

Final Message from the Meeting of Claretian Brothers

“We come back with our hearts full of names”

—Pedro Casaldàliga—

An experience of grace and fraternity

From 7 to 14 September 2025, at the Fraterna Domus retreat house in Sacrofano (Italy), fifty-four Claretian brothers and nine missionary priests from the Congregation gathered together. We came from the five Claretian conferences (ACLA, ASCLA East and West, ECLA and MICLA), with the joy of getting to know each other, valuing our cultural diversity and called by the charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

This meeting began several months ago, through prayer and reflection together with the podcasts and brochures ‘Corazón de Hermano’ (Brother’s Heart), and with virtual dialogues by continent. That preparation gave us a basic harmony: we arrived well disposed, knowing that Rome would be one more step in this process that was already underway.

Each day had its own nuance. We wove together conversation, prayer and shared life around five themes: identity and vocation, mission and commitment, fraternity and formation, legacy and future, and — finally — proposals for the Congregation. These were not separate topics, but different perspectives at the same vocation of the Claretian brotherhood today.

What the Spirit made us understand

As we listened to each other and prayed, the following conviction emerged: daily life is our workshop for becoming like Christ our Brother. There we learn the style of simple fraternity, shared work and daily fidelity. We discovered with gratitude that:

- *Formation is both a pillar and a path.* We need to strengthen both our academic and professional preparation, as well as our spiritual and community dimension, so that our consecration may be embodied in concrete mission and fraternal life.
- *Fraternity, lived in equality, counters clericalism and any logic of power, abuse or domination.* Being consecrated lay men, in community, is a prophetic witness for the Congregation, the Church and society.
- *The grateful memory of so many brothers — often silent or silenced and anonymous— sustains us.* Their simple, joyful and hard-working lives remind us of the value of everyday life and encourage us in our missionary commitment.
- *The promotion of vocations to the Claretian Missionary Brotherhood is urgent.* We want to offer young people a broad and truthful account of our life, showing its fruitfulness in the missionary following of Jesus Christ.

In this context, the call to synodality was the underlying theme. Reviewing structures, walking with other charisms, listening to the peripheries and caring for creation emerged as an evangelical way of being with the exiles of history.

One of the moments that touched our hearts was the jubilee pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica. Passing through the Holy Door together and praying as the People of God on pilgrimage in the world confirmed to us that our vocation is renewed in ecclesial communion and the synodal spirit.

Three calls that set us on our way

(1) Vocational ministry

We want the vocation of the brother to be presented, made visible and celebrated with the same naturalness as that of the ordained ministry. We propose integrating brothers into the vocational pastoral teams of the Major Organisms; creating printed, digital and audiovisual materials that show the Claretian mission in all its richness; and establishing, in each Organism, an annual day to celebrate and promote this vocation (a date that is not overshadowed by the feast of St. Joseph). This is not just a matter of specific activities, but of generating a vocational culture that recognises the beauty and fulfilment of being a missionary brother.

(2) Formation

We need a clear and explicit formation plan to accompany vocations to the brotherhood, with environments that breathe fraternal life, shared mission and discernment, avoiding models designed solely from and for the priestly ministry. We ask that brothers be included in the formation teams and that during initial formation, varied missionary experiences of service to the People of God and close to the concrete faces of reality be offered.

(3) Visibility

We want the vocation of the brother to be more present in the life and public communication of the Congregation. We propose a specific section on the congregational website with testimonies, videos, podcasts, and materials about the brothers; the revision and updating of the language and content of the Constitutions (n. 78, 79, and 86) and of the Directory in the sections referring to this specific vocation; and the promotion of regional meetings, ensuring a general meeting of missionary brothers every six years.

We continue to walk together

What we experienced in Rome is a gift that confirms that the vocation of the Missionary Brothers is an essential part of the Claretian charism and of the mission we share with the missionary priests and deacons. We affirm our commitment to walk together as a Congregation, faithful to the Spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, open to the synodality of the Church, and available for the mission wherever we are sent.

We do not want this meeting to remain a beautiful photo of the past, but rather an ongoing process that promotes new initiatives and broadens the congregational consciousness. We invite the entire Claretian family to walk this path with us and rediscover the joy of proclaiming the Gospel with the Heart of a Brother.

We thank those who encouraged and supported the meeting, creating an atmosphere of fraternity, listening and discernment. Their patient and creative service made visible the best of our vocation: the ability to weave bonds, coordinate efforts and care for community life. We also thank the translators who helped with good communication and understanding.

United in the Heart of Mary,

Signatories of the Final Message

General Government / iClaret

- Mathew Vattamattam CMF (Superior General)
- Carlos Verga CMF (General Government)
- Joseph Mbungu CMF (General Government)
- Joël Nkongolo CMF (iClaret)

America

- Adolfo Villaseñor CMF (México)
- Adrián Fernández CMF (San José del Sur)
- Alirio Osorio CMF (Colombia Venezuela)
- Antonio Santos CMF (Brasil)
- Aurelio Burgoa CMF (Perú Bolivia)
- Carlos Bugarín CMF (México)
- Cícero Junior CMF (Brasil)
- Danilo Dambróz CMF (Brasil)
- Fernando Kuhn CMF (San José del Sur)
- Giovanni Ramírez CMF (Colombia Ecuador)
- Guillermo Salamanca CMF (Colombia Ecuador)
- Hely Vaz Diniz CMF (Brasil)
- Hernando Rivera CMF (Colombia Venezuela)
- Hugo Agrazal CMF (Centroamérica)
- Jafet Murguía CMF (Antillas)
- Joel Gaspar CMF (Brasil)
- Joel Polanco CMF (Antillas)
- Kekey Takaya CMF (San José del Sur)
- Larry Moen CMF (USA-Canadá)
- Manuel Benavides CMF (USA-Canadá)
- Marcial Gamboa CMF (Colombia Venezuela)
- Sabás García CMF (México)
- Santi Urquijo CMF (Perú Bolivia)
- Ysaac Espinal CMF (Antillas)

Africa

- Baudouin Mwanangulu CMF (Congo)
- Boris Mba Obame CMF (P. Xifré)
- Charles Ikwankata CMF (Congo)

- Franco Torres CMF (Congo)
- Isaiah Olarewaju CMF (West Nigeria)
- Jan Mężyk CMF (St. Jean Paul II)
- Maurice Ndong CMF (Cameroun)
- Olivier Okito CMF (Congo)
- Stan Ekwujuru CMF (East Nigeria)
- Théophile Tsele CMF (Cameroun)

Asia

- Hieron Ngampu CMF (Ave Maria)
- Jain Charles Arul Packiam CMF (Kolkata)
- Jojo Manoor CMF (St. Thomas)
- Joseph Villarin CMF (Fr. Rhoel Gallardo)
- Melansius Tado CMF (Northeast India)
- Paul Manek CMF (Ave Maria)
- Rojes Alveenias CMF (St. Joseph Vaz)
- Sid Ching CMF (East Asia)

Europe

- Antoni Badura CMF (Polska)
- Antonio Jiménez CMF (Santiago)
- Benjamín Archilla CMF (Santiago)
- Edward Rogalny CMF (Polska)
- Evencio Cuñado CMF (Santiago)
- Jacek Górowski CMF (Polska)
- Jakub Gawlik CMF (Polska)
- Javier Picazo CMF (Santiago)
- Jesús María Sanz CMF (Sanctus Paulus)
- Josep Codina CMF (Sanctus Paulus)
- Juan Pozo CMF (Fátima)
- Kazimierz Gibas CMF (Polska)
- Marcin Kukuś CMF (Polska)
- Mariano Martín CMF (Santiago)
- Miguel Marín CMF (Santiago)
- Piotr Kula CMF (Polska)
- Salvador Segura CMF (Fátima)

Sacrofano, Italy, September 15, 2025.

