



MEETING OF CLARETIAN BROTHERS IN ROME

Rome, Italy. The Meeting of Claretian Brothers was held from September 7 to 14, 2025, at the Fraterna Domus retreat house in Sacrofano. It was a historic event attended by 63 missionaries from all the Congregation's conferences: ACLA, ASCLA, ECLA, and MICLA. The meeting was attended by the Superior General, Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, and other members of the General Government, including Brother Carlos Verga, General Consultor and responsible for the organization.

Preparation began months earlier with the "Heart of a Brother" campaign, which included podcasts, reflection materials, and virtual meetings across continents. This preliminary phase generated a climate of prayer and communion that profoundly influenced the experience in Rome. During the week, reflections were organized around five themes: identity and vocation, mission and commitment, fraternity and formation, legacy and future, and proposals for the Congregation. These themes allowed for a shared discernment about the richness and challenges of the Brother's vocation today.

Among the most significant moments was the Jubilee pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica. There, the brothers crossed the Holy Door together, a sign of communion and synodality, and offered prayer in memory of those who, throughout history, have faithfully and silently served the Claretian mission. Testimonies were also shared expressing gratitude for the vocation they had received and the desire to continue strengthening the Brother's identity within the Congregation.

The meeting concluded with a message of hope and commitment: to journey as one congregational family, faithful to the charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, and attentive to the signs of the times. The need to promote the Brother's vocation, ensure appropriate formative pathways, and make visible his contribution to

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the shared mission with priests, deacons, and lay people was emphasized.

In the words of Brother Juan Pozo Moreno, CMF, a participant from the Province of Fatima: "This meeting has reaffirmed my vocation as a Claretian brother. We share the same mission as priests, deacons, and students: to work, each in his or her capacity, for the greater glory of God, with an open heart like Mary's and always attentive to those most in need." These words sum up the spirit of a week that left its mark on the entire Congregation and looks to the future with renewed confidence.

FINAL MESSAGE OF THE MEETING OF BROTHERS

"We come back with our hearts full of names"

—Pedro Casaldàliga—

From 7 to 14 September 2025, at the Fraterna Domus retreat house in Sacrofano (Italy), fifty-four Claretian brothers and nine missionary priests from the Congregation gathered together. We came from the five Claretian conferences (ACLA, ASCLA East and West, ECLA and MICLA), with the joy of getting to know each other, valuing our cultural diversity and called by the charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

This meeting began several months ago, through prayer and reflection together with the podcasts and brochures *Corazón de Hermano* (Brother's Heart), and with virtual dialogues by continent. That preparation gave us a basic harmony: we arrived well disposed, knowing that Rome would be one more step in this process that was already underway.

Each day had its own nuance. We wove together conversation, prayer and shared life around five themes: identity and vocation, mission and commitment, fraternity and formation, legacy and future, and — finally — proposals for the Congregation. These were not separate topics, but different perspectives at the same vocation of the Claretian brotherhood today.

As we listened to each other and prayed, the following conviction emerged: daily life is our workshop for becoming like Christ our Brother. There we learn the style of simple fraternity, shared work and daily fidelity. We discovered with gratitude that:

Formation is both a pillar and a path. We need to strengthen both our academic and professional preparation, as well as our

spiritual and community dimension, so that our consecration may be embodied in concrete mission and fraternal life.

Fraternity, lived in equality, counters clericalism and any logic of power, abuse or domination. Being consecrated lay men, in community, is a prophetic witness for the Congregation, the Church and society.

The grateful memory of so many brothers — often silent or silenced and anonymous — sustains us. Their simple, joyful and hard-working lives remind us of the value of everyday life and encourage us in our missionary commitment.

The promotion of vocations to the Claretian Missionary Brotherhood is urgent. We want to offer young people a broad and truthful account of our life, showing its fruitfulness in the missionary following of Jesus Christ.

In this context, the call to synodality was the underlying theme. Reviewing structures, walking with other charisms, listening to the peripheries and caring for creation emerged as an evangelical way of being with the exiles of history.

One of the moments that touched our hearts was the jubilee pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica. Passing through the Holy Door together and praying as the People of God on pilgrimage in the world confirmed to us that our vocation is renewed in ecclesial communion and the synodal spirit.

(1) Vocational ministry

We want the vocation of the brother to be presented, made visible and celebrated with the same naturalness as that of the ordained ministry. We propose integrating brothers into the vocational pastoral teams of the Major Organisms; creating printed, digital and audiovisual materials that show the Claretian mission in all its richness; and establishing, in each Organism, an annual day to celebrate and promote this vocation (a date that is not overshadowed by the feast of St. Joseph). This is not just a matter of specific activities, but of generating a vocational culture that recognises the beauty and fulfilment of being a missionary brother.

(2) Formation

We need a clear and explicit formation plan to accompany vocations to the brotherhood, with environments that breathe fraternal life, shared mission and discernment, avoiding models designed solely from and for the priestly ministry. We ask that brothers be included in the formation teams and that during initial formation, varied missionary experiences of service to the People of God and close to the concrete faces of reality be offered.

(3) Visibility

We want the vocation of the brother to be more present in the life and public communication of the Congregation. We propose a specific section on the congregational website with testimonies, videos, podcasts, and materials about the brothers; the revision and updating of the language and content of the Constitutions (n. 78, 79, and 86) and of the Directory in the sections referring to this specific vocation; and the promotion of regional meetings, ensuring a general meeting of missionary brothers every six years.

What we experienced in Rome is a gift that confirms that the vocation of the Missionary Brothers is an essential part of the Claretian charism and of the mission we share with the missionary priests and deacons.

We affirm our commitment to walk together as a Congregation, faithful to the Spirit that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret, open to the synodality of the Church, and available for the mission wherever we are sent.

We do not want this meeting to remain a beautiful photo of the past, but rather an ongoing process that promotes new initiatives and broadens the congregational consciousness. We invite the entire Claretian family to walk this path with us and rediscover the joy of proclaiming the Gospel with the Heart of a Brother.

We thank those who encouraged and supported the meeting, creating an atmosphere of fraternity, listening and discernment. Their patient and creative service made visible the best of our vocation: the ability to weave bonds, coordinate efforts and care for community life. We also thank the translators who helped with good communication and understanding.

United in the Heart of Mary,

Sacrofano, Italy, September 15, 2025.

CLARETIAN FILMS AVAILABLE FOR FREE STREAMING

We are pleased to announce the official online release of two Claretian films: “*Claret*” (2020) and “*Un Dios Prohibido*” (A Forbidden God) (2013) cinematic works that bring to life the legacy of Saint Anthony Mary Claret and the heroic witness of the 51 Claretian martyrs of Barbastro.

The Congregation will make the films available to the public. Both titles, directed by Spaniard Pablo Moreno, offer a valuable account of Claretian history and spirituality.



Claret narrates the life and mission of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, founder of the Claretian Missionaries, highlighting his dedication to the Gospel and his defense of social justice in a time of profound transformation. *Un Dios Prohibido* revives the testimony of the Claretian martyrs of Barbastro, whose example of faith and forgiveness continues to inspire the Congregation today.

The films can be viewed for free on our website in a dedicated section:

www.claret.org/claretianmovies

Claretians in the following countries who would like to watch the film in the original language may send their requests to cmfmovies@iclarret.org and identify themselves as Claretians.

United States, Poland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

CLARETIAN WEBINAR ON DISCERNMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Rome, Italy. On September 27, the General Prefecture of Spirituality organized a webinar on discernment and spiritual accompaniment, with more than 160 participants from the Claretian Family. Based on the document *Seeking what pleases God*. Prepared by Fr. Antonio Sánchez Orantos, CMF, the meeting was moderated by Fr. Anthony Igbokwe, CMF, and featured the participation of Brother Fernando Kuhn, CMF, and Father Paulson Veliyanloor, CMF. Simultaneous translation was provided into three languages: Spanish, English, and French.

Father Sánchez Orantos highlighted three key points: the centrality of the Word of God; the theological, Christological, pneumatological, and anthropological rules; and the communal dimension of accompaniment. “The purpose of discernment is to set out on a journey, breaking free from all rigidity,” he recalled. Father Carlos Sánchez Miranda, CMF, General Prefect of Spirituality, closed the event by emphasizing that this is the beginning of an ongoing formative process open to the entire Claretian Family.



ACLA

DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe. The discernment leadership workshop was held in Zimbabwe from September 22 to 26. The training was provided at St. Dominic's Parish in Ruwa by Fr. Jude Thadeus Langeh, CMF.

This workshop, promoted by the Congregation, seeks to train superiors and leaders capable of exercising authority through discernment. It does not focus on management techniques, but rather on a leadership style that integrates prayer, communal listening, and shared decision-making, in fidelity to the Claretian charism and the synodal path of the Church.



ASCLA EAST

NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION FOR READERS IN MAINLAND CHINA

Macao/Hong Kong, China. On September 1, 2025, the Claretian Missionaries officially presented a new translation of the Bible into Chinese, the fruit of nearly two decades of uninterrupted work. This monumental edition, consisting of five volumes and more than 2,500 pages, responds to the desire to offer readers in mainland China a text faithful to the original languages and accessible in modern Mandarin with simplified characters.

Until now, the only Catholic Bible available in China was the version developed by the Franciscans more than 60 years ago. Since the language and culture have changed considerably since then, the Claretians set out to create a translation that, in addition to linguistic accuracy, would facilitate understanding by young people and new generations of believers.

The edition is distinguished by the integration of four elements on each page: an updated translation of the

biblical text, commentaries adapted to the Chinese cultural context, guides for Lectio Divina, and extensive references in the margins with updated introductions. According to its creators, it is the first Bible in the world to bring these four dimensions together in a single publication.



At the same time, a version with traditional characters is being prepared for Chinese communities in the diaspora. This project represents a decisive contribution to evangelization and a cultural bridge to bring the Word of God closer to the nearly two billion people who speak Chinese today.

ECLA

YOUTH VOCATION MINISTRY IN SPAIN: MEETINGS IN SANTIAGO AND FATIMA

Spain. During the month of September, the Provinces of Santiago and Fátima held significant meetings of youth and vocation ministry representatives and leaders, confirming the Claretian commitment to the evangelization of young people and vocational guidance.

In the Province of Santiago, more than fifty Claretians and lay people met at the Los Molinos house on September 20 and 21. The Provincial Pastoral Animation Team (EPAP), composed of missionaries Luis Arribas, Miguel Ángel Velasco, Miguel Tombilla, and Luis Manuel Suárez, convened this meeting with the purpose of promoting youth ministry with a missionary focus. Among the keynote speakers were those by layman Daniel Díaz-Rincón, of Catholic Action General, who presented the Spanish Episcopal Conference's Framework Project for Youth Ministry, and Father Luis Manuel Suárez's presentation on the National Vocations Congress. The meeting concluded with proposals that emphasize the primary proclamation, accompaniment, and openness to the Claretian family.

For its part, the Province of Fatima held the meeting

entitled “The Church of Fatima” from September 26 to 28. Open Table, in Loja (Granada), with the participation of more than one hundred young people and pastoral workers. It was convened by the Youth Vocation Ministry Team of the Spanish region, currently composed of CMFF Fathers Thomas Mekar and Martin Areta. The central focus of the meeting was “conversations in the Spirit,” a method of discernment and prayer used in the last Synod of Synodality. In small groups, they reflected and prayed on four central themes: young people, local pastoral care, vocation, and being a youth pastoral worker. Father José Enrique García, CMF, facilitated the day. The meeting offered valuable community discernment to guide the journey toward the next provincial chapter.



SOMI

CLARETIAN CONVERSATION ON YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

New York, United States. On September 5, 2025, the Claretian Delegation to the United Nations, in collaboration with the General Prefecture for Youth and Vocation Ministry, organized the third edition of the series “Claretian Conversations at the UN,” dedicated to youth and future generations. The meeting brought together young Claretians from different continents to reflect on their role in addressing global challenges and their responsibility for the future.

Fr. Rohan Dominic, CMF, welcomed the participants, highlighting the inspiration received from the UN Compact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations, and the recent messages of Pope Francis and Pope Leo



XIV, which encourage young people to be bridge-builders between cultures and generations. The dialogue, moderated by Father Gabriel Ponce, CMF, featured nine young people from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Topics discussed included the gap between international promises and youth realities, the need for an integral ecology linked to social justice, and the urgency of effective mechanisms for youth participation in political decisions.

Among the final proposals were the creation of offices or bodies to defend future generations, youth-led environmental councils, ethical audits in education, and a Global Digital Compact for Youth. Brother Carlos Verga, CMF, Prefect General, concluded by thanking young people for their courage and commitment, reminding them that the future is not a distant promise, but an urgent task of today.

CONSECRATED LIFE

JUBILEE SEMINAR IN SANYASA FOR THE CARMELARAM ZONE OF THE CRI

Carmelaram, India. On September 28, 2025, the Institute of Consecrated Life – Sanyasa (ICLS) hosted the Jubilee Seminar organized by the Conference of Religious of India (CRI) in the Carmelaram area, under the theme: “Called and Consecrated to be Pilgrims of Hope.” Nearly 210 religious from 45 communities participated.

Fr. Agnal Amalan, president of the Karnataka Regional Conference of Religious, delivered the commemorative message for the jubilee. Afterward, Fr. Rathan Almeida, OCD, director of the Dhyanavana Institute of Holistic Spirituality, gave the opening talk on consecrated life as a sign of hope in a wounded world. Later, psychologist Dr. Tony Sam George addressed the importance of caring for the mental health of religious and priests.

The day included the screening of the film *For Love Alone* and a poster competition in which seven formation communities participated, with the Claretian and Camillian novices emerging as winners. The celebration concluded with the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Antony Kunnel, MI, Provincial.



INCLA CELEBRATES ITS SECOND GRADUATING CLASS AND BLESSES NEW COMMUNITY SPACES

Abuja, Nigeria. On September 27, 2025, the Institute of Consecrated Life in Africa (InCLA) celebrated its second graduating class, accompanied by the blessing of the new Grotto of Our Lady of Good Health and the community housing on its Abuja campus.

The Eucharist and blessing rites were presided over by Bishop Hilary Dachelem, CMF, of Bauchi, with the presence of Father Felix Obaga, CMF, President of ACLA and Chairman of the InCLA Governing Council, along with representatives of Veritas University, led by Monsignor Michael Saasa, and other dignitaries.

In his welcoming remarks, InCLA Director Fr. Dr. Peter Okonkwo, CMF, thanked the participants for their presence and highlighted these events as an expression of God's providence. Fr. General Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, gave the keynote address virtually, in which he highlighted the importance of faith-inspired education for the formation of people of integrity and leaders committed to society.

The grotto, donated by Sir and Lady Valentine Agodi Ezeokeke, was blessed with a special prayer in which the community was entrusted to the protection of the Virgin Mary.



DECEASED

FR. MARCO TULIO VALENCIA JIMÉNEZ, CMF

07/11/1934 – 07/09/2025

Province of Colombia-Venezuela

FR. RICHARD EDWARD WILGA, CMF

22/06/1932 – 13/09/2025

Province of USA-Canada

FR. ANTONIO BOLÍVAR GÓMEZ-URDA, CMF

11/07/1935 – 21/09/2025

Province of Fátima

FR. HAGEN KARL MÜLLERS, CMF

05/06/1939 – 25/09/2025

Province of Deutschland



CMF
Claretian Movies
Películas claretianas

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PROFESSIONS

East Nigeria

Anthony Chibueze Achukwu

Matthew Onyebuchi Anih

David Chinedu Ike

Paschal Chukwuma Meke

Stanislaus Kelechukwu Nwakuba

Emmanuel Ogbede

Martin C. Okafor

Nichodemus Nzeadi Otuibe

Jonathan Ikedichukwu Ugwumba

07/09/2025

Cameroun

Styve Blondel Changa Ngoukam

08/09/2025

Polska

Jakub Gawlik

07/09/2025

St. Joseph Vaz

Jesuthas Kirishanth

Pavulis Suganthan

08/09/2025

Ave Maria

Yohanes Raimundus Busa Paga

08/09/2025

ORDINATIONS

Saint Jean-Paul II

Evrard Yamèdé Djahoukanta

Koménan Alphonse Marie Ekra

Magloire Kouame Adou

Melaine Sihi

06/09/2025

HAPPY FEAST OF SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET

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