



Yogyakarta, 7 May 2025

## 75th Anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Anthony Mary Claret

Dear Brothers,

On 7th May, 75 years ago, the Church solemnly proclaimed our Father Founder, Saint Anthony Mary Claret, a saint. Today, we join in deep gratitude and joyful remembrance—not merely to commemorate an event of the past, but to rekindle in ourselves the fire of holiness that shaped Claret’s life and must continue to illuminate our own.

Claret allowed the Spirit to shape him into a living icon of Jesus the missionary. His holiness was not a pedestal but a path—a daily journey through struggle, passion, and surrender to the will of God. His words still echo with urgency: *“This same idea... has made me and still makes me work as long as I live for the conversion of sinners.”* (Aut 9)

Pope Francis, in *Gaudete et Exsultate*, reminds us that holiness is not a privilege of a few, but the vocation of all. It shines most in the lives of the “saints next door,” those who live the Gospel in ordinary ways with extraordinary love. In Claret, we see a man who lived holiness as mission—set afire with love, configured to Christ, and moved by the Spirit to reach out in tireless apostolic zeal.

Today, as we celebrate also the Claretian Family Day, we are invited to live this vocation not in isolation, but in communion. The call to holiness is personal, but never private. We are sons of the Heart of Mary—formed together in her tenderness, sent together in her name. Our unity in mission is both a grace and a witness: when we walk as one body, we make visible the holiness of God in the world.

Let us encourage one another to be saints—not in stained glass, but in the reality of daily life: in community, in pastoral dedication, in the humble tasks of service and listening. Let us sanctify one another through our presence, our patience, our forgiveness, our shared passion for the Gospel.

Claret’s canonization is not a distant glory; it is a living seed entrusted to us. Let it grow. The Church and the world await the witness of our holiness—shown in each of us, when we live our vocation with love, united in spirit and in the transforming love of the Heart of Mary.

With fraternal affection and prayer,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathew Vattamattam', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mathew Vattamattam, CMF**  
*Superior General*