

"EMBRACING GOD'S DREAM"

Mystic Missionaries for America

Claretian Spirituality Encounter

July 8–16, 2026

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor." Luke 4:18

Introduction

Gathered as a Claretian Family of America in Panama City under the theme "Mystic Missionaries for America," we have experienced a true time of grace. Listening to the Word, celebrating the Eucharist, praying together, sharing in fraternity, engaging in intercultural dialogue, and participating in Conversations in the Spirit have enabled us to recognize that God continues to call us to renew the gift we have received from Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

We reaffirm that spirituality is the soul of mission, the source of our hope, and the fire that sustains our vocation. Amidst the lights and shadows of MICLA,¹ We have heard our people's cry and the Spirit's voice inviting us to return to what is essential.

We have contemplated an America marked by profound inequalities, old and new forms of poverty, migration, violence, polarization, ecological crisis, cultural change, and the emergence of new settings for evangelization. At the same time, we have found a continent full of life, faith, resilience, and people who continue to await the Good News of the Kingdom.

In this context, we have come to understand that the renewal of mission does not begin with new strategies, but with renewed hearts. Before *doing* more, we *are* called to become more like Christ, to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, and to live with greater radicality the charism we have received.

Throughout this Encounter, we have acknowledged that the Claretian charism remains an immense gift from God to the Church and our Continent. It is a living treasure that we cannot keep to ourselves. We are called to safeguard it, renew it creatively, and hand it on with fidelity and boldness to future generations.

Therefore, convinced that the Spirit continues to make all things new, we make this public declaration to express our shared discernment and to invite us to walk together on this path.

¹ Claretian Missionaries of America, including North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Our Conviction

Reflecting upon the journey we have undertaken, we joyfully affirm that being *Mystic Missionaries for America* means embracing a spirituality that harmoniously integrates:

- a living encounter with Jesus Christ, who is the center of our lives;
- openness to the Holy Spirit, who anoints and sends us to proclaim the Good News to the poor;
- the spirituality of the Heart of Mary, a school of listening, availability, and fidelity;
- contemplation and mission as one apostolic experience;
- fraternity, sisterhood, and the care of our relationships;
- synodality and communal discernment;
- a shared mission with the laity, the Claretian Family, and the wider Church;
- an incarnate, compassionate, prophetic, and martyrial presence in the reality of our peoples;
- the preferential option for the poor, commitment to human dignity,² respect for life in all its forms, and care for our Common Home;
- the continual renewal of our charism, keeping us open to the signs of the times.

We believe this spirituality is both a gift to the Church and a gracious response to our Continent.

Therefore, we feel called to:

1. Contemplate Jesus Christ and Place Him at the Center of Our Lives

We desire to conform our identity and mission to Jesus Christ, the Son, *sent by the Father and anointed by the Spirit*. Nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, impelled by his love, making His attitudes and way of life our own, we embrace the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. Only in this way will we be able to proclaim the joy of the Gospel with authenticity.

2. Allow Ourselves to Be Led by the Holy Spirit

We recognize that all life and mission are born from the action of the Spirit. We desire to cultivate a lasting attitude of listening, discernment, and availability, so that the fire of the Spirit that fills us with zeal may continue to renew our lives, our communities, and our provinces, keeping alive our missionary creativity and our capacity to contemplate and interpret the signs of the times.

² Particularly in this age of digital technology and artificial intelligence (Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*).

3. Live from the Heart of Mary

As sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we desire to learn from her to listen to the Word, treasure it in our hearts, and put it into practice. In Mary, we contemplate the first disciple and missionary: a woman open to God's will, a pilgrim of faith, close to the little ones, and faithful to the foot of the Cross. The many Marian titles cherished by the peoples of the Americas express the closeness of a mother who, having shared in the suffering of her children, continues to accompany them. "*Filled with God and so truly one with us*,"³ with her, we want to learn to live with humility, tenderness, strength, and apostolic readiness. May Our Lady of Guadalupe teach us to inculturate the Gospel and to allow ourselves to be evangelized by the little ones.

4. Cultivate a Deep Interior Life That Unifies Our Missionary Life

We commit ourselves to nurturing our personal relationship with God through prayer, silence, adoration, popular spirituality, intercession, and discernment. We seek to overcome the activism that exhausts and empties us, so that we may live a spirituality in which mission flows from contemplation and the apostolate, in turn, becomes a path of encounter with God.

5. Build Fraternal, Intercultural, and Synodal Communities

We want our communities to be true schools of communion where the Gospel becomes a way of life. We commit ourselves to strengthening our fraternal relationships, fostering a culture of care, preventing abuse, and safeguarding the most vulnerable; practicing co-responsibility, valuing the richness of our cultures; and making Conversations in the Spirit our ordinary way of discerning God's will together.

6. Becoming Incarnate in the Reality of the Continent with Compassion and a Prophetic Spirit

We desire to look upon our Continent through the eyes of the Gospel. Therefore, we commit ourselves to listening to the cry of the poor, women, children, elderly, migrants, Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, vulnerable young people, and all who live on the geographical, existential, and digital peripheries. We want to allow ourselves to be moved by the suffering of our peoples, to denounce injustice, defend human dignity, and promote a culture of peace,⁴ reconciliation, and encounter, as our martyrs did, and proclaim with hope the transforming power of the Kingdom of God.

7. Care for Life and Our Common Home

We recognize that all creation is God's gift and that caring for it is an inseparable part of our spirituality. Therefore, together with others, we commit ourselves to promoting an authentic

³ Pedro Casaldaliga, CMF.

⁴ **Pope Leo XIV, First Message Following His Election, May 8, 2025:** "*A disarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering.*"

ecological conversion and a simple, responsible way of life that inspires evangelizing action, fosters reconciliation with creation, and promotes respect for every form of life, especially for those most affected by the degradation of our Common Home.

8. Strengthen Shared Mission in Ecclesial Synodality

We believe that the Spirit raises up among women and men a diversity of vocations, charisms, and ministries for the mission. As the Claretian Family, we commit ourselves to walking together in the Church with everyone, especially the laity, strengthening formation processes, evangelizing leadership, and networking.⁵ We desire that our shared mission becomes our concrete expression of synodality and a source of richness in proclaiming the Gospel.

9. Continually Renewing Our Charism

Creative fidelity recognizes the seeds of the Gospel, always present throughout the Americas, and allows the Spirit to continue bringing them to fruition in our own time. We commit ourselves to reviewing, adapting, and implementing our options, priorities, structures, and formation processes, always seeking a vital integration of spirituality, community, and mission. We will foster a spirituality that is dynamic, open, humble, willing to learn, open to being challenged, and capable of responding creatively to the new realities of our Continent.

10. Radiate Hope Through Our Lives

We seek the Spirit's grace so that our way of life may serve as the initial proclamation of the Gospel. We commit ourselves to living with joy, simplicity, closeness, and missionary zeal, so that our lives, our communities, and our provinces may become credible signs of the Kingdom and inspire new vocations to follow Jesus Christ. We desire to be true witnesses, women and men whose hearts burn with the same fire that inspired Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

A Path Forward for MICLA

Aware that every discernment must be translated into life, we invite the Major Organisms of MICLA to make this commitment a point of reference for their plans for spirituality, formation, and mission.

We propose that these commitments take concrete shape in our communities and be reviewed regularly, so that together we may discern the fruits they bear and the new calls of the Spirit.

We also want to strengthen collaboration among our Provinces, create shared spaces for formation, and support the ministry of the Prefects of Spirituality so that this journey may continue to grow and enrich the missionary life of our Continent.

As this Encounter comes to a close, we return to our countries with grateful and renewed hearts.

⁵ Cf. "Doing Mission with Others" (CC 48, 52, 65).

We return carrying a treasure that does not belong to us, but that we have received as a grace to be shared. We have rediscovered the beauty of Claretian spirituality as an ever-new source, capable of renewing our lives, our communities, and our mission.

We know that the future of the charism will not depend solely on our plans or our structures. Above all, it will depend on our ability to remain united to Jesus Christ, to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, and, as sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to remain available for the mission. If we remain faithful to this call, the fire that burned in the heart of Saint Anthony Mary Claret will continue to illuminate the Church and offer hope to our peoples.

Today we return convinced that the Claretian charism continues to be God's gift to the “*young vineyard*.”⁶ It is our responsibility to safeguard it with gratitude, renew it with courage, and hand it on with joy to the generations yet to come.

May no one extinguish this fire. May our communities keep it burning, and may our mission carry it to the peripheries. May all who encounter us recognize in us that Christ continues to walk throughout America, still calling and sending.

We entrust our journey to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother and Formator, that she may teach us to listen, to believe, to hope, and to go forth with apostolic readiness wherever life cries out for the Gospel.

Panama City, July 16, 2026.

⁶ "But I can tell you this: in America there is a vast and very fertile field, and in time more souls will reach Heaven from America than from Europe... America is a young vineyard. St. Anthony Mary Claret

PARTICIPANTS

General Government

Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF – Superior General

Fr. Carlos Sánchez, CMF – General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life

USA–Canada Province

Francisco Javier Reyes, CMF

Eddie DeLeon, CMF

Sandra Navarro, Layperson

Arturo González, Layperson

Mexico Province

Miguel Ángel Portugal, CMF

Luis Gerardo Granados, Claretian Lay Movement

Antilles Delegation

Fausto Cruz Rosa, CMF

Francisco Ysaac Espinal Rosario, CMF

Central America Province

Mauricio Borge, CMF

Jeremías Lemus Lemus, CMF

Fredy Estuardo Cabrera Ventura, CMF

César Espinoza, CMF

Larissa Moscote, Layperson

Colombia–Venezuela Province

Luis Armando Valencia Valencia, CMF

Reyes Julio Corredor Sáenz, CMF

East Colombia–Ecuador Province

Luis Felipe Useche Trujillo, CMF

Héctor Julio Tibaduiza Cusba, CMF

María Auxiliadora Mieles Moreira, Layperson

Peru–Bolivia Province

Ronel Chipana, CMF

Jorge Rafael Castillo Villanueva, CMF

Carmen María de Lourdes Arenas Llontop, Layperson

San José del Sur Province

Rubén Infantino, CMF

Flavia Campbell, Layperson

Brazil Province

Eguione Nogueira Ricardo, CMF

Nilton Cesar Boni, CMF

Antonio Carlos Ferreira, CMF

Clodoaldo José Oliva Muchinski, Layperson

Alex Luis Gennari, Claretian Lay Movement, Layperson

Claretian Family

Maria do Carmo Duarte, Missionary Sisters of St. Anthony Mary Claret

María de los Angeles Sambran Dohir, Cordimarian Filiation

Mabel Alejandra Ardiles Araya, Religious of Mary Immaculate

Augusto Ng, Claretian Lay Movement

Guests

Bishop Ángel Garachana, CMF, Bishop Emeritus of San Pedro Sula, Honduras

José Luis Loyola, MSpS (July 9–12)

Liliana Franco, ODN (July 9–10)

Carlos Julio Roza Rubiano, CMF (East Colombia–Ecuador Province)

Fernando Kuhn, CMF (San José del Sur Province)

Rosendo Urrabazo, CMF (USA–Canada Province / General Curia)

Edgardo Guzmán, CMF (Central America Province / Claretianum)