

Celebration for the beginning of the project

(All community members will gather in the Chapel. Various contributions of readings and canticles will have been prepared. On the altar there will be a copy of the bible for each Claretian).

Opening statement (reader)

Brothers: As Claretian missionaries, we are called to be listeners and servants of the Word. During this period of Advent 2010 we are embarking on the journey of the Forge project in our daily lives. Aware of the fact that life in the Spirit has to take precedence in life's plan, we want to give special priority to fostering our own continuous formation and to strengthen the Christian dimension of our lives. As we pray together, we begin our journey of the Forge project in our daily lives, beseeching the help and assistance of the Spirit of the Risen Lord and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother and Formator.

Entrance hymn

Presider's welcome

Lord Jesus, Son of the Father, born of Mary and anointed by the Spirit "is the passion that spurs us on and the path we follow" (MFL 46) be with you all and go with you always.

Prayer (recited by all)

Don't give up, Lord, continue to insist
on coming to us,
on becoming a permanent guest
in our community.
Never stop drawing near.
Remain committed
to taking the worn iron
of our tired and exhausted lives
in our efforts as missionaries
and put it in the fire of your love.
Mould us patiently
with gentle strokes of light
on the anvil of prayer
and of shared life
so that we come to be
the shape of Christ the missionary.
Transform us into sharp arrows,
To fly accurately to wherever needed
to radiate the love of God,
and proclaim the beautiful news of the kingdom,
with words of truth
and works of justice.
Remain committed,
In spite of us
and all the obstacles
that hamper your arrival.
There will come a day
when everything will be
as you want.

Readings

Acts of the Apostles 2, 42. 44-47 (reader)

At that time they were faithful to the teaching of the apostles, the common life of sharing, the breaking of bread and the prayers. Now all the believers lived together and shared all their belongings. They would sell their property and all they had and distribute the proceeds to others according to their need. Each day they met together in the Temple area; they broke bread in their homes; they shared their food with great joy and simplicity of heart; they praised God and won the people's favour. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

St Anthony Mary Claret (Aut. 342) (Reader)

"At the beginning of my stay in Vich I was undergoing an experience not unlike what goes on in a blacksmith's shop. The smith thrusts an iron bar into the furnace, and when it is white-hot he draws it out, places it on the anvil, and begins to hammer it. His assistant joins in, and the two of them keep alternating hammer-blows in a sort of rhythmic dance until the iron takes the shape the smith planned. You, my Lord and Master, thrust my heart into the furnace of the Spiritual Exercises and frequent reception of the Sacraments; and after thus setting my heart on fire with love for you and the Blessed Virgin Mary, you began to hammer away at me with humiliations, and I, too, began hammering away with my particular examen on this virtue that I needed so badly."

Homily

(This could be the time to read and comment on some of the suggestions and inducements in Father General's letter, which announced the Forge project in our daily lives.)

Presentation of the bible

(After the readings and homily, if done during Lauds, or after the normal homily if done during the Eucharist, the community Superior should present, to each member, the Bible they are going to use for the "lectio divina", with the following words).

(Name).....receive this Bible

Which contains the Word of God

For which you have been nominated a messenger

Make a living faith of what you read;

Teach others the living faith you have experienced

And fulfil in your life what you have taught them.

Intercessions

United in the Holy Spirit, to Christ, to Mary and to Fr Claret, we ask for help to faithfully and profitably carry forward the Forge project in our daily lives.

- So that the Forge will propel us to seek the glory of God and the salvation of every human being, praying, working and suffering. We pray to the Lord.

- So that, on fire with prayer like Claret, we purify our apostolic motivation and direct all that we are and all that we do to being a listener and servant of the Word of God. We pray to the Lord.

- So that the Holy Spirit will maintain and rekindle the fire of our vocations through this continuous process of deepening our understanding of the call, and of our formation in his discipleship until we are moulded in Christ's image. We pray to the Lord.

- So that the mission, which is entrusted to us, springs from the love of God, is nourished frequently by the Word and the Eucharist, is proclaimed with praise and is spread throughout the world under the banner of mercy and friendship, especially toward the poor and dispossessed. We pray to the Lord.

- So that, on this path of formation which we are about to begin, we do not give in to fatigue, discouragement, despair or reluctance, but are stimulated by prayer, the prayerful reading of the Word, and the spiritual study and dynamism of the liturgy. We pray to the Lord.

Other spontaneous intercessions can be added.

Our Father.

The Lord who always feeds and fortifies us with the bread of the Word and with the bread of the Eucharist, diligently shared, invites us to pray together: Our Father.....

Final prayer: Mother of Divine Love (Sp. Dir. 16) (Said by all)

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.

Help me, satisfy my need.

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

Hymn (Hymn to Fr Claret)