



Lay Claretians Movement
General Secretary

October 24th, 2019

Dear Family:

Once again we celebrate with joy the festivity of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. This time we do it in the framework of the "Extraordinary Missionary Month" in which Pope Francis wants to urge us to renew our missionary ardor and redouble our commitment to be a living testimony of Christ's Love for the world. In line with this concern of the whole Church, in the last General Assembly of Medellín our Movement had the opportunity to reflect on the relevance of building our own communion for the credibility of the testimony we offer to the world. Not only as groups, but also as regions, as Movement, as Claretian Family and as Church. Christ himself told us: "... in this all will know that they are my disciples, if they love one another" (John 13:35)

Building fraternity is not easy. It requires a permanent attitude of dedication and donation, of splitting and sharing, of accompanying and letting go, of leaving our "I" to go to meet each brother, and at the same time leave the doors open to welcome him and accept him with his virtues, but also with his defects and limitations ... In this way, it is easy for conflicts, discrepancies and misunderstandings to arise. But as disciples of Christ we know that fraternal correction, mercy and forgiveness are the keys that will allow us to overcome all disagreement.

In its Final Declaration, the Assembly wanted to encourage us to use all possible tools to achieve fraternal communion that is light to the world. And the strategic lines that were proposed as a roadmap for the coming years are going in the same direction. On the one hand, they invite us to persevere in the communion of goods, to foster our communication and to improve from the training our experience of the charism to reinforce our unity. And on the other hand, they encourage us to promote new evangelizers, and to increase our

commitment to solidarity, justice, peace and the integrity of creation, so that this fraternity supported by Christ can be shared by all mankind.

In our first meetings the General Council has been developing an action plan that will seek to develop these strategic lines over the next four years, and has begun to reconfigure and strengthen the work-teams with which to be able to energize the steps of the Movement. The challenges that lie ahead are ambitious, but we face them with determination, confident in the help of the Spirit.

In addition, with the entry into service of our new Statutes after their approval by the Assembly and the conformity of the Holy See, we have one more instrument to continue moving forward. Pope Francis said in a speech to the Movements and Associations of Laity that "it is a temptation to be content and paralyze in reassuring schemes" and that "in the face of a reality that is constantly evolving it is necessary to return to the sources of the charism" to open up to the Novelty of the Spirit. The update of our Statutes is a step that the Movement wanted to take in this regard. We hope you find it useful to respond effectively to the challenges that the world poses in these times.

We are not doing alone this path of building fraternity for the mission. We are accompanied by the entire Claretian family, which is increasingly committed to strengthen the ties that unite us from our common charismatic identity and coordinate efforts in the development of our evangelizing mission. To promote our cohesion, the permanent team of coordination of the Claretian family has prepared some workshops so that all of us who share the Claretian charism can know each other more and better, identifying the features we share and the singularities of each branch. Taking advantage of Claret's holiday, they have just presented various materials that can help us discover and value our charisma brothers better. We can use them to boost Claretian family gatherings that can be organized locally or even for training in our groups. These materials are available on the Claretian family website, at this link:

<http://www.familiacaretiana.org/en/workshops/>

Another of the shared initiatives is the collaboration in the production of the film about the life of Claret, which has been promoted by the Claretian Missionaries but which from the beginning was intended as a project of the entire Claretian Family. In order for all of us to contribute a bit more sand in our mission of announcing the Gospel using all possible

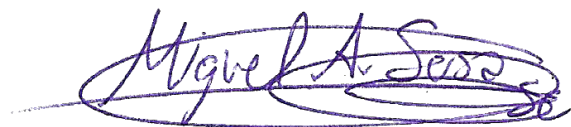
means, a “crowdfunding” or campaign has been organized to raise funds through the internet. This campaign is still open, and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.okpal.com/feature-film-about-st-anthony-mary-claret/#/>

I would like to encourage you all to feel this project as ours, and try to join forces to the best of our ability, both by making a donation or financial contribution as well as helping to spread this campaign, or also by praying and monitoring its evolution.

Let us continue walking with firm step to face with courage and ardor missionary all the challenges that we are facing along the way. Let us never forget to pray for each other, dedicating a place in our prayer to keep in mind our brothers of the Movement, of the Claretian Family and of the whole Church, especially those who are sick or are going through a delicate situation, so that they never lose hope and always feel the comfort of God's mercy. Let us also give thanks for all the grace and strength that the Spirit gives us on a daily basis, and particularly for the new Claretian lay people who join our Movement and enrich us with their talents and experiences. Let us work to continue building a single family in the Lord, united to all the People of God, always together around Him, so that the world can witness His Love.

Congratulations to all, on the day of our Father Claret. And an immense and cordial fraternal hug on behalf of the entire General Council.



Miguel Ángel Sosa LC

*General Secretary
Lay Claretian Movement*