



Prot. SG 131/2025

LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AFTER THE INTENSIVE SESSIONS

Dear brothers,

As pilgrims of hope journeying together along the synodal path, we find deep joy in contributing to the realization of God's Dream for humanity - what Jesus so lovingly called the Kingdom of God.

We are witnessing many signs of the Spirit stirring hearts and inspiring new forms of collaboration across cultures and communities. From individuals and small groups committed to justice, peace, and care for our common home, we see the quiet emergence of a humanity being woven into the interconnected fabric of our world. In the face of natural disasters and human suffering, these humble efforts to heal, reach out, and rebuild are more visible.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the painful realities that continue to weigh heavily on our global family. Wars and senseless violence, the widening gap between rich and poor, political polarization, and the reckless exploitation of our planet all reveal a troubling drift from the values of the Gospel. The thirst for power and wealth often drowns out the cry for justice, truth, and compassion.

In this context, our small Claretian family, inspired by the charism of our Founder, is called to be a living sign of hope. Through the way we care for one another and extend our love beyond ourselves, we become signs of God's presence and compassion, radiating hope to the world.

During our recent intensive Council meeting in March, we were deeply moved to recognize and affirm the Gospel values that continue to quietly but consistently shape our Congregational life. One such value is the spirit of solidarity. I was especially touched by the sincere concern of all Major Organisms for the common good of the Congregation, expressed tangibly in the generous sharing of resources. Regardless of financial status, each Major Organism contributes to the Common Box. This spirit of generosity sustains our Congregation and enables growth in newer Organisms.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Major Superiors and their communities for their faithful embodiment of this Gospel value. Your sharing of resources do not come from surplus, but from the fruits of intentional sacrifices, missionary labor, and a deep love for the Congregation. This spirit of giving shapes us into a simpler, more generous, and Christ-centered missionary community. It also places a serious responsibility on growing Organisms to use the contributions wisely, laying solid foundations for their sustainable development and the integral growth to be at the service of *Missio Dei*.

Another vital dimension that calls for our intentional care is the deepening of intercultural living and commitment to universal mission. We have taken some steps to improve the processes of preparing and receiving missionaries sent in universal mission. In the context of the rapidly changing demographic face of the Congregation, interculturality, inculturation, and missionary sending require concerted efforts at the level of the entire Congregation. Let us strive together to cultivate and deepen these values in our communities and ministries.

Years have passed since our XXVI General Chapter. The midpoint of the sexennium invites us to pause and reflect on our congregational journey. During the October sessions of the General Government, we carefully evaluated our ministry of animation in pursuing the Dream, Designs, and Commitments (QC 43-95) that emerged from our Chapter discernment and the Action Plan of the General Government to accompany the process of their implementation.

COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS: INFORMATION AND DECISIONS

The new Province Ave Maria

On February 25, 2025, the Government of the Independent Delegation of Indonesia-Timor Leste formally requested the canonical shift of the Delegation to a Province after due process of preparation and discernment in close communication with the General Government. The General Council decided to accept and grant this request. The government of the Delegation is named as the new government of the Province until the celebration of the First Provincial Chapter in the beginning of September 2025.

Establishment of St. Jean Paul II as an Independent Delegation

After a process of discernment, the Province of Poland petitioned for a change of status of the dependent Delegation of St. John Paul II, its mission in Africa. The General Government decided to erect the dependent Delegation of St. John Paul II into an Independent Delegation which will come to effect on October 22, 2025.

Budget Approvals and the declarations of stable patrimony

The budgets of all the Major Organisms were reviewed and approved. There is significant progress in the Major Organisms in the presentation of their Balance and Budget. The stable patrimony of the Major Organisms which were presented were reviewed and approved. We expect the other Major Organisms to complete the process.

Courses on Economy

We notice significant improvement in the participation and completion of the courses on economy organized by the General Prefecture of economy. Congratulations to the formation houses which have recorded a high level of participation and completion of the course. I invite the Major Superiors and formators to promote and accompany the participation of our missionaries in these courses to create a Claretian culture of responsible custodianship of the temporal goods in the spirit of our Founder.

Communication Directory Drafting

The drafting of communication guidelines is an ongoing priority, set to be completed by October 2025. This document aims to provide criteria for the communication mission of the Congregation, incorporating inputs from communication leaders in different Major Organisms. A comprehensive review of the communication plan has been conducted to align with changing needs and technological advancements. In the light of the experience of previous years, the Prefecture of Bible and Communication is in a better condition to improve networking and collaboration in the apostolate in the digital word with the ongoing collaboration of the Cybermissionaries.

Innovations on the Webpage

New features in the NUNC include smart links for easy navigation, updates on ordinations and professions, and access to official media channels. Materials related to the 175th jubilee anniversary, Spirituality Congress, history of the Congregation, Claretian missions, and Care and Safe environment have been incorporated into our website <https://www.claret.org/>.

Introduction of iClaret News

iClaret News is a monthly video broadcast designed to inform, inspire, and engage Claretian communities and collaborators. It will be available in English and Spanish through social media channels and the official website. A supplementary podcast is being considered.

Youth Jubilee Rome 2025

An estimated 500 young people from the Claret Way Global will participate in the event from July 27 to August 4, 2025. Activities will be held at the Basilica in Parioli (Rome), with special events exclusive to our participants on July 28, 2025.

Claret Way Global Materials

The first set of training materials for young people in *Claret Way Global* is nearing completion. Among the finalized resources are: *“Keys to Making Decisions at the Crossroads of Life: Following the Example of St. Anthony Mary Claret”*, *“Journeys that Transform: Experiences of Walkers”*, and *“Discovering Jesus: 10 Gospel Texts to Walk with Him and His Disciples”*. This formative itinerary, developed for the young people of the Claretian Family Youth Network, is the fruit of collaborative work involving all branches of our charismatic family.

Day of Claretian Vocation

The celebration is set for May 31, 2025, prepared by ACLA, with reflections on the theme of Jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope."

Claretian Bishops Encounter

Coinciding with the Jubilee of Bishops, at least a dozen Claretian bishops will hold a meeting at the General Curia from June 26 to 28, during which they will attempt to connect online with those who cannot attend.

Education

Apostolate General Prefecture aims to boost the coordination of our presence in the educational world during 2025. Without abandoning the path we share with the Claretian Family, the prefecture will make some proposals in the coming months.

Parishes

An orientation document for parishes entrusted to the Congregation is being developed, emphasizing Claretian identity, pastoral accompaniment, and management.

Care and Safe environments

An e-mail account tutela@cmfgen.org is openly offered in <https://www.claret.org> for any person to communicate any issues of abuse to Congregation. Our Congregation's *Vademecum* can also be downloaded there <https://www.claret.org/safeguarding/>. Major Organisms are requested to update their Protocols and Manuals before January 1st 2026, and send them to Secretary General.

General Mission Procure (GMP)

The GMP team, in collaboration with the General Prefect of Apostolate, has reviewed over 350 projects currently under its purview. Considering this, the Congregation's criteria for projects' presentation and management will be reiterated to the Governments and Procurators of the Major Organisms. Given the evolving landscape of project funding -which increasingly demands a more professional and strategic approach- it is essential to enhance both the functioning of our Procure Offices and the way projects are conceived and prepared at the level of the Major Organisms.

Claretian Mission Day

We are encouraged by the growing interest and participation in Claretian Mission Day across the Congregation. For the 2025 edition, the General Mission Procure, with the support of several Major Organisms, has made significant efforts to prepare meaningful resources. A comprehensive *Manual of Resources* is now available in five languages to facilitate wider engagement. We warmly invite all Major Organisms to actively promote this day celebrated on April 27 or another suitable moment during the year. While fundraising remains an important aspect, equal emphasis should be

placed on deepening the knowledge of our missions, fostering a vibrant missionary spirit, and offering prayerful support for the mission.

Solidarity and Mission (SoMi) Initiatives

Two SOMI workshops were held in Asia between November and December, and another is scheduled for ACLA in Africa (Kenya) this coming November. The General Mission Procure launched its first formation program for 2025, drawing participation from over 130 members. More than 100 people took part in the JPIC Claretian Family Workshop held on March 22. Currently, over 30 participants from various continents are engaged in a six-month program organized by the Claretians at the United Nations, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implementation.

Heart of Mary School for Formators - 2025 English Edition

Eighteen participants have joined online program that started March 15 and will finish at the end of May, with in-person sessions from June to July. This edition's second phase will be held in person in June and July in Vic, Barbastro, and Madrid.

Manual for Formation

A manual or handbook to complement the General Plan of Formation is being pursued to address practical formation issues.

Formation of Formators of French-speaking areas

A plan for formators from Congo, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroun from August 4-14, 2025.

Encounter of Prefects of Formation

The encounter will be held in Vic from November 3-12, 2025, with preparations underway.

Unification of the Statutes of CESC and La Fragua

At the beginning of the current six-year term, a decision was made to integrate *La Fragua* into the CESC (Claretian Spirituality Center in Vic), with the aim of strengthening their shared mission of deepening and promoting Claretian spirituality. This integration seeks to preserve the unique objectives of each initiative while enhancing their collaborative impact. In this regard, work is underway to coordinate their statutes further.

La Fragua 2025

We are about to hold *La Fragua* in French for the first time from April 22 to July 10 at Los Negrales (Madrid). We have also just announced *La Fragua* in English, which will be from September 20 to December 8.

Encounter with Claret

After many years of interruption, we will once again hold the *Encounter with Claret* in Spanish, from April 25 to May 25. 2026 it will be held in English.

Claretian Sanctuaries

The Commission of Claretian Sanctuaries (Sallent, Vic, Barbastro, and the Basilica in Rome) held its first online meeting with the goal of strengthening these Claretian places as “spaces of inspiration and renewal” (QC 48). Proposals have been presented to improve the facilities, hospitality, and the use of digital and technological media.

Follow-up of the Spirituality Congress

From April 8 to 12, the Spirituality Congress Commission will meet in Rome to draft the Final Document and a proposal for community conversation based on the content of the Congress.

Claretian Liturgical Books

The liturgical books of the Congregation -The *CMF Liturgy of the Hours* and the *Proper CMF Missal with the Rite of Religious Profession*- have already been reviewed and updated. The Spanish versions of both books are in the process of being published, while the English versions are currently with the Dicastery for Divine Worship awaiting approval.

Claretian publications

Some books are being published and made available in English and Spanish. They include "Dreaming with God", "Apostolic Prayer" and the "Definition of the Missionary". Besides, the English version of Fr. Gustavo Alonso "History of the Congregation after Vatican II" will be published.

Claretian Spirituality Apps

The spirituality apps *Fussimanya*, *Claretian Year*, and *Claret with You*, which were previously managed from Brazil, are now being transferred to the General Curia.

Interculturality Workshops

We continue with the two annual sessions of the online *Interculturality Workshop*. The first will be held from May to July, and the second from September to November.

Major Superiors Meeting 2026

Preparations for the next General Chapter (2027) are underway, initiating with a meeting of the Major Superiors with General Government to be held in Asia from 2-9 March 2026. The venue will be informed later.

Approval of Statutes

The Statutes of ACLA, InCLA, the mission of Mozambique and the Minor Basilica Sacro Cuore di Maria (Rome), were reviewed and approved.

Films: 'Un Dios Prohibido' and 'Claret'

Digital access to these films will be available through the www.claret.org website.

Encounter of Missionary Brothers 2025

The encounter will be held from September 8-14, 2025, in Rome, Italy. This is an occasion for the whole Congregation to reflect on the gift of Brothers in the Congregation and do our best to welcome and accompany vocations of Missionary Brothers.

Changes and Appointments in the Generalate offices and houses

After nine years of commendable service at the General Mission Procure, Fr. Lord Winner from Chennai Province will be handing over the responsibilities of the office to Fr. Gabriel Ponce from Fatima Province effective May 1, 2025. Looking ahead to 2025, two missionaries Fr. Antony Bhyju from Kolkata and Fr. Rodolfo Morales from Centroamerica will be joining the team of CESC upon the completion of their current ministries. Fr. George Lanithottam from St. Thomas Province is completing his long and dedicated teaching ministry at Claretianum, Rome, where he has served for over 30 years. I express my heartfelt gratitude to these missionaries and their respective Major Organisms for their availability and generous service in support of the General Offices and Houses.

Père Carmel Lerma Foundation

The Statutes of Père Carmel Lerma Foundation, an initiative of Ms. Pauline Rondeau, from Canada, have been approved. This Foundation to support missions is created in gratitude the missionary zeal of our missionary, late Fr. Carmelo Lerma, who missioned in Canada.

Dear brothers, these developments are fruits of our collective listening, discernment, and commitment to the mission entrusted to us. May our hearts remain open, our collaboration strong, and our missionary zeal alive.

Let us continue to walk together, nurturing this culture of care and hope - both within our communities and in the wider world that longs for signs of the Kingdom.

With heartfelt affection and gratitude,
Sincerely,



Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF
Superior General



Sok, Indonesia, April 03, 2025