

Beloved Congregation,

Loving greetings from Los Negrales, Madrid. With joy and gratitude, we share with the Congregation our experience of *The Forge 09th Edition in English*, an 80-day program held from September 20 to December 08, 2025. Frs. Antony Bhyju and Arul Jesu Robin served as director and assistant director, with the generous collaboration of Frs. Joe Terry, Sebin, and Felix. We remain deeply grateful for their dedication.

We were fourteen participants from four countries (Brazil, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines), representing nine Major Organisms: US-Canada (João Paulo Bars), Peru-Bolivia (Binson Mathew), East Nigeria (Callistus Ogueri Emenyonu), West Nigeria (Francis Nnmandi ILonwa and Gregory Ekene Ezeokeke), Fr. Rhoel Gallardo (Eduardo Apungan and Larry Miranda), St. Thomas (Michael Chacho and Justine Jose), Chennai (Lord Winner and Sekar), Bangalore (Hirudaya Raj), Kolkata (John Soren), and Sanctus Paulus (Helin John).

It gives us great joy to share how enriching the Forge was for us. Well-organized and set in a serene environment, it offered an atmosphere of true contemplation. The program unfolded through four phases – *Quid Prodest*, *Patris Mei*, *Caritas Christi*, and *Spiritus Domini* – each guiding us in a progressive journey of renewal.

Quid Prodest ("What does it profit?") invited us into sincere self-evaluation and deeper awareness of what truly matters in our missionary life. Through the intensive diary, strengthened prayer, spiritual accompaniment, and personal sharing, we reflected on our life story in an atmosphere of trust.

Patris Mei ("My Father") deepened our missionary identity by reconnecting us with God's call and the spirit of our Founder. We contemplated the *Patris Mei* of Jesus, Mary, Claret, and the Martyrs; reflected on our images of God; entered into silence, mercy, and conversion; deepened our understanding of Claret's Apostolic Prayer; and renewed our filial relationship with Mary.

Between *Patris Mei* and *Caritas Christi*, we made a nine-day retreat at the monastery of Buenafuente del Sistol. Its silence, fresh air, and prayerful atmosphere nurtured our spirits. The centrality of the Eucharist, as explained by Fr. Ángel Moreno, reminded us of Claret's devotion and the call of our General Chapter to remain rooted in Christ.

Caritas Christi ("The love of Christ") helped us deepen our capacity to love as Christ loved. Through conferences, prayer, and sharing, we centred our lives on Christ, grew in our configuration to Him, understood the vows and apostolic virtues as concrete discipleship, and strengthened the Eucharistic and synodal foundations of our community life.

Spiritus Domini ("The Spirit of the Lord") oriented us toward ongoing discernment, missionary boldness, and openness to the Spirit. It helped us integrate the entire journey and renewed our zeal for mission. We grew in docility to the Spirit, deepened our charismatic identity, embraced personal, pastoral, and ecological conversion, fostered synodal communion, and discerned God's dream for our Congregation.

A particularly powerful moment was our pilgrimage to the Claretian holy places and the sites of the Martyrs of Barbastro. Encountering the life, passion, sufferings, and missionary spirit of our Founder and the courageous witness of the Martyrs touched us deeply and strengthened our missionary resolve.

The Forge culminated with our pilgrimage to Fontfroide in France, where Claret spent his final days. Standing in the room where he died was a moment of profound grace. We pray that the renewal we received may bear fruit in our missionary commitments.

We wholeheartedly recommend the Forge to all our brothers so that our Congregation may continue growing in the spirit of Claret, evangelizing and setting the world ablaze with God's love.

With sincere gratitude, we thank our Major Organisms and the General Government for making this program possible. Thanking you all, we remain.

Yours sincerely in the Heart of Mary,

Forge Participants

9th English Edition, 2025