



## WITHOUT ROOTEDNESS, NO AUDACITY IS POSSIBLE

*Joseph Kalakkal cmf*

**T**he XXVI General Chapter, open to the inspiring action of the Holy Spirit, discerned the calls of God to the Congregation at the present moment of its history. The first part of the congregational dream invites us to take root with deep roots; only in this way will we be able to bear the fruits of missionary audacity. The great temptation of a missionary congregation like ours is to be seduced by activism and the excessive search for efficiency and pastoral success, at the cost of abandoning or neglecting the cultivation of a rich and fruitful interior life.

"We dream of a pilgrim Congregation, rooted in faith in Jesus Christ and in Claretian spirituality..." (QC 47). The image of the tree firmly rooted in the earth could help us to better understand the first part of the dream. The tree of the Claretian Congregation needs to take deep roots in a soil rich in nutrients, especially faith in Jesus Christ and Claretian spirituality. This double aspect of our rootedness invites us to

deepen the core of our Christian identity and the spiritual living of our charismatic identity. When a missionary ceases to be daring, it is not only that he has lost the enthusiasm and creativity to work, but that he has moved away from the center of his Christian and missionary identity and has ceased to nourish the fire of God's love. In reality, it is a spiritual problem that involves the whole of life.



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In the quality of our rootedness, we stake the quality of our missionary life. An intense apostolic life requires a deep spirituality, just as our Father and Founder, called "mystic in action", lived it. We need to cultivate with commitment the experience of God, enliven our faith, and make discernment our way of life. It is essential to living faithfully our times of personal and community prayer, listen to the Word, celebrate the Eucharist, adore the Lord, and recognize his presence in creation and others. Also, to intensify our Cordimarian spirituality and to drink from the sources of our Claretian charism.

When we become aware of our fragility, we abandon the pretensions of self-sufficiency. We realistically assume that we need spaces of interiority to take care of ourselves and strengthen and harmonize ourselves. In this sense, the monthly retreats and the annual Spiritual Exercises are essentials and we should not leave them aside. The experience of the Forge, which for 25 years has been helping so many missionaries to renew their personal life and recover the joy of the Claretian vocation, should stop being an exceptional course for some and become an ordinary dynamism with which we should count on in our personal project and the planning of the Major Organisms.

From the General Prefecture of Spirituality and Community Life, we commit ourselves to encouraging and supporting the commitment of the missionaries and their communities to live more deeply rooted. May our Mother Mary continue to form us in the forge of her Heart so that we may be missionaries rooted in Christ and daring in mission like her.

**Fr. Carlos Sanchez Miranda, CMF**

*General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life*



**FR. EFREN LIMPO LO, CMF, NEW GENERAL SECRETARY**



On June 5, Father General ratified the appointment of Fr. Efren Limpo Lo, CMF of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province as the new General Secretary of the Congregation.

Fr. Efren was born on September 14, 1978, in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. He made his First Profession in the then Province of the Philippines on May 6, 2001, in Bunguiao, Zamboanga City (Philippines). He made his Final Vows on April 29, 2006, in Colmenar Viejo, Madrid (Spain) during his theological formation and studies. He took his Bachelor of Sacred Theology at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid-Spain from 2002 to 2007. He was ordained a priest on December 8, 2007, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Quezon City by Msgr. Francisco F. Claver, Bishop Emeritus of the Apostolic Vicariate of Bontoc-Lagawe.

Fr. Efren served as Postulant Master from 2008 to 2010. Then, he studied Licentiate in Theology Major in Spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (Italy) from 2010 to 2012. When he returned to the Philippines after his further studies, he was appointed Provincial Secretary from 2012 to 2013. He was also assigned as Local Superior at the Claret Seminary community and took the role of Prefect of Seminarians and Professor at the St. Anthony Mary Claret College in Quezon City. And in 2014, he became the Rector of the said Seminary. In 2016, he was once again appointed as the Provincial Secretary, as well as in 2019. He also served as Director of Claret School of Quezon City from 2016 to 2017. When the Province started preparing the cause for the Beatification of the Claretian Filipino Martyr Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, CMF, he was relieved of his post as a secretary and was appointed as the Vice Postulator of the Province.

The Congregation is very much grateful to Fr. Joseba Kamiruaga Mieza, CMF, the outgoing General Secretary, for the generosity and services he has rendered to the General Government from 2017 to 2022. He will integrate into his new Province- Sanctus Paulus soon.



## CLARETIAN VOCATION DAY



For the first time, the Congregation celebrated the Claretian Vocation Day on May 31. This date was chosen by the General Government as a special Claretian day for reflection and prayer for vocations for the whole Congregation as an initial step to our commitment to accompany the youth (cf. QC 67).

In his message to the Congregation, Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF said that *“this is a day to thank the gift of our own experience of God’s call and to be aware of the divine gaze on each of us that has evoked our longing to follow Jesus’ style of life, the gaze that continues to sustain our missionary call.”*

In the same message, he introduced to the Congregation the guide prepared by the Claretian Family animation team for animators of youth ministry for vocational accompaniment entitled *“A fire that lights the heart”*. The guide offers evangelical and Claretian inspiration for vocational ministry. He further invited everyone *“to support our youth ministers by praying for vocations, giving time and space to listen and accompany the youth around you, and collaborating with our youth ministers.”* The guide can be downloaded on [claret.org](http://claret.org) under the Prefecture of Youth and Vocations Ministry section.

### CONSECRATED LIFE

#### CLARETIANUM: 50 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF CONSECRATED LIFE 1971 – 2021



**Rome, Italy.** To celebrate its golden year of service to Consecrated Life, Istituto di Teologia della Vita Consacrata (ITVC) or commonly known

as Claretianum, organized a round table session entitled *“La vita consacrata oggi: attualità e sfide”* (Consecrated Life Today: Current Events and Challenges) in the afternoon of May 12.

The speakers were Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ (USG President), Sr. Jolanta Kafka, RMI (Former UISG President), Fr. Andrzej S. Wodka, CSsR (President AVEPRO), and Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF (Coordinator of the Claretian Institutes). Professor Lucia Abignente moderated the sessions. Among those present was Father General, who gave opening remarks to those present attendees and online viewers.

The Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life “Claretianum” was erected and established by the Decree of the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education dated June 6, 1971. It is incorporated into the Pontifical Lateran University as the Institute of Specialization in the Theology of Consecrated Life. To date, the Institute conducts its research in the field of Consecrated Life on biblical-theological bases, considering both the historical-cultural, psycho-sociological and juridical aspects, as well as the conditions in which the pastoral activity of the Church and of consecrated persons takes place. It offers a curriculum for the attainment of the Licentiate and Doctorate in Theology of Consecrated Life. It also offers a two-year course for the Diploma and a one-year course. Each year it organizes a Conference for the in-depth study of a theme concerning Consecrated Life.

The celebrations ended on May 31, with the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by his Eminence, Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL), followed by a short program and a sumptuous lunch for all present.

### CLARETIANS

#### FR. ANTHONY AGU, CMF, ABDUCTED AND LATER LIBERATED

**Kwande, Nigeria.** On May 19, Fr. Anthony Agu, CMF, who works in the Diocese of Pankshine in northern Nigeria, was abducted from the rectory by armed men. But later released on May 25. Fr. Anthony, 61 years old, belongs to the KWANDE / FIER COMMUNITY of East Nigeria, which renders missionary services to the Shendam, Pankshin, and Bauchi Dioceses.

ACLA

## THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF CLARETIAN PRESENCE IN BAMENDA



**Bamenda, Cameroon.** Five Claretians from the then Claretian Province of the USA: Fr. Ralph Berg, Br. Rene LePage, Fr. Alberto Ruiz, Fr. Gerry Caffrey, and Br. Richard Suttle implanted the Claretian charism in anglophone Cameroon. From Bamenda, the Congregation spread to Douala, Buea, Kumbo, and Kumba. These Claretians arrived in 1986 at the heart of the Lake Nyos disaster and were very involved in their relief services through water tanks and toilets in the Cathedral. The Claretian charism, in the following years, touched many people in Batibo, many villages in Ndop Deanery, Babanki Tungo, Fulikom, and all the villages in Santa, and the charism kept spreading.

A Jubilee project has been conceived to celebrate this significant event – the construction of “St. CLARA” (Saint Claret Relief Academy). This relief initiative came up in Santa when all schools were closed. The Claretian Missionaries courageously campaigned and reopened the catholic primary schools. The Archbishop of Bamenda, His Grace Andrew Nkea, laid the foundation stone for Saint CLARA and ordained Seven Claretian Missionaries as Deacons. In his homily, the bishop thanked the Claretians for the beautiful service to the local church. He admonished them to continue working in synodality.

ASCLA EAST

## FR. RHOEL GALLARDO'S ROOTEDNESS IN CHRIST AND AUDACITY IN MARTYRDOM REMEMBERED

**Quezon City, Philippines.** Simultaneous celebrations were organized in different mission places of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province during the 22<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of Rhoel Gallardo, CMF on May 3.

Bishop Leo Dalmao, CMF presided over the Eucharist at Claret Seminary in Quezon City and highlighted

three important things related to the life and death of Fr. Rhoel: the uncertainty of life, Rhoel's strength, and his being well-grounded. In Basilan, Provincial Vicar, Fr. Amador Tumbaga, CMF, spearheaded the celebrations in the place of Rhoel's martyrdom, Tumahubong. Moreover, the Claretian aspirants and students from the different formation houses in Quezon City and the Claretians of the different communities in the north of the Philippines and the parents and relatives of Fr. Rhoel paid a visit to his grave at Himlayang Filipino cemetery, offering flowers and prayers. In the afternoon, the Claretian Youth Ministry provincewide offered prayers and organized encounters to celebrate the life of Fr. Rhoel and be inspired by his example.



ASCLA WEST

## RENEWAL PROGRAMS IN BANGALORE

**Bengaluru, India.** Bangalore Province organized two renewal programs in May at its Provincial Curia in Malleswaram. One of them is the Renewal Program for its jubilarian members, from May 3 to 5. And the other one is the Renewal Encounter for its young priests ordained between 2014 and 2020, held from May 11 to 13.

There are twenty-four members who are celebrating their 50 years of Religious Life, 25 years of Priesthood, and 25 years of Religious Life this year. However, only twenty could be physically present during the program. Fr. Jacob Parappallil, MSFS, guided the jubilarians to reflect on Religious Life and Mission. Likewise, Fr. Paulson Veliyannoor, CMF inspired them to reflect as Claretians marching towards growth.

On the other hand, 14 young Claretians took part in the renewal encounter aimed to renew and refresh their missionary spirit. The three-day encounter consisted in sharing the joy of missionary life and some sessions of refresher input. Fr. Anil D'Sa, SDB,

helped and equipped them with enhanced ministry methods in dealing with the youth. Fr. James Kannanthanam, CMF, guided the group to understand the prudence needed in the ministry with minors and vulnerable adults. Fr. Sebastian Theruvanmoola, CMF, shared the modern ways of doing family apostolate. The young priests were also able to spend half a day at Sumanahalli Campus, visiting leprosy and HIV-affected people and understanding the concept of shared and collaborative ministry in this type of apostolate. Provincial Superior, Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, reminded them of their missionary vocation and community living.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> DELEGATION ASSEMBLY OF KOLKATA

**Barrackpore, India.** The 2nd Delegation Assembly of Kolkata took place from May 16 to 21 at Claret Nivas Barrackpore, with Fr. Manuel Alfredo Tamargo Rodriguez, CMF, as Assembly President. The Assembly started with a cultural dance from the parishioners and the students at Saint Claret School of Barrackpore. The Assembly followed the new method adopted from the XXVI General Chapter. They discussed the present and future status of Claret Ashram, Sahari Mission, Banki Mission, and its investments, assets, and liabilities. They have had the chance to watch the long-awaited film, Claret. On the fourth day of the Assembly, Fr. Manuel announced to the body their new government.



### KOLKATA GOVERNMENT 2022 - 2025

Major Superior:

**Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF** (2<sup>nd</sup> to the left)

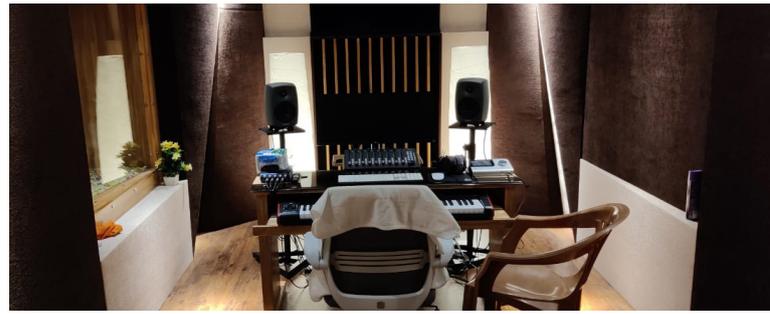
Consultors:

**Fr. Jinni P., CMF** (right)

**Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar, CMF** (2<sup>nd</sup> to the right)

**Fr. Telesphor Aind, CMF** (left)

## CLARET'S STUDIO, A MEDIA MINISTRY INITIATIVE



**Karukutty, India.** As a humble step towards realizing the dream set forth by the XXVI General Chapter, Claret's Studio, an initiative of St. Thomas Province, was opened on May 23 at Karukutty, Kerala. In a simple but elegant ceremony, Mr. Alphonse Joseph, a renowned Indian musician and a philanthropist, officially inaugurated Claret's Studio. Fr. Jose Thenpillil, CMF, Provincial Superior of St. Thomas Province, blessed the center in the presence of many well-wishers, persons from the music field, and Claretian Missionaries from nearby communities.

## GO OUT INTO THE DEEP AND LET DOWN YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH

**Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka.** St. Joseph Vaz Delegation designed an ongoing program for its priests in their first five years in the ministry, called Junior Priest Accompaniment Program (JPAP). It takes place twice a year and is equivalent to the Quinquennium Program of other Claretian Major Organisms worldwide.

This year 2022, the first of the series took place from May 9 to 12 at the Eymard House of Priests, Nuwara Eliya. Fr. Nishantha, TOR (Third Order of Franciscan) accompanied and guided the eight junior priests in reflecting on the theme "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

ECLA

## STREAMS OF SYNODALITY.

### DRINKING FROM THE SAME SOURCE

**Madrid, Spain.** From May 24 to 26, Frs. Carlos Alberto Candeias do Nascimento, CMF (Fátima), Ricard Costa-Jussà i Bordas, CMF (Sanctus Paulus), and Adolfo Lamata Muyo, CMF (Santiago), participated in the XXVIII General Assembly of the Spanish Conference of Religious Men and Women (CONFER) held in Madrid.

In addition to the three Major Superiors, Msgr. Luis Ángel de las Heras, CMF, Bishop of Leon and president of the Episcopal Commission for the Consecrated Life of Spain, and Cardinal Aquilino Bocos, CMF, participated, as well as some Claretians who collaborate intensely with the CONFER in the animation of the youth and vocations ministry, the formation of consecrated persons and canon law counseling.

The encounter focused on the study of synodality and the response that the Spanish Consecrated Life must give to the present social and ecclesial situation. It also approved the updated Protocol for Protection and Action in cases of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

### YVM WORKSHOP IN SANCTUS PAULUS

**Vic, Spain.** On May 13-15, Sanctus Paulus Province organized a Youth and Vocation Ministry (YVM) workshop for the Claretian and lay leaders of the Province at the Spirituality Center in Vic with Bro. Carlos Verga, CMF and Prefect of Apostolate of Sanctus Paulus, Fr. Raymundo Adormeo, CMF as facilitators. Eleven Claretian Missionaries of the Province participated. Among them was a young layperson from the parish of Bilbao who shared his experiences in the ministry in the different regions of the Province.

One of the central themes worked on in the groups is to have a general map of the reality of the Youth Ministry in Sanctus Paulus. Through drawings/designs, they pointed out the seeds of life, the warning signs/difficulties, and the challenges of the Claretian Youth Ministry in this area of the Congregation. In the sharing, the participants gave suggestions to translate them into concrete proposals of the YVM for the Province as some general and standard criteria to be considered when elaborating a provincial project of the YVM.

MICLA

### VIII ORDINARY ASSEMBLY OF ANTILLAS

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.** The Claretian Missionaries of Antillas celebrated their VIII Ordinary Assembly from May 16 to 21 in Manresa. Two delegates of Father General participated in it: Frs. Pedro Bederrain, CMF and Carlos Sánchez Miranda, CMF. Both made a pastoral visit to the

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different communities in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic from April until the day before the Assembly began. The new Delegation Government was announced to them during the Assembly.



**Fausto Cruz Rosa**



**Jairo Pérez del Rosario**



**Demuel Tavárez Rosa**



**Maxo Deraxin**

### GOVERNMENT OF ANTILLAS 2022 – 2025

Major Superior: **Fr. Fausto Cruz Rosa, CMF**

Consultor – Econome:

**Fr. Jairo Pérez del Rosario, CMF**

Consultor: **Fr. Demuel Tavárez Rosa, CMF**

Consultor: **Fr. Maxo Deraxin, CMF**

### XVII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF MÉXICO

**Morelia, Mexico.** In the recently remodeled Claretian Spirituality Center in Morelia, Michoacán, from May 2 to 7, 25 members of the Province of Mexico celebrated their XVII Provincial Chapter, presided over by Brother Carlos Horacio Verga Vicente, CMF. Like the other Major Organisms, the Chapter followed the new method for Chapters and Assemblies in the Congregation. They, too, were able to watch the long-awaited movie “Claret” on one of the Chapter evening.



### GOVERNMENT OF MÉXICO PROVINCE 2022 - 2028

Provincial Superior:

**Fr. Ernesto Mejía Mejía, CMF**

Consultor and Prefect of Apostolate:

**Fr. Juan Manuel Buzo Sánchez, CMF**

Consultor and Prefect of Formation:

**Fr. Alejandro Cerón Rossainz, CMF**

Consultor and Provincial Econome:

**Br. Adolfo Villaseñor Rangel, CMF**

# CLARETIAN FAMILY

## MADAGASCAR MISSION UPDATES



The Claretian Missionaries and Claretian Sisters were welcomed at the airport by Bishop Gaetano del Pierro. After their arrival on May 18, they spent several days in the capital Antananarivo to complete the first part of the residency documentation.

After two days of travel in two cars, they arrived in Farafangana, the seat of the diocese. The bishop accompanied them with affection and a fatherly touch. They were accommodated inside the catechists' formation center. The bishop intended that they could be in the center of the diocese for the first contact with the reality and study of the language in the first months. The house has independent individual spaces and a common place where the four pray, share meals, exchange first impressions of the reality surrounding them and see the steps to follow.

They have recently visited twice the Ankarana parish, the center of the future mission. They said that the people were very cordial and welcoming. They said that the first task would be to get in touch with the people, even though they still have a language barrier. They will start Malagashi classes on June 6.

Currently, they are meeting other religious women and men who have been on the mission for many years. They say that the landscape is beautiful and, above all, they appreciate the cordiality of the people who welcome them.



## PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

### Cameroun

05/07/2022

Moumassou, Moise  
Ngakoutou, William  
Tolbert  
Viseme, Joseph

### Northeast India

31.05.22

Hembrom, Joseph

### St. Thomas

05/31/2022

Kavumpurath, Francis  
(Jibin)  
Kuruttuparambil, George  
Panachikalayil, George  
(Midhun)  
Panakuzhy, Jacob (Jomy)  
Pulivelil, Scaria (Sanu)  
Thachaparambil,  
Mathew (Tony)  
Thakividakkethil,  
Scaria (Sebin)

### Chennai

05/31/2022

Dani John J.  
Sebastin Jayaraj C.

### Kolkata

05/31/2022

Tirkey, Arun Kumar

## PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

### Bangalore

05/26/2022

Kandula, Suresh

### San José del Sur

05/07/2022

Ortiz Aguilar, Daniel  
Roberto

### Chennai

05/08/2022

Livin Ajin S.

05/10/2022

Thomas S.

### St. Thomas

05/10/2022

Muthuplackal, Joseph  
Veliyath, Abraham (Lijo)  
05/12/20.22

### Perú-Bolivia

05/28/2022

Kasiko, Franco

Pandanmanal, Joseph (Jison)  
05/14/2022

Thanninilkumthadathil,  
Mathew (Albin)

### Polska

05/28/2022

Ochnik, Michał

Szczepański, Marek

Krzysztof

Ogou, Gadji Victorien

05/18/2022

Peruvachirayil, Joseph  
(Josemon)

Thanninilkumthadathil,  
Mathew (Albin)

Peruvachirayil, Joseph  
(Josemon)

## CALLED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

May 2022

### 21 FR. BERNARDO

ELOY VALBUENA MARTÍNEZ

at 86 yrs. in Leon, Spain.

Santiago Province.