

PILGRIMS OF HOPE MESSAGE FROM PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

As we are in this sacred Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis, as he declared the Jubilee year, exhorted us to be “Pilgrims of Hope” in a world wounded by war, pandemic, and climate crisis. This extraordinary grace period, which began with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024, invites us to deepen our missionary charism as followers of St. Anthony Mary Claret and sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis declared in his papal bull “*Spes Non Confudit*” (Hope Does Not Disappoint) that hope must be the foundation of our Christian witness. As Claretians in India, we are uniquely positioned to be bearers of this hope to our people. Our charism calls us to serve and build the Church with the ministry of the Word, proclaiming the Kingdom of God, and also to do whatever is urgent, necessary, and timely, making us natural ambassadors of the jubilee hope.

The theme “Pilgrims of Hope” resonates deeply with our Claretian identity. Like our founder, St. Claret, we are called to be pilgrims who journey with God’s people, carrying the flame of hope wherever our mission takes us: from the urban parishes to remote rural communities, from educational institutions to special ministry centres, from homes for the marginalized to hostels run for the underprivileged.

Our Province continues its efforts along the synodal path of the Church and congregational journey of being rooted in Christ and audacious in mission. This Jubilee Year provides us with a providential opportunity to intensify this journey. We participate with the Local Church in celebrating the Jubilee. Some of the specific ways by which we can make this Jubilee Year remarkable and personal are by renewing our Missionary Zeal, and some practical ways for this are regular participation in

the Sacrament of Reconciliation, organizing community pilgrimages to local shrines and holy places, and dedicating time for personal and community spiritual renewal. Another way of making this Jubilee year our own is by focussing on the Ministry of Hope and we do this by focussing our preaching and catechesis on themes of hope and mercy, by reaching out to marginalized communities with renewed compassion, and by strengthening our ministry among youth, families, and the elderly. As we find a widening gulf in the social fabric of the Indian society today, we

can also be Pilgrims of Hope by working for Fraternal Unity. Some ways by which we can do this is by strengthening the bonds within our Claretian community through regular sharing and prayer, fostering inter-religious dialogue and ecumenical relationships, and by building bridges of understanding across social divides.

This Jubilee Year is not merely a calendar event but a Kairos moment – God’s appointed time for renewal and mission. Let us grow in faith, hope, and charity, cultivating these special fruits during this Jubilee Year, while simultaneously becoming more audacious in our missionary outreach.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother, under whose protection we live and minister, guide us as we journey together as Pilgrims of Hope. Let us allow this Jubilee grace to transform not only our personal lives but our entire ministerial presence, making us more effective instruments of God’s mercy and hope for the people we serve.

May I wish you a happy Independence Day and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr. Sabu George Koottarapallil, CMF
Provincial Superior



FORMATION

GRATEFUL IN VOCATION

Once again the Indian Claretians rejoiced celebrating the Claretian Vocation day as we welcomed new Candidates, initiated Novitiate formation and accepted the Professions and Renewals of our Students.



Candidates, along with the Formators, at Belagavi



Candidates, along with Formators, at Medchal

On 30 May 2025, during the Eucharistic celebration, 27 Postulants from five Indian Major Organisms began their Novitiate formation at Claret Bhavan Bengaluru. Provincial Superior, Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, accepted their promise and entrusted the new novices to the guidance of the Novice Master, Fr. Mariadoss.



Province of Bangalore rejoiced as two of their Novices made their First Profession and 12 Students renewed



Candidates, along with Formators, at Medchal

their Vows on 31 May, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, during the solemn Eucharist presided by the Provincial Superior at Novitiate House Carmelaram. A great number of Religious and Priests joined the Claretian fraternity in this festive celebration along with their friends and well-wishers and the families of those making their first commitment in the Congregation.



Students with Formators at Claretian Seminary Malleswaram

BELAGAVI, CLARET NIKETAN

Starting with the Way of the Heart

With the new academic year, the life in the minor seminary at Belagavi is brimming with enthusiasm. The formators have set in the atmosphere for students' integral vocational growth. With an aim to give strong foundation for love for prayer and the Word of God, POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK movement has been introduced in the seminary. Fr. Xavier Tharamel SJ, the National Director and South Asian Coordinator for Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network had an interaction with the seminarians and introduced the theme. He encouraged the students to actively participate in this movement.

He emphasized that, the heart of the Church's mission is Prayer. He invited the young seminarians to follow the Way of the Heart, which is our spiritual journey that leads us to harmonize our hearts with the Heart of Jesus. It is a formative journey which helps us to embark on a mission of compassion for the world.



The inauguration of Literary Association for new academic year was held on 26 July 2025. The presence of Fr. Carlos Sánchez, General Prefect of Spirituality



and community Life and Fr. John Payikattu, the vice Provincial, added joy to the celebration. In his message, Fr. Carlos spoke about the 'Academy of San Miguel' founded by Father Claret. It was an association of artists and professionals dedicated to evangelization through culture and art. He highlighted that for Claret evangelization was not just preaching the word but transmitting Christian values through art, music and other forms of creative expression. He encouraged the students to form themselves holistically that they can be true witnesses of Gospel in every aspect of life. Fr. John invited the students to make use of the opportunities to improve their talents and skills through integral formation. The inaugural ceremony was lit up with students' active participation through songs, dance, skit, speeches, etc.

CARMELARAM, CLARET BHAVAN Together Towards Growth

Claret Bhavan, the Claretian Novitiate House in Bengaluru, continues its noble tradition of Formation of Novices of different congregations.

This year the common group comprises of 95 novices



from ten different congregations. On 25 June 2025 the new batch came together to initiate the activities of the year with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and an orientation session animated by Fr. Agnel Amalan, Provincial Superior of Somascans. Fr. Agnel inspired the novices to value the call of God and to discern the vocation with conviction. Different interactive sessions set the tone for the learning and journeying together the path of vocational discernment.

Bangalore Claretians - BACLA

It was a day of profound joy and spiritual significance for the Bangalore Claretians as we came together to celebrate the 176th foundation day of our beloved

Congregation at Claret Bhavan Carmelaram, the cradle of our congregation in India. It was added joy that Fr. Carlos Sánchez, the General Prefect of Spirituality and Community Life presided the solemn Eucharist on the day. The celebration began with a friendly volleyball



match between Novices and Theology students. The Eucharistic celebration was a moment for deep gratitude, reflection on the Congregation's rich history, and a renewal of commitment to the Claretian charism.



There was also a captivating cultural programme, aptly themed "Claretian Foundation Day." Young Claretians brought out a few creative presentations with skit, songs and dances, including the foundation scene by the novices that depicted the vision of Claret.

Jubilee Celebrations

On 29 May 2025, we, the Province of Bangalore, felicitated our Jubilarians at the Provincial Curia at Malleswaram. Four members celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their Profession, four the Silver Jubilee and two members celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their Priestly Ordination. The celebration was marked by the solemn Eucharist and a fellowship meal. Before the day of celebration, the jubilarians had joined together with



their companions at ASCLA West level for a three days of preparation.



Fr. Mathew Moothedam defends his Doctoral Thesis in Biblical Theology from St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bengaluru

PASTORAL AND SOCIAL MINISTRY

BARWADIH, ST. CLARET CHURCH

New Shepherd New Initiatives for Jubilee Year 2025

United in purpose, St. Claret Church Barwadih Parish's entire pastoral team, comprising of five Priests and ten

Sisters, came together on 25 June 2025 for a planning session and drafted a blueprint for the activities of Jubilee Year 2025. Key proposals included intensifying family visits, expanding faith and moral education,



improved catechism for students and youth, revitalizing BCC (Basic Christian Community) activities, and extending village Mass celebrations. This unified effort promises a vibrant year of faith-filled celebrations.

The new Parish Priest, Fr. Rajesh Barla CMF, was formally installed on Sunday, 29 June 2025 during the solemn Eucharist presided by Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas SFX, Bishop of Daltonganj. The parish community witnessed the official handing over of the pastoral responsibilities amidst prayers and best wishes. Bishop Theodore offered guidance and blessings for the parish's future under its new leader.

BHATTIPROLU, CHRIST THE REDEEMER CHURCH **Promoting Lay Leadership**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was joyfully celebrated on 28 June 2025 by Christ the Redeemer Church Bhattiprolu in collaboration with the Catechists of the parish. With the aim of encouraging and appreciating the lay leadership, the celebration

included moments of Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and a reflection on the role and responsibilities of catechists in serving the people of God, guided by the Parish Priest, Fr. Chinnanna. During the solemn Holy Eucharist the homily delved on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother. A total of 13 Catechists participated in the celebration, along with the Priests and the Sisters collaborators.



DASARAHALLI, SAINTS JOSEPH AND CLARET CHURCH **First Holy Communion and the Confirmation**

16 students of Saints Joseph and Claret Parish Dasarahalli received the First Holy Communion and the Confirmation on Sunday, 27 April 2025 during the solemn Eucharist presided by Fr. Justin Kuzhivelil CMF, the Parish Priest.



GURGAON, ST. CLARET CHURCH **Youth with Helping Hands**

The youth of St. Claret Church Gurgaon initiated a Fundraiser Campaign on 29 June 2025 with the intention of helping those in need.

The inaugural event saw enthusiastic participation as members of the youth group came together early to prepare a refreshing drink and set up the stall. Their efforts paid off, with the fundraiser drawing in a warm



response and resulting in notable success. The success of the event stands as a testament to the group's unity, spirit of service, and commitment to making a positive impact in people's lives.

JALAHALLI, ST. THOMAS FORANE CHURCH **New Altar and Sanctuary**

A moment of deep spiritual significance unfolded at St. Thomas Forane Church Jalahalli on Saturday, 26 April



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2025, as the newly built Madbha (Sanctuary) and Altar were blessed and consecrated by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, the Bishop of Mandya.

The event marked a milestone in the history of St. Thomas Forane Church, strengthening the bond of the community and rekindling the spirit of devotion and commitment among the parishioners. The beautifully consecrated Madbha now stands as a testament to the living faith of the people and their dedication to building the Body of Christ.

Holy Blaze

On 12 July 2025 San Thome Youth Front (STYF) of St. Thomas Forane Church Jalahalli hosted Holy Blaze, a spirit-filled evening of prayer, reflection, fellowship, and community bonding. Over 45 enthusiastic youth came together for this memorable experience, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere rooted in faith.

The evening featured a bonfire, soulful music, interactive games, and a delightful dinner, all of which encouraged meaningful interactions and new friendships. The highlight of the evening was the inspiring session by Rev. Fr. Anoop Mundackal CSSR, which invited the youth

into deeper reflection and a more personal connection with their faith. Holy Blaze proved to be a truly uplifting event, leaving lasting memories and strengthening the spiritual bond within the youth community.

KAILASAPURAM, VELANKANNI MATHA CHURCH Summer Camp for Children

During this summer holidays two days Children's Camp was conducted at Velankanni Matha Parish, Kailasapuram on 02 and 03 May 2025. A total 86 students (48 boys and 38 girls) participated in the camp. Fr. Santhosh, the parish priest, Bro Prabhudas and Catechism Teachers animated the days with different interactive sessions and activities. Separate sessions were held for the high school students. The sessions comprised of various informative and learning activities based on basic prayers and catechism, stories from the life of Jesus, devotion to Mother Mary, inspirations from the lives of Saints, lessons on moral and social values, and interactive songs, etc.

It was also an opportunity for the young ones to pay homage to Pope Francis. Children participated with a lot of enthusiasm and competitive spirit in different



activities. Prizes were distributed to all the winners; all the participants too received special gifts from the parish priest.

NALLAJERLA, INFANT JESUS CHURCH Youth Day

On 2 March 2025 Infant Jesus Church organized Youth Day at the parish level. Youth from the different villages of the parish gathered in large number to participate in the programme. They showed great enthusiasm in



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participating the orientation sessions and interactive dynamics; the liturgy was well celebrated and appreciated. It was a day of learning and bonding in faith for the youth of the parish.

SUMANAHALLI

Renewed Hopes

In order to provide a more dignified life to the inmates in Sumanahalli, the entire campus faculties were upgraded in the month of June in the Jubilee Year 2025. Ave Maria, the residential quarters for leprosy affected persons and Support, Centre for HIV affected people, were renovated with better dining and meeting spaces. Together they accommodate about 100 destitute people. St Joseph's School in the Sumanahalli campus that provides education to the children of the people in

peripheries, was also modernised with digital classes, better playground, stage and approach road. About three crore rupees were spent to ensure that these people are given a decent facility to live and study.



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WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY

In 2021, Pope Francis established the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus (July 26). This year, the theme for the celebration has been “Blessed are those who have not lost hope” (cf. Sir 14:2). “These words, taken from the Book of Sirach, express the blessedness of the elderly and highlight the

hope placed in the Lord as the path to a Christian and reconciled old age. In this Jubilee Year, the celebration aims to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly is a sign of hope in every family and ecclesial community.

Various institutions in our province celebrated the day meaningfully bringing together the elderly and honouring them, especially in the parish communities.

Barwadih



Bhaskaraopeta



Narasannapeta



Kailasapuram



EDUCATION MINISTRY

BARIKHAJURI, ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

A Celebration of Leadership and Service

St. Peter English Medium School, Barikhajuri, hosted its prestigious Investiture Ceremony on 3 May 2025,



ushering in the newly appointed student council for the academic year 2025–2026. The event stood as a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing responsible, value-driven leaders. Along with other dignitaries of the day, honoured guests included Chief Guest Fr. Deonis Kujur, CMF, and Guest of Honour Fr. Kevin Prem, CMF, whose inspiring addresses urged students to embrace their roles with humility, vision, and a heart of service.

Academic Excellence

The school once again upheld its proud legacy of academic distinction in the Class 10 JAC Board Examinations for 2025. All 49 students who appeared, passed with First Division marks as an outstanding reflection of the



school's unwavering commitment to excellence, discipline, and holistic growth.

The school also proudly celebrated the remarkable success of Vandana Tirkey, who qualified in the prestigious Akanksha Entrance Examination 2025,

conducted by the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC). Her outstanding performance places her among the 150 students selected across Jharkhand for admission into the state's elite coaching centres for engineering, medical, and law entrance preparation.

These achievements are testament of students' dedication, academic excellence, and the nurturing environment provided by the school. Their success

brings immense pride to the entire school community and stands as a shining inspiration for other students to aim high, work hard, and pursue their dreams with confidence.

BARWADIH, ST. CLARET SCHOOL

Harmony on International Yoga Day

The serene grounds of St. Claret School, Ledgain Barwadih came alive as Students embraced wellness on International Yoga Day on 21 June 2025. With vibrant yoga posters and graceful poses, young Claretines transformed the campus into a sanctuary of balance and mindfulness. From Surya Namaskar to meditation, the event radiated positivity and unity. Teachers lauded



the students' enthusiasm, calling it "a celebration of body, mind, and spirit." The air pulsed with calm energy, reminding all that yoga isn't just an activity—it's a way of life.

BASUREGADI, ST. CLARET SCHOOL

Cultivating Eco-friendly Practices

In a remarkable display of democracy blended with technology, St. Claret High School, Basuregadi, successfully conducted its School Cabinet Election on 28 June 2025. Keeping in mind the sustainable goals, this year's election was entirely paperless and digital, integrating technology in the school.



EDUCATION MINISTRY

The entire election process strictly followed the democratic principles. Candidates campaigned by distributing eco-friendly handouts displaying their election symbols, engaging their class mates with speeches, and digital posters.

The highlight of the election was the use of digital voting, which ensured transparency, accuracy, and efficiency. Students had the first-hand experience of the power of democracy, understanding the value of every single vote. It was a proud moment for the school. Our students have embraced eco-friendly practices by going completely paperless.

The newly elected cabinet members were officially inducted during the Investiture Ceremony on 4 July 2025 by the chief guest of the day, Fr. Lurdhu CMF, Principal of St. Claret High School, Athvelly. The entire event was a great learning experience for the student community.

CARMELARAM, ICL-SANYASA

Project Management Training

Institute of Consecrated Life – Sanyasa successfully organized a workshop on Project Management Training from 9-13 June 2025, facilitated by Fr. Lord M. Winner, CMF, the former General Mission Procurator of Claretian Missionaries. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from 13 congregations, three catholic organizations, and one diocese.

The training programme focussed on the principles of Integral Human Development (IHD), providing practical methodologies to address social challenges through mission-driven initiatives. The programme was structured into interactive lectures, group discussions, hands-on exercises, and practical project simulations.



Topics ranged from Integral Human Development and Sustainable Development Goals to Logical Framework Analysis, Budgeting, Donor Mapping, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Sustainability. Each session provided tools and techniques for immediate application within the apostolic contexts of the participants.

At the valedictory, certificates of participation were given away by Fr. George Panthalanickal. The participants expressed their deep satisfaction at the fruitfulness of the workshop and thanked the Facilitator and the Institute. The Management, convinced of the need, relevance, and the effectiveness of the workshop and given the demand the workshop generated when it was announced are planning to make it an annual event.

JALAHALLI, ANTHONY CLARET SCHOOL

Environment Day

From a powerful morning assembly to a spirited rally by Scouts & Guides and a tree plantation drive by the NCC



cadets, 05 June 2025 was all about action for the Earth at Anthony Claret School Jalahalli. Students from Grade 1 to 10 showcased their creativity in a vibrant poster-making competition, and classrooms echoed with awareness as they learned about prevention of plastic. Together they pledged to protect our planet!

Yoga for Harmony

On June 21 2025, to celebrate the international Yoga Day, Grade VI Students of Anthony Claret School Jalahalli



embraced the spirit of mindfulness and wellness with a rejuvenating yoga session, guided by the graceful and inspiring Yoga Instructor, Ms Rekha Israel. It was refreshing and rejuvenating to celebrate the harmony of body and mind.

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JALAHALLI, ST. CLARET SCHOOL

Beat plastic pollution

This year the World Environment Day focuses on solutions to beat plastic pollution. And rightly so. Plastic pollution is choking our planet – harming ecosystems, well-being, and the climate. Plastic waste clogs rivers, pollutes the ocean, and endangers wildlife.

Through a musical theatre, the students of St. Claret School Jalahalli enacted a programme on the theme



‘Ending global plastic pollution’, to convey the message ‘go green and practice reduce, reuse, and recycle’ in our daily lives.

JALAHALLI, ST. CLARET COLLEGE

Adivasi Utsava

St. Claret College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, came alive with the sights, sounds, and spirit of indigenous India during the Adivasi Utsava held on 28 and 29 April 2025. The event was organized by the Department of Commerce – Travel and Tourism Management, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka.

This two-day celebration was a powerful tribute to tribal heritage, featuring a rich showcase of culture, identity, and tradition. Eight tribal communities from across Karnataka participated, presenting vibrant performances, soulful handicrafts, indigenous cuisine, and oral traditions that offered the audience an immersive cultural experience.



A key highlight of the Utsava was a meaningful panel discussion that brought together tribal leaders, scholars, and activists to engage in thoughtful dialogue on issues of representation, sustainability, and rights of indigenous peoples. The sessions inspired both awareness and admiration among students and guests.

The Utsava concluded with the esteemed presence of Shri Eshwar Khandre, Honourable Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, who appreciated the college’s bold initiative in hosting such a significant event. In his address, the Minister lauded St. Claret College’s commitment to inclusivity, cultural education, and environmental consciousness, calling it a model for other institutions. The event marked a milestone in the college’s ongoing efforts to foster social harmony, cultural literacy, and responsible citizenship among its student community.

JALAHALLI, ST. CLARET P U COLLEGE

New Leadership and New Beginnings

At St. Claret P U College Jalahalli, the much anticipated Academia 2025 unfolded on 6 June 2025 with great fervour and enthusiasm. The event served a dual purpose – the Investiture Ceremony for the newly elected cabinet members and the Orientation Programme for the incoming batch of first-year students.

Gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest was Smt. Siri Gowri D.R., IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, North Bangalore. The event was further honoured by the presence of Dr. Latha T.S., Chief PRO, KSRTC and Senior Executive Vice President, PRCI, who attended as the Guests of Honour. Rev. Dr. Sabu George, CMF, General Manager, St. Claret Institutions, addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights on the essence of leadership and the responsibility it entails.



NEW BLESSINGS

Blessing of New Residence in Neyyattinkara

Province of Bangalore was glad that our long cherished dream of having a house in Kerala was being fulfilled in inaugurating Shanthi Nivas at Kunnanvilla in Neyyattinkara diocese. The blessing and opening of the house took place on 01 May 2025. Most Rev. Vincent



Samuel, Bishop of Neyyattinkara, presided the solemn Holy Eucharist and blessed the new residence and Rev. Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, Provincial Superior, opened the house in the presence of Coadjutor Bishop of Neyyattinkara, Most Rev. Selvarajan Dasan, and Rev. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, Provincial Superior of St. Thomas Province.

New De-addiction Centre at Goa

Province of Bangalore reached yet another important milestone in its missionary journey, taking forward the message of Christ to the people in the peripheries. New Hope Recovery Centre, an Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for the Addicts, was inaugurated at Colvale, Goa on 28 July 2025.



Most Rev. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes, the Auxiliary Bishop of Goa and Daman, Shri. Nilkanth Halarnkar, MLA, Tivim, Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Goa, Shri. Michael Lobo, MLA, Calangute, Govt. of Goa, and Adv. Carlos Alvares Ferreira, MLA, Aldona, Govt. of Goa, along with a host of dignitaries were present for the inaugural ceremony.

New School Building at Nallajerla

30 July 2025 marked an important day in the history of Nallajerla mission as the newly built School Building was inaugurated by Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Sabu George and blessed by Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru.



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