



A FIRE WITH LOVE¹

Our God and Father,
you are the fire that ignited the soul of Claret
and has remained alive and burning
in our life and our history.

Keep it active, burning God
so that it may remove the ashes of our tepidity
and stir up the embers of our vocation
to continue illuminating
the crossroads of so many dark pathways,
and warm up the cold silence of the poor.

Lead us not into the temptation
to distance ourselves from you.
We want to go on playing with that fire...
in the forge of your love.
For if we lacked your love
we could not be men on fire with love.
Amen.

¹ This prayer is centred on the verb 'to burn' and shows the subtle tone of the petition for pardon remembering our past.



SENT TO SPREAD²

Good Father,
you who send us to set the whole world on fire
with the fire of your love,
keep us always burning,
to spread the gospel to the whole world.

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary
we ask you to protect us from the worldliness
of pride and vainglory,
that stifle the gospel
and destroy our family.
Keep us always in the hope
of being, through your faithful providence,
a healthy and fruitful Congregation,
a beloved Mother of diverse and united sons,
a home and school of communion
and a hive of missionaries.

Do not abandon us to the dangers
that keep us away from the poorest and most needy
and give us the light and strength of fidelity,
anchored in the Fiat of our Mother. Amen

² This prayer is centred on the verb 'to spread' and shows the subtle tone of thankfulness to God, contemplating our present.



SETTING THE WHOLE WORLD ON FIRE³

We thank you, Father
that you have called us to evangelise
like our founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret,
as children of our Beloved Congregation,
missionary and martyr, in its 175 years of existence.

Set our hearts on fire with
an intense love for you and for your sons and daughters.
Send us the fire of your love
that we may set the whole world on fire.

Help us to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus,
so that we may live today and always
as his true disciples
and call others to accompany us.

As sons of the Heart of Mary
we ask you, Father, for that profound cordiality
that is so necessary to be in the world as
passionate messengers of the Gospel. Amen.

³ This prayer is centred on the verb 'to set on fire' and shows a subtle tone of hopeful supplication for our future.



THE LORD, OUR SHEPHERD⁴ (based on Psalm 23)

Our Father, you have been
the shepherd and guide of our Congregation,
our refuge from generation to generation.
We know that though the storm rages
and the night grows very dark
we have nothing to fear,
for you always walk beside us
giving us strength to carry on.

Good Shepherd, we shall lack nothing if you are with us
and in meadows of fresh pasture you give us rest;
Your rod and your staff comfort us
when we are tired and weary.
When we listen to your voice, we shall find
no trial that we cannot overcome.

Lead us to quiet springs
and heal our fears and sorrows
when we cross dark pathways.
Give us the courage to look to you
to continue on the path that leads us to realize
your dreams for us and our world. Amen

⁴ This prayer is centred on Psalm 23 which gave a start to our Congregation. It is centred, above all, on the closeness and assistance of the Provident God in our past, present and future.