards the end, they agreed on their weave's final design and their commitment to making them come true amidst their fragility as long as they are constantly fixing their eyes on the Lord. They all freely agreed to comply with what they had crafted to the best of their ability, time, and resources.

We extend our heartfelt greetings to the Cordimarian Filiation for the fantastic weaving session. We wish them all the best in fulfilling their dreams. Know that we, your brothers, are here to support you always.

FIRST PROFESSIONS

Centroamérica 01/01/2022

Alarcón Valdés, Donaciano
García Benítez, José Elías
Sánchez Lorenzo, Guillermo

Colombia Oriental-Ecuador 01/01/2022

Alvarado Rodríguez, Jhonatan Stiven
Quintero Angulo, Darío Xavier

Colombia - Venezuela 01/06/2022

Medina, Yuder Rafael
Sarria Larrahondo, Jaime Andrés

Peru - Bolivia 01/06/2022

Longa Encinas, Anthony Eduardo

S. José del Sur 01/06/2022

Ansieta Plaza, Jason Malcolm
Mamaní Flores, Mauro Ezequiel

ORDINATIONS

Brasil 01/29/2022

Bento de Araújo, Diêmes

Centroamérica 02/02/2022

Rodríguez Hernández, Jorge Luis

CALLED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

JANUARY 2022

11 FR. GUMERSINDO MARTÍN GARCÍA
at 71 in Colmenar Viejo, Spain.
Santiago Province.

29 BR. ALFREDO MENDOZA PINEDO
at 93 in Colmenar Viejo, Spain.
Santiago Province.

31 FR. ÁNGEL SANZ ARRIBAS
at 91 in Colmenar Viejo, Spain.
Santiago Province.