

HISTORY OF THE CLARETIAN CONGREGATION (SHORT)

1849-1858: The Foundation:

- In 1849, six young priests, led by **Antonio Claret**, embarked on a missionary journey despite **significant challenges**.
- During this period, they faced initial struggles but also **established the Institute's internal structure**.
- The **first foundations outside Spain** were laid during this time.

1858-1870: Constitution Solidification:

- Under the leadership of **Joseph Xifré**, the **Institute's constitution solidified**.
- **Foundations in Gracia and Segovia** were established.
- Antonio Claret's return to Spain provided **crucial support**.

1870-1899: Continued Expansion:

- Despite the **death of the Founder (Antonio Claret) in 1870**, the Congregation **expanded**.
- Foundations were established in **Spain, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, and Italy** under **Father Xifré's leadership**.

1899-1906: Consolidation and Flourishing:

- After Father Xifré's death, the focus shifted to **consolidating previous achievements**.
- The Congregation **flourished in America** under **Father Clemente Serrat's guidance**.

1906-1922: Resumed Expansion:

- Expansion resumed after Father Serrat's death.
- The Congregation rejected many foundations offers due to its growth in **Europe**.
- **Missionary activity** thrived in countries like **Portugal, the UK, Germany, and France**.

1922-1934: New Efforts and Beatification:

- Under **General Nicolás García**, expansion continued, particularly in the **American republics**.
- **Missions in China** were established.
- The **beatification of Father Claret** was a significant milestone.

1934-1937: Martyrdom and Persecution:

- This period was marked by **martyrdom and persecution**, especially in **Spain**.
- Numerous Claretians lost their lives during these dark times.

1937-1949: Perseverance and Hope:

- Despite tribulations, the Congregation persevered through **World War II**.
- **Ecclesial figures** emerged, and the beatification of Father Claret symbolized hope.

1949-1967: First Centenary and Global Expansion:

- Under the leadership of **German General Father Peter Schweiger**, the Congregation celebrated its **first centenary** with renewed optimism.
- **Expansion** continued globally, particularly in **Japan, Canada, and India**, coinciding with the **Second Vatican Council**.

1967-1979: Post-Vatican II Renewal:

- The post-Vatican II era witnessed the Claretians undertaking **renewal** under **Father Antonio Leghisa**.
- This period was marked by **missionary expansion** and **internal reforms**.

1979-1985: Influence of the MCT Document:

- Under **Argentine Fr. Gustavo Alonso's leadership**, the **Mission of the Claretian Today (MCT)** document influenced significant changes.
- The Congregation was guided towards **more effective missionary efforts**.

1985-1991: Continued Growth and Changes:

- This period was characterized by **continued growth and changes**.
- The Congregation expanded its presence in countries such as **Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Sri Lanka**.

1991-1997: Renewed Missionary Zeal:

- **Spanish Fr. Aquilino Bocos** led the Congregation during this time.
- The beatification of the **Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro** highlighted the **renewed missionary zeal**.

1997-2009: 150th Anniversary and Ongoing Restructuring:

- The Congregation celebrated its **150th anniversary** amidst **ongoing restructuring** and **growth**.
- Areas like **India, Nigeria, and Southeast Asia** witnessed significant developments.

2009-2015: Organizational Changes and Bicentennial Commemoration:

- **Spanish missionary Fr. Josep M. Abella** oversaw further **organizational changes**.
- The **bicentennial of the Founder's birth** was commemorated alongside new projects and beatifications.

2015-2021: Technological Advancements and Claretian Year:

- **Indian Fr. Mathew Vattamattam** became Superior General.
- The Congregation focused on **reorganization efforts**, established **new foundations**, and witnessed **Pope Francis appointing Claretian Bishops**.
- The period concluded with the implementation of the **Claretian Year** and **technological advancements** during the **XXVI General Chapter**.