



REFLECTIONS FOR CLARETIAN WAY OF LIFE TODAY

The foundation Day of our Congregation during this Jubilee Year of Mercy gives us an opportunity to reflect on our vocation as Claretian Missionaries to experience the boundless Mercy of God, and show this mercy to others through the intercession of the mother of Mount Carmel. St. Antony Mary Claret's Charismatic vocation to intensely and vigorously preach the Word of God for the conversion of sinners inspired him to found our

The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us of the Corporal and Spiritual acts of mercy *"Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead."* (M.V. 15) Let us consciously and actively participate in such acts of mercy and instruct the faithful about these pious practices.



Pilgrimages to holy places and shrines, a devotion practiced by our founder from his childhood, has been encouraged and emphasized by the pope *"since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion."* Let each of us undertake initiatives to participate in prayerful walks to pilgrim centres and shrines and try to develop some of our centres into shrines and pilgrimage centres by organizing prayers, retreats and devotions which attract people wherever possible.

Today we see an alarming damage done to God's creation in the selfish exploitation of nature and its resources. We cannot be merciful and kind ignoring the cruelties done to our mother earth. We therefore need to take a call to preserve and nurture the balance of nature. We have to do away with the 'use and throw' culture that has crept into our lives for cozy living and adapt in our lifestyle a more useful and less damaging approach of *re-use, re-fill, and re-cycle*. A conscious effort not to pollute, but participate in preserving and rejuvenating the water bodies, flora and fauna, forests and trees, should be our Resolve. Special efforts must be undertaken to do rain water harvesting, planting of trees, (especially fruit trees), promote organic farming. Create atmosphere that is plastic-free and adapting to less use of paper and fossil fuels - in short, to do everything possible to protect our mother earth and its environment.

May this Foundation Day help us to grow deeper in our call as Claretians and strive to imitate our founder St. Antony Mary Claret. Mother of Mount Carmel pray for your sons.

Fr. Peter D'Souza

Provincial Vicar and Prefect of Apostolate and Missions

Congregation. This immensely deep dedication of St. Claret to spread the Gospel for the Glory of God and Salvation of mankind continues through each one of us today.

Pope Francis has quoted from the scriptures abundantly in the document *Misericordiae Vultus* to emphasize the abounding mercy and love of God. The parables of the prodigal son, the lost sheep, the lost coin etc., reveal the unconditional Mercy of God. Humility, Repentance, Contrition and a firm resolve not to sin anymore and a heart that is ready to forgive others are essential to obtain this Divine Mercy. The importance of showing mercy in the life of the Church is expressed by pope in the following words: *"The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy – the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer – and when she brings people close to the sources of the Saviour's mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser"*. E.G. 24

St. Antony Mary Claret proclaimed the loving Mercy of God by his prayers, mortifications, penance, preaching, hearing of confessions and his deep concern for the conversion of souls. A profound love for the Word of God, prayer, penance, mortifications, meditations and at all times trying to do the Will of God by humbly obeying his superiors were his means to be authentic and power-filled in his ministry. These practices helped him to find the presence of God in his life to be effective and powerful in whatever he did. We are shareholders of this Charism, we participate in this Charism, therefore our life and mission should correspond to the spreading of this message of God's loving Mercy to all people.

FORMATION

Claret Niketan, Peeranwadi



New Candidates

Claret Niketan, Peeranwadi, came alive with the boisterous presence of new comers on 19 June 2016. The house has a total of 31 freshers today, hailing from seven states and belonging to two major organisms. This energetic, vibrant group make their presence felt everywhere. We wish them all the best in their vocational journey.



Preparation for Final Vows

As a part of the preparation for the final vows, an intensive course was organised for our students from 8 May to 25 May 2016. This time the venue for the course was Claret Niketan, Belagavi. All together there were twelve students from four different major organisms of India and Sri Lanka; four from Sri Lanka, four from the province of Chennai, one from St. Thomas province and three from province of Bangalore.

The input sessions were given by different priests from different Claretian provinces and from other congregations too. The themes dealt during the course were very relevant, ranging from Claretian missionary life to pastoral and social ministry.

A five day retreat guided by Rev. Fr. Rego SJ, during the programme, was the summit of the course, and all the students cherished it. We also had an opportunity, during the

programme, to make a pilgrimage to Goa and visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus, where lies the body of the great missionary, St. Francis Xavier. For us students it was a great joy to come together as missionaries in formation, sharing and learning together.

Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram

New batch of Novices and First Profession



Once again it was a joyous moment to welcome the new batch of the novices at Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram. This year there are 27 novices belonging to the four major organisms of India. The formation team too is now led by the Novice Master, Fr. Varghese Karukulathel.



On 31 May 2016 the joy was complete for the outgoing batch of the novice. From the group of 26, six of them belonging to Bangalore Province, made their First Profession at Claret Bhavan during the Solemn Eucharist, thus beginning a new chapter of life as the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Rev. Fr. Jacob Arakkal John CMF, the provincial superior of Bangalore province, presided at the Mass and accepted the Vows. The vocation was graced with the presence of many a faithful, including the family members of these newly professed, priests and religious from the neighbouring communities, friends and well-wishers and a good number of Claretians.

Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram



Perpetual Profession and the Renewal of Vows

Students Anthony Raj, Bijji Prasanna Kumar and Mathias Bodra made their Final Commitment and 13 others renewed their temporary vows in the Congregation on 31 May, at Claretian Seminary. Rev. Fr. Jacob Arakkal, the Provincial Superior, presided at the solemn Eucharistic celebration and received the vows. Along with the Claretians, the relatives and friends of the candidates and the well-wishers of Claretians and a good number religious and priests too joined the community in the festive celebrations.

Claret Nivas, Carmelaram



Inter-Province Retreat

Rev. Fr. Alexander Kurikattil CMF guided the Inter-Province Retreat organized at Claret Nivas, Carmelaram from 16-21 May 2016. Through this "Year of Mercy Retreat" a total of 25 Claretian Priests from different major organisms nourished themselves spiritually, availing the opportunity. There will be yet another retreat of similar kind from 21-26 November 2016. This will be yet another opportunity for rest of us to nourish ourselves spiritually.

Claretian Publications

2017 Bible Diaries

For twenty-eight years, the Bible Diary has stirred a great deal of interest and brought assurance and inspiration to millions worldwide. It has truly become a great force of Liturgy & Bible-centered daily spiritual life across India and abroad. Indisputably it is more than a mere Diary; it has become a veritable Gospel Movement. In these lovely keepsake editions of the Bible Diary and the Daily Gospel for the year 2017, we have introduced ever succinct and thought provoking reflections on the vast array of Liturgical Scriptural readings to inspire and guide you through a personal 365-day spiritual voyage that will surely illumine and enrich your devotional life. Designed for everyone involved in the life and work of the Church, the best selling Bible Diary and Daily Gospel are munificently designed, in international size to provide one page per weekday and a double-page spread for Sundays, making your spiritual journey more relaxing.

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MISSION

Chtistu Nilayam, Oleru



Inauguration of the new Parish Church

The newly constructed Parish church at Oleru, dedicated to St. Francis Xavier was opened by Rev. Fr. Jacob Arakkal CMF, the Provincial Superior; and blessed and consecrated by Most Rev. Dr. Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur on 25 April 2016 at 6.30 pm. A large number of priests, religious and around 4000 people participated in the grand celebration.

It was a great moment of fulfilling a long cherished dream, a dream of constructing a new Parish church at the mission centre. The ancient and historical church (built 230 years back) handed over to the Claretians when Oleru mission was taken up (from 1994), was closed in the recent past, considering its dilapidated condition. So, need for its renovation or construction of a new church was the options; and the province decided for the latter. Hence, the foundation stone for a new church was laid in June 2014, and the work progressed steadily with the assistance from the provincial government, donors and the faithful. The end result is being appreciated as a wholesome, unique and beautiful piece of work. Praised be the Lord!

Claret Nivas, Carmelaram

New Initiatives at the Retreat House



Under the guidance of Frs. Thomas Urumbumkuzhiyil and Benny Kanjirakatt, Claret Nivas has begun new initiative of organizing guided retreats. July 20 to 24 was one such a first - a 5 days retreat conducted. 18 participants attended the

retreat, including 7 sisters. The theme of the retreat was ABBA experience and growing in the charism of the Holy Spirit. A one day retreat was conducted on 25 June on inner healing which had 70 participants, including 9 sisters. The centre intends to conduct one day retreat every month.

Christu Bhavan, Bhattiprolu



Youth Convention

On 26 June 2016 St. Claret Youth of Christ the Redeemer Church, Bhattiprolu, had a youth convention. Representatives from every substation were present for the event. Fr. Prakash, the youth coordinator, initiated the program with prayer, action song, and session. Fr. Santhosh, the parish priest, explained in short the role and active participation of youth in the parish. After the discussion and suggestions from the youth the parish has set agendas for youth activities during 2016-17. The participants pledged to make the parish active and vibrant.

St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur



Annual Parish Feast Celebrated

On 10 July 2016 St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur, celebrated its annual feast of St Peter the Apostle with Solemn Eucharist presided at by Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza CMF. After the Mass the faithful were led in a devout procession by the Parish Priest, Fr. Chacko Kelampampil CMF; at the end all shared the festive meal.

St. Joseph's Church, Medchal



Vanabhojanam Celebrated

St. Joseph's parish community, led by Fr Balaswamy Bodella CMF, came together on 10 July 2016 in the heart of the nature for traditional Vanabhojanam. Celebrating the Solemn Eucharist, the community also conducted Bible Quiz, group activities and shared the fellowship meal.

Sneha Jyothi, Athani



Inauguration of the Academic Year 2016-17

"The differently abled do not need our Sympathy but they need an opportunity"

Inauguration of the academic year 2016-17 Sneha Jyothi Centre was held on 14th June 2016. Mrs. Asha Prashanth Rao Aihole, Honourable President, Zillah Panchayat, Belagavi, was the Chairperson of the day. The other dignitaries Mrs. Amul Naik, member, Zillah Panchayat, Belagavi, and Rev Fr. Martin D'Souza from Claret Niketan, Belagavi were present for the program. Mrs. Asha Prashanth Rao Aihole appreciated the works of the religious Fathers and Sisters and in a special way the Sneha Jyothi Centre for their selfless service towards the development of the visually challenged. The inmates of Sneha Jyothi Centre performed various cultural programs which were appreciated by all the guests. Rev Fr. Martian D'Souza inspired the Students with his motivational orientation talk. This year the Centre has a total of 26 Boys and 16 Girls who are visually challenged.

The Sneha Jyothi Centre for the Physically Challenged is grateful to all for your support and prayers.

The Project Vision



Inauguration of the Computer Training Centre

Fr Jacob Arakkal CMF, our Provincial Superior, along with Mr. David Asenjo, Managing Director and CEO, Essilor Manufacturing India Pt. Ltd. inaugurated a computer training centre for the visually challenged persons set up in the office of Project Vision at Malleswaram.

Project Vision started this training centre with the support from Essilor and Rotary Club. While the training and expenses for infrastructure are taken up by Essilor, the computers are sponsored by Rotary Club of Bangalore. The college going students are intended to be the main target since many of them do not have a facility in the college for accessing the special software required for their study.

Catholic Ashram, Barwadih

Claretians at Barwadih complete 20 years!

Barwadih mission was officially started in the diocese of Daltonganj on June 16, 1996. Frs. Regy Pymattathil and Lukose Kochupurackal were the pioneers. Barwadih is a block headquarter in the district of Latehar. The area was very infamous for militancy till late. It was seen as the safe zone for the different Naxalite groups. Barwadih was only a Mass centre till 1996 and four families were staying in the campus. Our fathers had to adjust in a single room along with them. With very bare minimum facilities, they had really to put up with more inconveniences for a long time. Financial resources were also hard to come. Gradually things began to take shape. In 2000, this was declared parish and the parish was entrusted to Claretians ad perpetum.

Barwadih has 12 catholic villages and around 325 families. Two women religious congregations are collaborating with us in this mission – Ursulines of Tidlok and Ursulines of Mary Immaculate. Ursulines of Tidlok has been serving in this mission even before our arrival, in Morwai about 15 km from Barwadih. They take care of the school and a dispensary. As of now 5 Claretians are serving in this mission.

After living and assessing the situations, the pioneers began to get involved in the struggles of people on a priority



basis and the first was in the medical field in the form of Health Care Home started in 2003, which is today named as Ghandhiji Health Care and Research Centre. This centre has become a centre of hope to the poor villagers. Sisters of Ursulines of Tidlok are rendering their service from the very beginning. Need for a doctor was always felt and has been the dream of the people and those who worked here. We tried in many places but due to the insufficient infrastructure and the presence of militants along with the financial constraints, we could not manage to get anybody. But as a gift from God on the occasion of completing 20 years, two doctors Dr Jeevan Kuruvilla and Dr Angeline Maria Zachariah, both post graduates from CMC Vellore joined from April 1, 2016. They have been working in this area for quite some time. We consider it a blessing. Our dream for the dispensary is to make it into a small hospital in five years' time when Barwadih mission will celebrate its silver jubilee.



Till 1996 we were managing the Mass and other parish activities in an old building which never had enough place. We also lacked place to conduct any programmes, though this was never a

hindrance. In 2003, a community hall with 3 rooms was inaugurated and this is being used as Church and hall for other programme.

Another great intervention that we made was in the education ministry. With people's request for an English medium school, St. Clare's English medium school was opened in 2006 in the parish campus and later in 2012 extension with higher sections was built in Ledgain. Today we have a good building with 678 children and a hostel with 42 children. Ursulines of Mary Immaculate is collaborating with us in the school and

in the hostel. A separate hostel for the girls is expected to be ready by December. We are convinced that as the school gets its full recognition, there will not be any dearth of students. St. Clare's School in Barwadih has positively affected the people here.

Other than the usual parish ministry we have been into the social activism and social developments. Our mission is also set up as the Regional Centre for Mary's Meal, a project that provides midday meals to the poor school children. Throughout Jharkhand, the project caters to more than 11000 such students. In recent years, we have taken two more missions in the same diocese; Parish and School ministry at Barikhajuri and Vocational and Agricultural Training at Bhusar.

Today as this mission completes 20 years, we have only feelings of gratitude to all those who worked here. The Congregation and the province have always been generous and very supportive. Many individuals and agencies, known and unknown to us, have been extending their continued help. As we look back, we are taken aback by the ways God has been with us in this mission. We have been able to realize most of our plans. We continue to experience God's hand and we dare to dream more for this mission.



EDUCATION

St. Claret School, Buti-Bori



Marching towards excellence

As St. Claret School, Buti-Bori, began its new academic year 15 June 2016, it was a moment of joy and satisfaction for the students and the faculty for the growth achieved over the years.



The new academic year began with inter-religious prayers and cultural programme. Fr. Sunny, the Manager of the school, inaugurated the academic year and addressed the

students. On 25 June 2016 we had investiture ceremony for school Cabinet and 37 students took oath. The school arranged environmental day celebrations and all classes participated actively and brought different types of plants with the motto-*"Save the Earth and Go Green"*. Our students also participated in the Maharashtra State Karate Competition and the School bagged the *Best School Award* with 37 gold medals. Most of these students are selected for the National Karate Competition to be held in September 2016. School arranged two seminars on the topic *Effective Parenting and the Students and Teachers/Classroom Management*.

Sanyasa, Carmelaram



The new batch of students have begun their classes at Sanyasa for the academic year 2016-17.

St. Claret School, Jalahalli



Investiture 2016-17

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way". St. Claret School celebrated the Investiture Ceremony on 18 June 2016, with great joy and enthusiasm. The Chief Guest of the day Dr B C Ravi Kumar, Associate Professor, GKV, inspired the leaders to take up their duties with sincerity and commitment and to uphold the honour and glory of the institution.

St. Claret PU College, Jalahalli



Academia-2016

June 6, 2016 was a perfect day for the Freshers of St. Claret PU College to begin their new academic year. A solemn function was held. Speaking on the occasion, the honourable Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Jacob Arakkal John, Provincial Superior, urged the new comers to be disciplined and hardworking to succeed in their career. An orientation session was held by the Principal, Rev. Fr. Sojan K Abraham; he gave a brief introduction of the academic activities and the rules of the College. The students were advised to be active both in academics and co- curricular activities.

During the programme, the toppers of the II PU Annual Examinations 2015- 16 too were felicitated by the Chief Guest. Out of the 455 students who had appeared for the examination, 90 students have secured distinction and the toppers are: Anushree H (PCMB) - 96.5% Sheetal Pai (PCMC) - 96.5%. A special appreciation goes to Karthik M for securing 100 in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Electronics. The management congratulates both the students and the faculty for this splendid achievement.



Diaconate Ordination

Seven of our Claretian Students, four from Chennai Province and three from Bangalore, were conferred the Order of Diaconate by Most Rev. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore, at Claretian Seminary, Bangalore, on 25 June 2016.

Congratulations



Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations of Frs. Lukose Kochupurackal and Mathew Kottayil, were held at Claretian Provincial House, Malleswaram, on 9 June 2016. It was indeed a moment of great joy for the jubilarians as well as for the Claretians. On behalf of the province, Provincial Superior thanked Frs. Lukose and Mathew for their spirit-filled life and mission in the province and in the Church. The jubilarians thanked the Lord for their vocation and appreciated the Claretian fraternity.

OBITUARY



Mrs. Thressiamma Abraham (87) beloved mother of Fr. Sojan Karoor CMF, passed away on 17 June 2016 at Aimkompu, Kerala.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 22-23 July : Council Meeting
- 19-20 August : Council Meeting
- 04-05 September : Council Meeting
- 10-22 September : Major Superiors' Meeting, Sri Lanka
- 26 Sep. – 01 Oct. : Superiors' Meeting, Claret Nivas, Carmelaram
- 20-21 October : Council Meeting

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