

Claretian Fraternity



News Bulletin for Families and Associates, Province of Bangalore, Vol. 10, 2020



*May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be
with you all through the New Year.*

*Wishing you a season of
blessings from God.*

*Merry Christmas
and Prosperous
New Year
2021*

MESSAGE FROM THE DELEGATE SUPERIOR

On 24th October 2020 we celebrated the 150th death anniversary of our Founder St. Antony Mary Claret. Eighty years after his death Pope Pius XII proclaimed him a saint in 1950, formally recognizing that he heroically practiced the Christian virtues and presenting him to the universal Church as an example to follow. Fr. Claret founded religious Congregations of men and women, whose members are now at the service of the Word of God in over sixty countries. These missionaries give testimony to the Gospel values in different ways, namely through direct preaching of the Word of God, social and charitable activities in favour of the poor, educational ministry, pastoral service in the local Churches etc. The life of St. Claret has motivated so many young men that the Claretian Congregation has given to the Church nearly three hundred martyrs, consisting of priests, lay brothers and seminarians, during the Spanish civil war. 184 of them are already beatified by the Church, presenting them to the faithful as examples of strong faith. As we celebrate the Jubilee of the transit of Fr. Claret to the house of the Father, we are happy to remember these our brothers who joined our Founder in heaven and remain in front of us as shining stars who guide our ways along our vocational journey.

The year 2020 is also remarkable for the Indian Claretians in a very special way as our Congregation is completing fifty years of its existence and ministry in our Country. It was in 1970 that the first Claretian community was established in a small village in Kerala called Kuravilangad, and the past fifty years have brought to us immeasurable divine blessings. The small community started with three priests, five novices and a small batch of minor seminarians have grown today to a community of over 550 priests and a good number of seminarians at different stages of their formation, grouped under five Major Organisms, namely three full-fledged Provinces and two independent Delegations. It is also noteworthy to state here that many Indian Claretians are now serving in different countries of the world engaging in various kinds of evangelizing activities. At this moment, we cannot but remember with gratitude the farsightedness of our pioneering missionaries, as well as the continuous, unconditional and very generous support that the German Claretian Province has been providing to the Indian



Claretians. Recognizing with humility our own human frailty and shortcomings, with folded hands we acknowledge that God the Almighty has blessed us all throughout these years, and we pray that we continue to receive always the same generous divine blessings for the years to come, so that we become humble and useful instruments in the hands of God.

We are now preparing for the celebration of Christmas. This year, we are forced to celebrate this joyful event in a very strange and restricted atmosphere due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We may not be able to have the usual happy celebrations as we have to respect and observe many prudential norms in order to avoid all reasonable dangers of diffusion of the pandemic through social contact. Let us, therefore, celebrate Christmas in our hearts and in our communities and families, with due spiritual preparation and dispositions. In fact, as we commemorate the birth of Jesus, we should try to make Christ be born into our hearts, in the heart of each one of us, so that we be fully transformed and become true disciples of Jesus. Let us place before the Child Jesus in the manger everything that is so dear to us: our sincere thanks for all the graces received, our prayers and petitions, etc. It is also a moment for exercising our solidarity with those who suffer for various reasons: sickness, poverty, hunger, joblessness, etc. Let us sincerely pray that God mercifully alleviate their sufferings and anguish.

I avail myself of this occasion to wish all the confreres and their families, all our benefactors and well-wishers, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! May the Child Jesus bless all of us abundantly and make truly joyful each day of the New Year 2021!

Fr. Jose Koonampampil, CMF
Delegate Superior



150th Anniversary of the death of our Founder St. Anthony Mary Claret

24 October 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the entry into heaven of our beloved Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret. On this day he was called to the bosom of the Father after completing his mission on earth.

Anthony Claret was born at Sallent (Barcelona) on 23 December 1807. From very early in life, Anthony found peace of mind and strength in his friendship with Jesus, whom he encountered in the Eucharist, as well as in his devotion to the Virgin Mary. At the tender age five, he often thought about the eternal misery of those who are condemned. This feeling made him eager to help everyone to live according to the will of God and thus avoiding eternal suffering.

To take forward his family business, he studied textile designing and manufacturing. However, he felt the urge of God, and at the age of 22 entered the seminary of Vic. On 13 June 1835 he was ordained a priest. Not satisfied within the limits of a small parish, he desired to be a missionary. In imitation of Jesus Christ, from 1843 to 1849 he moved across much of Catalonia and Canary Islands, preaching the Word of God, always on foot.

Inspired to evangelize the whole world, on 16 July 1849 he founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretian Missionaries) at Vic. A few days later, on 11 August, he was appointed as the Archbishop of Santiago of Cuba. In 1857, Queen Isabel II of Spain personally chose him as her Confessor and therefore he had to move to Madrid.

Missionary at heart and in practice, he continued his evangelizing mission in spite of many hardships and calumnies. So much so that he was forced to flee Spain like a criminal and take refuge in the Cistercian monastery of Fontfroide, near Narbonne in France. In this hidden monastery, surrounded by the love of the monks and some of his Claretian Missionaries he died, at the age of 62 years and 10 month, on 24 October 1870.

In 1897 his remains were moved to Vic. He was beatified by Pope Pius XI on 25 February 1934 and was canonized by Pius XII on 7 May 1950. Claret spent his life, like a candle that burns till the end, in service of God and people. We thank God for such a great soul and model of missionaries.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS 2020



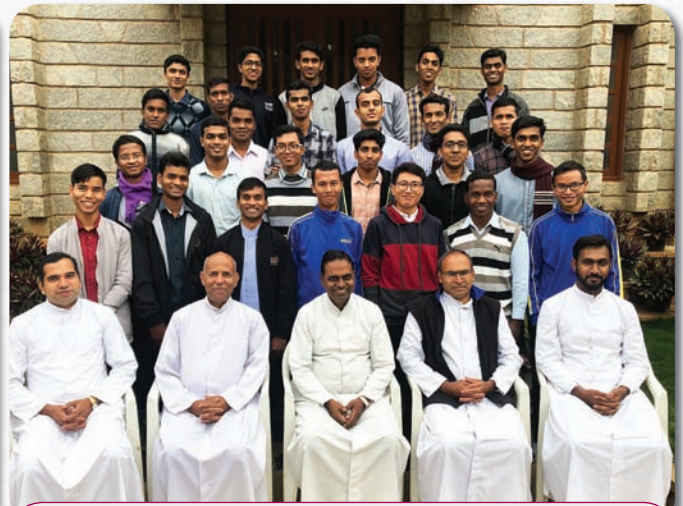
Fr. Joseph (Sandeep) Ottaplackil, CMF
ordained on 08 October 2020



Fr. Yashveer Minj, CMF
ordained on 28 October 2020



Minor Seminarians with Formators
Claret Niketan, Belagavi



Novices 2020-21 with Formators
Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram



Students with Formators
Claretian Seminary Malleswaram



First Professions 2020 – Vijay Pulgamkar,
Dinesh Lakra, Arokiaraj and Ananias Minj



Perpetual Professions 2020 – Suresh Kandula and Bibin Benny Kochukarottu



Fr. Justin Kuzhivelil publishes his maiden book
Daivaviliyum Velluvilikalum



Fr. Thomas Thennadiyil completes
his Doctoral Degree in Organizational
Leadership from the University of the
Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, USA



Fr. Vinsent Kiran completes his Licentiate in
Dogmatic Theology from Gregorian University,
Rome



Fr. Anthoni Bawanthade completes his Licentiate
in Canon Law from St. Paul University, Ottawa,
Canada