



Movimiento de Seglares Claretianos
Secretaría General

Seville, February 25, 2004

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the beginning of the Lent time, an ideal time for revising our lives and the course of our groups/communities, I send you a very cordial greeting on behalf of the Claretian Lays General Council.

Lent is conversion time, of turning towards our Father. Lent is a time for discovering God in so many despised brothers, forgotten, oppressed. It is a time of justice, truth, liberation.

Lent is time of desert, but desert inside the noise and the world, inside the sin and the infidelity, inside the people. It is there where we are invited, as Claretian Lays, to find ourselves with God and the brothers.

Taking into consideration this grace time, the members of the Claretian Lays Movement (CLM) General Council have held met at Madrid, during January 31th and February 1th to 4^h, in order to revising the course of our lovely Movement and programming the activities for the next four years, time period in which we are in charge of encouraging the Movement and to make the program to succeed.

The meeting has given to us the opportunity for knowing ourselves personally and for creating fraternal lassos that will make easy the work in team and to accomplish the task you have entrusted to us. We are conscious that our personal effort does not serve for anything if there is not a firm collaboration by all the people who form the Movement.

With great joy we announce to you that on December 28, 2003, the group JUCLA, from the Bolivia Region, has been admitted in the Movement. The group is made up of nineteen young persons who have been in the discernment process for three years with the advice of F. José Antonio de Abajo cmf.

More good news from Sri-Lanka (Jaffina): F.L. Xavier cmf. has communicated us about a group formed by seven persons who has been working with him during the last six months and are interested in to be part of the CLM. At Montreal too, a group of five persons has just initiated to discern if they have received the vocation for the mission that the claretian lays do. The advisory of this group is F. Jean Louis Dubois cmf.

During the VI General Assembly those present were aware that there is a lack of information at the level of the General Council, on the Claretian lays who constitute the different groups/communities. During the Assembly, several Regions informed about the groups that exist in its Region and the number of members who form it; however, they did

not give their personal data. ***By this reason, we ask you send to this Secretariat the printout of the groups, with the personal data of each member. You know that, at least once per annum, it is necessary*** to send this information update.

Since the Movement is extending to other countries in which the Spanish is not the official language, the Assembly considered very necessary –we would say indispensable- to set up a translators Commission that would be in charge of translating the documents and the vocation training materials to other languages, in order to make easier the integration in the Movement of non Spanish speaking Claretian Lays. ***For that, we ask to the Regional Councils and Groups without Regions to make*** a poll among the Claretian Lays of their respective places who could take part in this commission, specifying the language in which they could collaborate and communicate it ***subsequently to this Secretariat.***

Another of the aspects that was considered very important in the Assembly referred to the utilization of Internet as a communication tool. Therefore, ***we invite all the Regional Councils and Groups without Region to, as far as possible, provide this General Secretariat with an electronic address for sending the mail. We hope you will send it as soon as possible.***

Those present in the Assembly proposed to give a greater role to the web site of the Movement, that is should be used to cover other needs of communications and spreading the Movement. Among other things the possibility of publishing in our web site the CLM Bulletin, as well as news and communications of the Regions was considered. By this reason, ***we please ask you send to the General Council all the news and communications that you wish to be published in the web site.*** The council will take care for sending it to the person who is in charge of the page. In connection with this matter we want to insist that if we want to have a web site with life, it will be necessary to count with more persons in the Internet Commission. We kindly ask for the collaboration of Claretian Lays experts on informatic and able to render this service. Please tell me the name and electronic address of these persons.

One of the topic that deserved much attention in the meeting of the Council and that worried to us was the one connected with the contract of a person to work part-time, to take care of the Movement promotion. First of all we analysed the functions that this person could carry out and whether the Movement could afford this contract, legal and economically. In order to act with the highest possible safety, it seemed necessary to come into contact with an expert on labor matter in order to be informed. According to the received data, the wished contract entails a great deal of expenditures, obligatory steps and accountant expenses that, for the moment, the Movement lacks the required resources. Among other things, it would be necessary to contract an agency or to create a Claretian Lays Commission expert on these subjects for gestionating these tasks. Likewise, the contract should be done, according to the current legislation, as “Administrative Assistant”, legally protected under the Agreement of Office and Despatch, that it would cost 4.286 euros/year, including salary plus Social Security. To this amount, it would be necessary to add the expenses that would entail the activity for the Movement promotion.

In view of these data and taking into account the income of the CLM and the functioning expenses, the Council considers that for the time being the above contract is not

possible to carry out. Nevertheless, in the case that, in the future, the administrative matters could be resolved and the income of the Movement were higher, we would study again the proposal of the Assembly.

Enclosed herewith please find the Working Plan of the Council for the next four years, we ask you to receive it with affection and to include in your group projects the proposals that refer to the groups/communities. Likewise we ask you to receive with joy and diligence every information demands we may ask for, since this information will be very valuable to bring about certain projects.

Finally, we tell you that taking advantage of our stay in Madrid, on Sunday February 1, we got together at Lourdes and Arturo home (a matrimony of Claretian Lays belonging to the Clip group) several members of the CCLL from Madrid, Clip and Old Pupil being present, what allowed us to share a while of fraternal living together and to get direct information from these groups.

You will receive soon news from the Vocational training and Economy Secretariat. That the Mary Heart accompanies us always and the Claret spirit join us with true love lassos.

Fraternally,

Cristina Martínez Benavides
General Secretariat of the CLM.