

***Movement of Lay Claretians
General Secretariat***

Seville, September 24th 2002

Dear brothers and sisters:

Moved by the deep experience of the love that the Father has for each one of us, by whom we feel immensely loved and called to participate in his plan, we are preparing ourselves to celebrate the feast of S. Anthony Claret.

For the Lay Claretians Claret is a gift of God that leads us to commit ourselves to discern our own way of following Jesus.

A tireless missionary who used manifold means to evangelize, Claret urges us to be creative in our effort to reach all the corners of the world.

Claret, for his devotion to the Heart of Mary, urges us to look at Her as Mother, Master and Guide.

For the confidence that he always had in the laity and for his prophetic vision that considered the laity as active members of his apostolic plans, Claret impels us to take on the responsibility of our mission in the world in which we live.

The feast of St. Anthony Mary Claret brings together all the members of the Claretian Family and challenges them to walk side by side in the carrying out of their mission as evangelizers, each one according to his or her specific vocation. We Lay Claretians must do it according to our condition as laypersons trying to be salt and light in our families and places of work. We must be signs of hope, and become persons and communities who are able to go against the stream because we are driven by the Spirit of Lord. The Lay Claretian Sourcebook defines the mission of the Church as a call "to proclaim and spread Kingdom of God, that is to announce the salvation in Jesus Christ and bring others to encounter Him, to help the seed of the Kingdom develop in the world, so as to renew the human race and create a new humanity in conformity with the newness of the Gospel". Our mission is to contribute "heart", "tenderness" and "hope" in the struggle for justice, peace and respect for the dignity of human beings.

God makes to us another gift for which we must be happy: the celebration of the next General Assembly that will take place in Vic (Barcelona, Spain). This time our Assembly will provide to us an opportunity to visit the places where St. Anthony Claret was born, lived, carried out his mission and prayed. We will pray and celebrate the Eucharist before his tomb, and we will embrace each other in a fraternal gathering as a loving family who wants to keep herself committed to her task of evangelization with courage and hope.

I am sending you the letter of convocation of the assembly. Kindly accept it.

CONVOCAION OF THE VI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT

With this letter I officially convoke the VI General Assembly of the Lay Claretian Movement.

Theme: "The mission of the Lay Claretian at the present moment"

Venue: "Casa d'espiritualitat S. Antoni M. Claret".

Address: Rambla de Sant Domènec, 5.

08500 Vic (Barcelona), SPAIN.

Phone: (34) 93.8850544. Fax: (34) 93.8895987.

Date: From July 17, 2003, in the evening (19:00 P.M.) to July 28 (after breakfast)

Price: 300 US.\$ per person

Rules for participation:

With right to voice and vote

The members of the General Council

1 delegate from each Regional Council

1 delegate from each admitted group, or 2 if the group is constituted by more than 20 members

With right to voice and without vote

The regional advisors and advisors of groups without region

As invited()*

1 delegate from groups in discernment

1 CMF or RMI from each country where the Movement is beginning: Canada, Philipines, India, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé, USA, Mexico, Panama, Portugal.

(*) Due to problems of capacity of the place where the Assembly will be held, the Lay Claretians in discernment and the CMF/RMI who want to participate as invited persons, shall request it to the General Council. Likewise, the application form of the Lay Claretians in discernment has to be guaranteed by the signature of the respective coordination team. Such request shall be send to Cristina Martinez, General Secretary of the LCM by December 31st, 2002.

If some admitted group cannot send a member to the General Assembly, it may delegate its vote to another admitted Lay Claretian, according to what is established in the rules for the application of the Statutes nn. 18.1, 18.2, 18.3.

Confirmation of the participants: The number and name of the participants shall be sent to the General Council. Send it to:

Cristina Martínez Benavides

Colegio Mayor Hernando Colón

Sor Gregoria de Santa Teresa, s/n

41012 SEVILLA, SPAIN

Phone: (34)95.4614544. Fax: (34)95.4556810

e-mail: hcdireccion@retemail.es

Send it, please, by December 31st 2002 (Enclosed you will find a registration form).

To facilitate the task, we suggest that the Regional Councils collect the information of their own Regions: Delegates of the admitted groups; Delegates of the groups in discernment, Delegates of their own Regional Council and its Religious Assessor, and send it to the General Secretariat.¹

Reports of the Region or Groups without region: To help the Regional Councils and the groups without Region to write the Report that they must present to the General Assembly, we suggest several points to be included in it:

- Statistics of the region: up to date lists of each group.
- Assemblies celebrated during the last 4 years: themes, resolutions that were approved; most important decisions, etc.
- Events that the Region would like to underline.
- Promotion of the Movement: initiatives carried out for that purpose.
- Relation with other groups of the Claretian Family.
- Publication of the Regional Bulletin and other publications.
- Economic situation of the Region: means for self-funding and collaboration to the general economy of the Movement.

You are kindly requested to send the report by January 15, 2003, to the General Secretariat, att. Cristina Martínez.

Theme of the Assembly: *"The mission of the Lay Claretian at the present moment"*. Aurora Bailón, General coordinator of Formation of the Lay Claretian Movement, will take care to coordinate the preparation of the theme. The groups that have not done it yet, should send their answers to the questionnaire that was published in the Bulletin of the Lay Claretian Movement n. 80, and in the letter of Cristina Martinez of March 7, 2002.

Prayer for the Assembly: From right now we shall begin to be preparing ourselves for the next Assembly. For that we invite you to pray so that the Vic Assembly becomes an encouragement for us to be faithful to our mission.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

I take advantage of this letter to inform you about the some important events or plans of different Regions:

The Lay Claretians of Italy got together in Saint Giovanni Rotondo (Foggia) from July 3 to 6. The formation theme of their IX Assembly was "The laity committed to a shared mission".

The Lay Claretians of the Caribbean Region celebrated their II Assembly in the Fusimanya Spirituality House, at Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, from August 30 to September 2. The theme of the Assembly "A Baptism of Christian Spirituality".

The Lay Claretians of the Betica Region (Spain) will have their VIII Regional Assembly from November 1 to 3. The central theme will deal with "The mission of the Lay Claretian".

Likewise, the Lay Claretians of the Northern Region of Spain will get together at Zaragoza, from November 8 to 10, to celebrate their VIII Regional Assembly. Theme: "The mission of the Lay Claretian".

The Lay Claretians of Brasil-Paraguay have had a formative meeting at the regional level, from April 20 to 21. Likewise the Lay Claretians of Venezuela have planned a meeting for next October, and those of Colombia will have it on November.

¹Later, once the name of the delegates are known, practical orientations about the place and other aspects concerned with the participation in the Assembly (visas, welcome...) will be sent to them.

REMEMBERING

I want to have an especial memory for our dear brothers and sisters of the Nigerian Region. In my letter of March I told you that we wished to visit them, but we did not find the person who could render such as service. We took advantage once more of the availability of Fr. Abella, who will be going to that country for the provincial chapter of the CMF. He will bring to Nigerian Lay Claretians our love and greetings. We offer our support and best wishes to them so that they can send a delegate to the Vic Assembly. Through the CMF Provincial Government we heard that the Nigerian Lay Claretians will celebrate their Regional Assembly from October 18 to 24.

NEWS FROM THE COMMISSIONS

The commissions that were formed as a result of the V General Assembly are working hard and with enthusiasm, in spite of a few people who have retired from some of them. I would like to thank to these commissions and their services and dedication to the Movement on behalf of all the Lay Claretians.

Among those Commissions, I would specially mention the Internet committee, that is offering an important service with the creation and maintenance of the Website of the Movement. In that site we can find a good number of news, events, materials, letters, etc. Likewise they have organized two virtual encounters open to all the Lay Claretians, in which some of us, though few, have met to chat about events and themes that we are concern with. I take advantage of this letter to invite you to visit the website; the address is <<http://seglaresclaretianos.claret.org>>

I would like to acknowledge our deep appreciation to F. Jean Louis Balanyà Dubois for his translation into French of the booklet "*How the Claretian Movement arose*". Likewise I acknowledge our gratitude to the Lay Claretians of the Betica Region for their translation into French and English of the letters and circulars of the General Secretariat.

May St. Anthony M. Claret unite and strengthen us with fraternal ties.
I embrace you all.

Cristina Martínez Benavides
General Secretary of the Lay Claretian Movement

(to cut and send)

INSCRIPTION SHEET

LAST NAME:

CHRISTIAN NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: E-mail: FAX:

REGION:

COMMUNITY/GROUP WHICH THE PARTICIPANT REPPRESENTS:

INVITED: Lay Claretian in discernment:
CMF: RMI: