



ACL A



African Claretians - Clarétains d'Afrique - Claretianos de Africa

MESSAGE FROM THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ORDINARY ACL A ASSEMBLY TO THE CONGREGATION

MISSIONARIES AT THE SERVICE OF THE WORD AND OF THE NEEDIEST IN AFRICA

“The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” (Luke 4:18).

Dear Claretian brothers throughout the Congregation,

Gathered in Riaba, Province of Bioko Sur in Equatorial Guinea, from February 9 to 14, 2026, for our Ordinary ACL A Assembly, we give thanks to God for this time of fraternity, discernment, and apostolic renewal. In this place filled with history, the cradle of Claretian evangelization in Africa, we remembered our pioneers and rekindled within us the fire of our missionary vocation.

- 1- Inspired by the motto that illuminated our meeting, “Missionaries at the Service of the Word and of the Most Needy in Africa,” this gathering has been for us a true cenacle: a space of listening to the Spirit, of sincere sharing, and of responsible reflection on the future of the Claretian mission in Africa. In the light of the Word of God at the center of our conversations, the orientations of the General Government, and the concrete realities of our Major Organisms, we have discerned together the priority calls that stand before us today.
- 2- Africa, with its human, cultural, and spiritual richness, but also with its deep wounds—poverty, violence, forced migrations, injustices, and lack of opportunities for so many young people—remains a privileged place where the Word of God desires to become flesh, consolation, and hope. In this context, we reaffirm with conviction our Claretian identity: to be missionaries of the Word, close to the most needy, and available to go wherever the mission requires.
- 3- The Message of the Father General, the orientations of the different General Prefects, the Biblical Congress of InCla-Abuja in November, as well as the SOMI-ACL A meeting in Nairobi in December 2025, have facilitated our task as Major Superiors of Africa in discerning the urgency of the needs presented by our mission in Africa, especially in this time of transition at the level of the universal Church and in several Major Organisms in Africa.
- 4- During this Assembly, we gratefully acknowledged the steps already taken, but we also humbly embraced our limits and challenges. In an evangelical spirit, we feel called to revitalize our life and mission, to review our structures, methods, and priorities, to be more faithful and more effective today in proclaiming the Gospel in Africa.
- 5- Thus, a new page opens for ACL A and for the Claretian presence on the African continent. A page marked by: a spirituality more deeply rooted in the Word, a clearer and more courageous option for the poor and the excluded, missionary communities that are more fraternal, prophetic, and intercultural,



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integral formation responding to current challenges, a more heartfelt attention to young people through an evangelical life capable of attracting them to our Congregation, and closer collaboration among Organisms and with the laity in shared mission.

We entrust this journey to the Holy Spirit, the protagonist of the mission, and to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Missionary Heart, that she may accompany and sustain us. We ask the entire Congregation for your closeness, prayer, and support, so that what has been discerned during this Assembly may bear abundant fruit in the service of the Kingdom of God in Africa.

With renewed hope and missionary boldness, we reaffirm our commitment to continue being, today and tomorrow, Missionaries at the Service of the Word and of the Most Needy in Africa.

Fraternally,

The Participants in the ACLA Assembly 2026