

CLARET: AN APOSTOLIC MISSIONARY

The feast of our Father Founder is here again. Claretians the world over celebrate this day with joy and enthusiasm. It is not just a commemoration of a date, October 24, not just an annual exercise. But an attempt to relive his values, an effort to capture his ethos and life example in our own times. We are living in a historic moment in the life of the congregation: just a year into the life of the new General Government, which does its best to shepherd, inspire and guide Claretian family. This is also the time when major organisms attempt to streamline their life and ministry on the recommendations of the Chapter.

Apostolic Missionary describes the most authentic and profound personality of Anthony Mary Claret. Apostolic missionary, in its original and legal sense mean a priest sent by the Apostolic See to raise up the church where it is not established. Claret obtained the title of apostolic missionary *ad honorem* in 1841, but for him it was not an honorific title but a definition of his being, a recognition of his charisma and commitment with the church. Again he chose evangelical witness according to the life style of Jesus and the twelve. I believe this celebration of the feast should help us introspect: Do I try to take up the lifestyle of Jesus and the twelve and desire earnestly to be seen in the life style of Jesus and the Apostles?

Claret as a missionary bishop was seen quite on the move. When cholera epidemic ravaged the diocese of Cuba he, along with his priests visited the stricken. In those days one of his priests, Pastor of El Cobre gave the supreme display of Christian Compassion and courage with the words. "I know that if I go I will die because it will only worsen my condition: I would rather die than fail the sick man who is calling for me". He went and on his return took to his bed and died. (Auto. 537). Our Founder father Claret as a

missionary bishop traversed such terrain and places which were least frequented by a bishop." Well now, it had been 60 years since a bishop had visited this city, which meant that the sacrament of Confirmation had not been administered in all those years (Auto 542). Thus this zealous missionary not just gave heed to the exhortation of St Paul (Col. 3:12) "As Gods chosen people, clothe yourself with compassion and kindness", he seemed urged on by these words.



Centered people look beyond the obvious. Persons who are focused set their minds on higher values. They look beyond the obvious, would not fall for the instant gratifications. One need to cultivate higher values: "**From Me first to After you**". Father Claret was someone who had his ideals clear. *Salvation of souls, sanctification of self and God's glory* was his life's principle. He went along doing his ministry with these ideals unperturbed.

John Keats said, "I have been astonished that men could die martyrs for their religion. I have shuddered at it. I shudder no more. I could be martyred for my religion. "Love is my religion", and I could die for that.

It's time we rise above mere goals and objectives and ask what my life's purpose is. At some point in life each will have to face this great question.

What do I want to do with my life? Spiritually inclined persons call it "the higher purpose in life or life's purpose. The earlier you answer it the better. Let's halt on our roads and ask ourselves this question. Let's turn to the Founder for inspiration.

Fr. George Mattathil
Prefect of Formation



FORMATION

Claret Niketan, Belagavi



Training for Vision and Mission

When we have a task at hand, we can't afford to miss any opportunity to complete it. So the formation community at Claret Niketan, minor seminary, decided to utilize the

Dasara holidays fruitfully. Students were offered the chance of visiting the Support Centre (community care centre for terminally ill) in view of instilling in all a thirst for missionary endeavours. This also included a sharing session by Fr. Arogya Nadhan CMF from Sneha Jyothi, Athani (centre for physically challenged). In order to relax themselves from the academic activities, they had the opportunities to visit the VTU campus, a day of trekking and manual works.

In order to induce a thirst and desire for holistic growth in the students, four days of input sessions, 10-14 October, were conducted for the second and third year students. The topics dealt with were *'Self-Esteem and Leadership skills'*. The resource persons were Frs. Joji Machukuzhiyil CMF and Linto Kokkandathil CMF. The sessions left a lasting impression on the students and helped them in focusing their lives in line with the demands of the seminary formation with vigour and enthusiasm.

Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram



Missionary Encounter and Village Exposure

A day of encounter with some of our Claretian missionaries was held on 2 October at Claretian seminary. The programme commenced with the con-celebrated Holy Mass presided at by Fr. Tom Vellappattu. Fr. Xavier E Manavath, the Superior of the house, cordially welcomed the missionaries and initiated the proceedings. The encounter was arranged into three panels of three priests each, which included missionaries from varied ministries and apostolates. They were Frs. Savy Puthussery, Thomas Thazhathuveetil, William Pudota, George Kannanthanam, Reji Pymattathil, Sibi Eravimangalam, Tom Vellappattu, and Hirudayaraj A. The missionaries challenged and motivated the young minds who are aspiring to be missionaries. It was also an opportunity for the students to

clarity their niggling doubts and to envision the mission that they are going to take up in the future.

"My Spirit is for the whole world". Impelled and inspired by this missionary motto of our Founder St Anthony Mary Claret, the Claretian Seminary organized one week village exposure programme after the successful completion of the first semester. The First Year students had gone to Bosco Mane in Chamrajpet (centre for street children), where they engaged themselves by caring and learning from the children; thus trying to adapt to the prophetic missionary charism of our founder. The Second Year students had been to Jnana Jyothi in Anakal. Eight of them were placed in eight different villages; where they lived a week among the Hindu brethren. Besides closely encountering the lifestyle of poor villagers, the aim of this exposure was to be united in humanity, going beyond the barriers of religion. The Third Year students were at Snehagram in Dharmapuri Diocese. Here they had the opportunity to encounter and comfort those affected by social stigma and neglect. Thus the students had the opportunity to be missionaries, not just by classroom learning, but being in the practical field.

“Our missionaries in formation should acquire an adequate knowledge of contemporary human, social and political conditions, so that in dealing with the circumstances of the modern world they may judge wisely in the light of faith and act with burning apostolic zeal to help their fellow human beings more effectively.” (CC 74)

MISSION

Catholic Ashram, Barikhajuri



Adivasi Sammelan

Catholic Ashram, Barikhajuri organised a one-day program for all the Adivasis of

Banderia and Bargarh regions. Speaking on the occasion, Rev. Fr. Bisu Munda, Diocese of Kunti, and Rev. Fr. Regi Pymattathil, Director, Samaj Vikas Samstha, Daltanganj Diocese and Mr. Jai Prakash Minj highlighted the rights of the Adivasi groups as to how they need to protect their lands and make proper use of the government schemes available for their development.

Christu Bhavan, Bhattiprolu



Children's Camp and First Holy Communion

20-21 August 2016 were memorable days for the children of Christ the Redeemer Church, Bhattiprolu, as a hundred and six of them, from various

villages enthusiastically participated in the two days Camp. They joyfully spent two days, learning prayers, songs, and acquiring basic knowledge about the Bible, Sacraments and discipline. Frs. Santhosh, Chinnanna and Prakash led the sessions. Few competitions too were conducted and the winners were rewarded. On 21 August 2016 sixteen children and eleven youth received their First Holy Communion. Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny and Fathers helped the children for a thorough preparation for the reception of the Sacrament.



Youth Meet

During Dasara vacation, on 8-9 October 2016, St. Claret Youth of Christ the Redeemer Parish, Bhattiprolu, came together for Youth Meet animated by Fr. Prakash, Youth Co-ordinator for A.P. &

T.S. Around fifty youth were present for the camp. Two days camp was organized systematically with ice-breaking sessions, action songs, various talks, audio-visuals, group discussions and sharing, Rosary and Holy Mass. Various group games were conducted in which the youth could show their abilities and at the same time strengthen team work. On another occasion i.e. 12 October, to symbolize the protection of environment, tree plantation program was conducted by the youth at Chavali, a substation of Bhattiprolu Parish. Fr. Santhosh Kariammakil, the parish priest congratulated and thanked the youth for their new initiatives and wished them to continue with the same enthusiasm.

Claret Sadan, Bola



Tin Anniversary Celebrations

For St. Lawrence Church, Bola, 10 August 2016 was a glorious day as it celebrated the Tin Anniversary which marked the 10 years of presence of Claretians in the diocese of Mangalore. The celebrations began with novena with hoisting of the flag by Rev. Fr. Francis Rodrigues. On the final day Rev. Fr. J B Saldahna, the Parish Priest of St. Sebastian Church and the Dean of Mangalore South (to which our parish belongs), Permanur presided at the Festive Mass. He also unveiled the St. Lawrence Church Directory 2016. The parish community also made use of the opportunity to felicitated Rev. Frs. Pradeep Correa and Fredrick Correa for their services as former Parish Priests.

The Nativity of Blessed Mary and Monthi Feast

On 8 September St. Lawrence Church, Bola celebrated the nativity of Blessed Mother Mary with traditional devotion gaiety, especially flower offerings by children. The feast day is also celebrated as the feast of new crop or the Monthi Fest.



Christu Raj Mission, Chodavaram



Children and Youth Get-togethers

Christ the king parish, Chodavaram, utilizing the Dasara holidays conducted a get together for children of the parish on 9 October 2016 and for youth on 10 October 2016. We brought them together for the purposes for faith formation, moral education,

social awareness, and provided them with a solid time for reflections, games, entertainment and relaxation. The participation in the Holy Mass, adoration and spiritual reflections were the focal points of the encounter. Action songs, group activities, power point presentations, games, competitions and common meal were some of the other attractions of the day. Fr. Vijay Bhaskar from Visakhapatnam Archdiocese, and Fr. Prakash Reddy CMF, were the resource persons who animated children and youth respectively. There were 83 children and 42 youth who benefitted from these encounters. The end result was the experience of positive energy and vibrations among the participants.

St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur



Faithful with vigour and enthusiasm

True secret of happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life. So is the life of the faithful at St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur. They have found new enthusiasm and vigour in the Church activities. As the new parish priest took charge in June 2016, the new

responsibilities began with a nine day adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the faithful showed in good numbers. When youth appreciate discipline and order it's an added blessing. People have shown special interest in keeping the church and its surroundings clean. With a certain orderliness, now the campus has become a centre for prayer. Now many faithful come in large numbers for prayer and pour out their grief and sorrows and receive graces from God.

Being one with poor is better than distributing some charity for them, keeping this in mind we have established Vincent de Paul group in our parish. We have already twenty members in this group. The main concern of this group is to support the needy whenever they are in difficulties.

We have helped two families during the time of their sickness and death. We are helping the poor who are sick for their medicines, for their children's education etc. This noble work is appreciated by all. Our faithful are generous enough to do sacrifices for this noble task. We have many more plans for the needy and sufferings and God is so generous with us by providing people with sacrificing and generous heart. We have been able to get the most urgent things required for the church within a short period, like a ladder for the church, a beautiful bell, a Marian statue, decorative umbrellas, etc.

Insisting on building up devotion in family, we have begun family Rosary from 09 September and it is a blessing for the faithful in many ways. We find an expression of faith, unity and collaboration among the people. Everyday adoration, Sunday catechisms, camps, etc. are bringing faithful closer to the Lord. As a result we have better participation for Sunday Liturgy. The almost abandoned cemetery is now cleaned and maintained; thanks to the new found enthusiasm among the people.

Yesu Nilaya, Honnali

Pastors Get-together

On 4 October 2016 Yesu Nilaya, Honnali hosted the meeting of all the pastors of the Taluka. There are 14 churches in the Taluka, belonging to different denominations.



12 pastors participated in the meeting organised under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Thoompanal CMF. The main purpose of the meeting was to plan for the future common programme. All agreed to have combined Bible Convention and Christmas Celebration.

Kailasapuram



Annual Feast Celebrated

The annual feast of VELANGANNI MATHA at Kailasapuram parish was celebrated with due devotion and festivity. Well participated novena marked the preparation for the solemn feast day celebration on 08 September 2016. Different pious associations and groups of the parish, like Legion of Mary, Parish Youth, Parish Council, organized and contributed towards the success of the celebrations. On novena days

different priests officiated at the Eucharistic celebrations. Rev. Fr. D.V. Prasad, Parish Priest of Rajahmundry was the main celebrant for the festive Mass which was preceded by a grand procession. It was indeed a witness of people's faith and devotion to our Lady. A large gathering of religious and faithful from all walks of life irrespective of religion participated in the festive celebrations.

Maria Nivas, Kurnool



Children and Youth Get-togethers

During this Dasara holidays, the children and youth belonging to Kodumuru (Kurnool) parish gathered together on 6 & 9 October respectively. The children, around 80 of them, assembled at Maria Nivas campus, Kodumuru, under the guidance of Fr. Santhosh K. CMF. They were inspired to take up Jesus as their role model in their life. The in-input sessions were followed by various group activities in order to foster the family spirit among them as members of a single family, the parish.

On 9 October around 40 youth of the parish gathered at St. Claret School, Kurnool for a day of motivational workshop. The sessions were animated by Fr. Tomy Vellappattu CMF, Prefect of Youth and Vocation Ministry. During the in-input session that followed after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the youth were inspired and challenged to take up their roles to contribute their share to the development of the Parish. The participants also shared some lighter moments engaging in group games and interactive events.

Claret Nivas, Medchal



New House Donated

Keeping up with call to help the poor during this Year of Mercy, St. Joseph's Parish, Medchal, in collaboration with Nirmala Sisters and Claretian Missionaries, constructed a house for Santhosh, a differently abled. Santhosh was born in a very difficult circumstances, physically challenged. His poor parents, unable to alter the situation, left him to the mercy of God. He was rescued and cared for by Mother Theresa Sisters

and was educated up to SSLC. Now 30, married and has two children, who are studying at St. Claret School, Medchal. Unwilling to give up, Santhosh works hard and saves every possible penny after caring for the family to buy a plot of land and build his own house. Today, because of his spirit to live and some generous hands, the family has a home to live.

St. Claret Dhyana Brundham



St. Claret Dhyana Brundham had the privilege to conduct retreats at various parishes and institutes for the spiritual renewal of the faithful. During the last three months the team could venture into different dioceses such as Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Kurnool, and Hyderabad. The team also conducted English retreat for the sisters of St. Ann's of Bangalore at Vijayawada.

Project Vision



World Blind Walk

One of the largest eye donation campaign in the world, was conducted in connection with the World Sight Day on October 13 through a very innovative program called World Blind Walk organized in 55 locations across five countries by Project Vision. The Walk was conducted in US, China, Sri Lanka and Nepal apart from all major cities in India. About 5000 visually challenged people led 25,000 people in a blind folded Walk that ended with a pledge to donate eyes and help the cause of the visually challenged people across the World.

In one such example, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri. Krishan Pal Gurjar, Government of India, blindfolded himself to express his solidarity with the visually challenged persons and pledged to donate his eyes in the program. Social activist Swami Agnivesh and Bishop Kuriakose of Faridabad diocese joined to lead a group of over 1000 persons in Delhi as part of the World Blind Walk on day.

EDUCATION

AC School, Jalahalli



India Japan Cultural Exchange Programme

AC School was privileged to collaborate with Indo - Chai club, a Japanese organisation with the tag line – Together.... Towards... through a Cultural Exchange Programme on 16 Aug 2016. The Indo Chai club promotes peace through various activities which would help the student community to understand and acknowledge their contribution to the world at large and to break the barriers of the mind that works towards personal achievements rather than addressing the humanitarian causes.

The main objectives of exchange programme were to learn and appreciate Japanese Culture and Customs, collaborate with the members of International forum for promoting peace in the world, to have a direct understanding of the impact of destruction in Hiroshima in World war II and to extend our support and express our solidarity with the New Generations of Hiroshima to promote non-violence and to establish relationship and to promote friendship between India and Japan through the younger generation.

St. Claret School, Jalahalli



Best Teacher Award – 2016-17

The Education Department of Taluk level Bangalore North Range – II celebrated Teacher's day on 21 September 2016 at the Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram, Bangalore. Mrs. Shirley Joseph of St. Claret School, Jalahalli received the Taluk Level 'Best Teacher Award' for the academic year 2016-17 for her utmost dedication as an educator

for the past 16 years. She is a multifaceted personality who has proved her capabilities and talents in planning and organizing various cultural events in the school. This Prestigious Award was sponsored by the 'Public Instruction Department, Bangalore North Range- II, in association with 'Ashwath Narayan Foundation'.

District Level Volleyball Tournament

St. Claret School, Jalahalli had participated in the Bengaluru North District Level under 14 (juniors) Volleyball Tournament conducted by the Department of Public Instructions. The budding players emerged as champs by defeating many schools. The girls' team were winners and the boys' team emerged first runners up. The girls Volleyball team have won a District Level Match for the first time in the history of the school. Students from both the girls' and the boys' teams were selected for Divisional Level Volleyball Match.



St. Peter's School, Barikhajuri



Zonal Teachers' Day Celebrated

Teaching is the only profession that teaches all other professions. On 4 September 2016 Catholic Ashram, Barikhajuri, organised a one-day programme for all the teachers working and staying within the parish area. About 90 teachers from our mission schools as well as government schools attended the programme. Frs. Fabianus Barwa and Franklin Minj gave thought provoking messages to the teachers. Later, honouring teachers, children put up a varieties of cultural entertainment. This coming together was indeed a recognition of the noble service that the teachers render to the society.

New Hostel Wing Inaugurated

The newly built extension of the Hostel building for boys was blessed and inaugurated on 14 October 2016 by Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, Prefect of Apostolate and Missions. This facility made available through the generosity of the benefactors and our province will go a long way in providing better education to the poor boys of the area.



St. Claret PU College, Jalahalli



Synergy-2016

To unleash the abundance of unique talents of the youngsters, the St. Claret PU College Jalahalli, had organized "SYNERGY-2016" a spectacular intercollegiate cultural Fest on the 31 August. Various cultural events like, Group Dance (Fusion) – Semi Classical with Contemporary and Cinematic with Western Style, Mad Ads, Battle of Bands and Fashion Shows were conducted. The budding artists of 13 colleges from Bangalore had rocked the stage with their mesmerizing performances. Mt. Carmel College emerged as the champion, winning the overall championship trophy. The prizes were given away by the chief guest Emma Snellgrove, a well-known choreographer from Scotland, on the occasion.

St. Claret College, Jalahalli



X Investiture Ceremony

The 10th Investiture ceremony of St Claret College was held on 16 July 2016. The Chief Guest of the day was Dr K N Ninge Gowda, Registrar, Bangalore University.

Besides the chief guest, the occasion was graced by the presence of a good number of priests from the campus. Dr K.N. Ninge Gowda gave a highly motivational speech, stressing the need for good leaders in the society. He exhorted the students to evaluate and analyse their leadership skills and be willing to lead by example. The Student Council members were presented with their sashes and badges which was followed by the swearing in of the oath of office. The ceremony concluded with an invigorating dance performance by the College Dance Team.



Inter-Collegiate Cycling Championship Trophy Won

Bangalore University Inter-collegiate Road Cycling Championship was held on the 10 September 2016. There were four events conducted each

for boys and girls: Individual Time Trial, Team Time Trial, Road Mass and Criteria. In all, 34 girls and 25 boys from 12 different colleges took part in the tournament. In the Men's category, the overall championship was won by St. Claret College.

Fr. Joseph Mundackal presents a Paper at TIRIPON 2016 International Conference, Philippines.



Fr. Joseph Mundackal was invited by the Philippine Association for the study of Culture, History and Religion (PASCHR) as a plenary speaker for the TIRIPON 2016 International Conference on the Luzon Cultural Studies.

This conference was organized by three State Universities of Philippines supported by UNESCO. It was hosted by the La Salette University run by the La Salette Fathers at Santiago city, Isabela in the northern part of Philippines. The conference was held from 27-29 September. The theme of the conference was "Indigenous Knowledge systems and practices: Rituals, Customs, Traditions and Healing Practices."



Fr. Manoj K. CMF participates in the Frankfurt Book Fair - October 2016.

Representatives from book publishing and multimedia companies from all over the world come to the Frankfurt Book Fair in order to negotiate international publishing rights and licensing fees.

Claretians have been representing in the Frankfurt Book Fair since 1985. This year the Claretian Publishers are represented from India, Hong Kong, Macao, Cameroon, Brazil, Madrid, Philippines, Argentina, Nigeria, and Catalonia.

Superiors' Meeting - 2016



The Superiors' Meeting 2016 was held at Claret Nivas, Carmelaram, Bangalore from September 26 - October 01, 2016. There were 34 participants for the meeting. It was a fine experience of togetherness that along with the Provincial Government all our superiors coming together for the 5 days meeting. The half day Seminar by Fr. Benny Kootanal Provincial Superior MSFS, on the ***Role of the Superior in spiritual Animation of the Community*** and the one day Seminar by Fr. Joe Mathias SJ, Rector, S. Peter's Seminary, Bangalore on ***Transformative Leadership for Animating Community*** were highly appreciated by all the participants. The half day Leadership Dynamics Training by the 'Fishermen Trust' was all action filled and lively which refreshed the participants in mind and body. Moreover the Superiors' meeting was a time of prayer, reflection, and sharing of our communion and community living.

Congratulations



First Holy Communion, SS Joseph and Claret Church, Dasarahalli.



Fr William Pudota CMF for being appointed as member of the Diocesan College of Consulters, Visakhapatnam Archdiocese.



HAPPY FEAST OF OUR FOUNDER ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

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| Univarsal Claretian Mission Week | : First Week of November 2016. |
| Economies' Meeting | : 16-19 November 2016, Claret Nivas, Carmelaram. |
| Inter-Province Retreat | : 21-26 November 2016, Claret Nivas, Carmelaram. |

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