

15th July, 2018

CREATIVELY LIVING OUR MISSIONARY VOCATION

As we are celebrating the 169th anniversary of our Beloved Congregation, let us greet each other with joy for the gift of our Claretian Missionary Vocation. In this Silver Jubilee of our province we not only remember the blessings of our Lord to all of us, but also we are reminded to listen to him to carry out the Missionary Charism of our Father Claret in different realities of our life and mission.

"Today begins a great work". With this prophetic assurance Father Founder animated his cofounders to share his missionary Charism. In his discerning process of calling his disciples, he himself realized that the Lord had given them the same spirit as that of himself. From the part of these first companions of his Congregation, they not only proved their fidelity to the Congregation till the end of their life, but also became witnesses to this promise of our Father Founder.

Father Claret received from God the gift of being an itinerant missionary for the Word of God. The conviction of founding the Congregation of Missionaries underwent a serious discernment. Though the political environment hindered his dear dream of the foundation, he was persistent in putting into practice the call of being an evangelizer. From 1839 to 1849, he placed his heart and soul to the various evolutions of this evangelizing Charism. With the discovery of his vocation as "Missionary" in the parish church of Seva, he realized his call "to do with others" the ministry of the Word by establishing associations and fraternities. The establishment of the Fraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1847 is another milestone in the realization of his project of the salvation of souls. His Religious Library in 1848 indicates his openness to the Spirit to make use of the press as one of the means to spread the message of salvation. The founding of the Congregation in 1849 is the culmination of all his attempts of fidelity to his founding charism.

An itinerant preacher becomes a Founder by responding creatively to the movements of the Spirit in his vocational journey. The process of his creative fidelity to enrich his founding charism continued in Cuba and Madrid. He discovered the ways of announcing the Word in the adverse as well as supportive situations. Corrupted Cuban social milieu led him to respond to the social challenges and then announcing the Gospel. The political environment in Madrid moved him to read the reality and announce the Word.

That's why; from the second General Chapter onwards he expands the scope of the Apostolate of the Congregation with his expression 'making use of all possible means for the Gospel'. He proposed the Congregation to take up churches, to direct seminaries, to go for press Apostolate, to open up schools, etc.

The call from his creative fidelity to live the vocation as Apostolic Missionary is a reminder for us to examine our fidelity to lead our Missionary life from our Missionary charism. The different social and ecclesial realities of our life are the calls from God. Are we able to discern them well and see the guiding hands of God for our vocation and ministry?

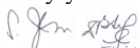
The 169th anniversary of our Congregation and the silver jubilee of our province are special occasions to examine our transparency and generosity to discover, to deliberate and to discern the call of our Lord for us and for our Apostolates.

May our Good Lord bless all of us to joyfully live our Missionary Vocation HAPPY FEAST TO ALL OF YOU.

Take care and pray for me.

Thanks a lot.

Fraternally yours



S. Jesu Doss cmf

