



Movimiento de Seglares Claretianos
Secretaría General

Seville, October 4, 2004

Dear everybody,

The Church celebrates today to Sain Franchesco de Assisi. Under the protection of one of the evangelical texts of the today Liturgy –“you shall love to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all yourself. And to love one’s neighbour as to yourself”- we propose to ourself, one more year to live in communion the F. Claret festivity the next October 24.

To evoke the figure of F. Claret, who lived in difficult days, it will help us to go into the conviction that, even though the event get out of our control, always is possible to do something and to contribute with creativity to the evangelical task of the Church. I am confident that the Holy Ghost and the intercession of F. Claret shall arouse in the whole Claretian Family, and particularly in ourselves, that fire of love so much needed by our world.

Looking at San Anthony María Claret and going inside his spiritual itinerary and mission, I would like simple to invite you, as the best way to live indepth the present time, to go deeply in those vocational roots inherited from F. Claret, who wants us in the heart of the world, as a lively extension with the tenderness and sleeplessness of the Virgin María Heart. Our coherence of life shall make us credible instruments of the Lord Mercy for this society that needs to know itself in the hands of a Love that widely overcomes all the power of the men.

We are glad to communicate you that the Community of Santiago, Cuba, from the Caribbean Region, has asked for its incorporation to our Movement, after a long discernment period. In the Betica Region have asked for theirs incorporatiom to LCM the Communities “Ces” from the Palms of Great Canary and “Bismillah” from Málaga. On the other side, the “Betania” Community has been enriched itself with the incorporation of four new members. To the Communities of “Biblical Center” and Quibdó, of the Columbia Region five and two persons, respectively, have asked por their admission. We have known besides that during the next Assembly to be held by the North Region of Spain, four members of the Gijón Community will ask for their admission to the CLM. We give to all of them the wellcome. We thank to the Holy Gosth and F. Claret because they do not forget their charity work, encouraging to the regional claretian lays and the corresponding regional councils in their constant work for the consolidation and promotion of the CLM. Full of hope let us follow our evangelizing mission as lively members of the Church.

I would like to communicate you also that during the last months the Regional Assemblies of Italy and the Caribbean took place.

The Claretian Lays in Italy met together at Gravina in Puglia, during the days 2 to 4 of past July, where they celebrated their X Regional Assembly. The Coordinator Council was constituted by the following 5 members:

- Regional coordinator: María Giorgio (Altamura)
- Secretary: Dina Basile; Altamura Community II (Bari)
- Vocational Training: María Castellano, Community II (Bari)
- Economical Secretary: María de Simine, Community Altamura I (Bari)
- Religions Advisory: F. Maurizio Bevilacqua (cmf).

The Claretian lays from the Caribbean Region held their III Regional Assembly in Puerto Plata. The corresponding Regional Council is the following:

- Region Coordinator: Josefina de Bello, from the “F. Felix Herrero” Community, Santo Domingo.
- Vocational Training: Teresa de Rojas, from the “F. Félix Herrero” Community, Santo Domingo.
- Economical Secretary: María Reyes, from the Claret Community, Bayamón. Puerto Rico.
- Religious advisor: F. Camilo Minaya, cmf.

From October 29th to November 1th, the Bética Region will held its IX Regional Assembly and during 12-14 November the Nort Region of Spain will celebrate its VIII Regional Assembly at Lordero, in Logroño. Likewise the Venezuela Region has planned to celebrate its Regional meeting in November too.

In the elapsed months since my last letter, within the difficulties of our geographical dispersion and personal situations, the General Council has dealt with, through an intense mailing, the starting of the Plan of Work prepared in the first meeting. We stand out the start of the Translators Commission, that has allowed the translation to English of the CLM bulletin. We all must thank to Julio R. Martínez, of the Community “Itinerants for the Kingdom”, from Guatemala, for his decisive step forward to achieve this objective. We ask for the collaboration of other persons. Other notice is that you may find the last issues of the bulletin in the web site.

With respect to the promotion of the Movement we emphasize the visit of Milagros to Bogotá, that she did taking advantage of her working displacement to Colombia, wherein she meet with F. Guillermo Ramírez, Prefect of Preaching in East Columbia, and with several claretian lays in order to consolidate the Movement in that Province. From now on, the Western Columbia Regional Council will take care of the animation and following of that Province. Nancy had the opportunity for reinforcing the Milagros action few days later. The F. Vicente Sanz in his canonical visit and as president of the Provincial Chapter of Brasil, took advantage for animating his brothers of Congregation in the task for accompanying the claretian lays groups and for trying to promote new groups. Personaly I have tried to make present the CLM, using all the communication media available, in every event that in the sphere of the Pontiffical Council for the Lays and Claretian Family have taken place.

Certainly a lot of things remain to be done, but each time we are more conscious of the necessity, I would say pressing, to reach the transformation in a concrete reality the agreement, taken in the VI General Assembly, in relation with the liberation of a member of the CLM in order to collaborate with the General Council in tasks of promotion and consolidation of the CLM. As I told you some time ago, the General Council could not deal with this matter due to the lack of resources, problem that logically only could be overcome with the collaboration of all the claretian lays, each one according to the respective economical possibilities. I believe that this point is advisable to be object of reflexion in each of our groups or communities.

The CLM was invited to participate in the University Symposium on "The Family in Europe", organized by the Vicariate of Rome and that took place in this city during June 24-27, 2004, during the acts organized on occasion of the International Year of the Family. The General Council considered it convenient our presence there, since the family was one of the privileged sphere of the evangelizing of the claretian lays and as sign of communion and insertion in the Universal Church. A detailed reference of the content and development of this event will appear in the next number of our bulletin.

The stay in Rome allowed us to visit the General Houses of the Claretian Missionaries Mothers and of the Claretian Missionaries, cmf, to strengthen bands of communion and fraternity with the respective General Government. As always the result of these visits have been tremendously encouraging due to the warm reception that the claretian lays received and by the interest that our brothers (sisters) missionaries show for everything regarding our Movement.

In the near future, exactly on 12-14 November, will take place in Madrid the Congress upon Secular Preaching "witness of the hope" in which I shall participate jointly with several claretian lays of the Betica Region.

Much road to travel but pleased because we rely on the whole Claretian Family. That María be our master and mediator in order to be faithful to that our Lord want of each one from us.

United by the claretian charisma, fraternally,

Cristina Martínez Benavides
General Secretariat of the CLM.