

# Claretian Fraternity

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MERRY  
*Christmas*  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2026**

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

As we gather around the manger in Bethlehem this Christmas, our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's infinite love, as manifested in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The light that pierced the darkness of that holy night continues to illuminate our Claretian mission and guide our steps as we serve God's people with zeal. This Christmas reminds us of our founder St. Anthony Mary Claret's profound devotion to the Incarnate Word. Just as Mary said, "Let it be done unto me according to your word," we renew our commitment to be instruments of God's love, carrying the Gospel Message to all the people entrusted to our care.

Throughout this year, Province of Bangalore has continued to strengthen our apostolates: Our Parish Ministry is strengthening faith communities across India and beyond. Our schools and college continue to form young minds and hearts in Christian values. The social outreach ministries that specifically serve the marginalized through healthcare, social welfare, and development programmes add variety to the ministries done in the Province and touch the lives of the last and the least among the people of God.

Through our Youth and Vocation ministry, we nurture vocations and empower young people to become leaders of tomorrow. Through a contextualized and accompanied Formation, we strengthen our

seminarians and religious in their journey toward the priesthood and religious life. Our Claretian charism of being missionaries of the Word continues to inspire us as we proclaim Christ through preaching, teaching, writing, and the modern means of communication. Institute of Consecrated Life - (ICL - Sanyasa) continues to renew religious life and strengthen it by offering Licentiate and Diploma courses to Indians and foreigners through in-house and online programmes.

As we celebrate this holy season, let us remember that Christmas is not just a moment but a way of life - a continuous birth of Christ in our hearts. As the bells of Christmas ring out, may our homes be filled with the joy of the angels, the peace of the shepherds, and the wonder of the Magi. May the Child Jesus bless our families with abundant grace, good health, and prosperity. May this New Year bring us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen our communion under the maternal protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Wishing you and your loved ones Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy, and Hope-filled New Year 2026.  
With Christmas Joy and Fraternal Love,

Fr. Sabu George Koottarappallil, CMF  
Provincial Superior

"Hope does not disappoint". Indeed this has been our experience through the year 2025, journeying as pilgrims of Hope and rekindling trust in God's promises through our apostolate. Through the mutual encouragement and planned renewal programmes for personal and communitarian growth, our ministries focused fanning the flames of hope in God and restoring human dignity.

### SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH FAITH FORMATION

Our pastoral ministry continued to encourage the spiritual journey of the faithful, through faith formation, celebrations of faith, pilgrimages, encounters of pious associations, formation of newer ways of living faith aligned with the care of our planet, encouraging synodal path through lay leadership and active collaboration, etc.



Newly built village chapel at Bhaskaraopet, Vijayawada



Retreat for our members, guided by lay leaders

### TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Social and Education ministry in the province is not just running the institutions for charity or with teachers and students, rather restoring human dignity, moulding individuals and transforming minds. Through our social activities, we empower individuals and families and through education, apart from the academic excellence, we envision transformative journey of individuals in forming future leaders and entrepreneurs.

**Opportunities Beyond Abilities:** At Sneha Jothi Centre Athani, we strive to empower especially the visually challenged individuals to turn their belief into action through compassion, training and community support. Thus bridging the gap between ability and opportunity to be independent and self-reliant.



**A Home with Hope:** Mukti Society, Tenali, stands as a beacon of hope and human dignity for the indigenous Yanadi community in Andhra Pradesh – a community that has faced generations of poverty, social exclusion, and limited access to basic human rights. True to the spirit of the Claretian mission, Mukti aims at liberation through love, education and empowerment. The very name ‘Mukti’ signifies freedom – freedom from ignorance, hunger and social neglect.



**Dreams beyond the Challenges:** The Claretians have long recognized that education is the key to transforming lives of the marginalized. With Barwadih and Barikhajuri missions in Daltonganj diocese in Jharkhand, our commitment is visible through Hindi and English Medium schools, which provide accessible, value-based education to the children in their own surroundings. These schools lay a strong foundation for literacy and learning in communities where opportunities are often limited.

Yet, the Claretians' most impactful initiative lies in their evening tuition classes for government school-going children at Ladgain Barwadih. Many of these students face challenges such as overcrowded classrooms, lack of individual attention, and limited support at home. By freely opening the doors of our school in the evenings, the Claretians create a nurturing environment where children receive personalized guidance, strengthen their basics, and build confidence in subjects that often hold them back.



**A Beacon of Hope in the Peripheries:** St. Claret High School, Basuregadi stands as a powerful testimony to the Claretian mission of transforming lives in the peripheries. The school has become a hope for families whose children might otherwise be left without education. For many, the school is a safe place while their parents go out to work. We accept them as they are and walk patiently with them toward growth.





Training to Lead through Leadership Seminar



Equipping the Teachers to Ignite the Minds

**A Milestone in Growth and Vision:** St. Claret College, Autonomous, marked a significant milestone in its institutional journey with the inauguration and blessing of the new Annex Block on 24 October 2025. The Annex Block houses modern classrooms equipped with advanced teaching technology, seminar halls for academic discussions and training programmes, dedicated faculty spaces, and a range of student-support facilities — all designed to enhance the learning environment and foster holistic development.



The College hosted its much-anticipated TEDx event on 14 November 2025, bringing together a vibrant gathering of students, faculty, and invited guests. Organised under the theme "Roots & Wings," the event celebrated the harmony between grounding values and soaring aspirations, encouraging participants to reflect on the importance of staying rooted in heritage while embracing innovation, exploration, and change.

This year's edition featured four inspiring talks delivered by distinguished speakers from diverse fields: Ms. Bharti Sharma, environmentalist and social entrepreneur; Mr. Sunil Koshy, singer, composer, and vocal coach; Mr. Avinash Krishnan, wildlife biologist and conservation scientist and Mr. Rohan Ghorpade, media entrepreneur and tech-driven storyteller.

