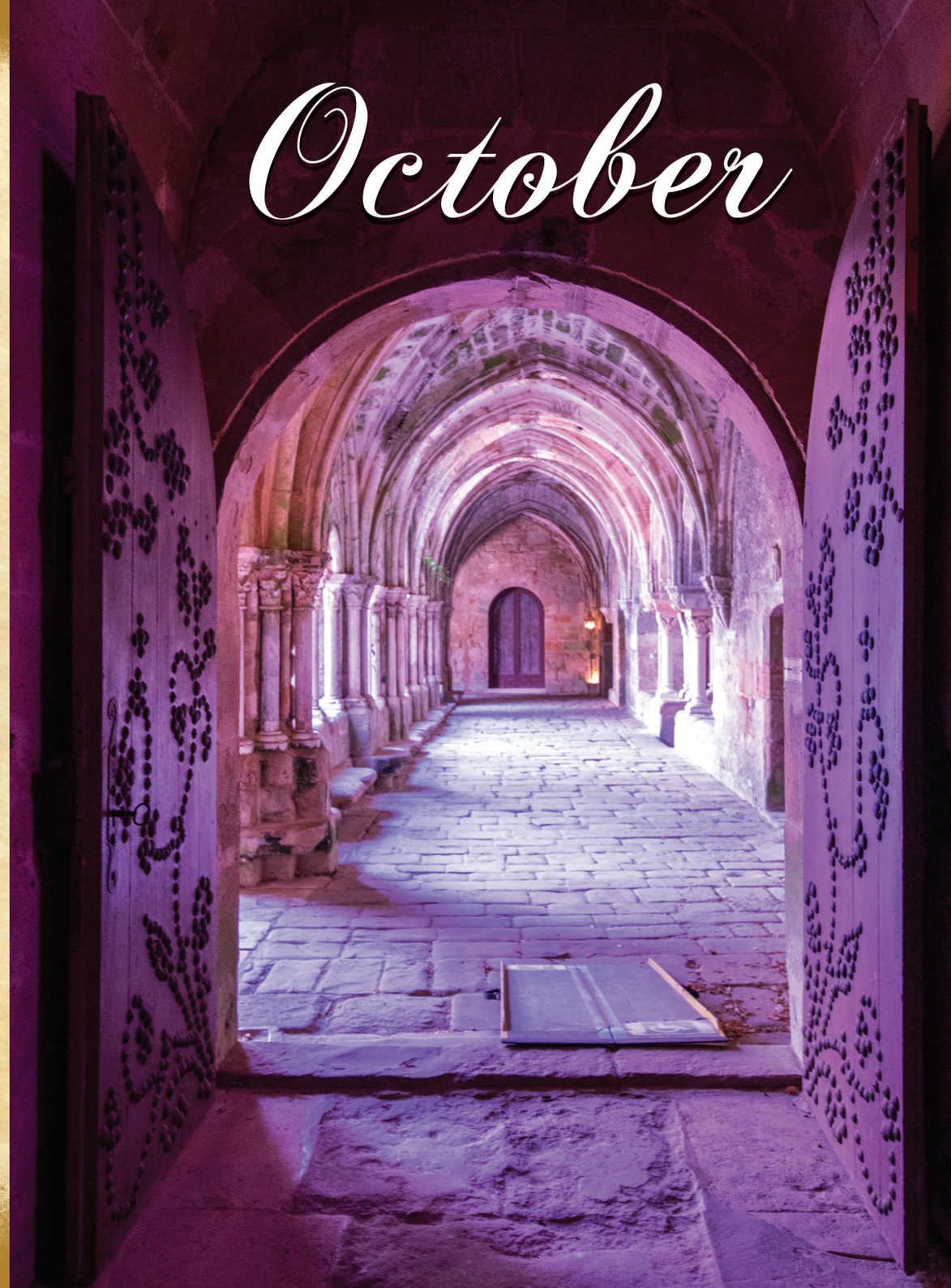
Lord, our God,
you chose St. Anthony Mary Claret
to be the Founder of our religious family
and you set him on fire with your love,
so that he joyfully welcomed slanders and sufferings.
In your mercy grant that,
holding firmly to his teachings,
we may proclaim your glory to the ends of the earth
and always seek with zealous care
the salvation of all peoples.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

October



OCTOBER

1



1848. Claret is preaching a mission in Teror (Canary Islands), where he will remain until almost the end of the month.

1851. Claret spends this month, like the previous one, on mission and a pastoral visit in Puerto Principe (Cuba).

1862. While with the King and Queen visiting Cadiz, Claret travels to the Puerto de Santa Maria to see the Jesuits. He preaches to them, to the three convents of nuns and to the people.



CLARETIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER (CESC)

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

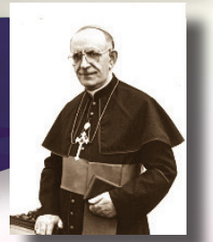
In November 2003, the General Government created the Claretian Spirituality Center (CESC), based in Vic. Its objective was to care for, take a closer look at and spread the spiritual heritage of the Fr. Founder, especially in the context of the Congregation and the Claretian Family. This required the transfer of Father Claret's entire library and the document archives from Rome to Vic. This new Center was inaugurated in August 2004. Legally it was under the responsibility of the Province of Catalunya.

Other objectives of the CESC are: to accompany Claretian and lay groups to visit the Claretian sites. The members of the CESC are also at the service of the Congregation for preaching Spiritual Exercises, and giving courses, talks, etc.



MARCOS ZULOAGA, CMF

Bishop of Darien (1919-2002)



Zeanuri (Biscay, Spain). He was ordained a Claretian priest in 1943. He arrived in Panama in 1946, to the Apostolic Vicariate of Darien, among the Kuna Indians, distinguishing himself as a catechist of children and adults. Later he attended to the towns near Costa Abajo de Colon. Afterwards he was assigned to the parish of Cristo Rey, in Panama, as a catechist again. He still had San Salvador, where he applied the new norms of the Second Vatican Council. Later he was elected Provincial of Centroamerica. In 1976 he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop, with Bishop **Jesus Serrano**, Apostolic Vicar of Darien, Panama. But on one of his trips to the Province of Darien he overturned the car, due to the poor condition of the road, and injured his spine. Being unable to fulfill his duties as Bishop, he submitted his resignation to the Holy See. Bishop Emeritus since 1981, he was the representative of men and women religious in the Episcopal Conference and the Director of Pontifical Mission Societies. He dedicated himself to the study of the history of evangelization in Panama.

CONSTITUCIONES

PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY AND SUBORDINATION



95. Authority is to be exercised in due order. Anyone assigned to a duty or project should be given the freedom to carry out his job fully and expeditiously, unless the common good demands that his immediate or Major Superior, as the case may be, should appropriately intervene.

96. Since all authority is exercised subordinately in our Congregation, any superior may be removed from office by the one who appointed him or, in case he was elected, by the one who has the right to confirm him in office, whenever a grave cause or the common good demands it.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you feel you have enough freedom to exercise the position entrusted to you?*
- *Do you know of any case in which a superior has been removed from office? Did you consider it fair?*

"No greater reward should be sought than love itself."
(St. John Paul II quoting St. Leo de Great, in *Veritatis Splendor*, 10)

OCTOBER

2



1850. Claret finishes his Spiritual Exercises to prepare for episcopal consecration.

1862. Today, in Cadiz Claret preaches seven sermons. And in the last five days in Cadiz he has preached 21 sermons.

1869. From Rome, Claret sends Fr. **Paladio Currius** *La vida de San Pedro Nolasco [The Life of Saint Peter Nolasco]*, which has just been published in Italian. He expresses to his friend that he has fulfilled his mission, that he has preached in word and in writing in Paris and in Rome, the capitals of the world and Catholicism, and has observed holy poverty.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IN SUMATRA (INDONESIA)

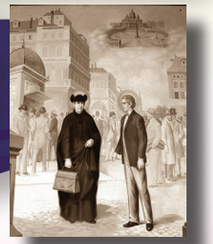
At the request of the Archbishop of Medan, on February 1, 2004 Indonesia - Timor Leste Delegation opened a new mission in Onan Runggu, the main town on Samosir Island, in North Sumatra. The parish entrusted to the Claretians had 9,000 Catholics distributed in 22 substations, all of them with their own chapel. In January 2014, the new facilities of the parish hall and the office of the parish in Mandala were inaugurated.

This mission began in 2008 when it was created by separating part of the territory of the Parish in Pasar Merah and entrusting it to the Claretians by the then Archbishop Pio Datubara, OFM.Cap. It is the third mission of the Claretians in the Archdiocese of Medan. Two other parishes are located on Samosir Island, surrounded by Lake Toba. The apostolate of our Mandala mission, in addition to the care of the parish, has ministry with youth and families as a priority, as well as vocation ministry for the Sumatra region.



HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Co-patrons of the Congregation



The Congregation associates itself with this devotion of the Church by venerating the commemoration of all the Angels (cf. CC 35), which are traditionally honored as co-patrons. The Angels have the mission of worshiping God and fulfilling his orders. They are God's messengers, which is what the word *angel* means. Father Claret professed a great devotion to all the Holy Angels and to the Guardian Angels of the people. He said: *I experienced the visible protection of the Blessed Virgin and of the angels and saints, who guided me through unknown paths, freed me from thieves and murderers, and brought me to a place of safety without my ever knowing how.* (Aut 464) He begs Mary, Queen of the Angels, for her intercession that they may come to his aid (cf. Aut 272). And it is Claret himself who interprets as heavenly aid the way he was received in Marseille, during his trip to Rome as a young priest, by a gentleman who accompanied him in such a way that, in the words of the saint, he seemed more like an angel than a man (cf. *Aut* 128).

POWER OF JURISDICTION

CONSTITUCIONES



97. Major Superiors, each on his own level and within his own jurisdiction, enjoy legislative, executive and judicial ecclesiastical power, according to the norm of the law, for both the external and the internal forum. A Local Superior, however, enjoys only executive power of governance.

Hence, a General or Provincial Superior, as well as a Superior of a Delegation, each on his own level and within his own jurisdiction, represents respectively the whole Congregation, Province or Delegation in his own right and acts in its stead and can bind and loose them both canonically and civilly as well as morally, in keeping, however with the norms of universal law and our own proper law.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you think that the Major Superiors usually act as representatives of the Congregation?*
- *Do you try to collaborate with them to make their responsibility more bearable and fraternal?*

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion."
(*Dalai Lama XIV*)

OCTOBER

3



1858. Claret is considering the third candidate to succeed him in Santiago, Cuba, since two have already failed. He expresses hopes to his collaborators that by March they can return to the Peninsula.

1859. Claret is finally able to communicate to those in Cuba that his successor has been appointed, which will be Fr. **Manuel M. Negueruela**.

1862. Claret is on a trip from Cadiz to Seville by train, with a stop in Jerez. There he preaches three sermons.



IN THE UNITED NATIONS

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

In the XXIII General Chapter, delegates from Latin America, who had experienced the struggles for human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the poverty and underdevelopment of their peoples, asked that the Congregation have some access to the United Nations Forum on Human Rights (currently named the *UN Human Rights Council*). The year 2000 saw the launch of the UN project *Millennium Development Goals* for the following 15 years. The General Government began investigating the possibility of a presence in New York City. The XXIV General Chapter (2009) unanimously approved a mission at the UN. Currently, the Congregation is recognized by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

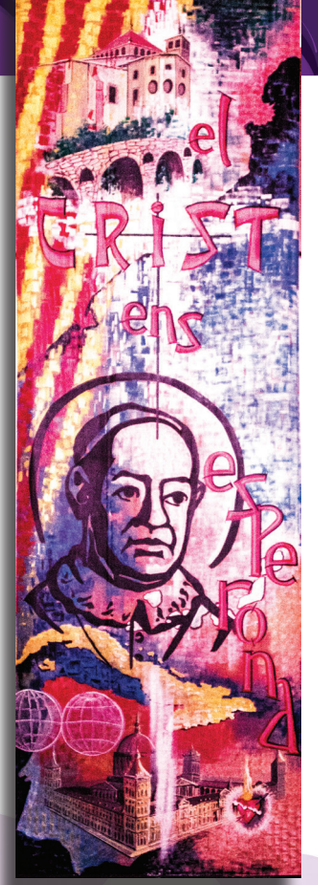
The UN team is directly responsible to the General Government and works with the rest of the Congregation in coordination with the General Secretariat of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and with the General Mission Procure.



FOUNDATION OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE



Rooted in the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Conceptionists), this African Institute was born in Equatorial Guinea. Its founder, Claretian Fr. **Armengol Coll**, first Apostolic Vicar, and Imelda Makole, foundress, transmitted their spirit to the first sisters, Regina, Clotilde, Eugenia and Felisa. On October 7, 1909, the Institute was born. Fr. Armengol was busy with his pastoral visits and the care of the entire Church of Guinea, so he could not personally attend to the formation of the sisters, so he entrusted this task to Fr. Cirilo Montaner y Fabre. At that time, they were still called the *Auxiliary Sisters of the Missions*. Their mission has been to evangelize Africa, a continent full of contrasts, collaborating with all those who seek the transformation of the world according to God's designs, especially with the bishops and missionaries of the young Churches of Africa. They collaborate in the human and Christian development of African women.



CONSTITUCIONES

LAW OF COMPLEMENTARITY AND APOSTOLIC AIMS OF RESERVES

98. Under the guidance of their Superiors, Provinces and houses should mutually complement each other by sharing personal and temporal goods so that those who have a surplus may help those who are suffering from want.

99. The Congregation regards its temporal goods as reserves which should be expended for its apostolic aims. However, since they are ecclesiastical goods, they are to be administered according to the norms of' the universal law of the Church and of our own law, as well as in keeping with a sense of evangelical poverty.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Have you received any assignment to remedy an emergency situation in any community? How have you reacted?*
- *Do you think that in the Congregation normally practices the communion of goods, both of personnel and material goods?*
- *With what personal attitude do you live the communion of goods?*

"It's never too late to be what you could have been."
(*George Eliot*)

4



1849. In two letters to Nuncio **Brunelli** and Minister **Arrazola**, Claret informs them that, at the direction of his spiritual director, **Pedro Bach**, and the Bishop of Vic, **Luciano Casadevall**, he accepts the position as Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba.

1851. Claret's missionary **John Pladebella** dies in Cuba, a victim of yellow fever.

1870. In Fontfroide Claret suffers an attack of hemiplegia.



THE PROVINCE OF ST. THOMAS

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

On July 16, 2004, the Independent Delegation of St. Thomas (India) became a Province. This new Province was born fundamentally in order to respond to the need felt by the Claretians of the Syro-Malabar Rite. It maintained the same structure it had as a Delegation. In the month of January 2005, the First Provincial Chapter was celebrated. The General Superior encouraged everyone to seek in Jesus the light to illuminate the new path and to allow themselves to be led, as servants of the Word, by a great passion for Christ and for humanity. The document of the last General Chapter was discussed and a new Provincial Government was elected for the next three years.

The Claretians of the Province of St. Thomas dedicate their work to the marginalized in the area of the Andhra Pradesh tribes and to the diaspora migrants of the Syro-Malabar rite.



JOHN PLADEBELLA

Collaborator of Claret (†1851)



Piña (Girona, Spain). He was ordained outside of the country. In 1844 he appeared as Vicar of La Cellera (Girona). In 1846 he was appointed Vicar of Amer and later Regent of San Miguel de Cruilles. He traveled with Father Claret to Cuba on December 28, 1850. He taught Moral Theology in the seminary. Claret said about him: *A priest of the diocese of Gerona and a good theologian. I placed him in the seminary as professor of moral theology, and he did an admirable job of it. He was very virtuous and diligent. He died of yellow fever, although the doctors didn't know he had it until after his death, when he turned yellow as happens to those who die of this disease.* (Aut. 597) He died in Santiago, Cuba nine days after contracting yellow fever in 1851. In a letter from **Currius** to Julian Marti he commented: *The Lord our God, decided it was good to take to himself my friend, companion and countryman.* He had barely been on the island for a year.



THE COMMUNITY CAN POSSESS AND MANAGE GOODS AND MORAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

100. Not only the Congregation but also Provinces, Delegations and Houses are juridical persons and can, in keeping with the norms of law, acquire, possess, administer and alienate any temporal goods. In the Congregation, ownership of goods is subordinate.

101. Juridical persons in the Congregation will be held responsible only for those debts, obligations and contracts incurred in their name, in virtue of their office or mandate, in keeping with the norms of universal law and of our own law. In all other cases, those who invalidly or illicitly incur them will be held morally, juridically and economically responsible before the Congregation, the Church and civil authority.

Each juridical person in the Congregation, however, must be held civilly responsible only for its own debts, obligations and contracts.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Are you aware that "In the Congregation, ownership of goods is subordinate."?*
- *Do you encourage your community to collaborate more with the needs of your Organism and with the needs of the Congregation and the Church?*
- *Have you personally lived any experience of abuse or mismanagement of the common goods? What have you learned?*

"Another very effective way of doing good
is taking part in familiar conversations with people.
A great many benefits can be accomplished by this means!"
(*Aut* 334)

OCTOBER

5



1857. Claret begins the second series of Spiritual Exercises for about 150 priests in Madrid.

1862. Claret accompanies the Queen from Seville to La Carraca (Cadiz).

1863. Claret has written to the Bishop of Vic asking him if Fr. **Francisco de Asis Aguilar** can move to El Escorial; there is an urgent need to have a good Director of the secondary school.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

ASSEMBLY OF MAJOR SUPERIORS IN VIC

Following the practice of several sexennials, the General Government summoned all the Superiors of the Major Organisms to Vic in September 2004. The fundamental objective of this important Assembly was the preparation of conclusions, agreed to by all, based on the Action Plan published by the General Government. These conclusions were to serve as guidance when carrying out the service of animation of the General Government. The first reflection focused on the theme of the first talk of the spiritual exercises of the foundation of the Congregation with the words of Psalm 22 *alluding to the devotion and confidence we should place in the Holy Cross and the Blessed Virgin Mary and applying it also to the project we were beginning* (Aut 490). The meeting was used to present the web site on the family, by the Claret Foundation, and the projection of an audiovisual presentation about the Fr. Founder. Since it was celebrated in Vic, it also included visits to the various Claretian sites.



JAIME MANUEL BOLIVART

Friend of Claret (1800-1877)



Calella (Girona, Spain). He was a close friend of **Pedro Naudo**, in Barcelona, of Claret, of **Paladio Currius** and other people who were close to the Archbishop of Cuba, and he used to pay them a visit every time he arrived from a trip. On one of those occasions, in January 1853, he presented himself with a photographer and, thanks to Bolivart, we now have the historic daguerreotype image in which Claret appears with his collaborators for the first time. He died in Barcelona on September 6th. We do not know the names of those who appear in the photo nor the order, although among them are surely **Manuel de Jesus Subirana, Paladio Currius, John Nepomuceno Lobo, Lorenzo Sanmarti, Felipe Rovira, Francisco Coca, Antonio Barjau, Ignacio Betriu, etc. Esteban de Adoain** was surely not in it because he always wore the Capuchin habit. Actually, it is the first photograph of Claret, who would later be photographed on several occasions by the photographers of the Royal Family.

CONSTITUCIONES

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SPHERE OF MISSIONARY LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LOCAL SUPERIOR



Chapter XV: Government of the Local Community

102. Missionary life is fulfilled in a special manner in the local community, for this is where we live together fraternally and carry out our mission in serving the People of God.

103. A Local Superior presides over each of the houses of the Congregation as a sign of communion and bond of unity in service of our mission. In residences, the delegate designated by his superior performs a similar function.

The Superior should be a truly spiritual man filled with zeal for souls, deeply committed to the Congregation, and endowed with suitable discretion and talent.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you feel comfortable as a missionary in the community in which you live?*
- *Have you lived in many communities throughout your Claretian life? Call them to mind before the Lord.*

"The good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge."
(*Bertrand Russell*)



1849. Claret directs his first letter to his council in Santiago, Cuba, communicating his appointment and acceptance and entrusting himself to their prayers.

1850. Claret's episcopal consecration takes place, along with that of Bishop **Jaime Soler** for Teruel, by the Bishops of Vic, Barcelona and Girona. Fr. **Fortian Bres** acts as his sponsor. In the afternoon the five bishops approve the *Constitutions* of the *Carmelite Sisters of Charity*.

1860. In the morning, Claret preaches several times in Lleida. In the afternoon, he travels to Bujaraloz (Zaragoza), where he preaches to the people and spends the night in a family's house.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

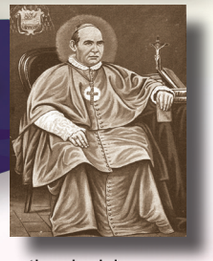
THE 2004 TSUNAMI

The great tragedy of the *tsunami* during Christmas of 2004 also affected the Congregation in Indonesia, India and Sri-Lanka. Some Claretians, especially seminarians, lost their loved ones or saw their homes destroyed and their fishing gear and other livelihoods lost. The destruction and loss of life in general made the missionaries of the different affected places take measures to help those who were affected. Also affected were the missionaries of the entire Congregation and their Mission Procures, who mobilized to send aid to both the Claretians and the affected populations.

The NGOs of the Congregation speak of the problems of the South as their own. To deal with the emergency in the disaster area, they made economic and human resources available to the affected people and to the missionaries, making a rehabilitation plan to promote the development of the area. From the perspective of sensitization and education in favor of development there has been work and awareness raising to foster a belief that another world is possible.



CLARET'S EPISCOPAL ORDINATION



This took place in the Cathedral of Vic in 1850, just over a year after receiving his appointment to the Archdiocese of Santiago, Cuba. Claret was then 42 years old. It was not easy for him to accept the Pope's assignment. But, once the decision was made, he tried to live it *in the style of the apostles*. In the almost seven years in which he was Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba, Claret devoted himself in body and soul to the revitalization of the diocese through pastoral visits, attention to the clergy and the seminary, the promotion of social works and the promotion of the Christian life in general. In later times in Madrid, Paris and Rome, although he was not a residential bishop, he knew how to find other channels such as talks, conferences, Spiritual Exercises, the apostolate of the press, spiritual accompaniment and counsel, to continue serving the church intensely. *The love of Christ*, the motto on his archbishop's coat of arms, was always the driving force of his life and apostolate.

ROLES OF THE LOCAL SUPERIOR

CONSTITUCIONES

104. The Superior, who should encourage and direct the community toward diligent missionary life and work, offers it his service:

1) By promoting the good of his brothers with great charity.
2) By jointly seeking and discerning God's will for the community and for each of his brothers and, if after seeking God's will or trying to form a discerning judgment no solution is reached, by making an opportune decision on his own in the matter by which the community must abide.
3) By deciding on his own, when expedient, what has to be done; however, he should advise the community of the matter if this is possible and seems appropriate.
4) By strengthening his brothers through his example and with sincere words of encouragement and praise; by leading them (even if need be, by admonitions and corrections) to be faithful to their promises and to the other obligations of our life; and by offering them the ministry of God's word whether personally or with the help of other members or, if it seems opportune, with that of others who are called to the ministry.
5) By keeping the community in touch with the government of the Province or Delegation, with other communities of the Province or Delegation or, indeed, with those of the Congregation at large.
6) By maintaining the community in a state of readiness to serve the local Church and also by offering to collaborate jointly with associations of laypersons.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you believe that, in general, the service of the local superiors is inspired by what the Constitutions ask for?*
- *What works best in the service of the superiors that you know?*
- *In what aspects should we grow more?*

"World peace must develop from inner peace.
Peace is not just mere absence of violence.
Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion."
(*Dalai Lama XIV*)



1839. Claret arrives in Rome with the intention of offering himself as a missionary to Bishop Villardell, OFM, Bishop in Lebanon.

1863. There are great floods in Vic. Claret will send a donation to the missionaries for repairs.

1868. Having received the news of the martyrdom of Fr. **Francis Crusats**, Claret states that *he has won the hand*, because Claret wanted to be the first martyr of the Congregation. From exile in Pau (France), he offers Fr. **Joseph Xifre** words of hope.



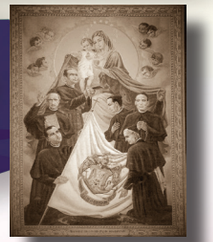
THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

YEAR OF AWARDS

Throughout 2004, different types of awards were received. Fr. Ibelele (Juan Jose Davies), received the Medal of the Order of *Manuel Jose Hurtado* for his great contributions to national education (Panama); Fr. Ting Pong Lee, was received into the Order of *Manuel Amador Guerrero* (Panama) in the degree of Commander, in attention to his many years of service in the Roman Universities; Br. Antonio Fernandez, was named an Illustrious Son of the city of Andacollo (Chile); Fr. Irio Rissi, became an honorary Citizen of Araçatuba (Brazil); Mons. Carlos Mª Ariz, was received into the Order of *Manuel Amador Guerrero*, for his work in favor of the needy (Panama); Fr. Marco Antonio Pineda, received the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, for his service in the Pontifical Secretariat of Panama (Vatican); the Sumanahalli Leprosy Project (India) received an Award for the services rendered to its patients; Fr. Tomas Gallarta (Segovia) received the title of Adopted Son of the city of Segovia (Spain), for his commitment to the needy.



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY



Anthony Mary Claret remembers that from a very young age he found *the greatest treasure* in the rosary (cf. Aut 44). His family, the school, the parish, and in particular the book of *El Roser [The Rose-tree]* (cf. Aut 45), were his direct instructors. The saint would never forget how he prayed it with such fervor in his frequent visits to the sanctuary of Fussimanya with his sister **Rosa**. As a son of his time, Claret makes this devotion his own, which had already become deeply rooted in nineteenth-century Spain, to the point that it becomes his devotion for excellence which he would never abandon. He used it as a missionary as a popular and most efficient instrument for proclaiming the Word. Both in his life as a young student and worker in Barcelona, and in his seminary and priestly years, as well as in his missionary adventures and in his efforts as Archbishop and Confessor, he endeavored not only to practice this devotion, but to instill it in everyone. He had the awareness of being the Dominic of modern times, as the Virgin called him.

CONSTITUCIONES

THE LOCAL SUPERIOR REPRESENTS THE COMMUNITY AND WAYS OF DESIGNATING LOCAL SUPERIORS

105. The Superior represents the House or community in his own right and acts in its stead in all juridical transactions, whether canonical or civil, in keeping, however, with the norms of universal law and our own proper law.

106. The method of designating Local Superiors is determined by the Provincial Chapter of each Province. This designation can be made either through appointment by the Provincial Superior with his Council or through election by the community. In either case, the norms of' the law must be followed.

In Independent Delegations and in each General House, the method of designation is established by the General Government.

The Local Superior is appointed or elected for a three year term after which he may be chosen for another three years and even, because of special circumstances, for yet another three-year term in the same House in keeping with the norms of law.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Today could be an appropriate day to pray for the superior of your community.*
- *Thank God for the missionary who presides over and represents the house in which you live.*
- *Ask yourself how you can help him to perform his ministry better.*
- *Ask forgiveness if you have been unfair or inconsiderate with him at any time.*

"There is no greater disability in society,
than the inability to see a person as more."
(*Robert M. Hensel*)

OCTOBER

8



1850. Claret embarks on a trip to Madrid, through Valencia, with Fr. **Stephen Sala** and Fr. Fermin de la Cruz. The first day they stay with the Sisters of St. Mary Magdalene in Barcelona, in the house of chaplain Francisco Bofill.

1851. From Puerto Principe, Claret sends two magnetite ores to Fr. Mariano Puigllat, Rector of the seminary in Vic and future Bishop of Lleida, for the museum of the Vic seminary.

1870. Fr. **Joseph Xifre** goes to Fontfroide; he administers the anointing, and at times they think Claret has died. He makes the profession of faith and the religious profession.



WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN PORTO ALEGRE

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

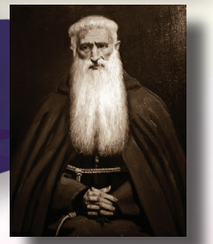
The fifth World Social Forum was held in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in January 2005. 13 missionaries attended on behalf of the Congregation, thus showing their sensitivity and concern for issues related to Peace and Justice. This forum is a place of pilgrimage for those who believe that *another world is possible*. After this event, the Claretians decided to be present in the following Forums.

The topics discussed in the Forum were: democratic and sustainable development; principles and values, human rights, diversity and equality; media, culture and combatting hegemony; political power, civil society and democracy; democratic world order against militarization and the promotion of peace. In the analysis of these topics, issues were discussed such as the rejection of war, neoliberalism, the situation in Venezuela, the perspectives about the governments of Lula, in Brazil and Lucio Gutierrez, in Ecuador, solidarity with the Palestinian people, the defense of the environment and the role of social movements.

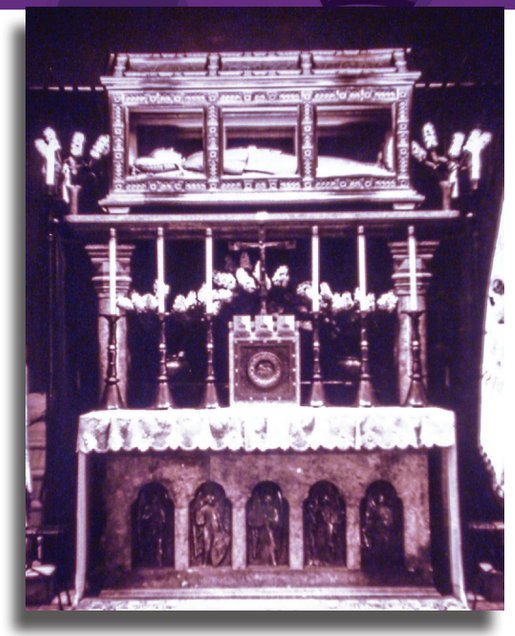


BLESSED STEPHEN DE ADOAIN

Collaborator of Claret (1808-1880)



Adoain (Navarre, Spain). In 1828 he entered the Order of the Capuchins. In 1842 he traveled to America as a missionary. He was first in Venezuela. In 1850 he arrived in Havana. In 1851 he offered himself as a missionary to Archbishop Claret, who wrote of him: *On my arrival in Santiago, this good friar offered me his services. He had come to get away from Havana, where he was being persecuted for his tireless preaching. He stayed in my palace and went out with another priest as a mission team. The first priest to accompany him was Father* ***Paladio Currius****; the second was Father* ***Lorenzo San Marti****. This good Capuchin was most zealous and eminently practical in giving missions. He had the skill to help the people to come out from cohabitation. Later on, he went to a Capuchin monastery in Guatemala.* (Aut 595) Expelled from Guatemala, he went to California, then to France and finally to Spain, dying in Sanlucar de Barrameda on October 7th. He was beatified in 2008.



Sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret in the Church of La Merced (Vic)

THE LOCAL COUNCIL

CONSTITUCIONES

107. In all houses there should also be a vicar and an econome. In determining the manner of their designation the same procedure should be followed as with the local superior. In keeping with the norms of the law, they function as consultors and, together with the superior, assume those official tasks which could not be performed easily or expeditiously by the whole community. They should, moreover, help the superior to foster the life and mission of the community.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Have you served in any community as vicar or econome? What did you learn from that experience?*
- *Do you think that, in general, the local vicars and economes exercise their role as Consultors to the superior?*

"You, my Lord and Master,
thrust my heart into the furnace of the Spiritual Exercises
and frequent reception of the Sacraments."
(*Aut* 342)



1849. Claret moved with his missionaries to the convent of La Merced, in Vic. At the moment they will not be responsible for the church, and a part of the building is being prepared as a house of Spiritual Exercises.

1858. Mary implied that Claret had to be the Dominic de Guzman of these times in the propagation of the Rosary.

1860. Claret preaches several times in Zaragoza, at least 20 sermons between today and the 12th. He is staying at the seminary.



NEW CLARETIAN BISHOP IN DARIEN (PANAMA)

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

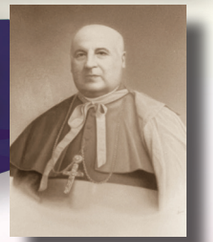
On February 12, 2005, Fr. Pedro Hernandez, a Nicaraguan, received the appointment of Apostolic Vicar of Darien. At that time, he was responsible for the formation community of Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo). He succeeded Bishop Romulo Emiliani, then Auxiliary Bishop of San Pedro Sula.

Three historical stages have shaped the path of the Church in this Vicariate to this day. The last one dates back to 1998, the year in which the missionary Diocese of Colon was created, which includes the province of the same name and the indigenous region Kuna Yala. The see of the Vicariate changed place again and moved to Meteti, covering the current province of Darien and the Embera - Wounaan and Wargandi indigenous regions. It has 10 mission areas, some diocesan priests and Bishop Pedro Hernandez. Its border with Colombia makes its position a place of interest at various levels.



ANTONIO MARIA PUEYO, CMF

Bishop of Pasto (1864-1929)



Monzon (Huesca, Spain). He was ordained in 1886, already in 1888, he was accomplishing wonders in the house of Cordoba, from where he exercised his fruitful apostolate for many years and restored the church of San Pablo in that city. Appointed General Consultor in 1906, he was responsible for several foundations, including Hayes (England). Antonio Maria Pueyo was commissioned to represent the Spanish Nocturnal Adoration Society at the International Eucharistic Congress of September 1908. Finally, in April 1912 the first expedition arrived from Gibraltar aboard the steamboat *India*. Fr. Pueyo was waiting for them. When he was considered for becoming a bishop for a Spanish diocese, he was assigned to Bogota (Colombia) where he arrived in 1912. At that time, he finished the construction of the Votive Church of Bogota. In 1917 he was appointed as Bishop of Pasto. He dedicated himself fully to his diocese, building countless churches. He passed away in Pasto in 1929. His devotion to the Heart of Mary, the Pope and the Congregation always stood out.

ROLES OF THE VICAR AND THE ECONOME

CONSTITUCIONES

108. It belongs to the vicar to supply for the superior, should the latter cease in office or be absent or impeded. The econome's main duty is to seek the good of the members and mission of the community by caring for its temporal assets in a spirit of service. To this end, he can handle the expenses and acts of ordinary administration. He should faithfully observe poverty while avoiding the extremes of extravagance and stinginess.



Place where they hid the remains of Father Founder during the Civil War (Vic)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *How does the vicar of your community perform his duties in the absence of the superior? Do you collaborate with him and facilitate his task?*
- *What do you value most about the econome of your community? Do you think that he would have to improve in something as indicated by the Constitutions? Today is a good day to thank him for his work and, if necessary, make any suggestions.*

"With our profession we take on a new identity
that includes all the others:
being Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
is the concrete way of being men, Christians, religious, ordained ministers and apostles."
(*MFL* 34)



1853. Claret advises Fr. **Paladio Currius** to proceed slowly in the repair of the seminary, which had been very damaged by the earthquake; Claret apparently has other economic priorities.

1856. Claret goes to the metropolitan city hall so that - in compliance with the new law of incompatibilities - those who have more than one payroll position may opt for the position that suits them best.

1868. Claret writes to Mrs. **Jacoba Balzola** about the spirituality of suffering.



THE DEATH OF JOHN PAUL II

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

The death of John Paul II on April 2, 2005 was an important event for the whole Church and also for the Congregation. For this reason, the multiple moments in which this Pope crossed our ecclesial path were remembered. Among others, the five speeches he gave us on the occasions of the General Chapters of 1979, 1985, 1991, 1997 and 2003.

They reflected the charismatic foundations on which the Congregation has been established: the ministry of the Word, the ecclesial dimension of the Mystery of Christ, the authentic meaning of community life, our apostolic and missionary action, the clear awareness of being Sons of the Heart of Mary as the basis of the vocation and foundation of the Institute itself, the exemplarity of the Blessed Claretian martyrs, etc. To these speeches should be added those of the Beatification of the Martyrs of Barbastro, the Letters on the occasion of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the foundation and that of Claret's arrival in Cuba.



CARLOS VARGAS-MACHUCA

Carlist General (1803-1879)



Ceuta (Spain). He was Carlist General. After the Convention of Vergara (1839) he took refuge in France. After returning to Spain, he was assigned to Cuba in 1849. He was Governor and General Commander of Santiago, Cuba (from 1855 to 1860); Captain General of Puerto Rico (1861), of Santo Domingo (1863) and the Basque Province (1867). He accompanied Queen **Isabella II** into exile in 1868. Father Claret had much appreciation for him. On numerous occasions he sent gifts for him from Madrid. In 1861, speaking about his work *Las Delicias del Campo*, the Saint said: *General Vargas, who was then in Santiago but now is stationed in Puerto Rico, has had this book reprinted there for Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo.* He was the one who sent the notice from the Captain General and which Claret asked to be read by **Dionisio Gonzalez** on March 18, 1857, which read: *Her Majesty the Queen wishes that your excellence go immediately to Madrid. I think it will be to make you Archbishop of Toledo.*

LOCAL POSITIONS IN THE MISSIONS

CONSTITUCIONES



Parish of Santa Eugenia de Berga (Osona)
where the remains of Father Founder was also hid

109. In missions the Major Superior with his council, after hearing from the members, will determine the manner of designating the superior, vicar and econome. The Local Superior may act as the econome. Sometimes houses can be constituted and governed according to the norms for residences.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you live – or have you lived – in an Organism with the category of Mission?*
- *How are the positions of superior, vicar and econome of houses and residences exercised - or how have they been exercised?*

"A Christian and Messianic conception of freedom is to understand it as a movement of personalization on the horizon of solidarity and communion: only in love does freedom blossom."
(*Our Project of Missionary Life*)

OCTOBER

11



1850. On a trip by land, they arrive today in Valencia and stay with the Piarists. Claret preaches several sermons.

1860. In Zaragoza Claret preaches to the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul.

1862. Claret visits the Abbey of Sacromonte (Granada), where he preaches to priests and seminarians; and it was done with a copy of the Statutes of the abbey, no doubt thinking about how to improve the Rule of the chaplains of El Escorial.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

A CLARETIAN IN THE CONCLAVE

For the second time in the history of the Congregation, a Claretian participated in the Conclave of election of the successor of the Apostle Peter. The first had been the Cardinal **A. Larraona**, who in 1963 participated in the election of Pope Paul VI. This time (2005) was Cardinal Jose Saraiva. In that Conclave, Pope Benedict XVI was elected.

On May 26, 1988 he was appointed Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education and Titular Archbishop of Thuburnica, receiving the episcopal ordination on July 2nd.

He was Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints from May 1998 to September 2008. John Paul II created him Cardinal in February of 2001.

He is a member of the Congregations: for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments; for Bishops; Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care; Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State and Special Council for Europe of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.



SAINT SOLEDAD TORRES ACOSTA

Foundress (1826-1888)



Madrid (Spain). At 25 she wanted to enter a community of Dominican nuns, but she had to wait until there was room. She heard about the idea of a priest, Miguel Martinez y Sanz O.S.M., who wanted to form a group of women who took care of sick people without resources, in their own homes. She was admitted to the project and, with six other companions, took the habit of the new congregation on August 15, 1851. That is how the Institute *Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick* was born. Although it is not clear whether Father Claret intervened in the founding of the Servants of Mary, we do know that Saint Soledad Torres Acosta, its Foundress, guided Saint **Maria Josefa of the Heart of Jesus**, Foundress of the Servants of Jesus, still as a novice, to meet with Father Claret to clarify her vocation. And we know that she personally accompanied her to Claret's residence at the Montserrat Hospital during the interview. She was canonized in 1970.

CONS TITU CIO NES

THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY



Present sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic)

110. The plenary meeting, which arises from the very nature of local community, is composed of all the professed members of the community. In it the community participates and comes to a greater self-awareness in fulfilling its commitments and in directing, evaluating and discerning those matters which affect both its own internal character and the tasks it has to perform. The manner and frequency of these meetings—which should take place at least once a month—should be established by the community itself.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Is the plenary meeting ordinarily held in your community?*
- *Do you participate in it with a sense of co-responsibility?*
- *What do you value most about the community meeting? What should be improved to respond to what the Constitutions indicate?*

"I define love thus: The will to extend one's self
for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth.
Genuine love is volitional rather than emotional."
(*M. Scott Peck*)



1860. The feast of Our Lady of the Pillar takes place in Zaragoza, where Claret exercises his episcopal functions and attends the procession.

1869. At 11:30 in the morning, the Lord granted Claret the *great grace* to love his enemies.

1870. As of this day, Fr. **Jaime Clotet** accompanies Claret uninterruptedly, in Fontfroide.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE, MAJOR ORGANISM

On April 25, 2005, a new Major Organism was constituted: Indonesia-Timor Leste Independent Delegation. At that time, the Delegation already had 5 houses in Indonesia and 2 in Timor Leste, and had 20 Priests, 12 of them natives, plus 67 Students, 1 Brother and 18 Novices. This Delegation had begun as a common project of ASCLA in 1990 with the arrival of two Filipino Claretians and one Indian. Shortly after, the major seminary opened. In 1997 the Organism was constituted as a Dependent Delegation of the Philippine Province.

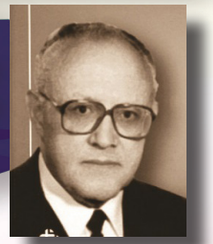
Of the houses in Indonesia, four are of formation and one, which is considered a mission, is located north of the Island of Sumatra. The residence of the Major Superior is located at the Hati Maria Seminary in Kupang.

In 2017, Fr. Xifre's dream of the Claretian Missionary presence in Borneo (Kalimantan) was fulfilled.



SEVERINO MARIA ALONSO, CMF

Missionary and Theologian (1933-2009)



Pedrosa del Rey (Leon, Spain). He entered the Congregation in 1946. After lengthy studies, he received the priestly ordination in Rome in 1959, where he was finishing his Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology. His life was mainly dedicated to teaching and the publication of books, particularly about Consecrated Life. In his first stage (1964-1966) he highlights a particular experience in Lebanon as a formator of the Lebanese Maronite Missionaries. After a time dedicated to the formation of theologians in the *Claretianum* in Rome, he began his service of animation of the Religious Life in Mexico in 1970. But at the same time obedience was also guiding him towards government. In 1974 he was elected as Provincial Superior of Leon. His last assignment was to the community of Buen Suceso in Madrid, where he developed an intense activity of animation of the Religious Life: as director of the Magazine *Vida Religiosa*, director of *Instituto Teologico [Theological Institute]*, etc. On October 2nd he died in Logroño.

NATURE OF THE PROVINCES AND DELEGATIONS



Chapter XVI: Government of the Provincial Community

111. Provinces and Delegations are parts of the whole Congregation and are called Major Organisms. By means of them, the universal mission of the Congregation is shared in an orderly way and a more effective union of individual Houses among themselves and with the whole Congregation is achieved. Therefore, Provinces and Delegations are presided over by Superiors who are a bond of unity and communion with the whole Congregation under the leadership of the Superior General.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Our Congregation is not a federation of Organisms, but a body that shares the same mission.

- *How do you live out your belonging in the Congregation?*
- *Do you try to learn about its life and contribute to its needs?*
- *Do you think that your community and your Organism are open to the entire Congregation and in tune with it?*

"The challenge to live in unity amidst diversity
can be addressed with hope when we respond faithfully
to the gift of love for God and one another,
which is the basis of our communion."
(*MFL* 41)



1860. In Zaragoza, Claret celebrates Mass at the altar of Our Lady of the Pillar for the King and Queen. Then they travel to Calatayud, where they spend the night.

1862. Claret went up to visit the Alhambra fortress in Granada. Later he was in the San Juan de Dios mortuary house, and then he preached to the children of the hospice, to the sick of the hospital for the poor and in two convents.

1865. The Queen writes to Claret asking him to return to the court. Claret replies four days later that he first wants to consult with Rome.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

THIRD CLARETIAN BISHOP IN HONDURAS

Until this point there were two Claretian Bishops in San Pedro Sula: Bishop Angel Garachana and Bishop Romulo Emiliani was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of San Pedro Sula (Honduras). Then, in May 2005, the Honduran Mons. Juan Jose Pineda, was added, with the position of Auxiliary Bishop of Tegucigalpa. He was born in Tegucigalpa in 1960. After entering the Congregation, he studied in Colombia and Spain, receiving the priestly ordination in San Pedro Sula in 1987. He studied specializations at several universities in Central America, the Philippines and the United States, receiving a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Lateran University in Rome. After a time of pastoral work in Honduras, he had taught Canon Law in ICLA (Philippines) and had recently been assigned to San Salvador, although he regularly traveled to Tegucigalpa, where he was Professor of the Major Seminary, in charge of Ministry at the Catholic University of Honduras and Secretary of the Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga.



MANUEL GIOL, CMF

Missionary Brother (1849-1909)



Les Borges del Camp (Tarragona, Spain). His childhood and youth were spent working in the fields. Following the Revolution of 1868, he had to enlist in the Alfonsian ranks taking part in the battle of *Prats de Llusanets*. He entered the Congregation in 1876, and was known for being a discreet, kind, serious man in his undertakings, intelligent and with a big heart. Br. Giol's assignment was the residence of the Barcelona apartment, where he remained for many years. He worked as an assistant to the General Econome. He had a good memory and in his spiritual writings he reveals great knowledge of asceticism and mysticism that was surprising in a Brother of that time. He always had great spiritual directors like Fr. **Jaime Clotet** or Fr. **Ramon Fluvia**. The secret of his serenity was rooted in his deep spirituality. He felt inspirations from the Lord, including that of his impending death. He was a true teacher in the devotion to the Heart of Mary. He left two voluminous works: *Ensayos de vida interior [Writings on the Interior Life]* and *Moradas en el Corazon de Maria del alma enamorada [Dwelling in the Heart of Mary for the soul in love]*.

CONSTITUCIONES

REQUISITES FOR BEING DESIGNATED PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

112. Over and above the requisites prescribed by universal law, the Provincial Superior should be a select man, filled with apostolic zeal and of proven fidelity toward the Church and the Congregation, of which he must be a perpetually professed member for at least five years.



Remains of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Today is a good opportunity to pray for your Provincial / Major Superior.

- *Write a list of all the Provincial / Major Superiors that you have had since you made your first profession. Pray for each of them.*
- *Send a greeting and a message of acknowledgment to your Provincial / Major Superior.*

"Without a change of key there is no… possibility to know what his will is.
His will is not an enigma that we can and we have to find out ...
but a mystery that we must embrace."
(*Our Project of Missionary Life*)

OCTOBER

14



1859. On this day Claret concludes Spiritual Exercises for his close companions. On this same day or on the following days he moves from the church of the Italians to the hospital of Montserrat (Madrid).

1860. In Calatayud Claret preaches in the morning in five convents. In the afternoon they travel to Medinaceli (Soria), where they spend the night.

1862. Claret spends the day traveling from Granada to Loja, a town in which a year before a socialist revolution had been unleashed, whose chants against the rich, the authorities, the clergy and the institution of the Claretian Family were widely reported.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

CENTRAL AFRICA, INDEPENDENT DELEGATION

On July 16, 2005, Central Africa Independent Delegation was erected, which included Cameroon, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Until this point it had been a confederation of the Claretian missions dependent on Canada (Cameroon), Italy (Gabon) and Germany (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Kinshasa was established as the central see of the Delegation.

Africa is a continent full of natural and cultural riches. However, it is in a situation of extreme poverty. The Claretians have a clear commitment to evangelization and solidarity with the most disadvantaged. We serve numerous missions, parishes, social centers and cooperation projects. The dialogue with the Muslim world has begun. As Claretians, we work to strengthen the first proclamation of the Word, to accompany people in inhuman situations of life and to consolidate the Claretian charism. It is worth noting the coordination of East Africa and the new foundation in Mozambique.



BLESSED JOAQUIN GELADA AND 2 COMPANIONS

Claretian Martyrs of Santander



On July 20, 1936, the formal order to evacuate the School in Castro Urdiales (Cantabria) was received. All the missionaries dispersed. Fr. Carrascal and Fr. Gelada went to the Asylum of the Heart of Jesus. Meanwhile, the School became a barracks, although the Popular Front consented to leave them part of the building. There Br. Felix Barrio lived until August 18th when he joined the other two in the Asylum. On October 13th, a group of militiamen cordoned off the farm asking for the immediate surrender of the three missionaries. After an attempted escape, they were taken prisoner and taken to the convent of the Poor Clares which had been converted into a prison. From there they were taken that same night to Santander among insults and blows, which the missionaries received with the resignation of the martyrs. They soon stopped, making them get out of the car. On October 14th, the three bodies were found in Torrelavega and buried in unmarked graves. They were beatified in Barcelona on October 21, 2017.

DUTIES OF THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

CONSTITUCIONES

113. The duties of the Provincial Superior are:

1) To keep the Province ready to serve the Church, especially in its own region, in keeping with the joint pastoral program, yet maintaining the unity of charism with the whole Congregation.
2) To be an initiator and leader of missionary life in each community and charitably correct any abuses that may have crept in.
3) To foster in our communities a sense of responsibility for the mission of the Province by providing suitable structures of communication and participation.
4) To get to know the members of his Province well by visiting each house frequently over and above the canonical visitation which must be made at least every other year.
5) To strive to make the whole Province conscious of, and involved in, promoting vocations and to exercise the greatest diligence in fostering the advancement of those in formation and of the other members of the Province.
6) To observe his duties of full communion with the Superior General and to carry out all of the latter's commissions exactly.
7) To promote among the members the exercise of the missionary service of the word, even in writing, and to grant them the permission they need in order to publish writings dealing with questions of' religion or morals in accord with the norms of the law.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you maintain a fraternal and flexible relationship with your Provincial Superior?*
- *Do you collaborate with him in the mission that has been entrusted to him?*
- *Do you express your opinions clearly and freely, even when they do not match his?*
- *Which of his assigned duties does he carry out with more dedication? Which one should he pay more attention to?*
- *Do you welcome the Provincial Superior cordially when he visits your house?*

"[The Eucharist] is the daily viaticum and source of the spiritual life for the individual and for the Institute.
By means of the Eucharist all consecrated persons are called to live Christ's Paschal Mystery, uniting themselves to him by offering their own lives to the Father through the Holy Spirit."
(John Paul II, *Vita Consecrata*, 95)

OCTOBER

15



1849. Claret's episcopal appointment is made public in Vic.

1852. Claret's fight against cohabitation causes slander, against him and his missionaries. He goes before the governor of the Island to defend his behavior, denouncing at the same time several high-ranking officials.

1859. On this day Claret was going to be assassinated, but the assassin was converted because he entered the church of San Jose. Claret was not there, and they told him about it later.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE ECONOMY

This time, the Encounter of Econmes of Major Organisms of the Congregation took place in Colmenar Viejo (Spain). There they met in September 2005 to review the economic health and financial situation of the Congregation. Proposals were made to the General Government and the Major Organisms to guide the economy. The topic of the formation of econmes was also discussed and the organization of the General Procure was presented. Finally, a guide was studied to develop a plan for self-financing and economic development. The issues of *Mechanisms for International Financing, Ways to Cooperate in Promoting Development and Alternative Financing for Local Small Businesses* raised particular interest. In addition, three basic documents were reconsidered: that of the General Chapter, that of the Encounter of Major Superiors and that of the 2002 Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (*Economy and Mission in the Consecrated Life Today*).



SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

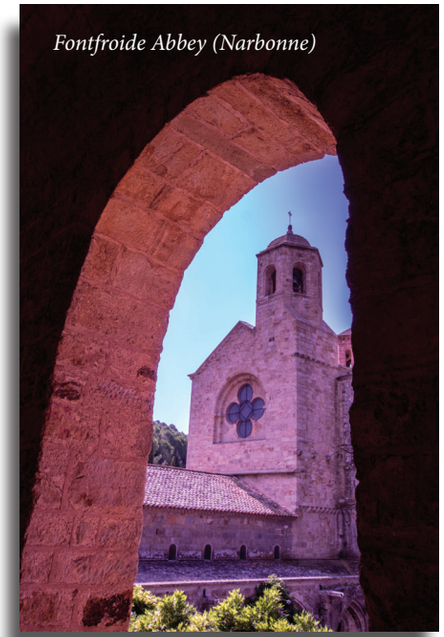
Co-patroness of the Congregation (1515-1582)



Father Claret, like many saints of previous centuries, professed a great devotion to Saint Teresa of Jesus, admiring her great virtues and her highly mystical life, as well as her great apostolic spirit. He held her as a role model of evangelical and apostolic life and chose her as a co-patroness of our Congregation. Enchanted by Saint Teresa, Claret reproduced in his *Autobiography* a long series of texts by the great mystic from Avila throughout paragraphs 242 to 258. He put together a great many of the most apostolic Teresian writings where the Saint from Avila expresses her ardent compassion for sinners (cf. Aut 243). Father Claret was particularly struck by the pains and agonies of the Saint in her experience of hell (cf. Aut 246-249), as well as other details, among them, her custom of giving away good books (cf. Aut 242). In 1864 the Lord granted him great knowledge by reading the works of the Saint. (cf. Aut 797)

WAYS TO ELECT THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

CONSTITUCIONES



Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)

114. After a sounding of all the members of the Province, the Provincial Superior is elected at the Provincial Chapter by an absolute majority of votes, in keeping with the norms of our law, and is confirmed in office by the Superior General with his Council.

The General Government has the faculty of allowing a particular Province—at the express request of its Chapter—to designate its Provincial Superior in some other way, in keeping with the norms of our law.

Both in Formed Provinces and in Provinces in Formation, the Provincial Superior is elected or designated for the term established in our legislation.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Have you ever participated in the election of the Provincial Superior? Do you think the choice was made in a spirit of discernment?*
- *Which formula do you think is more appropriate: the election at the Chapter or the designation by the General Government? Why?*

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.
It is what difference we have made to the lives of others
that will determine the significance of the life we lead."
(*Nelson Mandela*)



1843. Claret sends the manuscript of what will be *Reglas de espiritu [Rule of the Spirit]* or *Avisos a las monjas [Advice to nuns]* to the prioress of the Discalced Carmelites in Vic

1862. In Antequera (Malaga) Claret preaches in four convents. The departure time was moved earlier and he could not preach the remaining two sermons which Claret had planned for the clergy and the people.

1866. Claret is satisfied with the recent change of Government (**O'Donnell** for **Narvaez**, last July) and also with the change of the Captain General of Cuba, who he believes *will remedy many evils*.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

THE SHARED MISSION

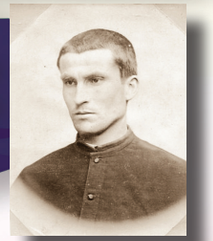
To meet the concerns that were presented in the General Chapter on the Shared Mission, the General Prefecture of Apostolate organized a Workshop in Guatemala in October 2005 to reflect and give theoretical and practical guidance on the subject. There was a study of the way to carry out the shared mission in the various fields of life and activity of the Congregation: spirituality, apostolate, formation, vocation ministry, community life and government. A fruit of the Workshop was the publication of a booklet in Spanish and English entitled: *Do with Others*.

We feel the urgency of the shared mission within ecclesial communion with the emphasis of Claret's missionary charism. Claret outlined a broad apostolic organization, misunderstood at that time, which was later configured as an *army* placed under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God and composed of three orders that would eventually become several groups of consecrated men and women, a secular institute and a lay organization.



SERVANT OF GOD MIGUEL PALAU, CMF

Missionary Brother (1868-1929)



Serrateix (Barcelona, Spain). He knocked on the doors of the Congregation in 1890. We can say that the community of Cervera was his first and final assignment. Almost all his missionary life developed between the former University and the *Mas Claret* estate, sections of the same, unique community. He always dedicated himself to maintenance work with the position of mason and the work of plumbing and electricity and as the one responsible for the design of ditches for various facilities. His biographer, Fr. Antonio Maria Arranz, remembers it like this: *Some forty years have already passed and yet it seems that we still see him… medium height, pale face and lean, steady in his walk, always collected and devoted, the rosary in his hands, and a brightness in his smile which seems to radiate from his lips. He would appear with frequency within the wide and immense cloisters, with his long shirt almost reaching his knees, and carrying the tools of his trade in the direction of his next job.* He had an intense interior life.

THE NATURE OF THE PROVINCIAL CONSULTORS AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE DESIGNATED

CONSTITUCIONES



Interior of the church of the Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)

115. The Provincial Superior is assisted by Consultors, with whom he confers frequently on the state of the Province and with whom he deals in treating any major business. The Consultors mainly express their participation in government by a deliberative or consultative vote, as the case may be. They should stand by the Provincial Superior in everything without prejudice to their freedom to admonish him or even to report him to the Superior General, should the case warrant.

116. The Provincial Consultors, of whom there should be at least two, are elected or designated in the same manner as the Provincial Superior and for the same term of office in keeping with the norms of our law.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know the consultors of the government of your Organism? Today is a good opportunity to pray for them and appreciate their work.*
- *Have you ever been a Consultor in the government of your Organism? What have you learned from the experience?*

"The two most important days of your life
are the day you were born
and the day you discovered why."
(*Mark Twain*)



1862. Claret spends this day and the next two days with the King and Queen in Malaga. During the three days, his chaplain, Fr. **Carmelo Sala**, counted 16 sermons. He accompanied the Queen on visits to charity establishments and shrines.

1870. In Fontfroide, seeing Claret with extremely grave symptoms, the sacraments are administered for the second time.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IN THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON THE EUCHARIST

In the XI Synod of Bishops of 2005, dedicated to giving attention to the Eucharist as the source of the life and mission of the Church, some members of the Congregation also participated: Cardinal Jose Saraiva, Bishop Juan Matogo and Fr. Joseph M. Abella. It was, as usual, in the month of October. The three made their personal contributions to different aspects: the Paschal dimension, the Sunday celebration and the formation of the people and communities they love and serve. As a result of the year of the Eucharist, the Synod strongly recommends that significant efforts be made to value and live the *Dies Domini* throughout the Church. It is necessary to reaffirm the central character of Sunday. (...) Sunday is truly the day in which the Risen Christ is celebrated with others, a day that has been sanctified and consecrated to the Creator, a day of rest and availability. We hope that the Day of the Lord may also be the day of the Christians, respected by society as a whole with rest from work.



JOSEFA CLARA RODOREDA
Claret's Mother (1771-1842)



Sallent (Barcelona, Spain). She was the daughter of working-class parents and, like so many women of that time, illiterate. She had eleven children with her husband **John Claret**; five of them died at a very young age. Anthony was number five. Josefa, whether because of work, or poor health, had to give some children to the care of wet nurses. This was Anthony's case: *My mother always breast-fed her children, but in my case she could not do so because of ill health. She sent me to stay day and night with a wet nurse who lived in our town.* (*Aut* 7) She died of a stroke. There are indications that in her death she was assisted by the Saint on September 25th. In those days he was assigned in the town of San Juan de Olo and, despite being October, a time of preaching, and being far away, there is evidence that in those days there was a substitute in his parish.

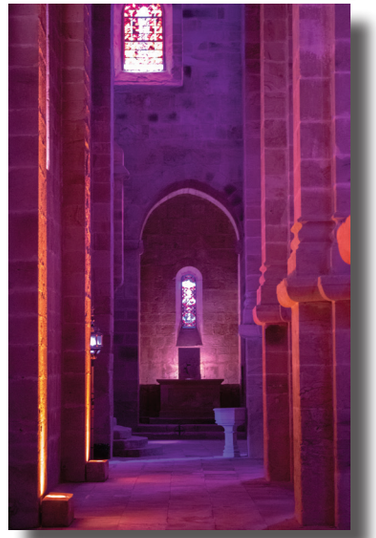


The Tasks of the Provincial Vicar, Econome, and Secretary

117. The Provincial Superior chooses one of his designated Consultors as his Vicar, who will also be the First Consultor. Besides performing those tasks delegated to him by the Provincial Superior, he will also act in the same Superior's stead, should the latter cease in office, or be absent or impeded.

The Provincial Econome is elected or designated in the same manner as the Consultors, even should he not be a consultor. His qualifications, rights and duties should be the same, on the provincial level, as those established for the General Econome.

The Provincial Secretary is designated by the Provincial Superior in keeping with the norms of our law.



Interior of the church of the Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What do you value most of the positions of Provincial Vicar and Econome?*
- *Do you collaborate with the Provincial Secretary by providing the required data and information?*

"For the Church, the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one."
(Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 198)



1846. From Vilallonga (Tarragona) Claret reminds Fr. **Joseph Caixal** about the very serious indications he gave him *on God's behalf* about publishing books.

1855. Claret sends the Captain General a copy of *Delicias del campo*, asking for him to excuse the inelegant way it was published. The next year he will make two new editions more carefully, and subsequently they will be reissued by General Vargas in Puerto Rico.

1868. Claret communicate to Fr. **Joseph Xifre** that all his belongings in Madrid are safe, thanks to Fr. **Francisco Besalu**, and that everything is with the Congregation.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

BLESSED ANDRES SOLA

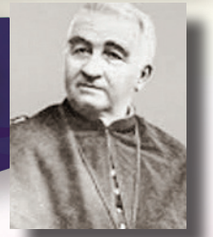
The beatification of the Spanish Claretian Fr. **Andres Sola**, martyr of the Mexican Revolution of 1927 was celebrated on November 20, 2005. The ceremony, which took place in the city of Guadalajara (Mexico), was presided over by the Claretian Cardinal Jose Saraiva, and was attended by a large number of Claretians. Together with Fr. Sola, his two companions in martyrdom from the San Joaquin ranch were also beatified: the priest Trinidad Rangel and the layman Leonardo Perez.

Fr. Andres Sola worked for a few years in Mexico, and lived his missionary service intensely, as a professor in the Claretian seminary in Toluca, in the ministry of preaching and in pastoral care. He continued his missionary service from underground, comforting the Christian communities that could not publicly celebrate their faith with his presence and his word. The people loved him and respected him and, when, after being martyred, his body was transferred from the San Joaquin ranch to the city, he was enthusiastically received by those who knew of his apostolic dedication.



EDUARDO DUARTE SILVA

Bishop of Goias and Uberaba (1852-1924)



Florianopolis (Brazil). In 1868 he was assigned to Rome to study philosophy, also earning a doctorate in theology at the Gregorian University. He resided in the Pontifical Latin American College, which at that time operated in the novitiate of the Jesuits of San Andres in Monte Cavallo. It was there that he met Father Claret, who participated in the First Vatican Council. As Bishop of Goias, he recalled this unforgettable meeting from São Paulo in 1907: *It was December 8, 1869. The Rector of the College had the happy inspiration that we would receive communion from such venerated hands. Throughout the Mass I could not divert my eyes from that distinguished Prelate, who, small in stature, seemed to me to be giant in holiness. My companions also received communion with me, who are today Cardinal Joaquim Arcoverde, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, Archbishop Jeronimo Thome da Silva, Archbishop of Bahia, Archbishop Francisco do Rêgo Maia, Titular Archbishop of Nicopolis, etc.* Eduardo Duarte died on October 16th in Rio de Janeiro.

THE SUPERIORS OF THE INDEPENDENT DELEGATIONS

CONSTITUCIONES

118. Superiors of Independent Delegations should have the same qualifications as Provincial Superiors. They are appointed for a set term by the Superior General with his Council. Their regular faculties are defined in our law, but in using them they are in a special way dependent on the Delegating Superior, who may grant them additional faculties at his discretion.



Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

If you are a member of an Independent Delegation:

- *Do you value the mission of your Major Superior? How can you make it easier?*
- *Do you think that the Superior of your Delegation remains in ongoing communication with the Superior General and follows his guidance?*

"Ours is a community that is made up of more than only priests.
Our apostolic fraternity is plural. In it there are priests, deacons, brothers and students.
We all share the same vocation;
we gather together in the same community and carry out the same mission."
(*Our Project of Missionary Life*)



1857. Claret sends his book *Apuntes para conservar la hermosura de la Iglesia [Notes to Preserve the Beauty of the Church]* to all the Spanish bishops and asks for their opinions.

1866. By order of the Queen, and attending to a request by Fr. **Joseph Xifre,** Claret has a meeting with **Narvaez**, president of the government and minister of war, in which he is promised exemption from the draft for the students of the missionary congregation.

1866. Claret asks Fr. Joseph Xifre for a priest from the Congregation as a chaplain, because Fr. **Carmelo Sala** is leaving to be Canon in Cadiz. Fr. Pedro Vilar will go.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

KOREA, DEPENDENT DELEGATION

Taking into account the development and the coinciding circumstances, the General Government approved the Korea Dependent Delegation of the Delegation of East Asia in January 2006. The official foundation of Korea dated back to 1985. At the time of its declaration as a Delegation it had two houses and a residence, 12 Priests, 1 Brother, 5 Professed Students, 2 Novices and 3 Aspirants.

In September 1982, the first two Claretians from the Philippines arrived in Seoul, where they were received by the Maryknoll Fathers. They had their first experience at the Presbyterian Seminary for two months, then they moved to stay with the Franciscans. In 1983 they obtained the first residence of their own. In 1985 they formed, together with Japan, the East Asia Delegation.

Shortly after, they began their pastoral activities in parishes, hospitals and religious communities, as well as their work of promoting vocations. In 1987 they accepted a parish in the Diocese of Incheon. The greatest difficulty for foreigners is learning the language and adapting to the cultural reality of Korea.



BLESSED JAUME GIRON AND 59 COMPANIONS

Claretian Martyrs of Cervera, Mas Claret and Solsona



The building of the former University of Cervera (Lleida, Spain), which the Claretian Missionaries had occupied since 1887, housed 154 people in 1936: 30 Priests, 35 Brothers, 51 Students and 38 Aspirants preparing for the novitiate. 11 of these missionaries lived on the *Mas Claret* farm about eight kilometers from Cervera. Fr. Jaume Giron, Superior of that large community, in the face of the events that were taking place in Catalonia, organized an evacuation plan. However, the plan was frustrated because earlier than planned, on July 21st, the revolutionaries demanded that the mayor order the building to be vacated within one hour. Thus began the dispersion of the community in groups: Mas Claret, Lleida and Cervera. The best known and most impressive case is that of Br. **Fernando Saperas**, *martyr of chastity*, because of the difficult trials and humiliations to which he was subjected. They were beatified on October 21, 2017 in Barcelona.

CONSTITUCIONES

THE SUPERIORS OF THE DEPENDENT DELEGATIONS AND CONSULTORS OF THE DELEGATIONS



Reliquary of the arm of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Claret Chapel Museum General, Rome)

119. Superiors of Dependent Delegations whose boundaries form part of a Province are appointed for a set term by the Provincial Superior with his Council. However, their appointment must be approved by the Superior General. Their rights and duties are defined at the time of their appointment.

120. The Superior of a Delegation has two Consultors who may function as Econome and Secretary, respectively. They are appointed in the same way as the Superior Delegate.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know if there are any Dependent Delegations in the Congregation? Which ones?*

"If you want to make peace with your enemy,
you have to work with your enemy.
Then he becomes your partner."
(*Nelson Mandela*)



1850. Claret receives the metropolitan pallium from the nuncio in his private chapel, and they discuss the transfer of Fr. **Joseph Caixal** to Barcelona to better serve the *Libreria Religiosa*.

1855. Claret continues creating new parishes. Today he is told of the approval of the one he has erected in Nuevitas (Cuba), dedicated to St. Michael.

1862. Claret is in Almeria, where he preaches six sermons in the morning. In the afternoon they sail to Cartagena.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IN MOZAMBIQUE

After long preparation and a careful visit, the two Organisms of Brazil, with the collaboration of Portugal, sent the first missionaries to the new mission of Gile (Mozambique). They arrived on March 23, 2006. The mission belonged to the Diocese of Gurue. A great help for this foundation was the collaboration of the Dehonians (Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). Later, the Province of St. Thomas (India) joined this project. There was much to be done. However, Father General Josep Abella wrote precisely after accepting this position: *I want the commitment to be close to the poor and excluded to mark, from the beginning, the missionary path of the Claretian community in Mozambique.*

Mozambique is a very large country, almost 800,000 square kilometers, with a population that is close to 25 million inhabitants. Catholics together with those of other Christian denominations make up 30% of the population, another 20% are Muslim, and the remaining 50% practice various native religions.



PABLO SANCHO, CMF

Missionary in Chile (1840-1918)



Fuenterrebollo (Segovia, Spain). Fr. **Clotet** recounted that, while Claret was giving Spiritual Exercises for the missionaries in Vic, there was a student who suffered a toothache so strong and continuous, that he could not take advantage of any of the activities. He went to Father Claret, who told him to wash with cool water. He did and the pain ceased instantly, without coming back. The student's name was Mr. Sancho, who later became Fr. Pablo Sancho. In 1872 he was assigned to Chile, where he spent most of his missionary life in La Serena. There he died piously in 1918. He met the Claretians at the seminary in Segovia and was one of Castilla's first fruits for the Congregation. He was in Thuir. He died at an advanced age. His funeral was attended by, among other authorities, the Bishop of La Serena. He was considered a relic in Chile for having been able to meet the Founder in person.

THE SUPERIOR OF A MISSION AND HIS COUNCIL

CONSTITUCIONES



Sepulcher of Stephen Sala and Joseph Xifre (Vic)

121. The Superior of a Province or a Delegation which is called a Mission, and his consultors or officials are instated according to the same norms. By an exception to the law, however, if Provinces are involved and the good of the mission should require it, they may be appointed by the Superior General and his Council after hearing from the members of the Mission.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know if there are any Organisms called "Missions" in the Congregation? Which ones?*
- *What is the meaning of this statute?*

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...
It's about learning to dance in the rain."
(*Vivian Greene*)

21



1847. Claret sends Fr. **Joseph Caixal** the manuscript of *Constituciones de la Hermandad del Santisimo e Inmaculado Corazon de Maria [Constitutions of the Brotherhood of the Blessed and Immaculate Heart of Mary],* a complex apostolic association that he wants to establish but that the Archbishop of Tarragona forbids.

1853. Claret writes to **Pius IX** an interesting explanation of how he found the diocese and what he has worked on in these two and a half years, particularly his pastoral visit.

1862. Claret spends this day and the next three days in Cartagena, where he preaches ten sermons. The one he preached for 1800 inmates in prison left the greatest impression. In this city he administered confirmations.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IN THE SAR AND MAINLAND CHINA

As a fruit of the Manila Encounter in 2005, in February 2006, 77 years after the first Claretian foundation in Asia, a Claretian residence was opened in Macao, China. A publication center in Chinese was organized from Macao and contacts were maintained for the publication of the Pastoral Bible in Chinese and other connections in view of new foundations in the interior of China. Another service offered from there was the attention to the thousands of Filipinos who lived in the area through the publication of books on Christian and biblical formation. Shortly after, the new Claretian presence spread to Beijing and Harbin, in the north of the country. For several years, Fr. Alberto Rossa has printed the Bible in English and Spanish, and other religious books in Nanjing. This Mission was born as a result of the Beatification of the Martyrs of Barbastro.



LADY ELIZABETH HERBERT

Writer (1822-1911)



Richmond (London, United Kingdom). She was born into a simple family of military and diplomatic rank. In 1846 she married Sidney Herbert, son of the Earl of Pembroke. She collaborated with Florence Nightingale. After the death of her husband in 1861, she intensified her friendship with Cardinal Henry E. Manning, Archbishop of Westminster and maintained a close friendship with Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman. She focused her attention on the care of the College for foreign missions known as Mill Hill Missionaries. She wrote several novels, stories and essays. In November 1866 she visited Father Claret in Madrid. This is what she perceived and testified in her book *Impressions of Spain* (1866): *his ability to forgive his enemies, his apostolic meekness which captivated even the fiercest critics, his apostolic poverty lived with radicalism, his eagerness to have a good library for his formation, his paschal joy in the midst of the cross and his missionary spirit which led him to preach at all times.* She died on October 30th.

NATURE OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

CONSTITUCIONES

122. The Provincial Chapter is the instrument that represents the Province and expresses the participation, joint responsibility and communion of the whole Province. The greatest care should be taken to see to it that through this Chapter the Provincial community may achieve the greatest inner strength in its missionary life while adapting and opening itself to the general community of the Organism.





FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Have you participated in any Provincial Chapter? If so, what have you learned from that experience?*
- *How are the Chapters usually lived out in your Province? Are they prepared and celebrated properly?*
- *Do you remember any particular emphasis or guidance from the last Provincial Chapter?*
- *Do you think something should be done to improve the Chapters as bodies of participation, co-responsibility and communion?*

"The danger for modern man is that he would reduce the earth to a desert, the person to an automaton, brotherly love to planned collectivization, often introducing death where God wishes life."
(*John Paul I*)

OCTOBER

22



1850. In Madrid, Claret is informed that the Queen has named him a *Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic* (in order to not make him wait, they let him put it on himself, and not pay the corresponding fees).

1860. Claret grants all the missionary priests a series of faculties granted to him by the Pope.

1865. In Vic, Claret receives the oath of permanence of a priest and two brothers from the missionary congregation.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

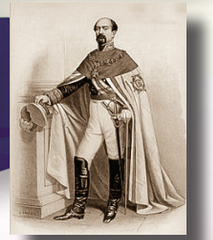
THE NEW PROVINCE OF SANTIAGO

After a long process, on July 25, 2006, the new Santiago Province was created in Spain. It was the union of three former Provinces: Aragon, Castilla and Leon. The intention of this reorganization, in line with the guidelines of the General Chapter, was to better organize the organizational structures and favor the missionary strength of the Congregation in Spain. At that time the new Province was made up of 359 members. The original idea had been to unite the Iberian Peninsula into one Province. It soon proved that it was more a dream than a reality. First Portugal, then Catalunya and Euskal Herria and eventually Betica disengaged from the process. The new Province kept the European Mission of Russia and the two immigrant centers in Paris and Zürich which were outside of Spanish territory. Thus it became the largest Province of the Congregation, although with personnel of an advanced average age and without many vocational prospects.



MANUEL PAVIA LACY

Marquis of Novaliches (1814-1896)



Granada (Spain). In 1840 he received the title of Marquis de Novaliches and Field Marshal. He emigrated to France and returned in 1843. He was Minister of War in 1847 and later Captain General of Catalonia. In 1853 he became the Governor Captain General of the Philippines. On his return to Madrid he married a governess of **Princess Isabella** in 1854. In 1868 he was defeated in the battle at the Bridge of Alcolea. He testified in the of canonization process of Claret: *I met Father Claret in the year of grace of 1837, when he was Administrator of the House in Sallent ... I was struck by his modesty, discretion in his speech and the astuteness that was noted in his behavior as a priest administrator and his interactions with the Municipality and authorities.* He lived with Claret in Madrid when he was Archbishop and left with him to exile in 1868. He refused to recognize Amadeo of Savoy. **Alfonso XII** granted him the Golden Fleece.

CONVOCATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

CONS TITU CIO NES

123. The Provincial Chapter is convoked by the Provincial Superior after consultation with the Superior General as to the time and place of its celebration. The Ordinary Provincial Chapter is celebrated whenever the Provincial Superior is to be elected. An Extraordinary Provincial Chapter may be held as often as the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Province may require it, according to the judgment of the Provincial Government, as approved by the Superior General with his Council.



Present day sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Has there been an extraordinary Chapter in your Province? If there has, why?*
- *Do you think that the normal frequency (every six years) responds to the needs of the Provinces today?*

"By making yourself a lifelong learner
you'll keep discovering new and exciting things
about yourself and others."
(*Rachel Robins*)

OCTOBER

23



1850. In Madrid, Claret confirms for the first time in the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity.

1865. Accompanied by Fr. **Joseph Xifre** and Br. **Jose Saladich**, Claret begins the trip to Rome. Today they spend the night in Gracia.

1866. Claret writes to Fr. **Paladio Currius** that he hopes for good theologians to come out of El Escorial, so he laments, along with the death of some professors, the bad pedagogy of others.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

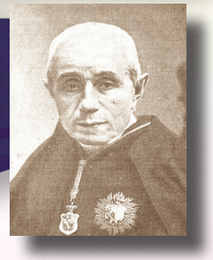
A PORTUGUESE BISHOP FOR AFRICA

In November 2006, the news was received of the appointment of Fr. Manuel A. Mendes as Bishop of São Tome and Principe. Born in São Joaninho (Castro Daire) in 1960, he entered the Claretian seminary in Los Carvalhos in 1978. He did his Novitiate in Loja (Spain) and was ordained as a priest in 1985. He completed his theological studies at the Institute of Human and Theological Sciences in Porto and at the Catholic University of Portugal in Lisbon. In December 1993 he traveled to São Tome, where he led the parishes in the north of the island. He returned to Portugal in 1995 and then was sent to Rome to obtain a specialization in Pastoral Theology. In 2001 he was elected Provincial Superior of Portugal and Prefect of Formation. And in 2003 he became President of the CNIR (National Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Institutes).



JOSE FERNANDEZ MONTAÑA

Priest and Martyr (1842-1936)



Santa Maria de Mindes (Asturias, Spain). He did his ecclesiastical studies in the seminary of El Escorial beginning in 1860. He obtained a doctorate in Theology and a degree in Canon Law. He was administrator for the Archbishop of Toledo, tutor of Alfonso XIII, confessor of the Regent Queen Maria Cristina and Dean of the Cathedral of Madrid. As a scholar and linguist, he was fluent in Syrian, Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Chaldean, Aramaic, English, German, Italian, French and Russian, in addition to Spanish. Such facility for foreign languages allowed him to stay in touch with the European intellectuals of the time. He said of Father Claret: *I consider him as the main teacher and factor in my moral and intellectual education.* On the same day of the beatification of Father Claret he wrote to the Superior of the Claretians of Madrid: *A thousand congratulations for having a now Blessed founder, something he wanted as much as his sons, of which I am one also for having confessed with him many times.* He was martyred in Madrid on October 27, 1936.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

CONSTITUCIONES

124. The following take part in the Provincial Chapter:

1) The Superior General or his Delegate as President.

2. The Provincial Superior with his Consultors, Econome and Secretary, even when the last two are not consultors.

3) Local Superiors.

4) As many delegates, elected according to the statutes of our law, as there are Local Superiors in the Province.

5) As many appointees as the previous Provincial Chapter has allowed the Provincial Superior and his Council to appoint.



Present day sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret (Vic)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you think the Province is well represented according to the norms of the Constitutions?*
- *If you have participated in any Chapter, under what title have you done so?*

"Our charism entails being totally of God
and living completely committed to his Kingdom;
like Jesus, consecrated and sent and following the example of Mary,
the first disciple and mother of disciples."
(*MS* 4)



1853. During his second pastoral visit, Claret travels from Puerto Principe to Sibanicu (Cuba).

1859. Meditating on Saint Peter and the cock's crow, Claret perceives that he has to be like the cock, preaching again and again.

1870. Claret dies in the Cistercian abbey of Fontfroide (France) at 8:45 in the morning.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

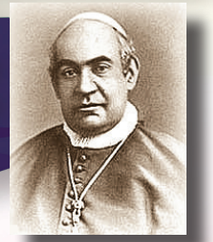
MORE RECOGNITIONS

Many Claretians saw their work publicly recognized during this period, for example: Fr. **Antonio San Cristobal** received the Golden Key of Cajamarca; Fr. Fausto Valencia was declared a Citizen of Batatais; Bishop Romulo Emiliani was received into the Order of Francisco Morazan; Br. Rene Lepage received an award from the Los Angeles Council of Religious (USA); Bishop Pedro Casaldaliga received the Catalonia International Prize (Spain); Cardinal Jose Saraiva the Medal of the Order of Legislative Merit of the State of Minas Gerais (Brazil); Fr. Javier Travieso was declared the Honorary Son of Don Benito (Spain); Fr. Francisco Rodriguez became a member of the Historical and Geographic Institute of Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil). We need to recall that in Argentina there is an Award entitled *Father Daniel de la Sierra* which is granted annually to recognize dedication in popular ministry. This award is in memory of the late Claretian priest **Daniel de la Sierra**, who worked in the parish and died in an accident while traveling by bicycle.



SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET, CMF

Archbishop and Founder (1807-1870)



Sallent (Barcelona, Spain). He was the fifth of the eleven children of the weavers **John Claret** and **Josefa Clara**. He worked in the family textile factory and moved to Barcelona, where he enrolled in the Textile Institute of La Lonja. He entered the seminary in Vic and was ordained a priest in 1835. He was pastor of Sallent. He traveled to Rome in 1839, where he entered the novitiate of the Jesuits for a few months. Upon his return to Spain, he became one of the great popular missionaries, particularly in Catalonia and the Canary Islands. In 1850 he was consecrated Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba, a position he resigned from in 1857 when he was appointed confessor of Queen **Isabella II** who he accompanied in exile in France. He participated in the First Vatican Council. He founded several institutes, particularly the *Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, better known as the Claretians. Anthony Mary Claret died in 1870 in the Cistercian monastery of Fontfroide, France. He was canonized by Pius XII in 1950.



TASKS OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AND THE NECESSARY APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

125. The Provincial Chapter:

1) Examines the state of the Province in order to set its future course of action.

2) Applies the norms and directives of the General Chapter concerning missionary life, in keeping with local and personal circumstances taking into account cooperation with diocesan and religious clergy.

3) Elects the Provincial Superior, his Consultors and Econome or determines some other way of designating them according to the norms of our law.

4) Establishes the manner in which Local Superiors, Vicars and Economes are to be designated according to the options provided for in our law.

126. The Provincial Chapter is a Chapter in the true and strict sense and its decrees are juridically binding. They must, however, be approved by the Superior General with his council.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Which of the functions of the Chapters do you think is most necessary according to your experience? Are there any important ones missing?*
- *Do you think that the Chapters of your Province have faithfully and creatively applied the norms and guidelines of the General Chapters?*

"As heirs of the charism of St. Anthony Mary Claret, we ask:
to keep the inheritance we have received alive and fruitful,
what is the Spirit asking of us at this moment in the history of humanity?"
(*MS* 34)

OCTOBER

25



1849. The Missionaries go out to preach, except Fr. **Dominic Fabregas**, who continues in delicate health. Claret begins with the bureaucratic paperwork for his episcopal consecration.

1862. Claret gives a conference for the clergy of Murcia. He had great difficulty moving through the areas of the city due to rain and weather.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

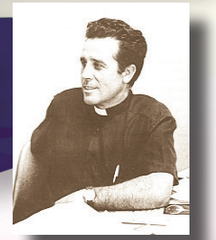
NEW MAJOR ORGANISM OF NORTHEAST INDIA

In March 2007, the General Government approved the erection of a new Independent Delegation in India, calling it *Northeast India Independent Delegation*. It had been a Dependent Delegation since 2001. It is the fourth Major Organism in India (Bangalore, Chennai, St. Thomas and Northeast India). The Claretian Province of Bangalore sent missionaries to northeast India in 1984 for the first time. Since then it became more established and at the time of its erection it had 33 Priests, 12 Professed Students and 3 Novices. It had two centers of formation and ten mission communities which mainly offered evangelization, education, health care and human development programs. The Claretians of the new Delegation are present in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. It serves 14 ethnic groups from 9 parishes. It is estimated that the number of Catholics grew to about 40,600, living in 340 villages. The schools had more than 7,700 students throughout 50 schools, some of them Claretian.



DANIEL DE LA SIERRA, CMF

Missionary in Argentina (1938-1992)



Castroverde de Cerrato (Valladolid, Spain). He entered the Claretian missionaries and was ordained in Rome in 1964. That year he was assigned to Argentina, as a professor of morality in Cordoba. But his passion was derived from popular religiosity. First he was prepared through the studies of Social Sciences, receiving a degree in 1975. In those years he made contact with the priests dedicated to the so-called *pastoral villera*, that is, ministry with the humblest people. In the Bajo Flores area of Buenos Aires he developed his activity with the poorest people. He became one of them in how he lived, and worked as a metal worker, bricklayer and carpenter. He worked to procure houses for them and build chapels, and was always riding his bicycle around the neighborhoods. In 1987 he began promoting *Bicycle Trips* to Lujan, which would soon acquire a diocesan character. And it was on one of these bicycle trips, the sixth one, when the Lord took him. He was hit by a bus from behind, throwing him to the asphalt and killing him instantly.

THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

127. It is desirable that Major Superiors find a suitable time and method for calling Assemblies of Superiors and other members or even Assemblies of the whole Province or Delegation, to meet with them and their council.



First sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret in the former Cistercian Monastery (Fontfroide Abbey, Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Are regular assemblies usually held in your Organism? How are they organized?*
- *Do you think they contribute to encouraging the missionary life of the Organism?*

"We are in the Church and in society an echo of Claret,
passionate minister of the Gospel in season and out of season,
using all means at his disposal."
(*MS* 42)



1842. Josefa Clara, Claret's mother, dies in Sallent when he was in charge of the parish of San Juan de Olo. There are good indications that her priest son was able to assist her in her agony.

1853. Claret communicates to the Captain General that he has just erected the parish of Santa Filomena, in the of Mamey Province (Cuba); and that he is awaiting the civil approval and financial allowance for the income of the priest he just named.

1862. Claret continues in Murcia, where they take him from one place to another in a wagon in which he is poorly protected against rain and wind by tarps; today he preaches in nine convents.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

CLARETIANS IN APARECIDA (CELAM)

In May 2007, the 5th Conference of CELAM (General Conference of Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean) was held in Aparecida (Brazil), in which 4 missionaries participated: 3 Bishops and the Major Superior of Antillas Independent Delegation. It was inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI under the theme *Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ, so that our peoples may have life in him*. The Conference used a wiki tool to prepare its texts for discussion.

During those days the great apostles, evangelizers and martyrs of Latin America and the Caribbean were remembered: Toribio de Mogrovejo, Peter Claver, Ezequiel Moreno, Peter Betancourt, Roque Gonzalez, Martin de Porres and Joseph of Anchieta. The memory of **Anthony Mary Claret**, who called America the *young vineyard*, was missing. We, his sons, received from him our apostolic zeal, our missionary ardor and our dedication to the poorest of America and the whole world.



MANUEL REVOLLO, CMF
Bishop of Cochabamba (1925-2014)



Santiago de Machaca (Bolivia). He entered the Claretian postulancy in Cochabamba. He was ordained a priest in 1952. The first years of his missionary service were carried out in Cochabamba. He was appointed Superior Delegate of Bolivia. St. John Paul II appointed him Titular Bishop of Casae in Numidia and Auxiliary Bishop of Cochabamba in 1985 and Vicar General. Subsequently, he became Coadjutor Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Bolivia in 1993. He resigned as Titular Bishop of Casae in Numidia in 1998 and from the role of Coadjutor Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Bolivia in 2000. He dedicated himself to popular missions in the Archdiocese. In 2006 he joined the Claretian community of Cochabamba, collaborating in the parish Corazon de Maria. He died there at 89 years old. He was an apostle of Christ, a zealous missionary and a consecrated religious in service of the Church. He was small in stature, but large in spirit, in his reach and his missionary and apostolic pastoral zeal.

CONSTITUCIONES

NATURE OF THE VISITATION AND THE VISITATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION



First sepulcher of St. Anthony Mary Claret at the back of the church of the former Cistercian Monastery now Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)

Chapter XVII: Visitors

128. Visitation by Major Superiors has been established by universal law and our own law as an extraordinary act of government serving to strengthen the bond of union in the Congregation and to direct its life and mission toward its goal.

129. The visitor should take part in the daily life of the members, try to become acquainted with their aspirations and difficulties, listen to them with openness and thus promote the co-operation of all for the good of the Congregation and the Church.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you remember any particular experience of the canonical visits of the Superiors?*
- *Do you think that the visits contribute to strengthening the bond of union in the Congregation and directing its life and mission towards its goal?*
- *What should the visits be like today to be more meaningful and effective?*

"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross,
cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price
of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain."
(*John Piper*)

OCTOBER

27



1850. On his last day in Madrid Claret has a meeting with the King and Queen, to which he arrives late because he had been preaching in the church of the Italians.

1853. Claret thanks the Navy General Commander for his *noble provisions* against the threats.

1869. Claret writes to Fr. **Joseph Xifre** that he does not really trust the Chilean Fr. **Santiago de la Peña** for the foundation there, he does not seem very clearheaded. The Archbishop of Santiago will not go to the Council because he is sick.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

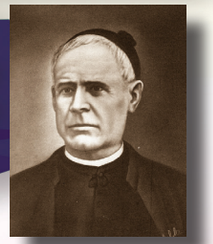
FUCLA

That is the acronym of the *Claretian University Foundation* for distance learning created in Colombia in June 2007. The idea of creating FUCLA had its origin in 1994. It has five degrees of its own: anthropology, social work, religious education, theology with an emphasis on Religious Life and the Bible and artistic and cultural education with an emphasis on music, dance, theater and folk art. Its headquarters are in Quibdo and it has ten branches in many other cities in Colombia. An important number of universities were contacted for the approval process. Subsequently ten service centers and university tutoring centers were created. It has already achieved a respectable infrastructure of buildings and has a library of 20,000 volumes. It also has two degrees offered together with the Luis Amigo University Foundation: Business Administration and Specialization in social services management. In 2008, the 100th anniversary was celebrated of the *Bull* from the Holy See which entrusted the Prefecture of Choco to the Claretian Missionaries.



DOMINIC FABREGAS, CMF

Co-founder (1817-1895)



Oris (Barcelona, Spain). He was a simple and shy man, with a somewhat melancholic, laborious temperament, with a clear and penetrating voice, which attracted many people to his preaching. Like **Xifre**, and perhaps in his company, he also had to go to Rome and stay at the convent of Saint Basil the Great. That was where he first met the famous Father Claret, whom he probably knew, since he was only two years ahead of him in the seminary. He was ordained a priest in Rome. After returning to Spain, he dedicated himself to curing souls until one day he was called by Fr. **Casadevall** who invited him to contact Mons. Claret. On July 16, 1849 he founded the Congregation with Claret and the other companions. He was the General Counselor of the Congregation. He was responsible for the foundation of the house in Segovia in 1861, devoting himself to preaching throughout the region. He was also put in charge of the foundation in Huesca. After several assignments in Catalonia, now elderly, he died in Solsona (Lleida).

CONSTITUCIONES

TASKS OF THE VISITATIONS AND THE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VISITORS

130. During visitations a plenary meeting of the community should be held in order to foster unity and fraternity and to define and clarify the proper and particular mission of the community. There should likewise be some inquiry whether or not past proposals have been carried out and guidelines for future life and action should he set. Finally, everyone should be encouraged in mind and will to aim at fidelity.

131. The visitor's observations and recommendations form a sort of epilogue to the dialogue of the visitation. Besides any admonitions or corrections they may have to include, they should aim at strengthening all in the joy of their missionary vocation and giving the community a new pastoral impulse and inspiration.



Remembrance of Claret's stay at the Cistercian Monastery (Fontfroide Abbey - Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you usually read and take into account the observations and recommendations that Visitors leave as a result of their visitations?*
- *Do you remember any that have helped you improve your missionary life?*

"The community of the disciple-missionaries with Jesus and from Jesus, the principal mediation of mission, helps us to move from the pre-eminence of the *I* to the primacy of the *We* and makes us witnesses and messengers of the Kingdom." (*MS* 26)

28



1850. Claret, accompanied by Fr. **Stephen Sala**, leaves Madrid for Barcelona via Zaragoza, on a preaching trip.

1853. Claret communicates to **Caixal** that he has *a big project, I don't know what result it will have, I hope it will be good*. It is about the Farm-School in Puerto Principe, which will begin next January.

1865. On a trip to Rome, Claret arrives in Liorna with Fr. **Xifre** and Br. **Jose Saladich**, where they are hospitalized for seven days for fear of the spread of cholera; finally, the Spanish consul intervenes and allows them to continue the trip.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

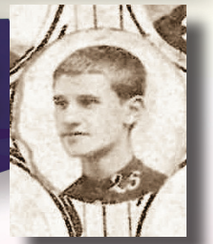
THE *FORGE* IN ENGLISH

On July 1, 2007, the first *Forge* in English began in Bangalore (India) with the participation of 18 Claretians from seven English-speaking Organisms: Bangalore, Chennai, St. Thomas, Northeast India, Nigeria, Philippines and Sri-Lanka. Although it was reduced to two months, it maintained the same structure as the *Forge* in Spanish. The goal was to renew the charismatic identity. The experience was reduced to two months in which the four phases of the experience were developed: *Quid Prodest, Patris mei, Caritas Christi* and *Spiritus Domini*. This experience helps them to write their personal projects which help maintain the fire of the Forge in daily missionary life. The 4 Major Superiors of India participated in the beginning of the experience. It was directed by a member of CESC. The intention was to hold an English-language Forge every year.



LUIS ALVAREZ, CMF

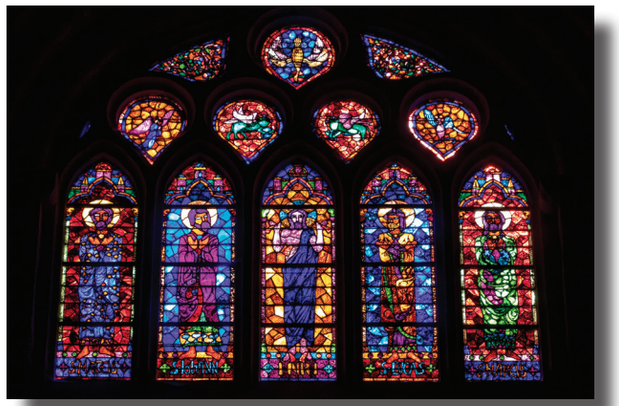
Student Missionary (1892-1918)



Mexico City (Mexico). He was from a well-off family and was a benefactor of the Congregation. He soon came into contact with the Claretian Missionaries, although he studied with the Marist Brothers and Jesuits, entering the diocesan seminary where he began to live a life of the highest spiritual quality. He decided to follow the religious life in the Claretian Congregation, going to Spain in 1909 along with two other companions. His life was continually modeled after that of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, with whom he is usually compared. After a few years of intense spiritual life and close to his priestly ordination, he died in Zafra (Badajoz), as a victim of a flu he contracted when he tirelessly attended to his community brothers. He said: *Thank you, my God, because you have given me the opportunity to help my sick brothers: that is when I am at my best.* He was 27 years old. As he was about to die, he repeated incessantly the memorable saying of Saint Martin: *My God, if I am in any way necessary for your people, preserve my life; if not, take me with you.*

FREQUENCY OF VISITATIONS AND DELEGATED VISITORS

CONSTITUCIONES



Stained glass of the Fontfroide Abbey church (Narbonne)

132. At least every six years the Superior General, either in person or through his delegate, should with due care make a visitation of the houses and residences of the Congregation. Insofar as possible, however, he should make more frequent personal visits to Provincial headquarters and Provincial formation centers.

133. A Major Superior who is legitimately prevented from making the visitations prescribed in the Constitutions may, after conferring with his council, delegate another suitable member of the same Major Organism.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Recall the last General Visitors who have passed through your community.*
- *Did they contribute in confirming the brothers in the joy of the vocation? Did you offer new stimuli and pastoral suggestions?*
- *Have you had the opportunity to be visited on occasion by the Superior General? What has the encounter with him meant to you?*

"A man who does not feed on his dreams, grows old soon."
(*William Shakespeare*)



1837. Claret begins his position as the Administrator in Sallent, for which he received the appointment a few days earlier. He was previously a beneficiary and then vicar.

1847. Claret goes to Manresa, where he will preach the novena for All Souls and then Spiritual Exercises for some women religious.

1866. Claret asks the Queen to *deign to decree* that his catechism, composed according to the Pope's instructions, be declared the single one for all of Spain. It is not for profit, but rather for orthodoxy and uniformity.



WORKSHOP ON THE TRANSMISSION OF THE FAITH

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

In September 2007, a group of Claretians from different European Organisms met in Poland to reflect on one of the points that appeared in the General Chapter: *To seek new ways to awaken the faith and to accompany its development in those who are alienated from the Church or who consider themselves disbelievers.* The result of this workshop was the book entitled: *To Know You and Make You Known*. The topics discussed ranged from the reality that challenges us to the means, instruments and resources for the transmission of faith, through a reflection on the transmission of faith in the New Testament and the Church, the message to be transmitted, the agents and the recipients, testimonies and other pedagogical tools. Having held the workshop in Poland meant an added benefit for everyone to breathe in the atmosphere of a country that has managed to transmit their faith in difficult times and was already beginning to suffer the effects of secularization.



MIGUEL ROTA BAGUES, CMF

General Consultor and Econome (1815-1888)



Ripoll (Barcelona, Spain). He knocked on the doors of the Congregation on June 15, 1857, at the age of forty-two. He was, therefore, one of those admitted during the first decade of the Congregation. He had a simple nature, but he was very knowledgeable and diligent in administrative tasks, which is why the Superiors appointed him to the difficult position of General Minister, as well as Consultor, which he carried out with great wisdom until his death. This is how Fr. **Clotet** described him in a letter to Fr. **Serrat** upon his death: *Hard working and active by nature, he nevertheless loved rest and observing the Rule, despite his numerous occupations, due to the positions he was given, which required him to leave the house frequently, he did not miss any community act, was punctual to all of them, did not even complain about work, consecrating himself to it to the point of using up all of his strength.* Fr. Rota attended the first three General Chapters, in which Father Claret was present, for whom he was a confidant. He died on October 31st in Barcelona.

VARIOUS TYPES OF VISITATIONS

CONSTITUCIONES

134. Besides the official visitation it is desirable that Major Superiors occasionally make other visits, especially to houses of formation.



Fontfroide Abbey cloister (Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *How do you rate the frequency and quality of the visits of the Major Superiors to your community?*
- *Do you think that other types of visits should be promoted? How?*

"The less we have of Caesar's, the less we will have to render to Caesar."
(*Dorothy Day, quoting St. Hilary*)

30



1843. Claret answers Sr. Maria Dolores, a nun from the convent of La Enseñanza in Manresa, who has asked him to be her spiritual director. He promises to do what he can; for now, he sends her a copy of *Life of Saint Catherine of Siena* to read and return.

1855. In Gibara (Cuba) Claret had to celebrate Mass with some corporals and ornaments that were so dirty that it filled him with disgust; it was because the priest was completely inept.

1864. Claret warns the Queen, in reference to a banquet organized for the next day, that it will be a day of abstinence.



BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FATHER CLARET

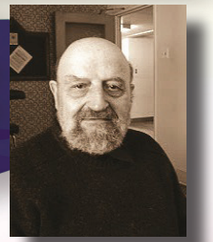
THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

December 23, 2007, was the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Father Founder. On this occasion, the Congregation initiated a large number of celebrations at all levels with the intention of taking advantage of the Bicentennial to promote spiritual and missionary renewal in the Congregation and the Church. The anniversary began in Sallent on October 21st with its closing to be celebrated in Tanzania in August 2008. The entire Claretian Family was summoned to the Claretian sites and a new congregational museum was inaugurated in Sallent. Throughout the year, many events and celebrations were held following the guidelines given in the Circular Letter from the General Superior: *From Remembrance to Commitment*. The bicentennial logo was loaded with symbolism: a synthesis of the four primary elements: water, earth, air and fire. The fire was represented by the name of Claret. In May a web site dedicated to the Bicentennial was opened.



JOSEPH MARIA VIÑAS, CMF

Vicar General (1920-2016)



Vic (Barcelona, Spain). He professed in the Congregation in Alagon. After the Spanish war began, as a novice, he crossed the border and entered France to save himself. He was ordained a priest in Zafra in 1944. From that year until 1951 he exercised his ministry in Catalonia. In 1953 he was sent to Rome as Prefect of the students of the *third floor* of the General Curia in Parioli. In 1961 he was assigned to Canada. In the General Chapter of 1967, he was elected General Consultor and named Vicar General. He was appointed as Rector of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Rome and Director of the Secretariat of the Heart of Mary in 1987. In 2004 he returned to his Delegation of Canada. He was one of the greatest experts on the life and spirituality of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. He prepared the edition of the *Autobiography* and the *Pastoral Writings* with Fr. **Jesus Bermejo**. He wrote the historical and charismatic parts of the three volumes of the *Commentary on the Constitutions*, as well as numerous books and brochures. He stood out for his deep spirituality, artistic sense and fraternal character.

ORGANIC CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

CONSTITUCIONES



Window of the room where St. Anthony Mary Claret stayed and died in the former Cistercian Monastery (Fontfroide Abbey, Narbonne)

Chapter XVIII: Government of the General Community

135. Our Congregation is the expression of a gift of the Spirit, sanctioned by the Church—a gift through which we are all called to carry out our universal mission in an orderly way. Community of mission, however, inherently demands an organized structure so that the communion of all its members may be better preserved and that the strivings and purposes of each one of the members may be more aptly coordinated.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you feel that you are part of a connected body at the service of the mission?*
- *Do you try to collaborate as much as possible to create communion among the members of your community and coordinate the initiatives and projects of each person?*

"God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love."
(*St. Augustine*)



1850. On his way back from Madrid Claret arrives in Igualada (Barcelona), where, the next day, he preaches the sermon of All Saints' Day.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

WEST NIGERIA INDEPENDENT DELEGATION

On October 24, 2007, the new Independent Delegation of West Nigeria was born with a Eucharist presided by the Cardinal of Lagos. Geographically it would be comprised of the Northwestern States of Nigeria, including the capital, Abuja. At that time, it had 20 Priests, 1 Deacon, 1 Brother, 20 Students and 3 Postulants. Cardinal Anthony Okogie presided over the inauguration of the Delegation in Lagos, and laid the first stone of the new missionaries' house next to St. Augustine's Church. Their activity was fundamentally in parishes, but with considerations to respond to other challenges. Previously, in the month of May, the Claretians of the future Delegation held an Assembly with the theme: *Preparing a New Claretian Missionary Organism in Nigeria for a Better Future*. Underlying all the discussions was a great enthusiasm and hope for the future of the new Delegation.



JOHN JOSEPH ARBOLI ACASO

Bishop of Cadiz (1795-1863)



Cadiz (Spain). He was born on October 29th. He was Bishop of Guadix and later of Cadiz in 1853. He was a writer and Professor of Philosophy at the school of San Felipe Neri and then he was Director of the provincial institute created in Cadiz. His main works were: *Discourse on Philosophy* and *General Grammar and Exposition to Her Majesty the Queen on Government Circular Letters relating to Ecclesiastical Censorship and Preaching.* He stood out for his pastoral charity and his eloquence as a preacher and senator. He had a close friendship with Father Claret. When Claret passed through Cadiz on his way back from Cuba, he spoke to Bishop Arboli about some *Notes* that he had written down for personal use. Upon arriving at the port of Cadiz, he commented, *The Bishop of that diocese...was kind enough to let me stay in his palace; I rested two days from the fatigue of the trip...In the days I was in his company he saw the Notes and wanted to read them...He wrote: Nothing needs to be done with them, this would be a desecration, they did not come from you alone, you were inspired by God to write them.*

THE SERVICE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL



136. So that the whole Congregation may faithfully pursue its mission, it is governed by a Superior General, whose main duty is to render the Congregation responsive to the needs of the Church and the world in various times and places. He is a symbol of community and a bond of unity for the whole Congregation in which he acts as the highest authority with ordinary power.



Fontfroide Abbey (Narbonne)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you pray often for the Superior General?*
- *Do you share your concerns and suggestions for the best government of the Congregation?*
- *Do you read and meditate on the circular letters and messages addressed to the Congregation?*

"Today more than ever the Church needs holy priests
whose daily journey of conversion inspires in others the desire to seek the holiness
which the whole People of God is called to pursue."
(*Saint John Paul II*)