



*Lay Claretian Movement*  
*General Secretariat*

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dearest family:

Very happy Easter time to all of you. In spite of the very complicated situation we are going through, we hope you are living these days with much joy and peace. The joy and peace not born of a blind optimism that tries to avoid problems or deny situations of suffering, but are the fruit of the hope that comes from reading the realities of the world and of our life with the eyes of Easter, with the eyes of the Risen Christ, alive after conquering the death.

During the last Holy Week, as it had been traditional for some years, the General Council had planned to hold its annual meeting in person, which was going to take place in Chile. In our interest in keeping you regularly informed of the Council's activity, we had planned to write you after that meeting our regular letter to also share the conclusions of the meeting. As you can imagine, the exceptional circumstances we are experiencing at world level have forced us to postpone this meeting indefinitely. However, we did not want to stop sending you this communication, in the effort we all share to try to make this situation affect our work routine as little as possible.

Although we have not been able to have much more time enough for intensive work than the allowance of a face-to-face meeting, the Council has continued to meet regularly every month by videoconference to deal with the daily affairs of the life of the Movement and to make progress in achieving the objectives set. These first months have been mainly about organization and starting the work. After completing the outline of the action plan for the four-year period in accordance with the strategic lines approved by our General Assembly, the delegates who will help the Council by making the work in some strategic

areas more dynamic have been appointed. These areas are the three that had already been functioning previously: -communication, solidarity and mission (SOMI-JPIC), and coordination with the Claretian Family-, to which we have incorporated as a novelty a fourth one: the delegation of Vocational Promotion.

As was already being done in the area of communication, both the SOMI-JPIC delegate and the Vocational Promotion delegate have also formed their own work team. In this way it is intended to amplify their work and facilitate both the networking within the Movement - with the regions and zones - and the increasingly active coordination with the other branches of the Claretian family in their respective areas. The delegates and teams of the four areas have already defined their objectives for these four years and have begun to work on some of the planned initiatives, whose fruits we hope to see little by little, in the short, medium and long term.

Soon the new zone delegates will also be appointed for the accompaniment of communities without a region. Before their appointment, in the Council we wanted to review the functions to be carried out by them, and to extend them so that their service also responds to the strategic lines of the Assembly.

The Formation Secretariat, for its part, has set up the team in charge of the workshop on the living out of our identity, which is taking up the work of drawing up the document on our spirituality. Little by little, the other teams that were set up to continue developing the formation resources and structures according to the Formation Plan will do the same.

The Secretariat of Economy, at the same time, has formed a commission of lay people to carry out a review and evaluation of the economy of the Movement on yearly basis, and not only every four years as had been done until now, within the framework of the General Assemblies.

These first months have also been very intense in terms of visits to communities and regions. In September we were able to accompany the Assembly of the Laity of the Caribbean Region. And in January we divided up to participate in the Regional Assembly of Bolivia, to visit the communities in Mexico and to be present at the joyful event of the constitution of the new Region of Central America. These visits allowed us to learn first-hand about the particular situation they are in, the difficulties they are facing and the challenges they have on their horizon. In all of them we have verified again how the

great human quality and the overflowing Claretian spirit that characterize the laymen of the Movement are solid foundations to continue building fraternity and a whole guarantee to face the future with illusion and hope.

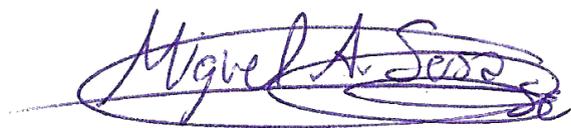
On another note, last April 20 we celebrated the anniversary of our recognition by the Church, and taking advantage of the commemoration, we presented the new edition of the Statutes and Regulations that we updated at the last General Assembly in Medellin. The edition has been made in two versions: in Spanish, and also in English, thanks to the translation kindly made by Fr. Chris Newman cmf. In the following link you can download the English version prepared for consultation on computer and digital devices:

[Statutes and Regulations of the LCM 2020. Pdf versión digital](#)

If someone prefers to have a printed copy, ready-to-print files are also available in booklet or notebook format. They can be requested from the regional coordinator or directly from the General Council.

Thank you very much for each and every one of the initiatives that you are promoting to continue to serve others and to continue to increase our fraternity in permanent communion with Him, overcoming the difficulties that confinement imposes on us. We encourage you to continue to be an example of a living and awakening church. Let us continue to be witnesses of the Risen Jesus, who sends us out to meet others, attentive to those who need it most. Let us not forget to pray for one another, especially for those who are suffering most from the consequences of the pandemic.

A cordial Easter hug for all on behalf of the entire General Council. We continue walking together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Miguel Ángel Sosa", enclosed within a blue oval scribble.

Miguel Ángel Sosa, lc  
*General Secretariat  
Lay Claretian Movement*