

INTERPRETATIVE INTEGRATION OF THE FOUNDER'S SPIRIT INTO CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

General Introduction (Rationale)

The Claretian charism is not a historical memory preserved in documents but a living gift of the Holy Spirit entrusted to the Church for the evangelization of every age. Received through the missionary experience of St. Anthony Mary Claret, this gift continues to inspire the Congregation to proclaim the Gospel with apostolic zeal, creative fidelity, and profound communion with the Church. Every generation of Claretians is therefore called not merely to preserve this heritage but to receive it anew, discern its enduring meaning, and embody it in response to the changing realities of the world. This dynamic understanding of the charism reflects the vision of the *Constitutions*, which present our missionary vocation as a participation in the mission of Christ under the guidance of the Spirit and in the school of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Formation in the Claretian tradition consequently involves more than acquiring historical knowledge or becoming familiar with the Founder's writings. While knowledge of the origins, history, spirituality, and missionary tradition of the Congregation is indispensable, authentic formation aims at a deeper process of personal transformation. The formandus is invited to encounter the same Spirit who animated Claret, allowing the Founder's experience to illuminate his own vocation and missionary journey. In this way, the study of Claretian sources becomes a path of discernment, conversion, and progressive conformity with Christ the Missionary. This vision corresponds to the General Plan of Formation, which understands formation as a lifelong, transformative process leading to missionary maturity through continual openness to the action of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time, fidelity to the charism cannot be reduced to repeating external practices or simply reproducing solutions from the past. Every historical period presents new social, cultural, ecclesial, and technological realities that require fresh discernment. The missionary is therefore called to distinguish between the permanent values of the charism and their historical expressions. Such discernment enables creative fidelity: preserving the identity received from the Founder while discovering new ways of living and proclaiming the Gospel in changing circumstances. Creative fidelity is neither adaptation for its own sake nor rigid traditionalism; rather, it is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit who continually renews the Church and her missionary communities.

This process of interpretation is never merely individual. The Claretian charism belongs to the Congregation and is lived, discerned, and developed within missionary communion. Personal insights are therefore tested through prayer, Scripture, the *Constitutions*, the Directory, the General Plan of Formation, the wisdom of the community, the experience of the poor, and the discernment of legitimate authority. Such communal discernment protects both the authenticity of the charism and the missionary's freedom from purely subjective interpretations. It also reflects the synodal character of the Church, where listening, dialogue, and shared discernment become essential dimensions of missionary life.

This module therefore seeks to form missionaries who are capable of interpreting reality through the eyes of faith and the heart of the Founder. It integrates theological reflection, historical awareness, prayerful reading of Claretian sources, personal accompaniment, communal discernment, and pastoral application. Throughout the module, formandi will engage not only in study but also in practical exercises, case studies, community dialogue, apostolic observation, and personal reflection, enabling the Claretian charism to become an operative principle of missionary discernment rather than merely an object of academic study.

Ultimately, the purpose of this module is not simply to deepen knowledge of Claretian spirituality but to form missionaries who become living expressions of that spirituality in today's world. A missionary who studies critically, prays contemplatively, discerns communally, and acts apostolically becomes a living continuation of the Founder. In this way, the fire entrusted to St.

Anthony Mary Claret continues to burn in new generations of Missionaries, enabling them to proclaim the Gospel with courage, compassion, creativity, and unwavering fidelity to Christ and to the Church.

I. Objectives and Observable Competencies

Purpose of the Module

This module seeks to enable missionaries in formation to internalize the Claretian charism as a living and dynamic gift of the Holy Spirit, capable of illuminating personal vocation, community life, and missionary service. Through the prayerful study of the Congregation's foundational sources, critical reflection on contemporary realities, communal discernment, and practical missionary application, formandi learn to interpret both tradition and present circumstances in the light of the Gospel. The ultimate goal is not merely intellectual understanding but the gradual formation of missionaries who embody the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret with creative fidelity in today's Church and world.

General Objectives

By the end of this module, formandi will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the theological, historical, and charismatic foundations of the Claretian missionary vocation.
- Distinguish between the enduring principles of the Claretian charism and their historical expressions.
- Interpret contemporary missionary realities using Scripture, the Constitutions, the General Plan of Formation, the Founder's writings, and the lived tradition of the Congregation.
- Integrate personal prayer, theological reflection, community discernment, and pastoral experience in missionary decision-making.
- Strengthen their affective identification with the Congregation and deepen their commitment to its missionary identity.
- Cultivate creative fidelity by responding to new pastoral challenges while remaining rooted in the Claretian charism.

Observable Competencies

At the completion of this module, the formandus should demonstrate growth in the following competencies.

1. Charismatic Understanding

The formandus:

- explains the essential elements of the Claretian charism with theological and historical accuracy;
- distinguishes permanent charismatic values from historically conditioned practices;
- demonstrates familiarity with the principal Claretian sources and their complementary roles.

Evidence of achievement

- Correctly interprets Claretian texts within their historical context.
- Uses multiple Claretian sources appropriately in discussions and written reflections.
- Avoids reducing the charism to isolated quotations or devotional practices.

2. Missionary Discernment

The formandus:

- analyses contemporary situations through Claretian missionary criteria;
- balances apostolic zeal with prayerful discernment;
- recognizes the action of the Holy Spirit in personal and communal decision-making.

Evidence of achievement

- Applies Claretian principles to real pastoral situations.
- Justifies missionary decisions through Scripture, the Constitutions, and communal discernment.
- Demonstrates prudence, openness, and missionary creativity in case studies.

3. Personal Integration

The formandus:

- relates the Founder's experience to his own vocational journey;
- identifies areas requiring ongoing conversion and growth;
- integrates prayer, study, community life, and apostolic service into a unified missionary identity.

Evidence of achievement

- Produces a reflective vocational synthesis.
- Identifies concrete areas for personal growth.
- Demonstrates coherence between personal reflection and daily missionary practice.

4. Community and Ecclesial Communion

The formandus:

- appreciates that the charism belongs to the Congregation rather than to individual interpretation;
- values communal discernment and responsible dialogue;
- collaborates constructively within intercultural missionary communities.

Evidence of achievement

- Participates respectfully in community discernment.
- Listens attentively to differing perspectives.
- Demonstrates accountability in collaborative decision-making.

5. Creative Fidelity

The formandus:

- recognizes new missionary challenges as opportunities for evangelical creativity;
- develops pastoral responses rooted in the Claretian tradition;
- adapts missionary methods without compromising the essential identity of the Congregation.

Evidence of achievement

- Designs realistic missionary initiatives for contemporary contexts.
- Integrates tradition and innovation appropriately.
- Shows confidence in addressing emerging pastoral realities.

Indicators of Formation Growth

By the conclusion of the module, formandi should progressively demonstrate the ability to:

- read Claretian sources prayerfully as well as critically;
- interpret contemporary realities through the Gospel and the Claretian charism;
- integrate contemplation, study, community life, and mission into a coherent missionary lifestyle;
- exercise discernment before action rather than relying on impulse or personal preference;
- appreciate intercultural perspectives while maintaining unity of mission;
- articulate their Claretian identity with clarity, conviction, and humility;
- respond creatively to missionary challenges while remaining faithful to the Founder's spirit;
- show increasing affective identification with the Congregation and joyful availability for its universal mission.

Formation Focus

The success of this module is measured not primarily by the quantity of information acquired but by the gradual emergence of missionaries who think, pray, discern, and act from within the Claretian charism. Growth becomes evident when formandi increasingly interpret their own lives, community relationships, and apostolic responsibilities through the missionary spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret, allowing that spirit to shape their attitudes, decisions, and service in the Church. This corresponds to the vision of Claretian formation as a lifelong process of conformity with Christ the Missionary in the forge of the Heart of Mary.

II. How to Use This Module

This module is designed as a formative journey rather than an academic course. Its purpose is not merely to deepen knowledge of the Claretian charism but to help formandi internalize it through prayer, reflection, communal discernment, and missionary practice. It is suitable for novices, post-novices, and missionaries in ongoing formation, with appropriate adaptations according to their stage of formation.

Pedagogical Approach

The module integrates five complementary dimensions of Claretian formation:

- **Study** to understand the theological, historical, and charismatic foundations of our vocation.
- **Prayer** to allow the Holy Spirit to transform knowledge into personal conviction.
- **Discernment** to interpret personal experience and contemporary realities in the light of the Gospel and the Claretian charism.
- **Community** to foster listening, dialogue, and shared discernment.
- **Mission** to translate reflection into concrete apostolic action.

This approach reflects the Claretian understanding of formation as a lifelong process of conformity with Christ the Missionary through prayer, study, community life, and apostolic service.

Learning Process

Each session may follow a simple formative rhythm:

1. **Encounter the Source** – Read Scripture together with selected Claretian texts.
2. **Understand the Context** – Identify the theological, historical, and missionary significance of the text.
3. **Personal Reflection** – Prayerfully relate the message to one's own vocational journey.

4. **Community Discernment** – Share insights through respectful dialogue and communal listening.
5. **Missionary Application** – Identify concrete implications for community life and pastoral ministry.

Role of the Formator: The formator accompanies rather than simply teaches. He facilitates dialogue, encourages prayerful and critical reflection, relates the Claretian sources to present missionary realities, and supports formandi through personal accompaniment and ongoing observation.

Role of the Formandus: Formandi are expected to prepare the assigned readings, engage actively in discussions, maintain a reflective journal, participate honestly in self-assessment, and apply the learning to their daily community and apostolic life.

Evaluation: Evaluation is primarily formative. Growth is assessed through participation, quality of reflection, integration of Claretian sources, practical exercises, community involvement, personal accompaniment, and the final Missionary Integration Project. The objective is not simply to measure knowledge but to foster progressive conformity with Christ the Missionary in the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

III. Theological and Hermeneutical Foundations

The Claretian charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit entrusted to the Church for the evangelization of every age. Like every authentic ecclesial charism, it is both permanent and dynamic: permanent in its essential identity and dynamic in its historical expression. Consequently, formation seeks not only to preserve the Founder's legacy but also to prepare missionaries who can discern how that legacy is to be lived creatively in new cultural, ecclesial, and missionary contexts. The *Constitutions* remind us that our supreme rule is the following of Christ according to the Gospel, while our specific way of living this vocation is shaped by the missionary spirit received through St. Anthony Mary Claret.

1. Charism as a Living Gift

A charism is not simply a body of teachings, devotional practices, or historical traditions. It is a living participation in Christ's mission through the action of the Holy Spirit. The Founder received this gift in response to the needs of his time, and the Congregation continues to receive and develop it as it encounters new missionary realities. Formation therefore seeks to cultivate:

- fidelity to the Gospel;
- communion with the Church;
- continuity with the Founder;
- openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit;
- readiness for missionary renewal.

2. The Hermeneutic of Creative Fidelity

Every generation must distinguish between the enduring values of the charism and their historical expressions. Certain practices belong to a particular cultural context, while the underlying missionary principles remain permanently valid. Creative fidelity therefore asks:

- What was the Founder responding to?
- Which enduring missionary principle guided his response?
- What comparable challenges exist today?
- How can the same evangelical spirit be expressed in our present context?

This approach prevents both rigid traditionalism and superficial adaptation, enabling the charism to remain living and fruitful.

3. Reading Claretian Sources as Formation

Claretian documents are not merely historical records but formative texts that shape missionary identity. They should be read prayerfully, critically, and in dialogue with one another. Among the principal sources are:

- Sacred Scripture as the primary source of every Christian vocation.
- The *Constitutions*, the fundamental rule of Claretian missionary life.
- The *Directory*, which applies the Constitutions to the concrete life of the Congregation.
- The *General Plan of Formation*, which presents the formative vision for the whole missionary journey.
- The *Autobiography*, which narrates the Founder's vocational and spiritual itinerary.
- The Founder's letters, pastoral writings, and the history of the Congregation, which illustrate the concrete development of the charism.

4. Communal Discernment of the Charism

The Claretian charism belongs to the Congregation and is discerned within missionary communion. Personal insights are therefore enriched and verified through:

- prayer and contemplation;
- community dialogue;
- the wisdom of the Church;
- the Constitutions and Congregational documents;
- the experience of the poor and those to whom we are sent;
- the discernment of legitimate authority.

This communal dimension reflects the synodal nature of the Church and safeguards the authentic development of the charism.

5. From Interpretation to Mission

The purpose of interpreting the Claretian heritage is not simply to understand the past but to illuminate present missionary action. Authentic interpretation leads to discernment, and discernment leads to mission. The missionary who listens attentively to the Word of God, studies the Claretian tradition, discerns with the community, and responds courageously to contemporary challenges becomes a living continuation of the Founder.

Reflection for Personal Integration

At the end of this section, formandi may reflect individually or in groups:

1. Which aspect of the Claretian charism most inspires my missionary vocation?
2. Where do I recognize the need for creative fidelity in today's missionary context?
3. Which Claretian source has most influenced my understanding of our vocation, and why?

This reflection prepares formandi to explore the core Claretian dynamisms that give concrete expression to the missionary spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

IV. Core Claretian Dynamisms

The Claretian charism is expressed through a number of fundamental missionary dynamisms that give unity and direction to our vocation. These are not isolated ideals but interconnected dimensions of a single missionary way of life. Together they form a practical framework for

interpreting reality, discerning God's will, and responding creatively to the needs of the Church and the world.

1. Christ-Centred Mission

The heart of the Claretian vocation is conformity with Christ, the One anointed and sent by the Father to proclaim the Good News. Every aspect of missionary life—prayer, community, formation, and ministry—flows from this personal relationship with Christ and participation in his mission. Mission is therefore not simply an activity but a way of sharing in Christ's own life and saving work.

Questions for Reflection

- How does my relationship with Christ shape my missionary decisions?
- What helps me remain centred on Christ amid the demands of ministry?

2. Apostolic Zeal

St. Anthony Mary Claret desired to be “a man on fire with love,” consumed by the desire that all people might know and love God. Apostolic zeal is the inner dynamism that inspires generous service, perseverance, missionary creativity, and readiness to embrace sacrifice for the Gospel.

Today this zeal is expressed not by restless activism but by a discerning charity that seeks the most effective ways of evangelizing according to the needs of people and the signs of the times.

Questions for Reflection

- Does my apostolic enthusiasm arise from love of Christ and people or from personal ambition and activism?
- How do I renew my missionary zeal?

3. Missionary Discernment

Claretian missionaries are called to read reality with the eyes of faith. Discernment involves listening attentively to God, interpreting human realities in the light of the Gospel, consulting the wisdom of the community and the Church, and responding with prudence and courage.

Missionary discernment requires prayer, humility, openness to the Holy Spirit, and willingness to revise one's own assumptions.

Questions for Reflection

- Do I normally act first and reflect later, or do I discern before acting?
- How do I involve others in important missionary decisions?

4. Missionary Community

The charism is lived within a community gathered by the Lord for mission. Community is not merely a place of residence but a privileged space for prayer, mutual support, shared discernment, fraternal correction, and apostolic collaboration.

Intercultural living, dialogue, forgiveness, shared responsibility, and common mission are concrete expressions of missionary communion.

Questions for Reflection

- How do I contribute to the missionary vitality of my community?
- In what ways can our community become a more effective witness to the Gospel?

5. Cordi-Marian Spirituality

As Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we learn from Mary the attitudes that sustain missionary life: attentive listening to God's Word, humble availability, contemplative openness, compassionate service, steadfastness in suffering, and joyful participation in Christ's mission.

Marian spirituality is therefore not merely devotional but deeply missionary. It shapes our way of relating to God, to one another, and to those whom we serve.

Questions for Reflection

- Which Marian attitudes most need to grow in my life?
- How does devotion to the Heart of Mary influence my missionary ministry?

6. Ecclesial Communion

The Claretian vocation is always exercised within the communion of the Church. Faithfulness to our charism includes collaboration with the Pope, bishops, local Churches, the Claretian Family, and other collaborators in evangelization. The missionary serves the Church with both prophetic freedom and ecclesial communion, recognizing that authentic prophecy always builds up the Body of Christ.

Questions for Reflection

- How do I contribute to communion within the local Church?
- How do I balance prophetic courage with ecclesial obedience?

7. Creative Fidelity

Creative fidelity is the capacity to remain rooted in the Founder while responding courageously to new missionary challenges. It avoids two extremes: merely repeating past methods and abandoning the essential identity of the charism.

Creative fidelity asks not, "*What did Claret do?*" but "*How would the same missionary spirit respond today?*" It requires historical understanding, prayerful discernment, communal consultation, and apostolic imagination.

Questions for Reflection

- What new missionary realities challenge the Congregation today?
- How can I contribute creatively while remaining faithful to our charism?

Integrative Exercise: Seeing Reality through the Claretian Charism

Choose a contemporary pastoral or community situation and discuss it using the following questions:

1. What is happening?
2. Which Claretian dynamisms are most relevant to this situation?
3. Which Claretian sources would help illuminate it?
4. What response would best express creative fidelity today?

This exercise prepares formandi for the next section, where these principles are brought together in a practical method of missionary discernment through the **Claretian Interpretative Cycle**.

V. The Claretian Interpretative Cycle

The Claretian charism is not simply inherited; it is continually interpreted and lived in response to the changing realities of history. St. Anthony Mary Claret himself constantly read the signs of his time through the light of the Gospel, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide his missionary decisions. In the same spirit, every Claretian is called to discern how the enduring values of our charism can inspire creative and faithful responses to the pastoral challenges of today.

The following interpretative cycle offers a practical method for integrating Scripture, the Claretian tradition, communal discernment, and pastoral experience. It is not a rigid technique but a flexible process that may be used in personal prayer, community reflection, pastoral planning, apostolic evaluation, and missionary decision-making.

Step 1. Observe the Reality

Mission begins by attentively observing people and situations with openness and compassion. Rather than making immediate judgments, the missionary seeks to understand the concrete reality before him. Consider:

- What is happening?
- Who is affected?
- What signs of hope, suffering, injustice, or grace are present?
- What social, cultural, or ecclesial factors influence this situation?

Formation Practice: Choose a current pastoral or community situation and describe it objectively before proposing any solutions.

Step 2. Listen to the Human Cry

Claret always listened to the deepest needs of the people. Behind every situation lies a human cry that invites an evangelical response. Ask:

- What hopes, fears, or wounds are being expressed?
- Who is being forgotten or marginalized?
- Where is God already at work?
- What invitation to compassion emerges?

Formation Practice: Imagine yourself in the place of those directly affected. How might they describe their experience?

Step 3. Illuminate the Reality with the Claretian Tradition

The missionary now allows Scripture and the Claretian heritage to illuminate the situation. Consult:

- Sacred Scripture.
- The *Constitutions*.
- The *Directory*.
- The *General Plan of Formation*.
- The *Autobiography*.
- Other writings of the Founder.
- General Chapter documents.
- Significant moments in Congregational history.

The question is not simply “*What did Claret do?*” but “*Which enduring missionary principle is revealed through his experience?*”

Formation Practice: Identify one biblical text and one Claretian source that help illuminate the situation.

Step 4. Discern Together

Missionary discernment is never purely individual. Important decisions are enriched through prayer, dialogue, consultation, and communal wisdom. Reflect together:

- Which Claretian dynamisms are most relevant?
- What values should guide our response?
- What alternatives are available?
- Which option seems most faithful to the Gospel and our missionary vocation?

Discernment requires interior freedom, humility, openness to correction, and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Formation Practice: Conduct a brief community conversation in which formandi first listen without interruption before offering their reflections.

Step 5. Respond with Creative Fidelity

Discernment becomes complete only when translated into concrete missionary action. A Claretian response should be:

- faithful to the Gospel;
- rooted in the charism;
- attentive to present realities;
- pastorally effective;
- respectful of persons;
- carried out in communion with the Church and the community.

Creative fidelity does not seek novelty for its own sake but allows the perennial missionary spirit of the Founder to inspire new forms of evangelization.

Formation Practice: Formulate one concrete action that your community could realistically implement within the next month.

Step 6. Review and Learn

Missionary discernment is an ongoing process. Every pastoral response becomes an opportunity for further learning and conversion. After implementation, ask:

- What fruits emerged?
- What unexpected difficulties arose?
- What did we learn about ourselves and our mission?
- What is the Holy Spirit inviting us to do next?

This review fosters continual growth in personal and communal missionary maturity.

Practical Worksheet

Formandi may use the following questions whenever they analyse a pastoral, community, or missionary situation.

Step	Guiding Question
Observe	What is happening?
Listen	What human cry or hope is present?
Illuminate	Which Gospel passage and Claretian sources help interpret this situation?
Discern	What response best reflects the Claretian charism today?
Respond	What concrete missionary action should be taken?
Review	What have we learned for future mission?

Personal Reflection

At the conclusion of this section, formandi may reflect individually:

- Which step of the interpretative cycle comes most naturally to me?
- Which step do I tend to overlook?
- How can this process help me become a more discerning and missionary Claretian?

This interpretative cycle provides the methodological foundation for the practical formation activities that follow. The remaining sections of the module invite formandi to apply this process through workshops, contemporary case studies, apostolic experiences, and personal missionary integration, allowing the Claretian charism to become an operative principle for daily life and mission.

VI. Formation Process: Learning to Interpret the Claretian Charism

The Claretian charism is best assimilated through a gradual process that integrates study, prayer, personal reflection, community dialogue, and missionary experience. The following formation process is intended as a flexible guide rather than a rigid programme. Formation communities may adapt its duration and activities according to their context, stage of formation, and pastoral opportunities.

Each session follows the Claretian Interpretative Cycle presented in the previous section and progressively leads formandi from understanding the charism to embodying it in daily missionary life.

Session 1. Discovering the Claretian Charism

Objective: To appreciate the Claretian charism as a living gift of the Holy Spirit entrusted to the Church.

Suggested Sources

- Mk 3:13–19
- Constitutions 1–9
- General Plan of Formation, Introduction
- Autobiography (vocational experience)

Formation Activities

- Guided presentation on the origin and purpose of the Claretian charism.
- Personal sharing: “What first attracted me to the Claretian vocation?”
- Group discussion on the difference between a charism and a spirituality.

Personal Reflection

- How has God been preparing me to participate in this missionary charism?

Session 2. Reading the Founder Today

Objective: To understand the Founder within his historical context while identifying the enduring missionary principles that continue to guide the Congregation.

Suggested Sources

- Selected passages from the *Autobiography*
- Founder's Letters
- Historical accounts of the early Congregation

Formation Activities

Working in groups, formandi identify:

- the historical situation;
- Claret's response;
- the underlying missionary principle;
- possible contemporary applications.

Personal Reflection

- Which aspect of Claret's missionary spirit challenges me most today?

Session 3. Reading Reality with Missionary Eyes

Objective: To develop the ability to observe contemporary realities through the light of the Gospel and the Claretian charism.

Suggested Sources

- Lk 10:25–37
- Recent General Chapter documents
- Current missionary situations

Formation Activities

Formandi analyse one contemporary pastoral challenge using the Claretian Interpretative Cycle. Possible themes include:

- migration;
- youth and digital culture;
- ecological concerns;
- religious indifference;
- intercultural communities.

Community Dialogue

- Which missionary opportunities emerge from these realities?

Session 4. The Constitutions as Our Project of Life

Objective: To discover the *Constitutions* as the fundamental expression of the Claretian vocation rather than simply a juridical document.

Suggested Sources

- Constitutions 1–57
- Directory (selected articles)

Formation Activities

Each formandus selects one constitutional article that most speaks to his present stage of formation and explains:

- why it is significant;
- how it can be lived today;
- what challenges it presents.

Personal Commitment

- Choose one constitutional value to practise intentionally during the coming week.

Session 5. Creative Fidelity in Mission

Objective: To distinguish between preserving traditions and renewing the charism creatively.

Suggested Sources

- Examples from Congregational history
- General Plan of Formation
- Recent General Chapter orientations

Formation Activities

Small groups examine pastoral situations requiring missionary adaptation.

Questions:

- Which aspects of our tradition remain essential?
- What needs renewal?
- What new missionary responses are possible?

Practical Outcome

- Each group proposes one realistic missionary initiative inspired by the Claretian charism.

Session 6. Community as the Place of Discernment

Objective: To experience communal discernment as an essential expression of the Claretian vocation.

Suggested Sources

- Acts 2:42–47
- Constitutions on missionary community

Formation Activities

Using a real or hypothetical community issue, formandi conduct a structured discernment process that includes:

- silent prayer;
- attentive listening;
- respectful dialogue;
- shared discernment;
- identification of practical decisions.

Personal Reflection

- How do I normally contribute to community discernment?

Session 7. Missionary Creativity in Practice

Objective: To apply Claretian principles to concrete pastoral situations.

Formation Activities

Formandi work in groups on contemporary case studies such as:

- evangelization in digital culture;
- intercultural misunderstandings;
- declining parish participation;
- ministry among migrants;
- ecological conversion;
- youth accompaniment.

Each group applies the Claretian Interpretative Cycle and presents its conclusions.

Session 8. Personal Missionary Integration

Objective: To integrate the learning of the module into one's own vocational journey.

Formation Activities

Formandi prepare a personal synthesis addressing:

- What have I discovered about the Claretian charism?
- Which aspects resonate most deeply with my vocation?
- What personal conversions have emerged?
- How do I hope to embody the charism in future ministry?

This reflection may serve as the basis for personal accompaniment with the formator.

Suggested Practical Activities Throughout the Module

In addition to the session work, formandi are encouraged to:

- maintain a reflective journal;
- pray regularly with Claretian texts;
- interview an experienced missionary about the evolution of the charism in his ministry;
- observe a contemporary pastoral reality and analyse it using the Claretian Interpretative Cycle;
- participate in a community discernment exercise;
- undertake a small missionary initiative that expresses creative fidelity.

Ongoing Integration

The sessions should not be viewed as isolated lessons but as stages of a single formative journey. Each one invites formandi to move progressively from **knowing the Claretian tradition**, to **praying with it**, **discerning through it**, **living it in community**, and finally **expressing it creatively in mission**. The objective is not simply to preserve a rich heritage, but to allow that heritage to continue generating missionaries who proclaim the Gospel with the same evangelical passion that animated St. Anthony Mary Claret.

VII. Contemporary Case Studies for Charismatic Discernment

The Claretian charism becomes fully meaningful when it is brought into dialogue with the realities of contemporary mission. These case studies invite formandi to apply the Claretian

Interpretative Cycle to situations that missionaries increasingly encounter in community life and apostolic ministry. The objective is not to find a single correct solution but to develop the habit of discerning with the Gospel, the Claretian tradition, and the wisdom of the missionary community. Formandi may work individually or in small groups and conclude each exercise by identifying practical missionary responses.

Case Study 1. Evangelization in the Digital World

A young Claretian has become very popular on social media through his short evangelization videos. Thousands follow him, and his online ministry has inspired many people. However, he increasingly works independently, seldom consults his community, and measures the success of his ministry mainly through the number of followers and online engagement.

Questions for Discernment

- What positive missionary opportunities are present?
- What challenges or risks emerge?
- Which Claretian values should guide this ministry?
- How can personal initiative remain integrated within missionary communion?
- What would creative fidelity look like in this situation?

Case Study 2. Intercultural Community Living

An international formation community experiences recurring tensions regarding punctuality, communication styles, leadership, hospitality, and community responsibilities. Members begin attributing these differences to cultural stereotypes, and mutual trust gradually weakens.

Questions for Discernment

- Which issues are genuinely cultural and which are personal?
- Which Gospel values should shape the community's response?
- How do the Claretian values of fraternity, dialogue, and shared mission illuminate the situation?
- What practical steps could strengthen missionary communion?

Case Study 3. A Comfortable Ministry

A long-established apostolic institution enjoys financial stability, social recognition, and regular pastoral activity. Nevertheless, it has little contact with the poor, rarely initiates new missionary projects, and shows little interest in emerging pastoral challenges.

Questions for Discernment

- What signs of vitality and stagnation can be identified?
- Which missionary dynamisms of the Founder appear weakened?
- How might creative fidelity renew this ministry?
- What first steps toward missionary renewal seem realistic?

Case Study 4. Prophetic Witness and Ecclesial Communion

A local community faces a serious social injustice affecting vulnerable families. Some members advocate immediate public action, while others fear creating tensions with civil authorities or local Church leaders.

Questions for Discernment

- How should prophetic courage and ecclesial communion be balanced?
- Which Claretian principles are most relevant?
- What process of communal discernment would be appropriate?
- What missionary response would combine truth, charity, and prudence?

Case Study 5. Hidden Mission and Availability

A missionary who expected an active preaching ministry is instead assigned to formation, administration, or the care of elderly confreres. Although he accepts the assignment externally, he struggles internally with disappointment and frustration.

Questions for Discernment

- What does missionary availability mean in this situation?
- How can hidden forms of service become authentic participation in the mission?
- Which attitudes of St. Anthony Mary Claret and the Heart of Mary offer guidance?
- How can the community accompany such a missionary?

Method for Working with the Case Studies

Each group may use the following sequence:

Step	Guiding Question
Observe	What are the principal facts?
Listen	What human needs, hopes, or wounds emerge?
Illuminate	Which biblical and Claretian sources shed light on this situation?
Discern	Which Claretian values should guide the response?
Respond	What concrete missionary action is appropriate?
Review	How will we evaluate whether the response has borne fruit?

Community Conversation

After each case study, formandi may conclude with a community conversation guided by these questions:

- What challenged us most in this situation?
- Which Claretian values emerged most clearly?
- Where did we experience differing perspectives?
- What did we learn about missionary discernment?
- How might similar situations arise in our own community or ministry?

The emphasis should be on attentive listening, mutual respect, and shared discernment rather than debate.

Personal Integration

Each formandus is invited to conclude the section by reflecting:

- Which case study most resembles challenges I have already experienced?
- Which Claretian dynamism do I most need to cultivate?
- How can I become a missionary who responds with both fidelity and creativity?

These case studies are intended to prepare formandi for concrete missionary practice. The following section therefore moves beyond simulated situations to **field-based missionary**

experience, where the Claretian charism is exercised through direct encounter with people, communities, and pastoral realities.

VIII. Field-Based Missionary Experience

The Claretian charism is ultimately learned in the encounter with people and their realities. While study provides understanding and reflection fosters discernment, direct pastoral experience enables missionaries to recognize how the Holy Spirit continues to call the Congregation to proclaim the Gospel in changing contexts. Field-based experiences therefore complement classroom formation by helping formandi integrate contemplation, community life, and apostolic action.

The purpose of this section is not to evaluate pastoral effectiveness but to cultivate a missionary attitude of attentive listening, evangelical discernment, and creative fidelity.

Objectives

Through direct pastoral observation and participation, formandi should learn to:

- recognize the signs of God's presence and action in contemporary society;
- identify the hopes, sufferings, and aspirations of the people entrusted to the Church;
- interpret pastoral realities through Scripture and the Claretian charism;
- appreciate the diversity of missionary contexts;
- integrate prayer, reflection, and action in missionary ministry.

Suggested Experiences

Formation communities may choose one or more experiences according to local opportunities.

Possible settings include:

- parish communities;
- youth ministry;
- prison or hospital ministry;
- ministry among migrants and refugees;
- ministry with the poor or homeless;
- ecological initiatives;
- digital evangelization projects;
- schools and educational ministries;
- interreligious or intercultural encounters;
- social outreach programmes.

The emphasis should be on listening, observing, and discerning rather than simply performing activities.

Observation Guide

During the experience, formandi may reflect on the following questions:

Observe

- What situations most attracted my attention?
- Who appears to be most vulnerable?
- What signs of hope did I encounter?
- What missionary opportunities became visible?

Listen

- What are people longing for?
- What fears or struggles did they express?

- How did they experience the presence of the Church?
- What questions remain unanswered?

Discern

- Which Gospel values are most relevant?
- Which Claretian dynamisms help interpret this reality?
- What is the Holy Spirit inviting us to notice?
- What personal attitudes does this experience challenge?

Respond

- What missionary response seems most appropriate?
- How can our community collaborate more effectively?
- What concrete action could realistically be undertaken?

Community Reflection

After the field experience, formandi gather for a communal conversation.

Each formandus briefly shares:

- one significant observation;
- one personal insight;
- one missionary challenge;
- one concrete invitation for future mission.

The purpose is not to compare experiences but to discern together how the charism can respond to present missionary realities.

Reflection Journal

Each formandus prepares a brief reflective report (2–3 pages) addressing:

1. Description of the pastoral experience.
2. Major observations.
3. Human and spiritual needs identified.
4. Biblical and Claretian insights that illuminate the experience.
5. Personal learning.
6. Possible missionary responses.
7. Implications for my own vocational growth.

The journal should move beyond description to genuine theological and missionary reflection.

Personal Accompaniment

Whenever possible, the field experience should be reviewed during personal accompaniment.

Some guiding questions include:

- What surprised me most?
- Where did I experience consolation or resistance?
- What did I discover about my missionary strengths and limitations?
- How is God inviting me to grow through this experience?

This conversation helps integrate pastoral experience into the formandus's ongoing vocational journey.

Missionary Integration

The value of pastoral experience lies not primarily in the activities performed but in the missionary conversion it fosters. Every encounter with people—especially the poor, the forgotten,

and those searching for meaning—becomes an opportunity to rediscover the Gospel and the Claretian vocation. As missionaries learn to observe attentively, listen compassionately, discern prayerfully, and respond creatively, they gradually acquire the apostolic sensitivity that characterized St. Anthony Mary Claret. In this way, pastoral experience becomes a privileged place where the charism is continually renewed and embodied in service to the Church and the world.

IX. Personal and Communal Practices

The Claretian charism is assimilated not only through study and pastoral experience but also through daily practices that gradually shape the missionary's mind, heart, and way of life. Small but consistent habits help transform charismatic ideals into enduring attitudes. The following practices are intended to cultivate a missionary lifestyle rooted in prayer, community, discernment, and apostolic service.

These practices may be adapted according to the stage of formation and the needs of each community.

A. Personal Practices

1. Pray with Claretian Sources

Set aside time each week to pray with a passage from the *Autobiography*, the *Constitutions*, the *General Plan of Formation*, or another Claretian text. Read slowly, remain in silence, and ask:

- What does this reveal about Christ?
- What does it reveal about my vocation?
- What invitation is God giving me today?

2. Maintain a Missionary Journal

Record significant experiences, consolations, challenges, and insights throughout the module. Useful prompts include:

- What touched me most today?
- Where did I experience God's presence?
- Which Claretian value became more meaningful?
- What is the Holy Spirit inviting me to change?

3. Practice Daily Missionary Discernment

At the end of each day, briefly review:

- Where did I respond generously?
- Where did I miss an opportunity to love or serve?
- What have I learned about myself?
- What grace do I ask for tomorrow?

4. Choose a Weekly Charismatic Practice

Each week intentionally cultivate one Claretian attitude, such as:

- attentive listening;
- availability for service;
- simplicity of life;
- missionary initiative;
- patience in community;
- gratitude;

- reconciliation;
- Marian trust.

B. Community Practices

1. Community Conversation

Once during the module, dedicate a community meeting to reflecting on a contemporary missionary challenge using the Claretian Interpretative Cycle.

The objective is not simply to solve problems but to practise communal discernment.

2. Shared Reflection on Claretian Sources

Periodically, one community member introduces a brief Claretian text followed by silent reflection and open sharing. Questions may include:

- What continues to challenge us today?
- How is this text inviting our community to grow?

3. Review of Mission

At the end of a pastoral activity or community project, review together:

- What did we do well?
- Where did we recognize God's action?
- What needs improvement?
- What have we learned for future mission?

This practice strengthens accountability and continuous missionary renewal.

4. Community Gesture of Missionary Charity

As a community, undertake a simple act of missionary service during the module—for example:

- visiting the sick or elderly;
- supporting migrants or refugees;
- accompanying vulnerable families;
- participating in an ecological initiative;
- preparing a missionary outreach for young people.

The experience should conclude with prayer and shared reflection.

C. Monthly Charismatic Discernment Circle

A particularly valuable communal practice is the **Charismatic Discernment Circle**. One member presents a real pastoral or community situation. The group then follows this process:

1. Silent prayer.
2. Presentation of the situation.
3. Clarifying questions.
4. Reading of an appropriate biblical and Claretian text.
5. Silent personal reflection.
6. Shared discernment.
7. Identification of practical responses.
8. Closing prayer.

This exercise develops the habit of interpreting reality together rather than relying solely on individual opinions.

D. Integrating Practice and Mission

Formandi are encouraged to select one concrete missionary practice to cultivate throughout the module. Possible commitments include:

- spending regular time with people on the margins;
- accompanying a young person or family;
- improving community dialogue;
- simplifying one's personal lifestyle;
- using digital media more intentionally for evangelization;
- strengthening personal prayer before ministry.

The emphasis is not on completing many activities but on faithfully practising one concrete expression of the Claretian charism.

Missionary Integration

The Claretian vocation grows through fidelity in ordinary life. Daily prayer, community relationships, missionary service, and personal discernment gradually shape the heart according to Christ and deepen identification with the missionary spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret. These practices are therefore not additional activities but ordinary means through which the Holy Spirit forms missionaries in the forge of the Heart of Mary, enabling them to proclaim the Gospel with generosity, humility, and creative fidelity.

X. Self-Assessment: Growing in the Claretian Charism

Self-assessment is an integral part of Claretian formation. Its purpose is not to judge personal worth but to foster greater self-awareness, gratitude for God's action, and openness to ongoing conversion. Formandi are invited to evaluate their growth honestly in the light of the Gospel, the Claretian charism, and their lived experience in community and mission.

This assessment may be completed at the beginning and at the end of the module to identify areas of growth and those requiring further attention.

Instructions

Read each statement carefully and rate yourself using the following scale:

Rating	Meaning
1	Rarely true of me
2	Occasionally true
3	Often true
4	Usually true
5	Consistently true

Whenever possible, support your rating with one concrete example from your recent experience.

A. Understanding the Claretian Charism

Statement	Rating (1–5)	Evidence from my experience
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I understand the essential elements of the Claretian charism.		
I can distinguish enduring charismatic values from historical expressions.		
I regularly read and reflect on Claretian sources.		
I relate the Founder's experience to my own vocation.		

B. Prayer and Discernment

Statement	Rating	Evidence
I seek God's guidance before making important decisions.		
I integrate prayer with my apostolic responsibilities.		
I reflect regularly on my missionary experiences.		
I am open to revising my opinions through discernment.		

C. Community Life

Statement	Rating	Evidence
I contribute positively to community life.		
I listen respectfully to others, especially those with different perspectives.		
I participate actively in communal discernment.		
I value intercultural diversity as a gift for mission.		

D. Missionary Availability

Statement	Rating	Evidence
I respond generously to the needs of the mission.		
I accept assignments with freedom and trust.		
I balance apostolic zeal with prudent discernment.		
I seek the good of the mission above personal preference.		

E. Creative Fidelity

Statement	Rating	Evidence
I recognize new missionary challenges as opportunities for evangelization.		
I seek creative responses rooted in the Claretian charism.		
I avoid both rigid traditionalism and superficial adaptation.		
I integrate tradition and innovation responsibly.		

F. Cordi-Marian Spirit

Statement	Rating	Evidence
I cultivate trust in God's providence through the Heart of Mary.		
I strive to combine firmness with compassion in my relationships.		
I remain attentive and available to God's invitations in daily life.		
My Marian devotion inspires my missionary service.		

Personal Reflection

After completing the assessment, prayerfully reflect on the following questions:

1. Which areas show the greatest growth?
2. Which areas need further attention?
3. What patterns do I notice in my responses?
4. Which grace do I ask of the Lord at this stage of my formation?
5. What concrete step will I take during the coming month?

Personal Growth Commitment

Based on this reflection, formulate one specific and realistic commitment.

During the next month, I will:

I will review this commitment on:

With whom will I review it (formator/spiritual director/superior)?

Review with the Formator

The completed self-assessment may serve as the basis for personal accompaniment. Rather than discussing numerical scores alone, the conversation should focus on the formandus's concrete experiences, patterns of growth, and areas requiring continued formation. Suggested questions for dialogue include:

- Which rating was most difficult to give yourself? Why?
- Which experience best illustrates your growth?
- What obstacles continue to hinder your missionary development?
- How can the formation community support your ongoing growth?
- What practical commitment would help you deepen your identification with the Claretian vocation?

Missionary Integration

Authentic self-assessment is an act of humility and hope. By honestly recognizing both gifts and limitations, missionaries become more available to the transforming action of the Holy Spirit. Growth in the Claretian vocation is measured not by perfection but by an increasing conformity with Christ the Missionary, lived in joyful communion with the Church, the Congregation, and the people to whom we are sent.

XI. Formator's Assessment Rubric

While personal self-assessment encourages self-awareness, the formator's assessment provides an external perspective on the formandus' vocational growth. The purpose is not to grade performance but to accompany the gradual integration of the Claretian charism into the missionary's attitudes, relationships, discernment, and apostolic life.

This assessment should be based on observations gathered over time through community life, personal accompaniment, pastoral experiences, written reflections, and participation in the activities of the module. It is intended to complement, rather than replace, the formandus' own self-assessment.

Assessment Scale

Level	Description
1. Emerging	The competency is beginning to develop and requires considerable guidance.
2. Developing	Growth is evident, although greater consistency is needed.
3. Consistent	The competency is regularly demonstrated in ordinary situations.
4. Exemplary	The competency is well integrated and positively influences others.

Assessment Rubric

Competency	Emerging	Developing	Consistent	Exemplary
Understanding of the Claretian Charism	Has only a partial understanding of the charism.	Understands its principal elements but needs guidance in application.	Interprets the charism accurately and applies it appropriately.	Integrates the charism naturally into reflection, relationships, and mission.
Use of Claretian Sources	Rarely refers to Claretian sources.	Uses them with some guidance.	Reads and applies them appropriately in reflection and discussion.	Integrates multiple sources critically, prayerfully, and creatively.
Missionary Discernment	Responds mainly from personal preference or impulse.	Attempts discernment but needs support.	Demonstrates balanced and prayerful decision-making.	Helps others discern wisely through listening and dialogue.
Prayer and Interior Life	Prayer is irregular or disconnected from mission.	Shows growing integration of prayer and ministry.	Prayer consistently nourishes missionary life.	Evident contemplative attitude that inspires others.
Community Life	Has difficulty collaborating or resolving tensions.	Participates positively with occasional difficulties.	Contributes constructively to community life and dialogue.	Builds communion, reconciliation, and shared responsibility.
Missionary Availability	Frequently resists assignments or change.	Accepts responsibilities with some hesitation.	Shows generous availability for the mission.	Freely embraces difficult assignments with joy and hope.
Creative Fidelity	Tends either toward rigidity or constant novelty.	Begins to balance tradition and adaptation.	Responds creatively while remaining faithful to the charism.	Inspires innovative missionary initiatives rooted in Claretian identity.
Cordi-Marian Spirit	Marian devotion remains largely external.	Shows growing Marian attitudes in daily life.	Demonstrates trust, humility, compassion, and availability.	Reflects the missionary spirit of the Heart of Mary in relationships and ministry.

Guiding Questions for the Formator

During accompaniment, the following questions may facilitate dialogue:

Identity

- How is the formandus growing in his understanding of the Claretian vocation?
- Does he identify personally with the missionary spirit of the Founder?

Discernment

- Does he seek God's will before making important decisions?
- Is he able to distinguish personal preferences from missionary priorities?

Community

- How does he contribute to fraternity, dialogue, and shared mission?
- Does he welcome intercultural diversity with openness and respect?

Mission

- Does he show generosity, initiative, and perseverance in apostolic service?
- Is he attentive to the needs of the poor and those on the peripheries?

Personal Growth

- Is he receptive to accompaniment and constructive feedback?
- Does he demonstrate increasing emotional, spiritual, and pastoral maturity?

Accompaniment Conversation

At the conclusion of the module, the formator and formandus may review the formative journey together by reflecting on questions such as:

- Which areas of growth have become most evident?
- Which competencies require continued attention?
- What experiences contributed most to your development?
- What obstacles continue to challenge you?
- Which practical commitments will support your continued vocational growth?

The conversation should be characterized by attentive listening, encouragement, honesty, and hope, helping the formandus recognize both the gifts already received and the invitations to further growth.

Formation Principle

The effectiveness of this module should not be measured primarily by the amount of knowledge acquired but by the gradual emergence of missionaries who live the Claretian charism with increasing authenticity. A successful formative process becomes visible when formandi pray more deeply, discern more wisely, live community more fraternally, embrace mission more generously, and respond to contemporary challenges with evangelical creativity rooted in the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret. This is the ultimate purpose of both self-assessment and the formator's assessment: to accompany the lifelong process of becoming ever more conformed to Christ the Missionary in the forge of the Heart of Mary.

XII. Guidelines for Personal Accompaniment

Personal accompaniment occupies a central place in Claretian formation. While study, community life, and apostolic experiences contribute significantly to vocational growth, they become truly formative when integrated through regular, prayerful, and discerning accompaniment. Following the example of Jesus, who patiently formed his disciples through personal relationships, listening, correction, encouragement, and mission, accompaniment helps each missionary recognize the action of the Holy Spirit in his own life and respond with increasing freedom and generosity. The *General Plan of Formation* presents accompaniment as one of the principal means for fostering vocational growth throughout the entire formative journey.

Purpose of Accompaniment

Personal accompaniment seeks to help the formandus:

- deepen his relationship with Christ the Missionary;
- integrate the Claretian charism into daily life;
- grow in self-awareness and vocational freedom;
- discern God's invitations in changing circumstances;
- identify areas requiring ongoing conversion;
- develop greater affective identification with the Congregation and its mission.

The emphasis is not on solving problems but on facilitating the formandus's gradual conformity with Christ in the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

The Role of the Formator

The formator accompanies primarily through attentive presence rather than constant instruction. He creates an atmosphere of trust where honest dialogue, prayerful reflection, and vocational discernment can flourish. The formator should:

- listen with empathy and without premature judgment;
- encourage personal responsibility rather than dependency;
- integrate psychological, spiritual, community, and missionary dimensions;
- help the formandus interpret experiences in the light of Scripture and the Claretian charism;
- offer appropriate encouragement, challenge, and fraternal correction;
- respect confidentiality and personal dignity.

Above all, the formator remains a fellow disciple who helps another discern the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Role of the Formandus

The formandus is the primary agent of his own formation. Accompaniment bears fruit when approached with openness, sincerity, and a genuine desire for growth. The formandus is encouraged to:

- prepare for accompaniment through prayer and reflection;
- speak honestly about his experiences, struggles, and hopes;
- receive feedback with humility and freedom;
- take responsibility for agreed commitments;
- review regularly the progress of his vocational journey.

Suggested Areas for Conversation

While each accompaniment meeting should respond to the formandus's immediate reality, the following areas may be reviewed periodically:

Prayer and Spiritual Life

- How has my relationship with Christ developed?
- How is the Word of God shaping my daily life?
- What movements of consolation or desolation have I experienced?

Personal Growth

- What have I discovered about myself?
- Which attitudes or behaviours require continued conversion?
- How am I growing in emotional and human maturity?

Community Life

- How am I contributing to fraternity?
- What relationships require greater attention or reconciliation?

- How do I experience intercultural living?

Mission

- What apostolic experiences have most influenced me?
- Where have I experienced joy or resistance in ministry?
- How is the mission shaping my vocation?

Claretian Identity

- Which aspects of the Claretian charism have become more meaningful?
- How do I experience my identity as a Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary?
- Where do I sense God inviting me to greater missionary availability?

Frequency: Although circumstances vary, regular accompaniment is recommended throughout the module. A brief conversation after every two or three sessions, together with a more comprehensive review at the end of the module, generally provides sufficient continuity for meaningful vocational integration.

Integrating Accompaniment with the Module

The various activities of the module naturally provide material for accompaniment:

- reflections from the personal journal;
- insights from case studies;
- experiences from the field-based mission;
- self-assessment results;
- community participation;
- personal commitments.

Rather than treating these as isolated exercises, the formator helps the formandus recognize how they form part of one continuous journey of missionary growth.

Missionary Integration

Personal accompaniment is ultimately a ministry of hope. It reminds each formandus that formation is a lifelong journey guided by the Holy Spirit, sustained by the missionary community, and inspired by the example of St. Anthony Mary Claret. Through regular reflection, honest dialogue, prayer, and discernment, missionaries gradually learn to integrate their gifts, limitations, experiences, and aspirations into a unified response to God's call. In this way, accompaniment becomes one of the privileged means by which the Holy Spirit continues to form "men on fire with love," ready to proclaim the Gospel wherever the Church sends them.

XIII. Signs of Healthy Integration

The purpose of formation is not merely to increase knowledge about the Claretian charism but to foster its progressive integration into the missionary's way of thinking, praying, relating, discerning, and serving. While growth differs from person to person, certain attitudes and behaviours indicate that the charism is becoming an operative principle of life rather than simply an object of study.

The following signs are offered as formative indicators rather than rigid criteria. They may serve as points for personal reflection, community dialogue, and accompaniment.

1. A Deepening Relationship with Christ

The formandus increasingly understands that the Claretian vocation is fundamentally a call to follow Christ the Missionary. Prayer becomes more personal and missionary, and apostolic activity flows from communion with the Lord rather than from mere activism.

Observable signs

- Prayer and mission become more closely integrated.
- Decisions are increasingly rooted in faith and discernment.
- A growing desire for conformity with Christ is evident.

2. Affective Identification with the Claretian Charism

The formandus gradually moves from admiring the Founder to identifying personally with his missionary spirit. The Claretian vocation is experienced not simply as membership in an institute but as a joyful way of participating in God's mission.

Observable signs

- Genuine appreciation for the Founder and the Congregation.
- Familiarity with the principal Claretian sources.
- Joyful commitment to the Congregation's universal mission.

3. Growing Missionary Discernment

Rather than reacting impulsively, the formandus increasingly reflects, prays, consults, and discerns before acting. He learns to read contemporary realities through the Gospel and the Claretian charism.

Observable signs

- Greater prudence in decision-making.
- Ability to balance zeal with discernment.
- Openness to communal wisdom and constructive feedback.

4. Mature Community Living

Community is experienced less as an obligation and more as a privileged place for fraternity, mutual growth, and shared mission. Differences are approached with dialogue, patience, and respect.

Observable signs

- Responsible participation in community life.
- Willingness to collaborate and share responsibility.
- Capacity to resolve conflicts through dialogue and reconciliation.

5. Missionary Availability

The formandus develops greater freedom to accept assignments, embrace change, and serve where the Congregation needs him most. Personal preferences gradually give way to missionary generosity.

Observable signs

- Readiness to accept responsibilities with trust.
- Flexibility in adapting to new situations.
- Perseverance in demanding circumstances.

6. Creative Fidelity

The formandus learns to appreciate the richness of the Claretian tradition while responding creatively to contemporary missionary realities. He avoids both rigid attachment to past methods and superficial adaptation to current trends.

Observable signs

- Ability to relate tradition to present challenges.
- Initiative in proposing realistic missionary responses.
- Confidence in discerning new forms of evangelization rooted in the charism.

7. Cordi-Marian Spirit

The missionary gradually reflects the attitudes of the Heart of Mary: attentive listening, humble availability, compassionate service, perseverance, and joyful hope.

Observable signs

- Simplicity and humility in relationships.
- Compassion towards those who suffer.
- Trust in God's providence amid uncertainty.
- Peaceful and generous service.

Questions for Ongoing Reflection

Formandi may periodically review their growth by asking:

- Which of these signs has become more evident in my life?
- Which area still requires greater attention?
- What experiences have contributed most to my growth?
- How is the Holy Spirit inviting me to continue my vocational journey?

Missionary Integration

Healthy integration is never a finished achievement but a lifelong process. As missionaries continue to pray, study, discern, live in community, and engage in apostolic service, the Claretian charism becomes increasingly embodied in their daily lives. The true fruit of formation is seen not in extraordinary achievements but in the quiet and consistent emergence of missionaries who think with the mind of Christ, love with the Heart of Mary, live in joyful communion with their brothers, and proclaim the Gospel with the apostolic zeal that characterized St. Anthony Mary Claret. Such missionaries become living witnesses that the Claretian charism remains a vibrant gift of the Holy Spirit for the Church and the world.

XIV. Missionary Integration Project

The Missionary Integration Project is the culminating formative exercise of this module. Rather than serving as an academic assignment, it invites formandi to synthesize what they have learned, prayerfully interpret their vocational journey, and identify concrete ways of living the Claretian charism with creative fidelity.

The Project should demonstrate not only knowledge of the Claretian tradition but also its gradual integration into personal life, community relationships, and missionary practice.

Purpose

The Project enables formandi to:

- integrate the theological, historical, and charismatic foundations studied throughout the module;
- reflect on their personal vocational journey in the light of the Claretian charism;
- demonstrate growth in missionary discernment;
- identify concrete commitments for continued formation;

- provide a basis for dialogue with the formator during the final accompaniment session.
- The emphasis is on honest reflection and vocational integration rather than academic perfection.

Project Components

The Project may include the following elements.

1. My Claretian Vocation

Prepare a brief personal reflection (1–2 pages) addressing:

- How has my understanding of the Claretian vocation developed?
- Which aspects of the charism have become most meaningful?
- How do I experience God's call today?

2. Learning from the Claretian Sources

Select one Claretian source that has particularly influenced you during the module.

Briefly explain:

- its historical context;
- its central message;
- what it has taught you;
- how it can shape your missionary life.

3. Reflection on the Field Experience

Summarize your field-based missionary experience.

Include:

- the principal observations;
- the needs you identified;
- the Claretian values that illuminated the experience;
- the missionary response you would propose.

4. Personal Growth

Reflect on your formation during this module.

Consider:

- significant discoveries;
- personal strengths;
- areas requiring continued growth;
- experiences that challenged you most.

5. My Missionary Commitments

Identify three concrete commitments for the coming months.

These may relate to:

- prayer;
- community life;
- missionary service;
- personal accompaniment;
- ongoing study;
- Claretian spirituality.

Each commitment should be:

- specific;
- realistic;
- measurable;
- reviewable.

Final Conversation with the Formator

The Project should conclude with a personal conversation between the formandus and the formator.

The conversation may explore:

- What has been the greatest grace received during this module?
- Which aspect of the Claretian charism has become most meaningful?
- What challenges remain?
- Which commitments deserve particular attention during the next stage of formation?
- How can the community continue to support your vocational growth?

The Project serves as the basis for this dialogue rather than replacing it.

Suggested Evaluation Criteria

The Project is evaluated primarily as a formative instrument.

The following indicators may be considered:

Area	Indicators
Integration	Connects study, prayer, community, and mission into a coherent vocational vision.
Reflection	Demonstrates honest self-awareness and thoughtful discernment.
Charismatic Understanding	Applies Claretian sources accurately and meaningfully.
Missionary Application	Relates the charism to contemporary pastoral realities.
Personal Commitment	Identifies realistic and concrete steps for continued growth.

Final Personal Prayer

Formandi are encouraged to conclude the Project with a personal prayer of thanksgiving, asking the Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Anthony Mary Claret, for the grace to continue growing as missionaries who proclaim the Gospel with zeal, humility, communion, and creative fidelity.

Missionary Integration

The Missionary Integration Project is not the conclusion of formation but a milestone within a lifelong journey. It encourages each missionary to pause, recognize the action of God's grace, and renew his commitment to live the Claretian vocation with greater freedom and generosity. In this way, the module culminates not simply in the completion of a course but in a renewed readiness to continue being formed in the forge of the Heart of Mary, always open to the Spirit who continually renews the Church and her mission.

XV. Conclusion: From Charismatic Heritage to Creative Fidelity

The Claretian charism is a living gift of the Holy Spirit entrusted to the Church through St. Anthony Mary Claret. Throughout this module, formandi have explored its theological foundations, historical development, spiritual richness, and missionary dynamism. More importantly, they have

been invited to discover that the charism is not merely something to be studied but a way of life to be embraced, discerned, and continually renewed.

The Founder did not leave the Congregation a fixed set of methods for every age. Rather, he handed on a missionary spirit rooted in the Gospel, animated by the Holy Spirit, and formed in the Heart of Mary. Every generation is therefore called to preserve this spirit while responding creatively to the changing realities of history. Fidelity to the charism is measured not by repeating the past but by allowing the same apostolic fire to inspire new forms of evangelization for the people of today.

This process demands continual conversion. It calls missionaries to unite contemplation with action, study with prayer, personal discernment with communal wisdom, and missionary zeal with ecclesial communion. It also requires the humility to learn from the lived experience of the Congregation, the courage to engage new pastoral frontiers, and the freedom to allow the Holy Spirit to lead the mission in unexpected directions. As the *General Plan of Formation* reminds us, Claretian formation is a lifelong journey of progressive conformity with Christ the Missionary.

The purpose of reading Claretian sources is therefore not simply to preserve a spiritual heritage but to allow that heritage to generate new missionaries for new times. The missionary who studies critically, prays contemplatively, discerns communally, and acts apostolically becomes a living continuation of the Founder. Such a missionary does not merely admire St. Anthony Mary Claret; he participates in the same missionary movement of the Spirit that inspired him.

Ultimately, the vitality of the Claretian charism will not depend primarily on documents, structures, or programmes, but on missionaries who embody the Gospel with conviction, joy, and generosity. Formed in the forge of the Heart of Mary, they become “men on fire with love,” ready to proclaim the Word wherever the Church sends them, attentive to the cries of humanity, steadfast in communion with the Church, and creative in responding to the challenges of every age. In this way, the fire first entrusted to St. Anthony Mary Claret continues to illuminate the Church through each new generation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.