



Prot. SG 12/2025

## **MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL Creating a Safe and Fraternal Environment for All**

Dear brothers,

The creation story in Genesis reminds us of the inherent goodness imbued in all of God's creation: "God saw that it was good" (Gen 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25). Humanity, created in God's own image and likeness, was deemed "very good" (Gen 1:31). This foundational truth calls us to be stewards of creation and co-creators with God in building a world marked by unity, diversity, and mutual respect. Yet, when humanity strays from this divine vision, the potential for harm and exploitation emerges. In response, Jesus proclaimed the "Kingdom of Heaven" (Mk 1:15), calling His followers to bear witness to God's Dream for a renewed humanity—a mission that continues through us today.

In recent times, the credibility of the Church as "a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race" (LG 1) has been deeply shaken by instances of abuse within its fold, causing profound harm, especially to the most vulnerable. Our Congregation has not been immune to these challenges, as some members have failed to uphold the dignity of their missionary calling. These painful realities demand a decisive and collaborative response, fostering an environment of respect and care for every individual. Each person is an irreplaceable image of God, being transformed into Christ's likeness (1 Cor 3:16; Rom 8:29), a treasure in earthen vessels (2 Cor 4:7), and precious in God's sight (Is 43:4). Embracing this perspective calls us to act with compassion and justice, particularly in addressing abuse and ensuring victims receive the attention and care they deserve.

Our Major Organisms have made commendable efforts in crafting and implementing safeguarding protocols in developing and implementing safeguarding protocols, guided by our Congregation's documents especially the Vademecum of 2020 and integrating the norms of their respective local Churches and civil legislation. It is encouraging to witness their dedication to both formulating and effectively enacting these protocols.

The updated Vademecum before you represents a collective effort to respond to this call, providing clear guidelines to ensure a safe and fraternal environment for all. It has incorporated recent ecclesial guidelines. I urge all Major Superiors to initiate the process of adapting and locally applying this document in their jurisdictions, supported by expert commissions.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the commission, led by the General Prefect of Apostolate, for their diligent work in preparing this document. Their commitment exemplifies our shared resolve to create safe environments that protect and care for minors and vulnerable adults, embodying the values of our Claretian mission.

As we move forward, let us recognize that the effectiveness of these protocols depends on our unwavering commitment to placing Christ at the center of our lives and ministries. His transformative love empowers us to joyfully lay down our lives for the well-being of others. Together, let us journey synodally, hand in hand with the Church and all people of goodwill, to build a more just and fraternal world where God's Dream for humanity becomes a tangible reality in every Claretian environment.

Let us commit wholeheartedly to the mission of Jesus in the world.

**(SGD) Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF**  
*Superior General*

Rome, January 17, 2025