

FINAL MESSAGE OF THE CLARETIAN BISHOPS GATHERED AT THE GENERAL CURIA

June 26-28, 2025

Rome, Italy

Beloved Congregation:

We consider our meeting in Rome 2025 convoked by the General Government a historic moment. It has been three days of prayer, conviviality and fraternal sharing of our experience as Claretian bishops. We shared our Claretian vocational history, and how we came to the episcopate. It has been very meaningful for each one of us to know not only the reality of our respective dioceses and how we have lived our episcopal ministry, but also to share the awareness of our origin from the bosom of the Mother Congregation.

We express and highlight our sense of Claretian belonging. We are Claretian bishops and we feel ourselves missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Claretian charism shapes our ministry as pastors of the Church. This fundamental charism that we live has marked our style of ministry and the faithful themselves perceive it as such. Among others, it is characterized by simplicity, closeness, accompaniment of the people of God, of ordained ministers, consecrated life and laity, and the missionary spirit that permeates our pastoral plans. We are bishops of all and for all, we care for and promote the diverse vocations and charisms present in the universal Church.

On the other hand, we have been moved by the love of the Congregation through this fraternal gesture of the General Government to convoke us for the first time in history. It has given us the pleasant opportunity to get to know the current reality of our beloved Congregation. We are happy to be part of the Congregational dream that as missionaries of the Church carries the only dream of God for all humanity. The meaning, purpose and reason for the renewed internal structures of the Congregation and the ongoing processes of transformation made us realize not only of the spiritual riches and gifts of its members but also of the vitality and palpable witness in the peripheral missions, which are increasingly intercultural.

We believe and affirm from experience that the Claretian charism qualifies our ministry. From there we bring our welcome, support, motivation and service to a Church that is constitutively synodal. The model of the synodal Church finds in us as its defenders and promoters. From our missionary identity, we support the call of *Aparecida* and the late Pope Francis to missionary conversion of a church where everything is discerned and valued from a missionary perspective. We support and value the different vocations from the fundamental and baptismal vocation. Living our charism of listeners and servants of the Word, we remind everyone of the primordial importance of the Word of God in the life and mission of our churches. From our witness we bring an experience of mission incarnated in every time and place, prophetic and at the same time urged by charity towards the poor, the excluded, and people in situations of violence and persecution.

As members of the Congregation, although with limitations in the rights and duties derived from the nature of our ministry, we formulate some proposals to live and express more intensely our condition as Claretian bishops and to animate the missionary spirit in the whole Congregation:

- To give continuity to the fraternal spirit and sharing of this historic meeting.
- To maintain the spirit of communion and to increase the mutual communication from the General Government to the Claretian Bishops and from our part to the General Government, and to elaborate some kind of planning.
- To study in dialogue with the major superiors of the different provinces or delegations where the Claretian bishops reside the convenience and the manner of our participation in Assemblies and Chapters.
- The General Government could probe and take steps towards a theological-juridical reflection on the implication of the bishops - especially the emeritus bishops - who return to the Congregation in a concrete Claretian community and Province.
- Strengthen the closeness and dialogue with the Claretian communities in the diocese and with the Claretian Province to which they belong.
- To continue receiving help from the General Procure of Missions through approved projects, but without excessive dependence.
- To thank and encourage the Congregation to strengthen its missionary dimension with the sending not only of CMF missionaries but also of those in formation and lay people outside its Organisms with more agility, given its charismatic, organizational capacity.
- To offer attention, care and accompaniment to people in irregular situation.
- That the General Government discern the way in which the Claretian Bishops can make our voice heard at the General Chapter. If it seems opportune, designate one or two, or of the choosing of the Claretian bishops as a group, to participate in the General Chapter.
- On the web page of the Congregation, add a section where one can see the names of the Claretian bishops and the link to the web page of their respective diocese.

- Take care of the spiritual patrimony of the Congregation present in some dioceses.
- To give due attention and strengthen the missions in the peripheries.

We return to our dioceses with the desire to share this rich experience in order to continue walking together and to realize God's dream. We entrust the fruit of this meeting to the Heart of Mary, so that she may accompany us and encourage us to live rooted in Christ and audacious in the mission like our Founder.

The Claretian Bishops gathered in Rome:

Ángel Garachana Pérez, CMF (*San Pedro Sula, Honduras*).

Elías Ayuban Lumayog Jr., CMF (*Cubao, Philippines*)

Gustavo Manuel Larrazábal Volpe, CMF (*San Juan de Cuyo, Argentina*)

Jacek Kicinski, CMF (*Margensis, Poland*)

Juan Domingo Esono Ayang, CMF (*Mongomo, Equatorial Guinea*)

Juan José Chaparro Stivanello, CMF (*Merlo-Moreno, Argentina*)

Luis Ángel de las Heras Berzal, CMF (*León, Spain*)

Manuel Antonio Mendes Dos Santos, CMF (*São Tomé and Príncipe, Central Africa*)

Pedro Joaquín Hernández Cantarero, CMF (*Darién, Panamá*)

Rubén Antonio González Medina, CMF (*Ponce, Puerto Rico*)

Simeon Nwobi, CMF (*Ahiara, Nigeria*)

Wilfred Anagbe, CMF (*Makurdi, Nigeria*)