

## MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Brothers,

We have lived grace-filled days. We - the fifty-three participants of the Encounter of the Claretian Governments in Asia with the General Government, gathered at St. Paul Center for Renewal, Alfonso, Cavite, Philippines, from December 3-12, 2025 - share this profound experience of joy and fraternity with the entire Congregation. Our shared objective, *to celebrate the joy of being Claretian Missionaries in Asia and to root ourselves more audaciously in God's Dream for the Congregation*, became a lived experience of encounter. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-35), we shared our hopes and wounds, listened to the Word, broke bread in fraternity, and felt our hearts burn anew with the fire of Christ's presence. This journey of 'Discernment in Spirit' inspired us to move from vision to discernment, from discernment to conversion, and from conversion to shared missionary action.

Asia is a continent with a significant impact on the world's future. It generates tremendous global momentum and offers opportunities such as a rich religious heritage, youthful populations, vibrant cultures, and growing global influence, even as the realities summon this continent to address challenges like ecological risk, political instability, mass migration, social inequality, and rapid cultural shifts. How it navigates these contrasting realities alongside relentless change will determine its future. Amid these realities, our encounter revealed strong shared insights of the urgency of collaboration in various mission fields, the need to overcome individualism through authentic synodality, and the invitation to cultivate a deep interior life capable of sustaining our missionary vitality.

We express gratitude to God for the many gifts our Organisms share in this continent. We recognize our strengths, such as missionary generosity, vibrant apostolates, intercultural communities, dedicated leadership, qualified services to consecrated life, a strong biblical apostolate with committed publications, and rich spiritual and communal traditions. At the same time, we acknowledge our shared challenges, such as diminishing vocations, a lack of sufficient specialized personnel, fragile community dynamics, and the risk of routine or activism without contemplation. We also recognize the need to deepen Claretian identity in pastoral and social ministries. We felt that God calls us to strengthen the Claretian mission in Asia through the three interconnected processes of transformation.

*Communion:* ASCLA commits to nurturing communion through shared formative pathways, spiritual renewal programs, and intercultural community-building rooted in our Claretian identity. Key initiatives of communion include the exchange and ongoing formation of formators, online inter-conference formation modules, Jubilee and perpetual

profession programs, ASCLA-level Forge and renewal programs, shared spirituality platforms, and student exchange with pastoral immersion experiences. These are to be conducted across formation houses, institutes, and communities of ASCLA to foster unity of spirit and mission within our missionary family.

*Mission:* ASCLA commits to strengthening its missionary dynamism through coordinated evangelizing initiatives that deepen our shared apostolic presence in Asia. Synodality unfolds through common priorities such as Youth and Vocations animation, SOMI initiatives, Bible Ministry and Digital Communications, pastoral care for Migrants and Refugees, Education ministry, and Lay Claretian accompaniment. These efforts are conducted at the inter-organism, conference, and inter-conference levels to ensure synergy in our evangelizing mission.

*Participation:* ASCLA commits to promoting accountability, participatory governance marked by synodal leadership, transparent stewardship, and the sharing of personnel and resources. Priority areas include leadership formation, common emergency relief mechanisms, economic governance, ongoing formation, and the strengthening of Institutes of Consecrated Life. Collaboration at the organism, intra-conference, and inter-conference levels fosters accountable service and fraternal solidarity.

Renewed by this journey of discernment, we are convinced that the growth of the Claretian mission in Asia depends on our capacity to walk together in *Mission, Participation, and Communion*. Strengthened by the fire of the Word and the bonds of fraternity, we recommit ourselves to being audacious witnesses of God's Dream for the Congregation; missionaries rooted in contemplation, audacious in evangelization, transparent in stewardship, and joyful in fraternal life. Trusting in the guidance of the Spirit, the maternal care of Mary, and the missionary zeal of our Father Founder, we set forth as one missionary body, ready to respond creatively and faithfully to the cries of Asia and to the hopes of God's people.

With fraternal affection and missionary joy,

The Participants of the ASCLA–General Government Encounter