



Prot. SG 383/2025

LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AFTER THE INTENSIVE SESSIONS

Walking together as pilgrims of hope and artisans of peace

Dear brothers,

Fraternal greetings in the Heart of Mary.

This Jubilee Year has been both a time of grace and of intense activity here in the General Curia. We have joyfully participated in various Jubilee events organized by the Holy See, carrying with them the faith and enthusiasm of our communities from across the continents.

Within this wider ecclesial horizon, the Church has witnessed a historic moment with the transition from the pontificate of Pope Francis to that of Pope Leo XIV—a living sign of how the Lord guides His Church through the harmony of continuity and renewal, unity and diversity. The Jubilee celebrations weave together memory and promise, past and present, inviting the whole People of God to journey with renewed hope towards the future.

The Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV continues the synodal path with depth and conviction, following the lead opened by Pope Francis. His first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, resounds with the heartbeat of both Popes for the poor. It calls the whole Church to see reality with God's gaze and to ensure that none of God's children are excluded from the abundance of His gifts.

The apostolic letter *Drawing New Maps of Hope* reminds us that Catholic education remains a vital "map of hope" in a world that has grown fragmented and unequal. It urges us to place the whole person at the center, to build bridges rather than walls through an education that listens, serves, and unites. We are not called merely to preserve traditions, but to creatively renew our educational horizons, nurture interior life, engage technology with wisdom, and foster peace so that every learner may discover dignity, truth, and vocation in communion with others.

Towards the XXVII General Chapter

The General Government has begun the initial preparations for our next General Chapter. Our first task has been to review our present Action Plan with gratitude for what has been achieved and with attentiveness to what still calls for continuity and renewed resolve.

Among these areas, we noted the importance of deepening our commitment to discerning leadership (Action Plan no. 32) and to universal missionary availability (no. 42). Both call for clear systems, creativity, and stronger networks of Congregational collaboration.

We also recognized the need to give greater impetus to our online formation platforms, especially programs on the economy, interculturality, and other formative themes. Starting next quarter, each Major Organism will designate at least one formation coordinator responsible for increasing participation and gathering feedback. These tools offer valuable opportunities for shared learning and for fostering a common vision. Yet, to benefit from them, we must all cultivate a deeper sense of motivation and perseverance. It is not enough that the banquet is prepared; we must also have the freedom and desire to sit at the table and be nourished.

The Forge program continues to be a privileged space for personal renewal in the Claretian charism. We encourage all Major Organisms to promote their members' participation, ensuring that each missionary can periodically rekindle the fire of his vocation. Some Provinces have already organized inculturated versions of the *Forge* for their members—an inspiring example of how our common spirit can take root in diverse contexts.

As we look ahead, the General Government has also begun to listen and discern the priority calls of God for our times—those urgent invitations that the next General Chapter may need to recognize and embrace. The forthcoming Meeting of Major Superiors in March 2026 will be a significant step in this journey of shared discernment. Together, we will ask: *What is the Spirit saying to us as Claretians today? How can we prepare our communities to hear and respond like one body?* We count on the collaboration of every Organism to make this preparatory phase a time of discernment, creativity, and communion.

Weaving bonds of communion in the spirit of the jubilee

During the intensive sessions, the General Government also shared moments of fraternal exchange and collaboration. We had a cordial meeting with the General Government of the RMI Sisters and with our collaborators in the General Curia. An online meeting with the Major Superiors allowed us to listen together to the life of the Congregation and to discern common paths forward in the light of our Chapter preparation.

We also thank God for the meetings of the Claretian Bishops and of the Claretian Brothers, both held in Rome. These encounters have renewed our gratitude for the diverse vocations within our Congregation, the Claretian charism that unites us as one family. We have reflected together on the valuable insights and suggestions emerging from these gatherings, which will help us continue walking with greater unity and missionary depth.

Finally, we were blessed to welcome Cardinal Baldassare Reina, General Vicar of Pope Leo XIV for the Diocese of Rome, whose visit reminded us of our close communion with the local Church and our shared service to the People of God.

Missionary Mystics: Bearing the fruits of the Congregational Jubilee

After celebrating 175 years of our Foundation—living as missionary mystics, we now move forward to embody the fruits of the Congregational Jubilee and the Claretian Spirituality Congress in our daily lives and communities. The final document of the Congress has already been published, and each missionary has received a copy. It is a precious resource inviting us to deepen the experience of the Congress and to renew our missionary spirituality, both personally and communally. Let us make good use of this gift to grow as pilgrims of hope and artisans of peace, allowing our missionary life to radiate the joy of the Gospel in every place and culture where we serve.

Facilitating vocations to the Congregation

The vitality of our missionary witness will always attract new vocations. When our communities radiate joy, fraternity, and passion for the Gospel, the Spirit continues to awaken the missionary call in others. Vocation is a mystery of grace, and our joyful missionary life in community is the key to understanding it. Major Organisms that limit vocations for lack of funds risk promoting missionary sterility. Prudence and good discernment are essential, but let us cultivate a vocational culture that believes in the fruitfulness of God's call. The new Vocation Directory, soon to reach your hands, offers valuable insights and orientations to help us deepen our own vocation and foster new ones. In the coming year, we plan to organize conference-level encounters for those responsible for vocational facilitation, so that together we may welcome, study, and integrate the insights of the Directory into our life and mission.

Commitment to integral and transformative formation

Nothing impacts the vitality of the Congregation more than ensuring integral and transformative formation. We need well-prepared formators willing to dedicate their lives to the growth of our missionaries. With intercultural and interprovincial formation centers, this commitment becomes even more essential. It is a call to all Major Organisms and Conferences to give top priority to formation.

We encourage every Organism to update its Formation Plan in line with the General Plan of Formation (GPF 2020). The General Prefecture of Formation is preparing a Formation Manual with practical tools to accompany the GPF and to support our formators. Formation is both a shared responsibility and a lifelong process of integral growth in the human, spiritual, pastoral, and charismatic dimensions.

Specialization of our missionaries

A further key area is the specialized formation of our missionaries, a long-term investment whose fruits will mature over time. When well-accompanied, missionaries become catalysts who empower others, enrich our apostolates, and bring creative innovation to our ministries.

Each Major Superior is invited to accompany those doing specialization within their jurisdiction, ensuring academic excellence and integral growth. Close collaboration between the Major Superiors of origin and of the hosting Organisms is encouraged, fostering clarity of objectives, mutual support, and a living sense of belonging to the wider Congregation.

One Word, many voices

The ministries of Bible and Communication remain central to our Claretian mission of spreading the Word of God. The collaboration among Organisms—especially through the Bible Diary project and digital media—continues to bear fruit. Let us use our communication platforms with professionalism and missionary passion. The Conference-level workshops in this field are helping us to walk together, ensuring that the Word reaches people in creative and accessible ways.

The social face of our mission

Our Solidarity and Mission (SOMI) network continues to mature as the social face of the Congregation. The ongoing conference-level workshops allow us to walk together, harmonizing our responses to the cries of the earth and the poor. By acting in communion and drawing inspiration from the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, we strengthen our prophetic witness for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

The new call for mission procures.

During the Council, we evaluated the service of the General Mission Procure considering the emerging global scenario. Strengthening local mission procures and coordination with international agencies will require collective professionalism and transparency.

Sharing builds communion.

Let us continue forming ourselves in sound economic management and evangelical stewardship, sharing what God entrusts to us with simplicity and transparency, always mindful of the common good.

Economic self-sustainability plans

The Council reviewed and approved the economic self-sustenance plan of the Kolkata Delegation, appreciating the effort and vision it represents for the future sustainability of their mission. We encourage all Major Organisms to give serious attention to preparing or updating their own self-sustainability plans as an expression of responsible stewardship and shared commitment to the continuity of our missionary service.

The Vicariate of Darién

We also reflected on the Apostolic Vicariate of Darién in Panama—the only Vicariate entrusted to the pastoral care of our Congregation—which will soon celebrate one hundred years since it was assumed by the Claretians at the end of November 1925. As we approach this milestone, the General Government has sought guidance and clarification from the Dicastery for Evangelization on how the Congregation should best accompany and sustain a Vicariate entrusted to its care today. This dialogue invites us to discern, with fidelity and creativity, the ways to continue serving that Church with our charism.

DECISIONS TAKEN DURING THE INTENSIVE SESSIONS.

The following key decisions were taken:

Approval of Assembly documents

The General Government approved the assembly documents of Antillas, Cameroon, Congo, Korea, Mae da Africa, St. Joseph Vaz, and West Nigeria.

Approval of Chapter documents

The General Government approved the chapter documents of Ave Maria and Centroamérica.

Appointment of the first government of Saint Jean Paul II

The first government was constituted for the newly erected Independent Delegation.

Changes in the provincial government of Deutschland Province

Fr. Georg Hopf was appointed as provincial econome, replacing Fr. James Patteril, who was nominated Bishop of Belthangady (India) by the Holy Father. Fr. Ankit Chaudhary was appointed as a new Consultor in the Provincial Government.

Closure of Camp Claret in Canada

Approval was granted to the petition of the USA–Canada Province to terminate the operation of Camp Claret as a Claretian summer program for children.

Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions

A Commission of Experts was created to draft proposals for the 2027 General Chapter.

New appointments in the service of the General Government

- Fr. Jude Langeh (Cameroon) was incorporated into the service of the General Government to promote discerning leadership and universal mission planning.
- Appointment of Fr. Antony Bhyju (Kolkata) as Director of the English version of Forge and Fr. Rodolfo Morales (Centroamerica) as the director of its Spanish version. Fr. Bhyju will reside in the General Curia while Fr. Rodolfo will stay at CESC in Vic.
- Fr. Jean Baptiste Makilandi (Congo) joined the Curia community while serving as Spiritual Director at *Collegio Urbaniano* in Rome.

Authorization for land purchases

- Acquisition of a piece of land in *Ankarana (Madagascar)* for mission development.
- Acquisition of a piece of land in *Makurdi (Nigeria)* for future mission expansion.

Approval of the petition for a new dependent delegation

Approval of the North Nigeria Dependent Delegation, belonging to East Nigeria Province, effective December 8, 2025, marking a new stage in the consolidation of our missionary presence in the region.

Approval of the Statutes of the Claretian Family

The Statutes were approved, marking a step forward in strengthening communion among the branches of the Claretian Family.

Major congregational encounters

- Encounter of Governments of ASCLA with the General Government in the Philippines on December 3-12, 2025.
- Encounter of Major Superiors with the General Government in Sri Lanka on March 2-9, 2026.

In-person courses

- Course for New Major Superiors: January 22-31, 2026, Rome.
- Course for New Secretaries: May 11- 18, 2026, Rome.

Youth and Vocation Ministry

Appointment of new members of the Advisory Council for YVM, continuation of the global Claret Way network, Continental workshops for referents of the Major Organisms next year, and preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul.

Prayer for Peace initiative

Decision to dedicate a chapel in the Basilica of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Parioli, in agreement with the community and the parish, as a permanent place of prayer for peace, integrated with the JPIC and SOMI.

Ongoing congregational projects

- Finalization of the project for Institutes of Consecrated Life.
- Renewal of Safeguarding Protocols in all Organisms.
- Planning of canonical visits to MICLA Organisms in 2026.
- Commitment to assist in the mission of Haiti in coordination with the local Church.

CONCLUSION

These decisions express our shared journey of governance and discernment and reflect the Congregation's desire to walk together in mission, communion, and service. As we move forward, may these decisions inspire us to continue walking as brothers, listening to the Spirit and to one another, in joyful fidelity to our missionary calling. Let us make hope and joy the natural fragrance of our life and mission.



Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF
Superior General



India, November 12, 2025