



THE AUDACITY OF **EASTER**

Our recent 26th General Chapter invites us to be “*rooted in Christ and audacious in mission!*” We dream of a pilgrim Congregation rooted in faith in Jesus Christ and in Claretian spirituality (QC 43).

Easter reminds us of the foundation of our faith, on which our vocation and mission are also built: “*The Lord of life was dead; but now, alive, he triumphs.*” This hope that He is alive compels us to change direction. The tomb with a corps could also be a point of entry. The empty tomb is necessarily a point of departure.

The risen Christ is everywhere: in the Christian and religious community, in His Word that is proclaimed to us, in the sublime gift of the Eucharist, in every man who suffers poverty, violence, and injustice. It is in every gesture of love that tries to be to the end, like that of Jesus, and in our Claretian mission.

Fr. Primo Mazzolari wrote: “*The dead need pity, the living need audacity.*” If Easter began with the funeral mood of Mary of Magdala, it could only continue with our boldness in witnessing to a distracted world - of which we are part - not the corruption of the tomb, but the glory of the Resurrection.



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The audacity that Easter asks of us is generated by this personal and communal encounter with the Resurrected Christ in the Word of God and in the Eucharistic Bread, without which the proclamation of Easter remains that of an empty tomb. We, as missionaries, with our audaciously Christian and Claretian lives, can continue to make the love of the Risen One contemporary.

May our nostalgia for a past that was fruitful in vocations and grandiose in works not prevent us from seeing the life that the Lord makes sprout alongside us in the present moment. We are not nostalgic men, but men who, moved by the Spirit that inspired Claret and his first companions, and impelled by our lemma “**rooted and audacious**,” carry in our hearts our dreams of being a pilgrim Congregation (QC 44); Marian (QC 51); in shared mission (QC 56); going forth to the peripheries (QC 63); evangelizers and biblical (QC 71); committed to universal brotherhood, justice, peace, and the care of the common home in a spirit of synodality, collaborating with people of different cultures, ethnic groups and religions for the transformation of the world according to God’s plan (QC 79); prepared to respond to new challenges through an integral and ongoing formation process, open to the universal mission, according to the spirit and charism of our Father and Founder (QC 87).

It is the disciples’ task to continue to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, bearing witness to his love: the fruit to be borne is love. The Risen One gives us the right to a new hope; Christ is the reason for courage. He is the Lord of surprises who breaks down paralyzing closures and restores one’s audacity to overcome suspicion, mistrust, and fear that hides behind the “it has always been done so”. God surprises us when he calls and invites us to cast our nets and ourselves out into history and to look at life, at others, and even at ourselves with the eyes of the Risen Lord.

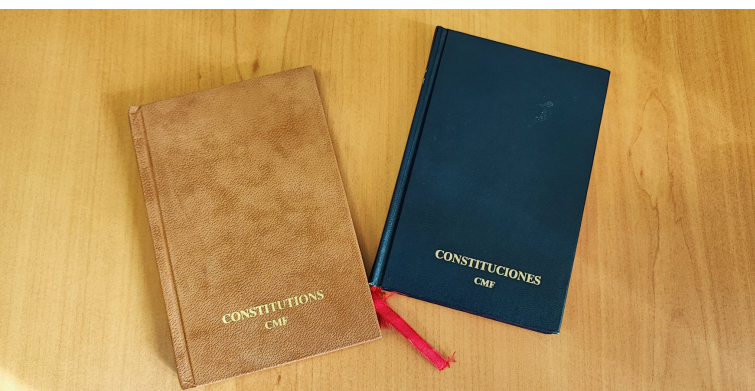
Fr. Krzysztof Gierat, CMF

General Postulator



CONGREGATION

A CALL OF OUR TIME: CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTIONS



During the XXVI General Chapter, two proposals were raised to change numbers 120 and 156 of the Constitutions of the Congregation, voted, approved, and sent to the Holy See for approval.

The Dicastery ratified the modifications and released its approval letter on February 15, 2022. Thus, Numbers 120 and 156 of the Constitutions now read as follows:

120. The Superior of the Delegation will have up to four consultors, when the General Superior with his Council deems it necessary, to better animate and govern the Delegation, considering the number of members and the size of its territory. The appointed Consultors can exercise the office of Econome and Secretary, and they are appointed in the same way as the Delegate Superior.

156. The following takes part in the General Chapter:

1. The General Superior as President, the Consultors, and the General Officials.
2. The Provincial Superiors.
3. The Delegate Superiors of Independent Delegations when they have more than forty Perpetually Professed members.
4. One Delegate for every Province and one Delegate for every Independent Delegation.
5. As many delegates as the previous General Chapter has established to ensure the proportional representation of the members of each Province and Independent Delegation.
6. As many delegates as the previous General Chapter has decided on for the representation of the General Houses and as many as it has allowed the superior general with his council to designate.

APPOINTMENTS

CMF ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE YVM OF THE CONGREGATION



The General Government formalized the appointment of the CMF YVM Advisory Council headed by its General Prefect, Brother Carlos Verga, CMF. This Advisory Council is a collegial body of the General Prefecture of YVM of consultative character in line with *Querida Congregación*, the Exhortation of the XXVI General Chapter, a shared mission with the Claretian Family, and the call of the Church to pastoral conversion.

The aims of the Advisory Council are: (1) to discern the most convenient ways of implementing the Action Plan of the General Government in all that refers to the YVM of our Congregation; and (2) to establish a formal communication link between the YVM Congregational referents, the continental teams, the Claret Way Global network, and the General Prefecture of YVM.

Its functions are: (1) to know and analyze the realities of the YVM in line with the fundamental concepts of the Chapter Exhortation *Querida Congregación*; (2) to promote, consolidate, and strengthen the bond of communion, communication, and collaboration among the Congregational YVM referents and with the General Prefecture of YVM; (3) to study Congregational YVM matters that may be entrusted to them by the General Prefect of YVM or those that arise from the Advisory Council itself.

After a survey among the leaders of the different continents, the General Government has appointed the following confreres as members of the said council for a three-year term (2022-2025): **John Obonyo** (ACLA); **Martin Ernest Ele** (ASCLA EAST); **Thomas Paingottu** (ASCLA WEST); **João Luís Escaleira** (ECLA); **Julio Arvárez** (MICLA); and **Luis Enrique Ortiz** (CLARET WAY GLOBAL).

GENERAL ECONOMIC COMISSION

Fr. Luiz Claudemir Botteon
Fr. Rafael Gómez Busto
Fr. Ángel de la Parte París
Fr. John Arazkaparampil
Fr. Juan José García Sánchez
Fr. Gustavo Adolfo Verdugo Lazo
Br. Salvador Segura Santana
Br. Giovanni Mauricio Ramírez Vanegas
Fr. Manuel Alfredo Tamargo Rodríguez

GENERAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Fr. Rosendo Urrabazo
Fr. Domingo Ángel Grillía Biestro
Fr. Nathaniel Eke
Fr. George Vayaliparampil
Fr. Luiz Claudemir Botteon
Fr. Rafael Gómez Busto
Fr. Ángel de la Parte París
Fr. John Arazkaparampil
Fr. Juan José García Sánchez
Fr. Gustavo Adolfo Verdugo Lazo
Br. Salvador Segura Santana
Br. Giovanni Mauricio Ramírez Vanegas
Fr. Manuel Alfredo Tamargo Rodríguez

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

In March, Father General asked the entire Congregation to join in the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that Pope Francis scheduled for the Feast of the Annunciation.

"We turn to heaven for light and love for humanity to walk the path of peace, fraternity, and dialogue. Pope Francis is consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 25th March 2022. As sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we unite ourselves to the Holy Father in this act of consecration and pray for peace in the world.

I invite all our communities to join the Holy Father to pray for world peace through this act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that the world learns to weave its mutual relationships with the tenderness of God's love for humans," Father General said.



SOMI

ONE IN ACHIEVING THE SDG

The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) was held in Nairobi-Kenya from 28 February to 4 March this year, with the Special Session devoted to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) in 1972. The Assembly was guided by the overall theme of *"Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."*

As a newly accredited NGO with the UNEP, Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-Onlus (Claretian Missionaries) took part in the UNEA for the first time. Bro. Robert Omondi, CMF (attending in-person), and Fr. Rohan Dominic, CMF (online), took part in this event. By this participation, we recognize our prophetic duty to add our voice to the continuing solidarity efforts by multi-stakeholders in the defense of Mother Earth and the vulnerable people of God during this Environment Assembly.

Our participation in the UNEA 5.2 has prompted the following thoughts:

1. We can leverage Faith for the earth as a viable entry point to start building a Claretian Green legacy.
2. We need to start mapping out Claretian linked persons/ collaborators and collaborators with some of the best practices in environmental issues to begin building a strong Claretian Coalition on Environment.
3. With an aim to start from the existing towards the dream, we need to map out Claretian owned actions from which we construct a Claretian Environmental performance, monitoring, and evaluation framework to help us to proceed.
4. There is a need to refocus on our formation houses as a concrete way of pushing the environmental agenda from our homes before we go to our common home.



Rome, Italy. During the traditional gathering of the members of the three General Houses on the Feast of St. Joseph at the General Curia, the General Government unveiled its new constellation-patterned organigram and workflow for the sexennium.

The new organigram reflects the complexity, the synodal system of governance, and the alignment of structures to the Congregational dream. After the presentation, the Consultors briefly presented the programs of their respective prefectures. A short open forum followed, allowing the curious missionaries to investigate the presented organigram's complexity further.

After the symposium, everybody went ahead to the

chapel for the vespers with an introduction made by the Curia Local Superior and General Archivist, Fr. Vicente Sanz. He explained the principles and history behind the celebration, which roots back to the transfer of the General Curia from Via Julia to its present location and from the words and devotion of the Father Founder. Claret said that *"Jesus told me to be very devoted to St. Joseph and to have recourse to him with confidence."* (Aut 831)

The lay workers in the General Curia joined during the prayers and during the simple dinner and socialization that followed.

ACLA

KEEPING YOUNG MISSIONARIES ROOTED IN CHRIST AND AUDACIOUS IN MISSION

East Nigeria Province gathered its fourteen young missionaries from March 15 to 18 and encouraged them to do fruitful positive appreciation for sustainable growth, and be connected by building holistic relationships through proper communication. Likewise, a medical practitioner, Dr. Nnedimma Iwueke, shared some insights on stress management. They all went to a free medical test after the sessions.

In West Nigeria, the young missionaries who gathered at the Institute of Consecrated Life in Africa (INCLA) from March 16 to 17 centered their ongoing formation on "shared experience." The facilitators reminded them of always finding their root in Christ whenever difficult experiences in their places of apostolate try to wind up their initial joy of embracing the Claretian Missionary Charism. They were recommended to be audacious in giving their missionary services to the Congregation and the people of God.

ASCLA EAST

NEW GOVERNMENT OF KOREA INDEPENDENT DELEGATION 2022 - 2025



Major Superior:

Fr. Manuel Ezhaparampil, CMF (center)

Consultor:

Fr. Jai Hyung Michael Park, CMF (right)

Consultor-Econome:

Fr. Yong Hae Stephano Cho, CMF (left)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PASTORAL CONVERSION IN GALLE



Enselwatte, Sri Lanka. The Selvakanda quasi-parish, administered by the Claretian Missionaries since February 2020, was raised to the status of a parish on February 20 by Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe, Bishop of Galle. The official name of the parish that covers 120 families spread in thirteen places is “Our Lady of Madhu Parish, Enselwatte” or simply “Enselwatte Parish”.

Fr. S.X. Ravikanth, CMF, is the first Parish Priest of the new and fifth parish entrusted to the pastoral care of the Claretians in Sri Lanka. The other four parishes are in the dioceses of Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, and Mannar. It is another opportunity to broaden the call of the Church for pastoral conversion and share the Claretian charismatic traits with the people.

ECLA

TRANSLATING THE GOSPEL INTO EVERYDAY LIFE



Truskavets, Ukraine. In one of the communication letters of Polska Province, Fr. Piotr Bęza, CMF, said that what they are doing for the Ukrainian war refugees is “*a beautiful opportunity to translate the Gospel into everyday life.*”

Indeed, it is. The Lord said, “*feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, cloth the naked, care for the sick, give shelter to travelers, and offer a drink to the thirsty.*” Taking care of those people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, giving them shelter, either in Truskavets or on the border of Poland; providing food, water, money, medicine, a ride, spiritual and psychological needs are translations of the Gospel.



This is possible thanks to Polish Claretians who are determined to live up to their being Servants of the Word, not just in name but in action. Thanks to the many donations coming in from different Claretian Organisms and NGOs. The donations augment the available funds of the Province to procure the necessities of the refugees and further encourage the Polish Claretians themselves in serving those in need. They are genuinely grateful for those who offer them money and prayer.



The Truskavets community consists of three Claretian Missionaries: Father Wojciech Kobyliński, Father Krzysztof Łabędź, and Brother Marcin Kukuś. They do missions in Truskavets and Boryslav. In Boryslav, Sisters of the Little Handmaids of the Immaculate Conception work and help in the church and catechesis. They all decided to remain with the people and be with the people.

SEEKING NEW APPROACHES, NEW CHURCH STYLE

Vic, Spain. From March 14 to 16, *Casa de Espiritualidad de Vic* received a couple of pastors and parish pastoral ministers of Santus Paulus Province as they gathered to evaluate the parish pastoral care of the Province.

During the sessions facilitated by Pere Codina, CMF, they have looked upon the situation of the parishes and discerned the common path they shall take. They sought new approaches to a new Church style, new ways to work together as a Province.



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MINO: A GUIDE TO THE ARTWORK OF THE CLARETIAN PAINTER MINO CEREZO BARREDO

Lecco, Italy. The association community of Via Gaggio in Lecco published a guidebook to the artwork and life of Cerezo Barredo. It is a 368-page book, rich in numerous illustrations, which follows the itinerary of the intense artistic production of Mino's service of the Word through art, communicating to the poor the joy of the Kingdom. Accompanying the images are texts written by Mino and comments that supply a framework for understanding his intense artistic legacy.

The Community of Via Gaggio has an intimate friendship with Mino and proposes this book to help understand his missionary action through painting. It is also a tribute to Mino's 90th birthday, an honor of their great friendship. Angelo Cupini, CMF, and Emanuela Pizzardi produced the book. Those interested may write to: info@comunitagaggio.it.

MICLA

SHARING OUR MISSION, SHAPING MISSION PARTNERS



Bahía Blanca, Argentina. Once again, three enthusiastic volunteers had an emersion, learned, and cherished their experience with the community of Bahía Blanca as they prepared for a much greater mission.

From February 17 to 20, Martina Remis and Matías Lorenzo, who are already doing the short volunteer experience in Lambaré, Paraguay, and Valentina Vidal, who will live the long volunteer experience in Ingeniero Jacobacci, Argentina, starting in mid-March, live in the missionary community. Prefect of Evangelization of San José del Sur Province, Fr. Fermín García, CMF, supplied them with a space for formation to introduce them to the history and the current situation of the Claretian missionary service in Paraguay.

CLARETIAN FAMILY

THE LAY CLARETIANS, ON THE SYNODAL JOURNEY

The Lay Claretians Movement (MSC), in fidelity to its charism and vocation, as a Movement, following its commitment to the Church and with the service they wish to give to its evangelizing mission, began its participation in the synodal process that Pope Francis called for in October last year.

In a letter dated March 8, written by its Secretary-General, Miguel Ángel Sosa Hernández, the Movement is informed of the initiatives. All communities and Regions of the Movement are encouraged to become actively involved in the work being done in their local Church through their parishes and dioceses. This agrees with the principles of their Claretian identity, which is their option to build a communitarian and participative Church, as stated in number 27 of their Ideology.

Likewise, according to their configuration as an international association of lay faithful recognized by the Church, they have also considered it essential to reflect at a general level and contribute to the Secretariat of the Synod on their vision as a Movement from the uniqueness of their charism. To this end, the General Council decided to convene a group of Lay Claretians representative of the social, cultural, and generational variety of the Movement, to help them carry out this discernment on behalf of all their communities.

Among the lay people invited to form this group was the representatives elected by each Region, together with three representatives of the communities without a Region – to be able to contribute a reflection

from different territorial and cultural perspectives. The members of previous General Councils will join them to be able to contribute with a historical and global perspective as well. All of them were asked to discover the signs of the Spirit that they identify in their experience as an ecclesial movement, reflecting from a Claretian and lay perspective on the two questions posed by the Synodal consultation. The reflections were shared during the general virtual meeting on February 26.

It was an enriching meeting that allowed them to approach little by little a common reality that presents many faces and manifests itself in multiple ways.

“A reality in which we all agree in recognizing our charism as a great gift that we have received from the Spirit to put it at the service of the Church; in valuing our experience of living the faith in community as a great strength and a perfect instrument of ecclesial synodality; and also, in feeling the urgent call of the Spirit to evangelize and persevere tirelessly in the proclamation of the Word of God amid the obstacles and obstacles that today’s world presents to us,” says Miguel Ángel.

The Movement’s General Council will prepare a synthesis of the gathered data and send it to the Secretariat of the Synod at the Vatican on behalf of the Movement. The Movement will also use it to propose lines of work that will help them to advance in their own synodal journey as a movement, and deepen their communion, participation, mission, and collaboration in the renewal of the Church based on their conversion.

PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

03/19/2022

Fr. Rhoel Gallardo

Nguyen, Tinh Hu
Nguyen Xuan, Hiep
(Francis Xavier)
Pham Hoang, Thai (Peter)
Rasay, Jeffrey

03/19/2022

San José del Sur

Takaya Sincovich, Pablo
Ezequiel

CALLED TO THE FATHER’S HOUSE

March 2022

02 FR. ATILANO ALÁIZ PRIETO

at 89 yrs. old in Leon, Spain.
Province of Santiago.

29 FR. CRESCENCIO GARCÍA HERRERO

at 90 yrs. old in Leon, Spain.
Province of Santiago.