



THE LENTEN SEASON: A TIME TO BE ROOTED IN CHRIST

The special period of Lent is a particular time of encounter with the Lord in our process of spiritual renewal and rootedness in Christ and the message of the Gospel. Although it is an annually recurrent period, no Lent and Lenten experiences are the same, and each Lenten encounter is unique.

XXVI General Chapter offers us essential guidance in living through this year's Lenten season in a way that will enhance our rootedness in Christ. This is, in fact, one of the significant needs for our world and missions today. The world is still struggling to free itself from the deadly clutches of the COVID-19 virus and its variants. We are also faced with some other viruses such as the continued persecutions of Christians in some parts of the world, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, hunger, issues dealing with immigrants, and many others.

In the face of all these, we need to be rooted in Christ by our closeness to God in prayer. We have recourse to prayer because it is our source of strength. We may not have the capacity to resolve all the issues we encounter in the missions. Still, prayer, especially when it is done together, gives us the courage to go forth as brothers, bearing with others their crosses.

The Word of God is our invaluable source of continuous formation (QC 75). Embracing the Word of God roots us deeper in the faith, in communal and pastoral experiences, and in our hope for the salvation of humanity. We should never lose sight of our commitment to having a biblical focus on all our pastoral (and communal) activities (QC 74). This will go a long way to give us a solid biblical preparation that will characterize us as missionaries (QC 72a).

While we cannot but be aware of the situations in our world, Lent gives us the time to deepen our awareness of the Lord who is always with us like he did with his disciples. Such awareness of the Lord's presence is and should be, for every Claretian, a part of our rootedness in Christ. We must also take care to acknowledge the presence of our brothers in the mission and all with whom we share missions. Through our experiences with them, the Lord strengthens us and forms us into better missionaries.

This season is unique. Let us make good use of it to deepen the roots of our faith in Christ our Lord so we may never waver amidst the turbulent winds of our human frailty.



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ROOTED IN CHRIST AND AUDACIOUS IN THE MISSION

Days before the start of the Provincial Chapter of Santiago, we have asked Fr. Adolfo Lamata Muyo, CMF, its Provincial Superior, to say something about the preparations and his thought about it. The Chapter was presided over by Fr. Matthew Vattamattam, CMF, Superior General of the Congregation, from February 28 to March 1.

What were the preparations made?

Due to the pandemic, time pressure, and early Chapter date due to Pedro Belderrain's election to the General Government, we did our preparations mainly through online meetings except for the face-to-face Pre-capitular Assembly.

Using the dynamics of the General Chapter, we asked the communities before the Assembly to reflect on the weaknesses, diseases, or weeds and the strengths or seeds of life that have been germinating in their respective communities in the past six years. Likewise, members of the Province who had been delegates to the XXVI General Chapter gave an online formation to all the missionaries via Zoom and YouTube. We asked ourselves what audacious actions could make a difference in our Province that we would like to see realized before 2027.

Due to time constraints, online open consultation with the laity in our various areas (more than 100 people responded) was carried out to understand better the opinions of those who walk alongside us.

After the Assembly, a commission elaborated a document like the vademecum used as a reflection document of the General Chapter, synthesizing the most relevant contributions of the communities. Moreover, the document was sent to all the members of the Province to have a common journey among the members.

What is the uniqueness of this Chapter and the challenges involved in its preparation?

As we have had to delay the Chapter due to Covid from December to February, we have continued working online, anticipating some Chapter tasks, such as the presentation and evaluation of reports of the areas of government and a document on the community conversations. Virtual assemblies of the Chapter members took place in January and February.

I believe that we have overcome the challenge of the limited time available and the difficulty of face-to-face meetings using the available technology today.

Is there any relationship between your Chapter and the XXVI General Chapter?

Fundamentally, we will follow the outline of work of the General Chapter adjusted to a Chapter of 7-day duration. We understand our Chapter as agreeing with the Congregation's dreams and incarnating them in our Provincial reality.

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

Our Santiago Province is a consolidated reality that forms part of a charismatic community, a congregation in progress, which our Father and Founder dreamed of as a “great work”. We are in a singular moment of our history. A time of grace, in which the Church urges us to act in synodality; she encourages us to let all voices resound chorally; and she is convinced of the urgency of creating synergies that revitalize our mentalities, attitudes, practices, and structures.

We are aware of our personal and structural limitations, but we also know that -through good discernment- new perspectives will open for us that we do not yet perceive at first glance.

In our Province, the inversion of the age pyramid is a challenge: the average age of the Province is preponderantly high. It is no less true that: (a) most of our elders have transformed their longevity into a path of dedicated missionary life; (b) the province still has a consistent group of members, more than 70, in an officially active age and, for the most part, well prepared, with concerns, a spirit of work and creativity, as well as with the capacity to assume responsibilities; c) we are in a slow but sustained process of cultural transformation as Claretian missionaries from other cultures are sent to our communities; from homogeneity, we are moving to a multicultural model, and from this, we feel the urgency to open our minds and hearts to an inter-cultural world.

We have recognizable pastoral structures with diversified apostolic platforms that give us visibility, help us to express our missionary identity, and shape our sense of belonging to a well-defined apostolic body. Among us, there is also a solid ecclesial awareness and a sensitivity open to the concerns of today's people, as demonstrated by our willingness to collaborate, and serve the Church and our desire to transform the world according to God's plan.

Many of our missionaries work in qualified and creative apostolic fields: they collaborate in the universal Claretian mission, are engaged in theological and anthropological research, and offer timely services in civil and ecclesiastical institutions.

We are reasonably well organized and can ensure the maintenance of four elements of unquestionable relevance: a) the needs of our mission; b) the dignified sustenance of the communities and the absence of serious economic problems; c) the capacity to face extraordinary situations; d) the practice of internal and external communication of goods.

What are your hopes and dreams for the Province of Santiago?

Our Province of Santiago considers itself missionary, a pilgrim, and a sharer in the congregational dream of the XXVI General Chapter. It also desires to discover the dream that God places in our hearts so that we too may dream. Eager to respond to God's will for our provincial community in the coming years; therefore, we are united by the Spirit that the risen Jesus sent us and impelled by the congregational motto "rooted in Christ and audacious in the Mission."



IV PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF SANTIAGO

Colmenar Viejo, Spain. On February 23, the Province of Santiago held its IV Provincial Chapter in Colmenar Viejo. Sixty-eight missionaries from all its positions, including the missions of Paris, Zurich, and St. Petersburg-Murmansk, represented the two hundred and four missionaries spread over thirty-two communities of the Province. Fr. Mathew P. Vattamattam, CMF, our Superior General, presided.

The Provincial Chapter came ahead of schedule due to the election of the previous Provincial Superior as a member of the General Government.

The Eucharistic celebrations were attended by up to three prelates: Card. Osoro, Archbishop of Madrid on the 24th, Card. Aquilino Bocos, CMF, on the 27th and Msgr. Luis Angel de las Heras, CMF, Bishop of Leon, and former Provincial Superior of Santiago, on March 1.

On February 26 and 27, the Chapter elected the following missionaries to form the team that will animate and invigorate the different areas of the Province for the next six years:

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF SANTIAGO 2022 - 2028

Fr. Adolfo Lamata, CMF

Provincial Superior (3rd to the right)

Fr. Ángel de la Parte, CMF

Consultor and Pref. of Economy (2nd to the right)

Fr. Luis Arribas, CMF

Consultor and Pref. of Apostolate (left)

Fr. Anthony Igbokwe, CMF

Consultor y Pref. de Formación – Espiritualidad
(2nd to the left)

Fr. Teodoro Bahillo, CMF

Consultor (right)



CLOSING OF “ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET YEAR” IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA



Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. One hundred and seventy-one years after the arrival of Claret in the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba as an Archbishop, the Archdiocese celebrated a year in his honor. It closed on the 16th of February with the celebration of a Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral, presided over by Msgr. Dionisio García Ibáñez, the current Archbishop, accompanied by Local Ordinaries of Camaguey, Bayamo Manzanillo, Holguín Las Tunas. All these territories, including the Diocese of Guantánamo Baracoa, were part of the immense Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba in Claret’s time. The clergy of the Sees above, religious men and women, numerous parishioners participated.

Homilist Don Camilo Salmón highlighted Claret’s deep spirituality and missionary zeal, audacity, and commitment to his pastoral task in his extensive Diocese. He also emphasized his love and deep devotion to the Virgin of Charity of Cobre. He encouraged everyone that Claret’s life and missionary style continue as a reference for the pastoral work in the Archdiocese and all of Cuba. On the other hand, Msgr. García thanked the Lord for having been able to celebrate the event despite the difficulties

of Covid-19. He expressed his joy for having St. Anthony Mary Claret in Cuba, Patron of Catechesis and the Missions, and his missionary commitment to it despite dire circumstances. The archbishop also thanked the presence of his fellow bishops present, a sign of communion, and grateful recognition for Claret’s contribution to their respective Dioceses. And lastly, he thanked the Claretian Missionaries and the Claretian Missionary Sisters for our continued presence and missionary work in Cuba.

ECCLESIASTICAL NEWS

COMPETENTIAS QUASDAM DECERNERE

Rome, Italy. The Supreme Pontiff released a Motu Proprio entitled *Competentias quasdam decernere* on February 11, which modifies specific competencies affecting some provisions of the Code of Canon Law and the Oriental Churches.

According to Fr. José-Félix Valderrábano, CMF, our General Procurator, the following numbers will affect our Congregation. Article 5 extends the time for which the General Government can grant permission for exlaustration, and it goes from 3 to 5 years. Only when one wants to extend this time must one have recourse to the Holy See. And in article 7, the decree of expulsion of a perpetually professed member issued by the Superior General of a religious institute of pontifical right, with the approval of his Council, comes into effect from the moment it is made known to the person concerned. The prerequisites, that is, the canonical monitions and the lapse of time between them, are maintained. The person concerned has ten days to appeal against the decree.

A COMMON PRIESTHOOD TO MAKE GOD KNOWN

Vatican City. Center for Research and Anthropology of Vocations conducted a Symposium on Priesthood, an International Congress on Vocations: Priests, Laity, Consecrated on February 17 to 19 at the Paul VI Hall of the Vatican. It aimed to recover the true meaning of the common priesthood that all baptized persons partake.

The presence of our Congregation in this symposium through the ITVR of Madrid reflects our commitment as missionaries and formators in the heart of the people of God during crucial moments in the life of the Church. We know that only a deep, conscious, and joyful vocational experience can nourish and impetus our personal and community life and the various initiatives that we put in place to present to the men and women of our time the call of the Lord to work in his vineyard. And we want to walk synodically in this direction as well.

TWO RECOGNITIONS OF TWO AUDACIOUS CLARETIANS



In February, two Claretians gained recognition for their audacity in their given missions. They are Fr. José Cristo Rey García Paredes, CMF, of Santiago Province and Fr. Matías Augé, CMF of Sanctus Paulus Province.

Fr. José Cristo Rey is recognized by the Spanish Religious Conference (CONFER) for his ardent dedication of a lifetime in helping numerous generations of believers, and an uncountable number of religious of all ages and cultures around the world reflect and open horizons through the theological formation. He will receive the Charisma Award for Formation and Spirituality in November.

Fr. Matías, on the other hand, is recognized by the *Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica of Barcelona* (CPL) through the VIII Memorial Pere Tena de Pastoral Litúrgica held in Barcelona in February as a renowned liturgist and for decisively disseminated the liturgical reform promoted by the Second Vatican Council. Fr. Augé is recognized for his collaboration in forming different liturgy professors from all over the world, his conferences, writings in prestigious journals in liturgy, and his advice in this area.

ACLA

II DELEGATION ASSEMBLY OF PADRE XIFRÉ

Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Padre Xifré Independent Delegation members celebrated their II Assembly in Bata from February 13 to 18 with Fr. Joseph Mbung-Mutu, CMF as president, and Bro. Carlos Verga, CMF.

The Assembly took the dynamics of the XXVI General Chapter, starting from the reflection on the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the basis of the different conversations held in the Congregation. The members collectively reflected and searched for God's dream for them and hoped to collaborate in that dream in all possible means.

**PADRE XIFRÉ INDEPENDENT DELEGATION
GOVERNMENT 2022 - 2025**

Fr. Felix Oba Eworo Bilogo, CMF.

Major Superior (2nd to the left)

Fr. Salustiano Oyono Nguema Mangue, CMF

Consultor (left)

Fr. Théodore Ametrogbo Komlanvi, CMF

Consultor (2nd to the right)

Fr. Inocencio Moiché Solebaba, CMF

Economista Non-consultor (right)



25 YEARS OF CLARETIAN PRESENCE IN UGANDA



Jinja, Uganda. After a year of postponement, on January 5, St. Charles Lwanga Independent Delegation celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the arrival of the Claretians in Uganda. The celebration took place at the Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Parish, Kiyunga, in the Diocese of Jinja.

A day before the primary occasion, the Delegation joyfully celebrated the perpetual profession of the student Kizito Nkologi Mapeera, CMF at Blessed Andre Sola Philosophy. On the day itself, Msgr. Charles Martin Wamika, Bishop of Jinja, ordained the Claretian students Bazilio Kygionza, CMF, and Kizito Nkologi Mapeera, CMF, to the order of deacons and celebrated the International Day for Consecrated Life of the Diocese. The bishop appreciated the 25-year missionary work of the Claretians in his Diocese and the audacity of the missionaries who helped him pastor his flock.

YOUTH IDENTIFIED IN CHRIST AND HIS MISSION



Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. In February, the Youth Pastoral Coordination of Congo Independent Delegation organized a conference for the young people of the parishes of the Delegation. It took place in two different areas: the Kinshasa-Kwilungo axis at Saint Mathew Parish in Mikonga; and the Kikwit axis (Kindi, Kingandu, Paykongila) at Basantu Bonso Parish in Pay-kongila.

Fr. Aimée Nzuzi Nketi, CMF, the resource person, entitled the conference “Young people, live your Catholic Christian identity in a globalized society and a synodal Church,” inspired in the upcoming Synod of Bishops. The participants learned that today’s mission is to evangelize, announce, and proclaim.

ASCLA EAST

SEPE KITA COMMUNITY 2022-2025



Kupang, Indonesia. Fr. Valens Agino, CMF, Major Superior of Indonesia-Timor Leste Independent Delegation Leste, officially acknowledged the “SEPE KITA Community” in the Delegation, received the oath of office, and sent off its officials for 2022-2025 on Saturday, February 19, at the Hati Maria Seminary in Kupang. The program’s primary purpose is to promote solidarity, ecology, and communication to the people of Kupang and other areas.

Fr. Valens, their Spiritual Director, appreciated the many sacrifices that SEPE KITA Community does to serve others, a manifestation of one’s rootedness in Christ. He encouraged them to be audacious, not to be dissuaded

and discouraged when these moments come and turn it into an opportunity to serve their neighbors better. He also reminded them that this service entails challenges along the way.

ASCLA WEST

RECOGNIZED FOR SHARING LOVE, LIGHT, AND LIFE TO LEPROSY PATIENTS



Bangalore, India. Sumanahalli Society, managed by the Claretians of Bangalore since 1987, received the best Non-Government Organization award for work among the leprosy-affected in the State of Karnataka.

On behalf of the Society, Mr. Mastan Saheb, Sumanahalli’s senior-most staff with 40 years in the service, received the award handed over by Dr. Parimala S Maroor, Director of the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, during the Anti Leprosy Day program on the 31st of January.

Sumanahalli has supported leprosy patients living in all 11 colonies in Bangalore. It has built about 600 houses for leprosy-cured persons. It runs a school on the campus for children with leprosy, HIV, and disabilities. Various vocational training programs are provided for them to get employed, and a garments manufacturing unit offers them employment. Sumanahalli has become a hub of different social activities with projects for orphans, street boys, and juvenile delinquents apart from those affected by leprosy, HIV/AIDS, and disabilities. The motto of the Society is Love, Light, and Life.

ECLA

UKRAINE - RUSSIA CONFLICT

Truskavets, Ukraine. The scenario that many feared in the past months came to reality despite the many efforts to stop the war – talks and negotiations, interventions, sanctions, etc. After Russian military buildups near Ukraine’s borders in 2021, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. People in many places organized peace rallies, and one of them was that of Rome, where our brothers living in the eternal city also joined on February 17.

The Claretians of Polska Province, who have been in Truskavets for two years now, Frs. Wojciech Kobylinski, CMF (Superior), Krzysztof Labedz, CMF (Parish Priest), and Marcin Kukus, CMF (Econome), together with the sisters who are also working in the same area, are safe and decided to remain and care for their people as much as possible.

As we dream of a Congregation committed to universal brotherhood, justice, peace and the care for the common home, we join the Holy Father in his appeal to pray for peace, and for all the people who are affected by this conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

X PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF DEUTSCHLAND

Spaichingen, Germany. Deutschland Province had its X Provincial Chapter from February 7 to 12 at the Dreifaltigkeitsberg House in Spaichingen with Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, as President. Deutschland chose to take the same dynamics and theme of the XXVI General Chapter with a slight modification on the slogan - "Being Rooted in Christ and Audacious in Mission in German-Speaking Europe Today."

It's the first time, after an extended period, that the Chapter is celebrated in the German language.



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF DEUTSCHLAND 2022 - 2028

Callistus Joseph, CMF

Provincial Superior (*3rd from the right*)

George Hopf, CMF

Consultor & Prefect of Apostolate (*2nd from the left*)

Stephen Emmanuel Michael, CMF

Consultor & Prefect of Formation (*left*)

Alfons Schmid, CMF

Consultor & Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life
(*2nd from the right*)

James Patteril, CMF

Consultor & Provincial Econome (*right*)

MICLA

INNOVATING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN JI-PARANÁ OF THE AMAZON REGION



Ji-Paraná, Brazil. Claretiano Educational Network extended its high-quality educational system to the kindergarten and elementary school children in Ji-Paraná.

"With the school in Ji-Paraná, in the Amazon region, the Claretiano is meeting the call of the Church. This is the fourth school in the Amazon region, and we will start serving 130 students from kindergarten to 5th grade. We are in a building that, in the past, housed a school, and this will help us in the environment of our teaching unit," said Fr. Luiz Botteon, CMF, Administrative Director of the Claretiano – Education Network.

One of the novelties of the school is the English Stars bilingual education in the curriculum of Pre2 to 5th grade, with three weekly classes. With English Stars and the physical material, students have access to a gamified digital platform. It develops 21st-century skills through classroom activities. It promotes effective communication, critical thinking, and collaborative work. It works with the integrated, project-based methodology STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), which aims to educate people with diverse knowledge, develop values and prepare citizens for future challenges. The school also works with Integrative Projects to stimulate memorization, concentration, planning, and the ability to make decisions.

Now Ji-Paraná has the best and most modern education, with contemporary structure, innovative teaching material and a complete educational formation.

CLARETIAN FAMILY

CLARET WAY A YOUTH MINISTRY OR A NETWORK?

At the outset, it is important to state that this is not a new youth ministry or a parallel proposal. Two images serve to clarify what Claret Way (CW) is. The first image is that of the umbrella: in this sense, CW is a proposal that seeks to embrace all the pastoral initiatives directed to young people 18+ of the Claretian Family (CF). The second image is that of a network, which connects such initiatives as CF in the field of Youth Ministry and Vocations.

Then, what is Claret Way?

CW is the World Network of young people of our charismatic family. It desires to **link** all young people from 18 to 30 years of age from the different areas of the Claretian Family, **integrating** the local and regional proposals of the YVM in CF to offer **experiences and spaces of communion** in the universal mission of the Church under our **Claretian charism** in following the lifestyle of Jesus.

What is the purpose of this Network?

To link the 18+ youth of the different areas of the CF in a worldwide network with the animators and leaders of the YVM and the other branches of the Claretian Family.

What do we want to achieve as CF?

We want to achieve that the youth of the CF participate in experiences and spaces of communion throughout the world so that the richness of the Claretian charism is visualized in all its branches, which form a Family.

How do we do it?

Undoubtedly, the first effort that we must strive for is to create family bonds in Pastoral Care. Internalizing that the spirituality of Claret is much more comprehensive than the charism of a single branch of the Family; that is, it is a gift of the Spirit that is understood in its fullness from the diversity of charisms of the Family.

On the other hand, it is necessary to systematize how we can work in a network. In this sense, four cardinal points help to orient the proposals and the work in the network: to know (formative proposals), to love (community and spirituality proposals), to serve (missionary and volunteer proposals), and to praise (celebration and prayer proposals).



CALLED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2022

- 01 FR. SALVATORE JOSEPH BONANO
at 103 in Los Angeles, USA.
USA-Canada Province.
- 05 FR. SANTIAGO GONZÁLEZ GÓMEZ
at 89 in Quezon City, Philippines.
Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province.
- 07 FR. PIOTR MORCINIEC
at 78 in Tarnowskie Góry, Poland
Polska Province.
- 21 FR. JOSEPH MADHAVATH
at 85 in Kuravilangad, India.
St. Thomas Province.
- 22 FR. JOSÉ MARÍA PÉREZ DÍEZ
at 97 in León, Spain.
Santiago Province.
- 22 FR. ANTÓNIO LOPES DA SILVA
at 93 in Viseu, Portugal.
Fátima Province.