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MESSANGER OF
GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER
General Prefecture
of YVM CMF

THE JUBILEE OF THE YOUTH OF CLARET WAY IN ROME

WHAT WE EXPERIENCED AT
THE YOUTH JUBILEE DID NOT
BEGIN IN ROME, NOR DOES IT
END IN THESE PAGES. IT WAS
NOT A SPRINT, BUT RATHER
PATIENT SOWING.



Photo of Carlos Verga CMF



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DRIVE OUR STEPS FORWARD

-Prayer of walkers-

God of the way and Father of life:

You light in our hearts
the fire that sets us going.

We bless you for the hope
that you sow in our communities:
in the music and dance with which we celebrate our faith,
in the questions that your Word raises in us,
in the steps of those who go on pilgrimage
-sometimes with their feet, sometimes with their hearts -
when doors close and you open roads.

Make us a Claretian family that walks together:
Able to recognise your footsteps in every culture,
to learn the language of love in every people,
to care for our common home
and to build bridges between generations.

May the cross of the Claret Way remind us
that your love embraces every distance
and that the Holy Door turns inward
when you bring us into your mercy.

Raise up in us free and generous vocations,
to serve with joy wherever your Spirit sends us.

May Mary, our Mother and Teacher
lead us to meet Jesus, your Son,
and make us pilgrims of hope
in the forge of his Immaculate Heart.

Amen.

THE JUBILEE OF CLARET WAY IN ROME 2025

Carlos Verga CMF



We come to this issue with the certainty that the experience of the Youth Jubilee did not begin in Rome and does not end in these pages. Since the beginning of 2024 we have been weaving a shared itinerary: materials, prayers, network meetings, retreats and small motivations that prepared us to walk as pilgrims of hope. It was not a sprint, but a patient sowing.

Against this backdrop, the fact that the young people of the Claret Way met in Rome for the Jubilee from 28 July to 3 August was not a goal, but a significant part of the same journey. Many were able to cross the Holy Door; others, due to different limits and contexts, made an inner journey, following us in the networks and with prayer, reminding us that the heart can also be a "pilgrim of hope".

The experiences we gather here - Cameroon, East Asia, Rome, the global dialogue on youth and future generations, and Charito's vocational story - confirm something we have been learning: hope is not a slogan; it is a way of being and serving. It grows like a seed: silent, constant, more process than plan; and it changes us all when we go out to meet young people.

Looking back, Lisbon 2023 was a turning point. There the shared fire became community, and the network of young Claretians recognised each other in different faces and languages. Since then, we have chosen to be, to listen and to accompany rather than to "organise things". This pastoral turn, simple and demanding at the same time, is part of the fabric that sustains this issue.



We also learn to go on pilgrimage in terms of care: of the common home, of relationships, of daily faith in real contexts. Sometimes we move materially, sometimes with fragile connections, but always with the desire to build bridges between generations and cultures. Where a community becomes a companion on the journey with young people, the fruits are not slow in coming, even if they sprout quietly.

This is why these pages do not pretend to tell everything. They want to show what is essential: songs and questions that nourish faith; crosses that pass from hand to hand; young people who take the floor; adults and consecrated people who accompany without invading; and that hope that does not disappoint that sustains consecrated life when it returns to its centre.

May the reading find us ready to continue walking lightly, lighting small fires wherever we are. What is really important begins now: the return to each house, parish, campus or mission, with a more open heart and a bigger table. There the Jubilee continues, day by day.

Rome (Italy)
September 2025.



YOUTH AND CHILDREN PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE CLARETIAN COMMUNITIES OF CAMEROON

Edwin DeMarie
Mumukom Mbang CMF



Photo of PIIV of Cameroon

The celebration of the Jubilee and the Claretian children and youth apostolate of our Delegation

In line with the universal call of the Church to celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, the Claretian Youth and Children's Apostolate in Cameroon organised a series of dynamic and meaningful activities that gave young people and children the opportunity to deepen their faith, express their talents and strengthen their sense of belonging to the great Claretian family. The celebration highlighted resilience, joy and a renewed commitment to live the Gospel in today's world.

The celebration in Cameroon

At the national level, the Jubilee of Hope was celebrated with activities combining cultural and spiritual expressions, including:

Musical performances and songs inspired by the Jubilee of Hope, composed and performed by the young people. In this way, they communicated their message of faith and resilience through music.

Traditional cultural dances showed the richness of Cameroon's heritage. In this way, the young people demonstrated how faith and culture can work together to celebrate God's presence in everyday life.

Bible quizzes provided a platform for young people to deepen their knowledge of the scriptures, encouraging them to embrace God's Word as a guide in their daily lives.





Interactive games and activities to encourage teamwork, creativity and fellowship among the participants.

These activities were both fun and formative, leaving a lasting impact on the participants; nurturing their faith, talents and community spirit.

International pilgrimage to Rome

The highlight of the Jubilee of Hope celebration was the International Pilgrimage to Rome, organised by Claret Way as a unifying event for young Claretians from all over the world and three young delegates were selected to represent Cameroon. Unfortunately, however, their visa applications were denied.

Despite this setback, the Cameroonian delegates demonstrated resilience and faith. They remained actively engaged by participating in the pilgrimage virtually. Their participation was recognised by the presentation of official certificates of participation, affirming their commitment and ensuring their spiritual union with their companions from around the world.

This experience, though marked by challenges, became a profound lesson in perseverance, adaptability and faith, values that are at the heart of the Jubilee of Hope.

Looking to the future: preparing for World Youth Day (WYD) 2027

The Jubilee of Hope has served as a springboard for greater participation and preparation for future ecclesial events. The youth of Cameroon are now looking forward to the upcoming



Photo of PJIV of Cameroon



Claret Way WYD in Seoul 2027 with renewed enthusiasm and determination to be witnesses of hope and bearers of the Claretian charism.

Their resilience in the face of obstacles is a testimony to the vitality of the Claretian Youth and Children's Apostolate in Cameroon and their commitment to empowering young people to live their faith with courage and joy.

On the path of hope that does not disappoint

The celebration of the Jubilee of Hope in Cameroon was a remarkable achievement characterised by joy, faith, cultural diversity and perseverance. Although they faced challenges, especially in the international pilgrimage, the participants embodied the very spirit of the Jubilee: "the hope that does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

This experience has deepened their faith and strengthened their sense of belonging to the worldwide Claretian family. It is a shining testimony of what young people can achieve when guided by trust, hope and resilience, laying a solid foundation for the daily journey and for future international encounters.

Douala, Cameroon.
September 2025.



Photos of PJIV of Cameroon

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, IDENTITY AND MISSION: YVM WYFC AND THE JUBILEE IN TAIWAN

Bobin José Punnnackapadavil CMF



Photo PJV Claret Way

I. The seeds of a mission

Youth and vocation ministry has always been an integral part of the mission of the East Asia Delegation (EAD). Its organised beginnings date back to 2011, when Frs Francisco Carín and Arturo Morales CMFF gathered a group of young people to participate in the World Youth Day (WYD) in Madrid. Although the name Claret Way had not yet been coined, that initiative became a seed, a small beginning of what would later blossom as Claret Way in our Delegation.

When I arrived in Taiwan in 2011, I too began to walk this path. By 2013, I was personally accompanying the young people, learning their language and immersing myself in their culture. The first few years were not easy; my limited Mandarin caused frequent misunderstandings, especially when it came to youth slang, idioms and cultural nuances. However, these difficulties turned into stepping stones. In 2015, when I was appointed Prefect of Youth and Vocation Ministry of the Delegation, the challenge expanded: how to serve one of the geographically largest organisms of the Congregation (Japan, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong and Macau) and, at the same time, foster a common youth identity? Later, our goal became clear: **to help young people from diverse contexts to recognise themselves as part of the same family, to deepen their Claretian identity and to accompany them in their vocational journey.**



II. Milestones along the way

Over the years, the Delegation has taken several initiatives to bring young people together and encourage their participation in both ecclesial and congregational youth activities. Some of the most significant milestones are:

1. The Delegation's youth meetings

- The Japan-Taiwan Youth Gathering in Changpin, Taitung (2014) brought together thirty-five young people from Japan, Taipei and Changpin.
- Forty-five young people from Japan, Hong Kong-Macao and Taiwan participated in the Claretian EAD Youth Encounter in Taiwan (2018).

2. ASCLA East Youth Gathering (AEYG)

- The AEGY in Manila (Philippines 2015) gathered more than fifteen young people from EAD, together with the Claretian Family.
- In Jogjakarta (Indonesia 2017), seven young people participated.
- In the AEGY of Dare (East Timor 2019), eight young people represented the Delegation.
- Ormoc (Philippines 2024) brought together ten young people from the EAD in the Claret Way experience with other young people of the Claretian Family.

3. World Youth Days and International Encounters of the Claretian Family

- More than thirty young people from the EAD participated in the WYD of Madrid 2011.
- The WYD of Krakow 2016 was attended by more than fifty young people.
- The WYD of Panama 2019 was attended by three representatives.
- Nine young people from the Delegation participated in WYD Lisbon 2023.

4. Local initiatives

- In **Taiwán**, the parishes served by the Claretians initiated annual inter-parish youth gatherings. Since 2024, they are officially called "Claret Way Youth Encounter". They aim to



Photos of PJV EAD



integrate local experiences and gradually connect the youth with the wider Claretian Family.

- **In Japan**, the youth ministry with Vietnamese migrants is guided by Frs Stephen Nguyen Van Nang and Paul Tran Xuan Nhu and CMFF and has borne encouraging fruits: some young people have discerned their vocation, joining the Delegation. At parish level, Fr Julio César Torres Hernández CMF accompanies young people from Latin American and Filipino migrant families, offering them pastoral support and a sense of belonging. In Tokyo, Fr Thomas Chirayilparampil CMF is involved in pastoral work with Chinese youth, fostering faith and community. Fr Ken Masuda CMF, meanwhile, is chaplain to the Catholic Student Association of Sophia University, fostering the spiritual growth of university youth, in collaboration with the Jesuits.

III. Claretian Way Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025

The Claret Way Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage of Rome 2025 was a unique milestone for the East Asia Delegation. Thirteen young people joined the journey to Rome, where they deepened their faith and experienced the richness of the Claretian charism at the heart of Christianity.

Passing through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, the young people carried with them the prayers and hopes of their communities, opening themselves to God's transforming grace. Together with young Claretians from around the world, they celebrated the beauty of unity in diversity, sharing prayer, joy and fraternity.

The pilgrimage led them to meet great saints. In Assisi they prayed in silence at the tombs of St Francis and Blessed Carlo Acutis. In Rome, they reflected in the great basilicas and at the tomb of Pope Francis, rediscovering the deep roots of the faith they inherited.



Photos PJV EAD



The meeting with the Holy Father was the highlight. His words invited the young people to welcome Christ, to live courageously, to be with those who suffer and to draw strength from the Eucharist, touching their hearts deeply. The young people returned home renewed, bringing the fire of hope to their communities.

IV. Claret Way Cross in the East Asia Delegation

This year, **the Claret Way Cross** is in Taiwan. This offers a significant opportunity to deepen the understanding of the CF Youth Network during this Jubilee Year. The next Claret Way Interparish Youth Gathering will be held in November and will be a special occasion for this. The passage of the Claret Way Cross through the different organisms in East Asia will culminate with its arrival in South Korea in 2027; and this requires careful planning and coordination. The East Asia Delegation is fully committed to organising this symbolic passage of the Cross through the different areas of the Delegation. Ensuring that it is delivered in a reverent and meaningful way to the other Major Organisms and communities of the FC will be one of the **main objectives of this Jubilee Year** for our Delegation.

V. A future full of hope

Today, the Delegation begins a new chapter with the appointment of Fr. Ken Masuda CMF as YVM coordinator of EAD. The journey continues with renewed energy, working closely with the university youth and with new perspectives for this ministry.

In East Asia, Claret Way is no longer just a seed. It is a living way, a growing movement, a journey of faith and communion that continues to inspire young people to dream, to belong to the CF and to discover their vocation by being part of it.

Taipei, Taiwan.
July 2025.



Photos PJV Claret Way



CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE YOUTH IN ROME WITH THE WHOLE WORLD.

Ankit Shatrudhan Chaudhary CMF



Photo of PJV Deutschland

**Holy days, full of hope,
fueled by the fire of Claret's faith.**

When thousands of young people from all corners of the world gathered in Rome this summer to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Youth, the Eternal City was transformed into a living mosaic of faith, hope and joy. Among them were nearly 500 Claretian sisters and brothers from every continent, who joined the world's youth to celebrate and witness to the vitality of our shared Claretian charism.

The invitation had been clear: "Save the date: 28 July to 4 August". I had been looking forward to it for months, hoping that some young people from my pastoral unit would be able to join me. However, due to work, internships or studies, no one was able to come. So we left as a small delegation of six participants from Germany: few in number, but strong in spirit. What awaited us in Rome exceeded all my expectations.

The greatest gift of this trip was the experience of our Claretian charism within a worldwide community. On the streets of Rome, languages mingled, music filled the air, prayers rose to heaven and laughter echoed loudly. There was a deep harmony, a shared rhythm woven into the conversations, the waiting times and the exuberant dances that brought us all together.

No one was alone in this community of faith that unites us.

Like many others, we sat in circles, shared faith experiences and listened to testimonies of young people from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.



These encounters were invaluable and unforgettable. They opened my eyes anew to the closeness of God: infinitely diverse, richly life-giving and deeply joyful.

I also observed how our small group - and many others - were transformed during those days. At first, some were reserved and hesitant, even afraid to speak English. But by the end of the week they were having long conversations, exchanging contact details and giving moving testimonies of faith to the groups. Many discovered that faith is not merely a private matter, but a gift to be celebrated and communicated.

Despite the diversity of cultures and languages, the questions that emerged were the same as those we heard from our young people in

Germany: the search for meaning, for true belonging, for references that give courage and strength to live the faith in a world that often makes us feel isolated.

One of the highlights was the pilgrimage through Rome: from basilica to basilica, from prayer to song. We literally walked "in the footsteps of the apostles" and, at the same time, felt that we too are part of that living history. This experience certainly revitalised our sense of duty and responsibility towards the Church.

The Jubilee of Youth gives a mandate to all of us

To make God an experience. The Word can come to us through music, through words and listening, through movement and action. In Rome I became aware of how vast and vibrant our Claretian youth community is around the world. I saw hundreds of young people driven by the same passion that moved Anthony Mary Claret. Their faith is fresh, deep and yet



Photo of PJV Deutschland



fragile. The whole experience had a profound impact on me: it left me exhausted, yes, but with a burning heart.

We can leave our mark on Claret Way

Our stories and images from Rome have already helped some to feel a new connection to the community of faith and the freedom that comes with believing. In our pastoral unit an organising team has already been formed to explore how to offer children, youth and adults "rest and strength for life", here and now. Ideas have been sketched out for an "incredible week of faith" with different age groups: spiritual encounters, music evenings, prayer sessions, service spaces and listening times.



Photos PJV Deutschland

Here are some opportunities for a long-term faith journey with young people:

- Regular meetings: Take their wishes and concerns seriously. Discuss essential issues such as God, life, peace of heart and peace in the world. Work together for a more just world: climate, human dignity, animal protection, etc.
- Projects in the parishes (youth mission): Concrete itineraries integrating prayer, formation and action.
- Exchange and networking on modern digital platforms: Safe spaces to accompany, share resources and sustain ongoing processes.

Preserve and foster the spirit of the Claretian family.

We must continue to integrate young people into the larger Claretian family: Claretian priests, brothers, sisters and lay Claretians. The Jubilee demonstrated that, when we walk together as a family, young people feel accompanied, inspired and co-responsible.



Formation in mission

Our young people long for formation that is not only intellectual but also practical. We need to create opportunities where they can pray, reflect and act: social service, creative evangelisation, justice and peace initiatives, inter-religious dialogue and care for our common home. To form for mission is to open ways in which faith becomes gesture, word and commitment.

Facilitating international connections

I have made a firm decision to encourage more and more young people: "It is exciting and rewarding to be part of the Claretian family". And I am ready to carry this fire of faith forward here in Germany, knowing that every local step is linked to a worldwide network that beats to the same rhythm of the Gospel.

Spaichingen, Germany.
August 2025.



Photos of PJV Deutschland



JUBILEE OF HOPE IN THE YVM CMF OF USA-CANADA PROVINCE

EXPERIENCE OF THE CLARET- WAY YOUTH JUBILEE 2025

Reegan Soosai CMF



Photo of PJV USA-Canada

Dear friends of Padre Claret,

Let me begin by sharing some of the voices of our young people from this pilgrimage of hope:

- Vanessa: “I heard a voice of Claret calling me to know him better and prepare myself for the mission.”
- Michael: “What an experience of learning and sharing the faith.”
- Christly: “I have come to know myself better, and I have learned to pray in different ways.”
- Deacon José: “God is calling me to something greater.”
- Sascha: “God answered some of my prayers, and this experience is so powerful.”

Preparation for the Pilgrimage

Our preparation began in January 2025. We organized several formative Zoom meetings so our

youth could explore the Bible, the Sacraments, and the spirituality and charism of our Congregation. Not everyone was at the same stage in their faith journey; this made it a time of learning, mutual discovery, and the building of a true spirit of communion, bonding, and belonging.

A total of 21 participants (CMF missionaries, youth leaders, and young adults) from five Claretian parishes—Fresno, Chicago, Perth Amboy, and Montreal—in the USA-Canada Province took part in the pilgrimage.

We divided the experience into three parts:

1. Pilgrimage to Claretian Places: the Martyrs of Barbastro, Saint Anthony Mary Claret (Sallent & Vic), and Montserrat.
2. Pilgrimage to the Youth Jubilee in Rome: Claret-Way activities,



visits to the basilicas of Rome, and Jubilee celebrations.

3. Pilgrimage to Assisi: encounters with Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare, and Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Pilgrimage to Claretian Places in Spain

After six months of preparation, we set out on this journey of hope and faith. For most of our youth, it was their first international gathering. Everywhere we went, the Claretians and the RMI Sisters welcomed us warmly; we owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

The most impactful place for all of us was the Crypt of the Martyrs of Barbastro. After Fr. Severiano Blanco guided us through the museum, he took us to the crypt and shared the story of their martyrdom. Tears filled the eyes of our youth as they reflected: “How could young people of our age—18 to 25—give up their lives for Christ? What motivated them? And how am I going to live my baptismal call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world?” (cf. Mt 5:13-16).

For me personally, it was my second visit—the first was in 2010 as a student in Madrid. Returning now as a priest, after years of pastoral and missionary experience, I felt I was coming home to my charismatic roots: thanking the Lord for my missionary call and asking the intercession of the martyrs to renew my availability to be sent anywhere.

Pilgrimage to Rome

This was my fifth youth gathering, and once again it was a time of communion, friendship, and renewal within the Claretian Family.

The Claret-Way Day was beautifully organized. Even the rain could not stop us. As Claret says of a missionary: “Nothing daunts us” (cf. 2 Cor 4:8-9). Our youth met every branch of the Claretian



Photo PJV USA-Canada



Family and discovered the richness of the Claret-Way network. What a grace!

At the inaugural Mass, I sat beside a Ukrainian Orthodox priest. When I asked about the situation in Ukraine, he replied with pain: “There is killing every day.” His eyes spoke of suffering and sorrow. Thanks to technology, we could converse deeply, and I assured him that the Church is united in prayer for his people.

For our youth, Rome was not only about grand liturgies and celebrations but also about small acts of fraternity: greeting strangers, carrying someone’s backpack, sharing meals, helping others in the metro, or enjoying our daily 7:00 a.m. ritual at the local café (which even gave us free coffee on the last day!).

Yet amid the joy, Miguel raised a profound question while witnessing the crowds at St. Peter’s Basilica and Tor Vergata: “For whom are we here? Why all this pushing and commotion? Does this remind us of any Gospel passage?” (cf. Jn 6:26-27). Truly, the essential question is: Who is at the center of my life?

Another youth asked if I knew of saints who overcame sexual temptation—a sign of the struggles young people face today, with so much exposure to pornography and a lack of boundaries. Indeed, saints like Augustine and Francis of Assisi show that chastity and purity are possible by God’s grace.

One of the most beautiful moments came during Adoration at Tor Vergata. After walking nearly 20 km, exhausted and dehydrated, we found peace before the Eucharistic Lord. It was as if Jesus were telling his disciples: “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while” (Mk 6:31).



Photo PJV USA-Canada





The Pope, as Bishop of Rome, welcomed and encouraged us to keep Christ at the center and to live with hope amid uncertainty (cf. 1 Pet 3:15). The presence of youth from war-torn Gaza and Ukraine reminded us that the Church is truly a suffering and pilgrim Church.

Pilgrimage to Assisi

This day was one of gratitude and encounter with three saints. Glorie shared: “I would love to return to Assisi, because that’s where I felt peace and tranquility.”

Saint Francis of Assisi remains a saint of peace, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue, and care for creation. Along with Saint Clare and Blessed Carlo Acutis, he inspires today’s youth to build bridges, foster communion, and live the universal call to holiness and wholeness.

About the Province and Current Initiatives

Our Province is structured into three regions—East, Center, and West—for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. It comprises 11 parishes and 25 communities, along with pastoral care for schools and a Newman Center.

We also reach out to youth through our award-winning magazine U.S. Catholic and through social media initiatives like Somos Fe, Esperanza, Fuerza, aimed especially at migrant families and vulnerable youth (cf. Is 61:1).

We have begun networking with other Claretian Family branches present in our territory (Lay Claretians, RMI Sisters, and Cordi-Marian Sisters) to strengthen the Claret-Way network in North America.



Photo PJV USA-Canada

We sincerely thank the Claret-Way Global Commission for their tireless commitment and organization.

Conclusion

The Claret-Way Youth Jubilee 2025 was truly a pilgrimage of hope—a time to encounter Christ, deepen our Claretian identity, and renew our missionary spirit. May the words of Saint Paul continue to inspire us: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Rom 12:12).

Suggestions to the General Prefecture of Youth and Vocation

- Coordinate the Vocation, Youth, and Volunteer Program (mission trips) under one prefecture or secretariat for greater effectiveness.
- Encourage youth exchange programs between Provinces and continents to foster interculturality and missionary zeal.

Montreal (Canada)
August 2025.

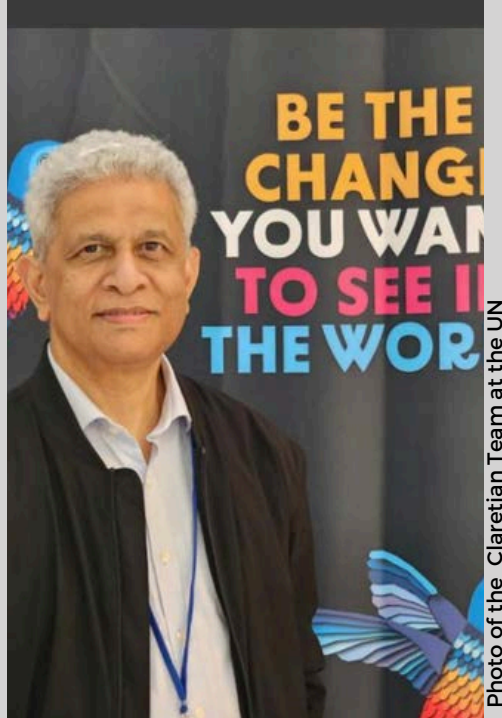


Photos PJV USA-Canada



CLARETIAN CONVERSATION ON YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Rohan Dominic CMF



The Claretian Conversation on Youth and Future Generations took place on September 5, jointly organized by the Claretian United Nations Team and the General Prefecture of Youth and Vocation Ministry. The dialogue was part of ongoing efforts to reflect on the UN Covenant for the Future, with special emphasis on youth and future generations. The Compact calls for safeguarding the rights of future generations and ensuring that the voices of young people are meaningfully represented in policy-making. It calls for moving beyond short-term thinking and adopting intergenerational solidarity as a guiding principle. Empowering today's youth lays the foundation for a fairer, greener and more peaceful world tomorrow. The session was moderated by Fr Gabriel Ponce, CMF, Procurator General of the Mission. The conversation brought together nine young participants from all continents, along with Claretian leaders.

- Rohan Dominic, coordinator of the Claretian team at the UN, placed the conversation in the broader framework of the Claretian commitment to the UN Covenant for the Future, reminding the participants that "silence would mean abandoning those who will live with the consequences of our inaction. He reminded us that the youth of today are vital agents of change, while future generations, those yet unborn, depend on decisions today.
- Carlos Verga, General Prefect of Youth and Vocation Ministry, encouraged the young participants to speak freely and boldly, not to remain in lamentation, but to propose, dream and imagine concrete actions. He reminded them that their mere presence was already a "sign of hope for the Church and for the world".



- Dialogue in three rounds: Nine young Claretians shared reflections and proposals, drawing on each other's contributions during three rounds of dialogue.

- Final reflections: Returning at the end, Br. Carlos Verga affirmed the courage and sincerity of the young people, calling them protagonists, not spectators of history. He stressed that faith

cannot be separated from real life struggles and invited all to continue to build bridges between generations, cultures and realities. He described the meeting as an act of "sowing hope" and "walking together as pilgrims of hope".



Photo of the Claretian Team at the UN

First round: building bridges between promises and reality

The first round addressed how to bridge the gap between the great promises of global commitments and the daily reality of young people.

- Being heard: young people stressed that participation must be real, not symbolic. They called for the creation of youth councils in schools, parishes and governments with decision-making power.
- Caring for creation: they insisted that global green pledges must be translated into grassroots action: tree planting, waste reduction, sustainable agriculture and community renewables.
- Shaping the digital world: participants envisioned moving from passive consumers to co-creators of safe, ethical and inclusive digital spaces.
- Hope and consistency: In all regions, young people called for consistency between leaders' commitments and day-to-day actions, and stressed that hope grows through small, steady steps.

Round 2: Responding to the cries of creation and humanity

The second round built on the first and asked which proposals responded most strongly to the climate crisis, inequality and intergenerational responsibility.



- Integral ecology: Young people echoed Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* in linking ecological, social and spiritual crises, and called for education that integrates care for creation, social justice and digital ethics.
- Institutional change: Proposals included mandatory youth representation (minimum 25% in delegations and committees) and the creation of "future generations commissioners" with veto power over unsustainable policies.



Photo of the Claretian Team at the UN

- Intergenerational action: Many stressed the need for genuine collaboration between young and old, combining passion and innovation with wisdom and experience.
- Faith and justice together: Young people called for responses that unite the Gospel call for solidarity with UN frameworks for sustainability.

Third round: Commitments for the future

The final round focused on practical and spiritual commitments that safeguard future generations.

- Institutional stewardship: Proposals included the creation of ombudsman offices for future generations, the incorporation of green audits in education, and the adoption of a "Digital Bill of Rights" drafted by young people.
- Intergenerational compacts: Ideas such as climate service corps and global ambassador initiatives highlighted cooperation between generations and nations.
- Local and pastoral action: Young people proposed integrating social justice and ecological responsibility into pastoral programmes, forming community councils and ensuring youth influence in governance at all levels.
- Spiritual roots: All commitments were framed as a moral duty and practical necessity, acting not only for today's world, but also for those yet unborn.



Conclusion

The Claretian Conversation on Youth and Future Generations affirmed that young people are not passive recipients of global promises, but active builders of a new world order. Their proposals ranged from institutional reforms to grassroots projects, always based on faith, justice and ecological conversion.



Photo of the Claretian Team at the UN

Brother Carlos' final words captured the spirit of the meeting: "Young people are not mere spectators of history, but protagonists... who sow hope, build bridges and walk together as pilgrims of hope".

New Jersey, USA.
September 2025



VOCATION STORIES

GOD'S LOVE NEVER ENDS

Charnito D. Tano CMF



My name is Charnito D. Tano, CMF. I am a young missionary who has just taken his vows and currently in his first year of theological studies. After a long journey of discernment, I would like to share with you the story of my vocation and my reflection on how I responded to God's call.

I was born into a simple Catholic family, where faith was part of our daily life. My parents and grandparents taught me to pray and took me to Sunday Mass in our little chapel without fail. Growing up, I never imagined that I would one day consider a religious vocation. However, I believe that God was already sowing the seeds of my vocation then. As a child, I admired our parish priest, always present at the community's feast day celebrations. His joyful service inspired me, even though I thought: "This kind of life is not for me". I never imagined I would become a priest.

As a teenager, I focused on studies, friendships and dreams of a future career. I wanted to be a policeman, a soldier or a successful professional. But in the midst of these ambitions, I often felt a void that none of my plans could fill. After finishing high school, I took a vocational course. At the same time, I got involved in the parish through youth activities and joined the choir. It was then that I met up with an old teammate from my football team. He introduced me to his congregation and, in our conversations, he told me about seminary life and his mission. I never imagined that, through that encounter, God would open a new path for me. That simple presentation gave me a foundation and an openness to religious life. It was the beginning of discovering that God had been calling me all along.



I first joined a religious community introduced to me by my aunt. However, I only stayed there for a week, almost like a short holiday. Inside I felt that I could not sustain that kind of life, because I was still trapped by many worldly attractions. With this struggle, I decided to continue my degree. I studied marketing at the local university. My days were filled with studying, serving in the parish as an organist and choir member, and playing in a local band on Saturday nights to help pay for my studies and daily needs. This became even more necessary after my father passed away during my first year of university. However, my academic life was difficult and I was miserable. I even got involved in relationships with girls, forgetting the call of the Lord that I had once felt.

Still, there were times when I experienced an emptiness in my heart, a restlessness that pushed me to seek silence before God. During my second year of university I again thought about entering religious life, this time through the congregation of a priest relative. But he advised me to finish my degree first. At that point I lost courage and hope. I was preoccupied with too many things: studying, selling beauty products, playing in a bar-restaurant and serving in the parish at funerals and weddings as an organist and singer.

By the grace of God, I finished my university degree. After graduating, I tried to find work; I applied for the army and clerical jobs, but I felt that none of these were for me. One day, the parish priest encouraged me to join the diocesan seminary. I refused because, deep down, I was more attracted to religious life than the diocesan route. But as I had already lost interest and was in a romantic relationship, I didn't pursue it. At the same time, I could not leave my parents, who were ill. Finally I decided to accompany my girlfriend to her business in a mining area. We lived there for about a year and some months. Even then, I continued to serve in a small chapel: I carried my guitar and songbook, crossed rivers and hills to lead prayers and pray the rosary with the community. At that time I was no longer thinking of entering the seminary. My only desire was to settle down and get married.

For the next five years I worked in different capacities: as parish staff, manager of a fast food chain, assistant in the mining area and even in business and e-commerce. Then my life changed unexpectedly. My mother passed away and, at the same time, my relationship ended.



These tragedies and hardships broke my heart, but they also brought me closer to the Church and to the Lord. In my grief, I often asked God: "Why is this happening to me? Yet even in suffering, I sought the truth and pleaded for comfort. There were times when I would cry while working in the mining area, asking for His mercy. One thing, however, I never gave up: my devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I prayed the rosary every day and entrusted myself to her maternal care. I would say to her: "I no longer have a mother. Now you are my Mother; please guide me".

In a moment of discernment I listened to a Catholic radio programme talking about vocation and religious life. I asked myself: "What if God is calling me? I tried to push that thought away by saying, "I am a sinner. I am not a saint. I know my faults. Still, every time I served Mass I felt something deep inside me that I couldn't ignore. Then I began to discern more seriously, asking the Lord if this was really the life he wanted for me. As the months went by, I decided to look for a religious congregation, because my heart was drawn to the consecrated life, especially to a community with a strong missionary spirit. Through the Internet and Facebook I discovered different congregations, until I found the Claretians. I could not believe that they were a Marian congregation, and it filled me with joy to realise that the Blessed Virgin had been guiding me all the time.

In prayer and discernment before the Blessed Sacrament I felt a deep peace, as if God Himself was whispering to me: "Do not be afraid. I am with you. It was not just a voice: it was a certainty in my heart. That peace gave me the courage to take the first step. I followed his call, even though it was hard to leave my job, my family and even a new relationship. At the age of 32, already a young professional, I joined the Claretian Missionaries.

Life in the formation community was not easy. I missed my family and sometimes wondered if I had made the right decision. But as I grew in community life, in studies and, above all, in prayer, I discovered a deeper freedom. Little by little, God shaped my heart, teaching me humility, trust and perseverance. And through it all, I felt the love of my Mother Mary, who did not abandon me in difficult moments. Today I can truly call myself a child of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Now I continue this journey of formation. As a newly professed Claretian, I have taken the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, committing



myself not to turn back. There are difficulties every day, but also an immense joy in serving God and his people. I witness how God uses even my weaknesses for his glory, whether in teaching, in the parish apostolate, in community life or in defending my Catholic faith.

Looking back, I realise that vocation is not about perfection, but about availability. God calls us in ordinary ways - through family, prayer, circumstances and service - and waits patiently for our "yes". My story is still being written, but I know that wherever He leads me, my life belongs to Him. I pray that others, especially youth and young professionals, will also be open to hear and trust God's call on their lives. I am convinced that God's love never ends, despite our sinfulness; rather, He whispers to our hearts, "Do not be afraid. I am with you. You are mine."

Quezon City, Philippines.
August 2025.

