



Provincial Superior
Province of Chennai

Claretian Provincial House

*Post Box 43, Jothi Nagar,
(Bharathi Nagar 1st Main Road),
Tambaram West, Chennai - 600 045
Tamil Nadu, India. Tel: 044-2276 1614
E-mail: procmfchennai@gmail.com*

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THE EVANGELIZING VOCATION OF FATHER CLARET

Dear brothers,

Greetings.

As we are about to celebrate the feast of our Father Claret, I am happy to wish "A HAPPY FEAST" to all of you. May the evangelizing spirit of our Father Founder inspire and strengthen all of us to live our Claretian Missionary vocation joyfully and faithfully.

With this celebration Rev. Fr. Superior General invites us all to begin the preparation to celebrate the 150th death anniversary of our Founder that would be concluded on 24th October, 2020 in Vic. This year also is an important year for us in the ASCLA West because of the Golden Jubilee of the presence of our Congregation in India and the birth of two Independent Delegations, such as, Kolkata and Sri Lanka. Let us thank our Lord for all the blessings we have received throughout these 50 years. May our Good Lord bless the members of our new Independent Delegations.

As we are celebrating the Feast of our Founder, we are invited to identify ourselves with his spirit for the Word of God. On 11th August, 1849 when Father Claret was officially informed by his bishop Luciano Casadevall that he was appointed as the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, he wrote to the Nuncio on the following day itself explaining his fears and hesitations for accepting the office and defending his missionary vocation, because his evangelizing spirit was for the whole world that cannot be restricted to a small corner like of an archdiocese. He faithfully lived this gift of the Holy Spirit till the end of his life. His openness to different places, people, times and modes of evangelization portray his transparency to calls coming from these environments. His openness to go to Canary Islands, Cuba, Madrid etc., are certain examples to his missionary spirit. His invitation to Fr. Xifre to establish a community in Segovia outside of Catalonia reveals his insistence to live the missionary spirit of universality of the Congregation. The cofounders in whom he identified the same spirit that moved him (Auto. 489) carried out his evangelizing spirit by spreading the Congregation in Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Guinea Equatorial.

Carrying out this missionary spirit is a strong call for our Congregation in its present scenario. The current Circular Letter of Rev. Fr. Superior General titled "My spirit is for the whole world. Called and sent as missionaries in an intercultural world" certainly helps to identify ourselves with the evangelizing vocation of Father Claret. In this context we are happy that our missionaries are setting examples for their universal spirit to go through-out the world for the Word of God. Both as missionaries in the initial formation as well as in the on-going formation they are joyfully getting rooted in different cultures and blooming where they are planted. They make consistent efforts to learn the languages of the people as well as the mission to respond creatively. Most of those who were sent to the overseas missions have become members of the Organisms they entered. Here in our province our formation aims at living the universal spirit of our Founder by providing opportunities for an intercultural living. This creates the mind and animates availability for the universal mission of the Congregation.



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The recently concluded assembly of our Missionaries in Malaysia presents their commitment to learn and live the missionary spirit of Father Claret despite the challenges they undergo. All of them deserve our appreciation and support of prayers. At this juncture of the creation of the Independent Delegation of Kolkata, all of us realize the need to spread our ministry in Odisha. In view of this the Provincial Council sent Fr. V. Selvaraj to meet the bishop of Berhampur and find out the possibilities. Most Rev. Sarat Nayak, the bishop of this diocese is open to receive us. As first step our students of theology from Claret Nivas, Barrackpore will spend their Christmas holidays in this diocese. Let us pray that the Lord may enlighten us to discern his call to have our ministry here.

Wishing you all once again A Joyful Celebration of our Father Claret, I remain.

HAPPY FEAST TO ALL.

Take care and pray for me

Thanks a lot

Fraternally yours

(S. Jesu Doss cmf)

