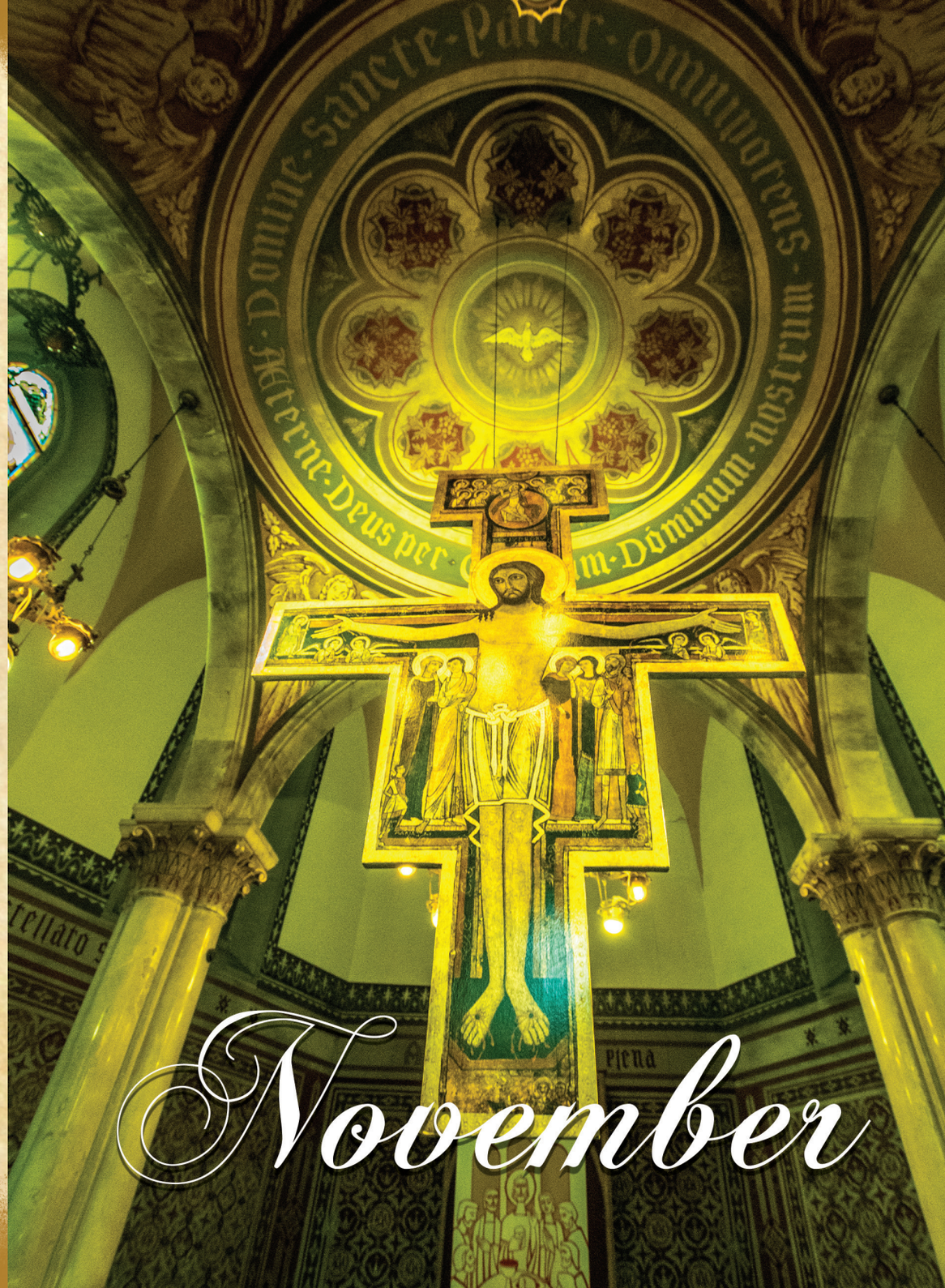
O God, you sustain our hope
of future happiness
in the Paschal Mystery of your Son.
We humbly ask you
that all who participate
in our Claretian fellowship here on earth
and spend their live spreading your kingdom,
may attain the joys of eternal happiness
in the mansions of our heavenly home.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



November

NOVEMBER

1



1840. Claret begins a novena for the poor souls in purgatory in Igualada (Barcelona).

1858. The ***Academy of St. Michael*** officially begins, whose plan was published at the end of the summer, reviewed by Fr. **Vicente de la Fuente** and Fr. Fermin de la Cruz.

1863. Claret concludes the Spiritual Exercises he began on October 23rd, which he conducted while directing them to the community of El Escorial, a total of 126 people.



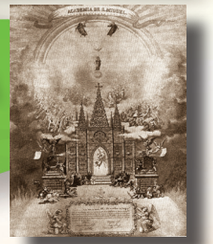
THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

THE NEW BRASIL PROVINCE

On November 20, 2007, the new Brasil Province was constituted after a careful process of reorganization, born of the unification of the Sul do Brasil Province and the Brazil Central Delegation. This Organism also included the mission of Mozambique in Africa. Subsequently, on January 1, 2012, the four missionaries in charge of the Guaraja-Mirim mission in the Province of Catalunya were incorporated. This is how a long process of several years ended, in which all the members of the two Organisms participated. At that time collaboration had been intensifying in different areas, from vocational promotion and formation to the apostolate, etc. At that moment Brasil Province had 130 members: 105 Priests, 10 Brothers, 1 Deacon, 9 Students and 20 Communities, one being in Mozambique. The newly appointed Government was responsible for preparing its 1st Provincial Chapter that was held in July of 2008.



ACADEMY OF ST. MICHAEL



It began operating on this day in 1858, even before Government approval was arranged and obtained. In December, Their Majesties and the Nuncio were already participating. The approval was signed on April 20, 1859. The first hierarchy was that of the writers; the second that of the artists: painting, music, etc. The third hierarchy was that of the collaborators, who had twenty choirs, one of them Claret's, which met at his house. He had a magnificent print made for them, which he had drawn himself, by the fervent Catholic and academic Domingo Martinez, professor of Fine Arts. During the short nine years it was in operation, the Academy printed 24 books, with more than one million copies distributed, booklets, holy cards, etc. As a result of the revolution of 1868 it began to languish, and traces of some choirs remained like a memory, like the one directed by Fr. **Vicente de la Fuente** and the choir that had been Claret's.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELECTED SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES



Claret statue outside the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Royal of La Almudena (Madrid)

137. Besides the requirements prescribed by universal law, the one elected Superior General must be a man who has given proven examples of his prudence, talent, apostolic zeal, love for the Congregation, observance of the Constitutions and the practice of the virtues. He must, moreover, have been a perpetually professed member for at least five years.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Review the list of all the Superior Generals that the Congregation has had throughout its history. If there is one that is lesser known to you, you can read his biographical note in the corresponding part of this Claretian Year.*

"God never said the journey would be easy,
but he did say that the arrival would be worth it!"
(*Max Lucado*)

NOVEMBER

2



1836. During these first days of the month Claret is appointed Vicar of Sallent. Up to this point he had only been a beneficiary, without a parochial assignment. Perhaps he moves from his parents' house to the parish rectory at this time.

1839. Claret enters the Roman Jesuit novitiate.

1848. Claret begins Spiritual Exercises for the seminarians in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

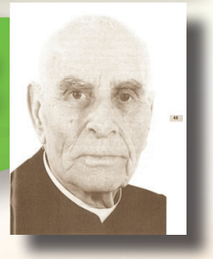
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE

In 2008 the *Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate* (MMI) began celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their foundation at the Malabo Cathedral (Equatorial Guinea). The congregation was born on October 7, 1909 with Imelda Makole's consecration to God, a young native of Batete, in the former city of Santa Isabel in Fernando Poo. Bishop **Armengol Coll** collaborated with the founding group which was dedicated to serving the sick in the city's hospital. He and his successors structured the small group of young women from the schools run by the *Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception*, which Imelda was putting together, going through various stages and names like *Auxiliary Sisters of the Missions*, *Pius Union of the Indigenous Oblates of the Immaculate*, before it was definitively named. It is in the process of becoming a Congregation of Pontifical Right. The Archbishop of Malabo, Mons. Ildefonso Obama Obono, presided over the celebration. As a way of celebrating, ten new religious professed in the Congregation.



JESUS HERNANDEZ, CMF

Missionary Brother (1908-1995)



Salce (Zamora, Spain). In his youth he was the director of a small nursery school, also serving as a sacristan in Bañobarez (Salamanca), where his family had moved. The Bishop of Ciudad Rodrigo admitted him to the seminary as a *famulus*. He met the Claretian Missionaries there, but it was during those years of violence. Nevertheless, he entered the Congregation as a Brother at the age of 25. He was able to witness the beatification of the Founder in 1934. His first assignments were Beire and San Antonio de Serem, in Portugal. Then Segovia, Beire, Santo Domingo de la Calzada and, finally, Colmenar Viejo, from 1969 until his death. There he became a friend to the sick. He loved Claret and the Martyrs and above all, Mary, whom he visited every morning in her shrine, Our Lady of Los Remedios, patron saint of Colmenar. We could say he was the Brother that all of us, old and young alike, would have liked to have in our community.

THE DUTIES OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES

138. The duties of the Superior General are:

1) To direct the Congregation effectively toward its apostolic aim and foster a vigorous religious life in it.
2) to encourage a spirit of fraternal communion in the life and ministry of the Congregation and promote teamwork among all its members.
3) To carry out the mind and will of the General Chapter and elucidate our charism.
4) To assure the preservation and growth of the Congregation, to promote vocations everywhere and to see to the formation of our members.
5) To strive with a truly apostolic spirit for the expansion of the Congregation, especially in the missions.
6) Through suitable structures of communication and participation, to foster in Major Superiors a sense of responsibility for the mission of their Provinces and of the whole Congregation.
7) To promote as best he can the spiritual and temporal well-being of all members of the Congregation and to excardinate or incardinate them according to the needs of the mission of the Congregation.
8) To make general visitations and preside at Provincial Chapters, either in person or through his delegates.
9) To handle the Congregation's transactions with the Apostolic See, either in person or through another.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Which of the Superior General's duties is the most urgent and appropriate considering the age we live in?*
- *Do you usually read the Circular Letters from the Superior Generals and take their recommendations seriously?*
- *Have you ever offered yourself to the Superior General for the universal mission of the Congregation?*

"The greater the difficulty, the more the glory in surmounting it."
(*Epicurus*)

NOVEMBER

3



1850. Claret spends the day in Montserrat.

1854. The number of parishes continues to grow. Today Claret informs the Captain General about the erection of the one called San Agustin in the jurisdiction of Las Tunas (Cuba).

1858. Claret informs Fr. **Joseph Xifre** of his approval of the foundation in Gracia (Barcelona), which is underway.



THE ASSEMBLY OF MAJOR SUPERIORS IN BRAZIL

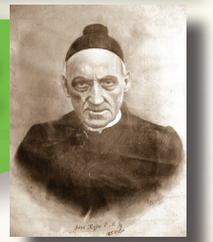
THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

The main objective of this new Assembly of Major Superiors was to prepare for the next General Chapter. It began on January 14, 2008 in Jundiai, near São Paulo (Brazil). The Major Superiors of 20 Provinces and 16 Delegations, and members of General Government participated. Each Organism briefly presented its situation and priorities before moving on to point out their future expectations for the Congregation. The fruit of this meeting was the publication of the document *Called to Evangelize. How to Live Our Missionary Vocation Today*, which served as the foundation for the instrumental work of the XXIV General Chapter. The *definition of the missionary* was outlined as the best expression of our charismatic identity. Subsequently, the Chapter would re-read this definition in order to inspire a missionary life that is faithful to our charism in the first years of the XXI Century. In addition to the reflection, the participants made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception of Aparecida, Patroness of Brazil, and visited some communities and apostolic positions in the new Brasil Province.



JOSEPH XIFRE, CMF

III General of the Congregation (1817-1899)



Vic (Barcelona, Spain). Faced with the impossibility of being ordained in Spain due to the Civil War, he went to Rome in 1839, where he providentially encountered Father Claret who had gone there with the intention of entering *Propaganda Fide.* In 1840 he was ordained a priest and returned to Spain. He founded the Congregation of Claretian Missionaries with Father Claret. He was clearly talented and intelligent; a great personality. A great and magnanimous heart hid beneath a serious appearance. He was unshakable in the face of danger and an ardent entrepreneur. When Fr. **Stephen Sala** died, he was appointed the third Superior General in 1858, a position he held until his death. During the life of the Father Founder, he always considered him as the Superior and maintained a continuous correspondence with him, being the one who obliged him to write his *Autobiography.* Exiled in France after the revolution, he was able to accompany Father Claret during the last days of his life in Fontfroide. From that moment on, his whole life was a continual surrender to the Congregation, which he led to its maximum expansion.

HOW TO CHOOSE A SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES

139. The Superior General is elected at the General Chapter by an absolute plurality of votes for a six-year term after which he can be elected for another six-year term, likewise by an absolute majority of votes. For his election to a third six-year term, a two-thirds majority of votes is required.



Facade of the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Royal of La Almudena (Madrid)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you think the length of the Superior General's term is appropriate?*
- *Do you remember the longest terms in the history of the Congregation? And the shortest ones?*

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."
(*Søren Kierkegaard*)

NOVEMBER

4



1846. Claret preaches at the *Santes Creus* monastery on his way to Puente de Armentera (Tarragona), where he opens a mission. He is accompanied by Fr. **Manuel Vilaro** and the layman Miguel Iter, with his little donkey.

1850. He arrives in Manresa and preaches at the novena for the poor souls in purgatory that Fr. Jose Mach, SJ, is leading.

1852. Claret writes to Fr. **Stephen Sala** in response to one of his letters. Apparently, rumors are spreading around Vic that Claret has resigned from the episcopate, and he tells Sala that he wishes he could, but has not.



THE *BICENTENNIAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY*

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Father Claret's birth, a new edition of the *Autobiography* was published with abundant historical and pedagogical notes prepared by Fr. **Jesus Bermejo**. The new volume, *Autobiography and Complementary Writings* (ACW), was published in 2008 by the Editorial Claretiana in Buenos Aires.

The first edition in a similar volume, geared toward the general public, was published in 1959, with the title *Escritos autobiograficos y espirituales [Autobiographical and Spiritual Writings]*, as No. 188 in the collection of the Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos (BAC), with notes by Fr. **Joseph Viñas**. In 1981, the second edition of the previous volume came out, but this time with the title *Escritos autobiograficos [Autobiographical Writings]*, and with notes prepared by Fr. Viñas and Fr. Bermejo.

The last edition from Buenos Aires was translated into English and Portuguese and was published in both languages, in 2011 and 2012, respectively. As of 2015, pocket editions of the *Autobiography* were published in Spanish, English and Portuguese.



SAINT PETER ALMATO

Martyr in Tonkin (1830-1861)



Sant Feliu Sasserra (Barcelona, Spain). He was canonized on November 3, 1988. In 1842 he entered the seminary in Vic. In 1847 he entered the Dominicans of Ocaña (Toledo). In 1855 he was assigned to the mission in Vietnam, dying as a martyr a few years later in Tonkin on November 1, 1861, the day he turned 31 years old. In 1888 the *Boletin Eclesiastico* [*Ecclesiastical Bulletin*] of Vic said: *Edified by reading the Revista Catolica, he felt the first inklings of a religious vocation and consulted Fr. Anthony Claret, who later became the Archbishop, and at that time was the apostle of Catalonia. He received from that holy man, who would so clearly read the hearts of those who went in search of his advice, the consoling answer that he would eventually be a member of some religious congregation. Encouraged by these words ... he saw the dream of his adolescence become a reality a short time later.* A sister of his, Maria Almato, Carmelite Sister of Charity, was spiritually directed by Father Claret in Madrid.

THE CANONICAL FORM OF THE ELECTION

CONSTITUCIONES



View of the Royal Palace of Madrid from the roof top of the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Royal of La Almudena (Madrid)

140. The election of the Superior General must be carried out in true canonical form and in the lawfully prescribed manner. Once it has been completed, the President of the Chapter announces the name of the one elected and, in the prescribed formula, declares him to be elected. Immediately, all those present express their respect to the newly elected Superior General.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you usually pray for the General Chapter to follow the movements of the Holy Spirit when choosing a Superior General?*
- *Do you treat the Superior General with a fraternal spirit, with respect and obedience as a brother who presides over us in charity?*

"When man makes himself the sole measure of all things,…
he very soon becomes a slave of his own finiteness."
(*Saint John Paul II*)

NOVEMBER

5



1846. From Puente de Armentera, Claret writes to several priest friends telling them that Canon Fr. **Joseph Caixal**, *intim amic meu*, will visit them and explain in detail the great apostolic work they are designing (the *Society of Good Books),* in which Claret is inviting them to collaborate.

1850. Claret arrives at Sallent (the only visit to his town as Archbishop), where he is given a resounding reception and preaches to the multitudes.

1858. Claret is giving Spiritual Exercises to the Carmelite Sisters of Charity in Madrid.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IN SOUTH SUDAN

The inter-congregational project to make themselves present in South Sudan began when a *General Peace Agreement* was signed in January of 2005. The Bishops invited the Superior Generals of men and women religious congregations to collaborate with education and health care in the area. The Congregation responded positively and began preparations and sought volunteers for the new project, which was carried out throughout 2008, sending personnel and financial support. The first Claretian assigned there was Fr. Callistus Joseph (Deutschland-Sri Lanka), who was the project coordinator for six years; Fr. Alberto Ruiz (USA-Canada), Fr. Roland Onekwusi (East Nigeria) and Fr. Jose Pitchai (Chennai) also collaborated during different phases. Fr. Paul Smyth (UK-Ireland) has been President of the Board of Directors. The objective of this project is to train local people in three areas in particular in order to rebuild the country after the Civil War: education, health and pastoral ministry. There is also an agricultural project to produce food and train people who have been displaced from their homes.



DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION



On this November day we remember all those who have departed from us and with whom we are joined through various bonds of flesh, of faith, of vocation, of friendship, of work, of closeness, and of charity. The *Constitutions* of 1971, before prescribing suffrages, recorded a true tribute of charity towards those who have gone before us with these simple words. The text, although corrected, deserves to be remembered: *Our brothers who, after having worked in the vineyard of the Lord rest in Christ awaiting the resurrection remain united in intimate union of charity with us who still are on our journey. We are therefore obliged to pray to God for them and to honor them for their service.* The day of the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed makes our thoughts converge particularly on those of our brothers who, after leaving this world, hope to reach the fullness of union with God.

THE REMOVAL OF A SUPERIOR GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES

141. If, however, (which God forbid), the Vicar General and the other General Consultors deem that the Superior General's performance in office has become so harmful to the Congregation as to necessitate his removal from office, the matter should be brought before the Apostolic See. Before a General Chapter is convened to remove the Superior General, he should be gently persuaded to resign on his own initiative.



Royal Palace of Aranjuez (Madrid)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *How do you deal with the problematic situations that have sometimes occurred in the Congregation's government? What have you learned from them?*

"The Church has no wish to hold back the marvellous progress of science. On the contrary, she rejoices and even delights in acknowledging the enormous potential that God has given to the human mind."
(Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 243)

NOVEMBER

6



1850. Having left Sallent in the afternoon, Claret spends the night in the neighboring town of San Martin de Serrahima.

1865. Claret is received by **Pius IX** in the Vatican. The first thing the Pope said to him when he saw him was: *I have just received a letter from the Queen of Spain asking me to send you back as her confessor.*

1868. Claret moved from Pau to Paris with the royal family, in the company of Fr. Lorenzo Puig and Br. **Jose Saladich**.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

IMMIGRATION, A PRIORITY IN EUROPE

In April of 2008 a group of missionaries and lay people met in Einsiedeln (Switzerland) in order to reflect on the new reality of immigration in Europe. It was the IX Encounter at the European level. Representatives from Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Belarus and Spain attended. After so many challenges and difficulties it was time to plan future projects, which were reflected in a brief, well-developed and concrete guide document that, with input from everyone, progressed towards the final agreed-upon document. Franz Stampfli was among the invited guests, who has been the Episcopal delegate for migrations of the Canton of Zürich since 1973. In the process of reorganizing Europe, the pastoral care of immigrants is a priority. To the traditional positions, such as the Spanish-language missions of Paris and Zürich, others were added such as *Casal Claret* (Vic-Spain), *Casa sul Pozzo* (Lecco-Italy), *Claret Enea* (Bilbao-Spain), *Lar Juvenil* (Carvalhos-Portugal) and others.



GIACOMO ANTONELLI

Cardinal Secretary of State (1806-1876)



Sonnino (Italy). He became a Cardinal in 1847 and Secretary of State in 1852. He was a great statesman, full of sympathy, with a pleasant presence, and friend of the fine arts. Antonelli intervened on Claret's behalf on many occasions: when Queen **Isabella II** proposed that he be elected Cardinal; regarding the conflict with Cardinal **Alameda** about the Seminary in El Escorial; in relation to Claret's proposal on the single Catechism; about his desire to leave the Court because of the recognition of the Kingdom of Italy, usually always acting through the Nuncio **Barili**. The day that Prince **Alfonso** was in Rome in 1870, Cardinal Antonelli had to go to the Count of Cheste, **Juan Manuel Gonzalez de la Pezuela** to intercede with Queen Isabella that she not leave her former confessor in such need. That was how much Claret's situation of poverty during the First Vatican Council impacted him.



WHEN THE POSITION OF SUPERIOR GENERAL BECOMES VACANT



Royal Palace of Aranjuez (Madrid)

142. When the office of Superior General falls vacant because of his death, resignation or removal, the Vicar General or, in his absence, the next in order among the General Consultors, will convoke a General Chapter to elect a new Superior General in the lawfully established manner.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you remember a time when the Superior General died during his term?*

"The brave man is he who overcomes not only his enemies but his pleasures."
(*Democritus*)



1850. Claret arrives at the hermitage of Fussimanya (Sallent) where he celebrates and preaches.

1860. Claret concludes his Spiritual Exercises, made in solitude, and at night he goes to see the King and Queen. The Queen tells him with determination that he should establish a school named after himself in El Escorial.

1863. Claret confesses to Fr. Pablo Sendil his efforts to moralize the life of the court; in defense of the Queen, he tells him that she would like to change many more things, but is unable to.



THE PROCESSES OF BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

The beatification and canonization processes for the Congregation in the summer of 2008 were as follows: those already Blessed, awaiting a miracle for their Canonization, the 51 Martyrs of Barbastro, beatified on October 25, 1992; the Martyrs of Sigüenza and Fernan Caballero (16 in total), which were included in the next group of martyrs to be beatified. Those pending were the Martyrs of Barcelona, Lleida, Solsona-Cervera, Vic, Valencia and Santander (109 in total); those of Tarragona with those of the Brothers of La Salle. The Venerable Fr. **Mariano Avellana** and Fr. **Jaime Clotet**, contingent upon a miracle. With their cause introduced and therefore Servants of God, Fr. **Francis Crusats** and Fr. **Angel Cantons**, and Br. **Miguel Palau** and Br. **Pedro Marcer**.



SEVERO CATALINA DEL AMO

Minister of the Government (1832-1871)



Cuenca (Spain). He was born on November 6th. He was a journalist and professor of Hebrew at the Central University in Madrid, a Minister of Development during the last Government of **Isabella II**, whom he accompanied in exile, writing the *manifesto of Pau*. After the revolution of 1868, he resided in Rome as an official representative of Isabella II before the Holy See. It was then that he wrote a letter to the Queen, banished in Paris, in which he voiced Claret's intentions about whether or not to leave her, since he was in Rome at the time waiting for the celebration of the First Vatican Council. *I will tell you my opinion about Claret and his arrival. He does not want to leave his official position as Confessor of the Queen of Spain; he does not want to be in Paris while the days of bitterness last; he does not want to upset the Carlists, who reproach him for his adherence to Your Majesty; he does not want to go with them, because they have neither generals nor money, their triumph is very problematic. He wants nothing more than to wait calmly and see what happens…*

CONSTITUCIONES

THE GENERAL CONSULTORS, CO-WORKERS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND THE REQUIREMENTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL CONSULTORS

143. The General Consultors are truly co-workers with the Superior General and together with him constitute the General Government of the Congregation, expressing the fraternity and apostolic mission of the whole Congregation.

144. Any member who has made perpetual vows and is outstanding in prudence, missionary spirit, love for the Church and the Congregation and shows a facility for achieving and preserving unity of action with his fellow workers, may be elected to the office of General Consultor.



St. Anthony Mary Claret prayed in this chapel and before this crucifix at the El Escorial (Madrid)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know the current General Consultors of the Congregation? Do you think that they adequately represent the current diversity of the Congregation?*
- *What do you value most about the General Consultors? Do you have any suggestions to make your mission more effective?*
- *It would be appropriate to pray personally and in community for the Congregation's General Consultors today.*

"Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties."
(*Erich Fromm*)

NOVEMBER

8



1850. Claret arrives in Vic, where he remains for a week and stays at the episcopal palace due to the express wish of Bishop **Casadevall.** He preaches often during these days.

1864. Claret has just published *La Vocacion de los Niños* and tells Fr. **Josep Xifre** that it would be good for the missionaries to have numerous copies to give to the priests.

1868. Claret informs Fr. Joseph Xifre where he is staying and what he is doing in Paris and about his interest in the situation of Spain, *unfortunate nation, in the theatrical age of disordered passions.*



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

THE KOLKATA DEPENDENT DELEGATION

On July 16, 2008, the anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation, Kolkata was constituted as a new Dependent Delegation of Chennai. It included all the houses of the northern mission dependent on the Province of Chennai, with the main headquarters in Calcutta. The Theology House of Chennai Province is located within the juridical territory of this Delegation, in Barrackpore, West Bengal, as well as some schools and missions in the midst of some tribes like the *Santals*. The intention was that this new Delegation would start small and then open new missionary possibilities and strengthen the Claretian presence in that area of India, particularly among the tribes and the marginalized. It was a new chapter in the history of the Claretians in India, since the fifth Claretian Organism in India was beginning to progress.

One of the first important developments would be in Ranchi months later, the Project Management Course, led by Cardinal Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi.



JUAN GUITART

Priest in Perpignan (1815-1904)



Vallcebre (Barcelona, Spain). After the Convention of Vergara, he traveled to Rome, where he finished his studies and was ordained a priest in 1841. He was a Jesuit novice in Nivelles (Belgium). In 1846 he retired to Spain ill, where he met Father Claret. He made Spiritual Exercises with groups of missionaries from Vic and Cuba, because apparently he intended to go to Cuba with Father Claret. But, instead of going to the island, he went to Madrid, where he met Brother Ramon Leal, a Jesuit, who in 1839 had founded the *Real Archicofradia del culto continuo a la Santisima Virgen o Corte de Maria [Royal Archconfraternity of Continuous Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* or *Court of Mary].* Later he went to Perpignan where the association became widespread. He was named a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher in 1888. A long letter has been conserved that Guitart wrote to Claret in 1867 in which he discusses his work with the Archconfraternity. Guitart was also responsible for sending the publications of Fr. Buenaventura Philip, Vicar General of Perpignan, to Claret for his extensive library.

HOW GENERAL CONSULTORS ARE ELECTED

CONSTITUCIONES

145. The General Consultors, of which there must always be at least two, are elected at the General Chapter in true canonical form and in the number and manner prescribed by law from various parts of the world in which our Congregation is established.

They are elected for the same term of office as the Superior General and their term of office ceases with his. They may, however, be re-elected. When one of their positions falls vacant, a replacement should be appointed by the Superior General and the remaining Consultors.



Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial (Madrid)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *How many General Consultors do you think are appropriate given the characteristics of our Congregation?*
- *Do you remember any case in recent years in which a Consultor has been appointed by the General Government?*

"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it."
(*Edmund Burke*)



1859. Claret has been greatly let down by Fr. Francisco Sansoli, whom he ordained in Cuba, taking him for *an angel* and whom he made a chaplain in the summer of 1858. He had to dismiss him from his family since he was leading an eccentric, if not scandalous life. However, Claret wants to avoid his defamation.

1862. Claret concludes the Novena of Patronage in El Escorial.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

THE WORLD CONGRESS OF CLARETIAN EDUCATORS

Ninety educators from 19 countries met in Vic in July of 2008 to celebrate the II World Congress of Claretian Educators. Various conferences and experiences formed the central body of the Congress, which concluded with a thick document of concrete proposals for the entire Claretian Family, together with a summary of the groups' contributions on the four major topics discussed. They also visited Sallent, the birthplace of the Founder and the location of his new museum. The conclusion of the Congress had two solemn moments: the closing session in Noble Hall of the municipality of Vic with the Mayor and the Superior General present, and the celebration of the Eucharist in the Church-Sepulcher of Father Claret.

The III Congress would be held in Bangalore (India) from September 29th to October 5th of 2014 and had the theme *Advancing our Mission*. The reflections dealt with various issues and operational conclusions were reached.



JEAN-MARIE LEONARD BOUSQUET

Abbot of Fontfroide (1815-1895)



Saint-Andre (Gard, France). He was Abbot of the Fontfroide Monastery, ordained in 1839. He was a Professor and the Rector of the Seminary in Nimes and a chaplain for the Ursuline Sisters. In 1856 he entered the novitiate at the Senanque abbey. In 1859 he was assigned to the abbey of Fontfroide. Elected Abbot, he gave his community a deep impression of the contemplative life according to the Cistercian tradition while simultaneously extending his charitable work to the surrounding populations, to all of France and abroad, to the point of being called the *Cure d'Ars of Languedoc*. In 1888 he was elected General of the Congregation in Senanque. He was the one who welcomed the sick and persecuted Father Claret into his monastery in Fontfroide and accompanied him frequently on his afternoon walks to distract and comfort him. He also accompanied him during his last moments with the whole community. He made a statement during Claret's beatification process: *Monsignor's last moments were those of a Saint.* He died on November 12th.

THE VICAR GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES

146. The Superior General appoints one of the General Consultors as his Vicar. He is first among the Consultors and, besides those matters which the Superior General delegates to him, he acts in the Superior General's stead should the latter cease in office or be absent or impeded.



Royal Palace of Madrid



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know who the current Vicar General is?*

"The best part of beauty is that which no picture can express."
(*Francis Bacon*)



1835. While in Sallent, Claret addresses a letter to the father-in-law of his brother Jose, giving him an account of the income he receives from the Benefice in Sallent.

1858. Since several candidates failed to replace him as Archbishop of Santiago, Claret asks the nuncio if Fr. **Bienvenido Monzon**, canon of Toledo, could be the right person.

1862. Claret begins giving Spiritual Exercises for the chaplains and seminarians in El Escorial, which conclude on the 19th.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

NEW HONORS

During this period (2003-2009) the following received several honors: Fr. Teodoro Arranz, *Illustrious Son of Temuco* (Chile); Fr. Tomas Gallarta, *Adoptive Son of Segovia* (Spain); the Claretians of Zürich (Switzerland), the *Medal of Honor of Emigration* in its gold category; the Claret School of Sevilla (Spain), *Medal of the City*; the University College Pius XII in Lisbon (Portugal), *Honorary Member of the Order of Merit*; a street was dedicated to Fr. **Anastasio Gutierrez**, in Rome (Italy); to the Sumanahalli Center (Bangalore-India), the *Best Organization of Care for the Handicapped*; Mons. **Fernando Sebastian**, the *Premio Bravo Award* (Spain); Fr. Dario Echeverri, *Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor* (Colombia); Fr. Jeronimo Vara, *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the University of Barquisimeto (Venezuela); Fr. Segundo Gutierrez, *Member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts* in Cordoba (Spain). Finally, the population of Huacho, led by the Bishop, paid heartfelt tribute to Fr. Eusebio Arroniz in 2009 on the 50th anniversary of his death.



RAMON DE MEER

Captain General (1787-1869)



Barcelona, (Spain). He was the Captain General of Catalonia. He won the famous *Battle of Gra* (June of 1837) against the Carlists. He reconquered Solsona and brought the victorious campaign of 1839 to a successful conclusion. Claret writes about him in 1865: *I spent two years as assistant curate and two more as curate econome in the same parish of Sallent, a town fortified in favor of Isabella II. During these four years I was closely acquainted with Baron de Meer, then Captain General of Catalonia, whom I frequently saw when he was lodging at the Claret house, which is the most prominent one in town. He was frequently accompanied by General Pavia, the Marquis of Novaliches, and as both gentlemen are presently living at Court, they can vouch as eyewitnesses to the fact that I never meddled in political factions or parties, then or ever in my life, but was solely occupied with the ministry.* He died on November 5th.

DUTIES OF THE GENERAL CONSULTORS

CONSTITUCIONES



Royal Palace of El Pardo (Madrid)

147. The special duties of the General Consultors are:

1) To deal with important matters together with the Superior General and to assist him in governing the Congregation.

2) To carry out the plan of action proposed by the General Chapter or prepared by the General Government itself.

3) To encourage and strengthen Major Organisms and their federations and even individual communities when it seems advisable.

4) To review and evaluate the progress of the missionary life of the Congregation and at the same time to point out urgent needs and priorities in the fulfillment of our mission.

5) Either individually or collectively to admonish the Superior General with due respect, concerning any possible mistaken conduct on his part.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Which of the duties of the General Consultors do you find most urgent and timely in present times?*
- *Have you had the opportunity to collaborate directly with a General Consultor? What have you learned from that experience?*

"From a little spark may burst a flame."
(*Dante*)



1839. Claret writes his letter of introduction or *curriculum vitae* to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

1849. Claret tells the Nuncio that he has left Fr. **Stephen Sala**, who is *the most advanced*, in charge of the missionaries since he had to go to Cuba and that Fr. **Joseph Caixal** is the most suitable person to manage the *Libreria Religiosa*, but he would have to be granted a transfer to Barcelona.

1861. Claret tells a friend from Cuba that the new Archbishop of Santiago has already been named to succeed the late M. **Negueruela**: it will be Fr. Primo Calvo y Lope.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

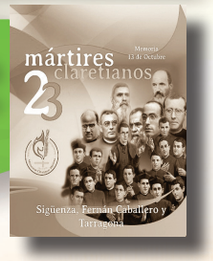
2008 STATISTICS AND MAIN CELEBRATIONS

In 2008 there were 2,998 professed (2,365 between Bishops, Priests and Brothers, 633 Students), and 93 Novices. Total: 3,091 members and 458 houses. It was a year especially marked by the celebration of the 200th anniversary of birth of the Founder, which gave rise to numerous celebrations throughout the Congregation. With the festive and lively style characteristic of Africa, numerous and creative demonstrations with the Christian communities were celebrated there. It would be impossible to list the different celebrations in America given the high number of Organisms. In Asia, they used the occasion to renew the missionary spirit of their communities and to make the great missionary Claret more well-known in a world where Christians are a minority. The most important celebrations were concentrated in Europe: concerts in Vic, conferences in La Lonja del Mar in Barcelona and many other events in the different Organisms in Spain and the rest of Europe, with book publications, ecumenical meetings and radio and television broadcasts.



BLESSED FEDERICO VILA AND 6 COMPANIONS

Claretian Martyrs of Tarragona



On July 21, 1936 religious buildings began being burned in Tarragona. The community was dispersed. The situation lasted only a few days. Soon two members of the community were apprehended in a boat, namely: Fr. Federico Vila and Br. Antonio Vilamassana. On August 25th, the brother was taken from the ship and shot in Valls. Fr. Vila was shot on November 30th on the road to Torredembarra for having prayed before the body of a prisoner on the ship where they were detained. Fr. Jaime Mir was murdered on July 29th. While passing through Mollerusa, Br. Antonio Capdevila was murdered in Vimbodi on July 23rd. Br. Pablo Castella and Br. Andres Feliu, sons of La Selva del Campo, stayed in their respective family homes, from which the Reus Committee took them on October 26, 1936 and murdered them in the municipal area there. They were all beatified on October 13, 2013 in Tarragona.

THE GENERAL CONSULTORS' VOTES

CONSTITUCIONES



Metropolitan Cathedral of the Incarnation (Granada)

148. The General Consultors express their participation in government mainly by means of a deliberative or consultative vote. A deliberative vote in the General Council is required whenever it is expressly called for in the universal law or in our own proper law or whenever the matter in question is assigned to be resolved by the Superior General with his Council or simply by the General Government.

The Superior General is obliged to seek a consultative vote of his Consultors only when it is clearly called for in the universal law or in our proper law. Nevertheless it is advisable that he seek their counsel in any of the more serious or doubtful cases that might arise.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Although it may be dry, it is appropriate to read paragraphs 399 and 400 of the Directory today, because they discuss the times when a deliberative vote or a consultation among the councils are necessary.

"The environment shapes people's actions."
(*B. F. Skinner*)

NOVEMBER

12



1857. Claret concludes the Spiritual Exercises he is giving for some 600 ladies in Santo Tomas Church (Madrid).

1866. Fr. **Carmelo Sala** goes to Cadiz as canon. He has been Claret's inseparable companion for almost seven years, chaplain, secretary, spiritual director, etc. and a profound admirer. He is undoubtedly the person who knows him best.



THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE (2003-2009)

NEW BISHOP OF PERU

On January 7, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Fr. Jose Javier Travieso, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Trujillo (Peru). The new Bishop had been a collaborator, since 2008, of our school in Trujillo and Professor at the *San Carlos and San Marcelo* Major Seminary and at the Catholic University in Trujillo. Born in Don Benito (Spain) on February 5, 1952, he made his first religious profession in 1968 and was ordained a priest in 1976. The first part of his ministerial life was carried out in various communities of Betica Province. He studied at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome where he obtained a Degree in Youth Ministry. In 1988, he was assigned to Peru. For many years he was a Professor and Director of Studies of the Higher Institute of Theological Studies *John XXIII*, in Lima, where a good number of candidates from the religious congregations in Peru study. In November of 2014 he was appointed Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose del Amazonas (Loreto-Peru).



TOMAS LUIS PUJADAS, CMF

Musician and Writer (1904-1994)



Ordained a priest in 1931, he dedicated himself to teaching in Solsona. In 1936 he was chosen as one of the best Spanish composers in Frankfurt along with **Luis Iruarrizaga**. During the Spanish Civil War he lived in hiding and was able to flee to Marseille. Upon his return, he met the Jesuit musician Fr. Otano. He founded the *Claretian and Cordimarian Youth* in Vic, from which 50 priestly and religious vocations emerged. He collaborated with countless associations and publications. In 1950 he published *Yo mate a Maria Goretti [I killed Maria Goretti]*, the best newspaper report of his time. *Vida Anecdotica de San Antonio Maria Claret [Anecdotal Life of Saint Anthony Mary Claret]* was also written during that time. In 1952 he directed the magazine *Iris de Paz*. He worked in radio and founded the *Federation of Cinema Friends*. In 1963 he went to Equatorial Guinea and published the books *Equatorial Guinea: Fernando Poo and Rio Muni*. In 1971 he traveled to Panama and published the book *Darien Mission*. In 1975 he returned to Sabadell where he published yet another work *Holocausto en primavera [Spring Holocaust]*. He died on November 12th in Vic.

CONSTITUCIONES

THE GENERAL OFFICIALS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE ELECTION AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ECONOME

149. The General Officials of the Congregation are its Econome and its Secretary.

150. The General Econome is elected by the General Chapter and is numbered among the General Consultors.

His duties are:

1) To administer the temporal goods of the Congregation in a spirit of justice, charity and poverty as service to the whole Congregation and its members under the direction of the Superior General.

2) To put all donations and bequests to the uses designated by the benefactors or, if they were not so designated, to use them according to the norms given by the Superior General and, if the case warrants, by the latter with his Council.

3) To give the General Government an accounting, at least once a year, of the administration of the goods of the Congregation, on the present status of those goods, on returns from them and on the uses to which they are being put.



Metropolitan Cathedral of the Incarnation (Granada)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you know the names of the Claretians who hold the positions of General Econome and Secretary General?*
- *Do you know what the economic situation of the Congregation is?*
- *Do you know how the distribution of goods works among us?*

"No one can hurt me without my permission."
(*Gandhi*)

NOVEMBER

13



1839. Claret is vested in a habit in the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Rome.

1859. The novena-mission of Patronage concludes in El Escorial with a pontifical Mass, a papal blessing and a procession.

1866. Fr. Pedro Vilar arrives to be Claret's chaplain; he brings the missionaries' *Constitutions*, approved a year prior, for Claret and the two brothers, and together they will constitute a true community.



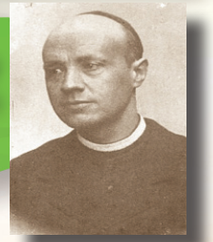
THE XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER (2009)

The XXIV General Chapter began on August 11th and ended on September 5th of 2009. It was held at the *Claretianum* in Rome. 78 Capitulars participated: 7 from Africa, 13 from Asia, 23 from Europe, 19 from Latin America and 5 from North America, 10 members of the General Curia and one Deacon from Indonesia. It was presided by Fr. Josep Maria Abella, who was re-elected as Superior General. The document entitled *Men on Fire with Love* (MFL) was drafted. St. Anthony Mary Claret left his missionaries with a precious inheritance, which could be condensed into what is called the *The Definition of the Missionary*. The Chapter felt, nevertheless, *the call to rediscover the significance of our missionary vocation in a new global, ecclesial and congregational framework.* The Chapter invited the Claretians to resituate themselves in the very center of their vocation-experience, to live it with joy, and to put into practice the means that can help revive the fire of love and to set the whole world on fire with that same love.



FRANCISCO NAVAL, CMF

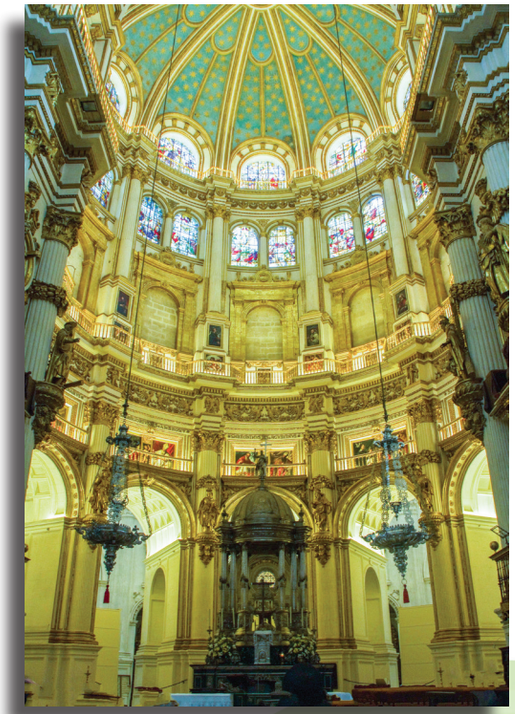
General Consultor (1858-1930)



Olvena (Huesca, Spain). He is Fr. **Antonio Naval**'s brother, a preacher, writer, and man who understood governance. In 1874 he entered the seminary in Barbastro. In 1878 he transferred to the novitiate in Thuir (France). During the General Chapter in 1895, he was elected a member of the General Government, to which he would belong until his death. In 1913 he moved to Madrid, where he remained for the rest of his life. In Cervera, Santo Domingo de la Calzada and Aranda de Duero he combined his governmental tasks with those of professor of the Claretian major seminaries, which made him an extraordinary scholar. His most popular works include *Sermonario Breve [Brief Book of Sermons]* and his books on architecture. He collaborated with the magazines *El Iris de Paz*, *La Ilustracion del Clero* and *Tesoro Sacro Musical,* and the*Bulletin of the Royal Academy of History*. He was appointed as a *corresponding Member of the Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando*; he was also a member of the *Archaeological-Artistic Society of Barcelona* and the *Pontifical Archaeological Commission of Rome.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

CONSTITUCIONES



Metropolitan Cathedral of the Incarnation (Granada)

151. The Secretary General may be designated by the Superior from among his Consultors. In order to appoint a member from outside the General Council as Secretary General, the Superior General needs the consent of his Consultors. The Secretary should be endowed with carefulness, prudence and friendliness.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

In order to learn about the role of the General Secretary in greater detail you can read paragraphs 485-488 of the Directory.

- *How does the Secretary General collaborate in the mission of the Congregation?*
- *Do you tend to make the role of the Secretaries easier by providing the information they need on time?*

"I can control my passions and emotions if I can understand their nature."
(*Spinoza*)

NOVEMBER

14



1852. Claret writes to Fr. **Manuel Vilaro**'s father expressing his condolences and promises to continue helping him financially.

1859. Claret begins Spiritual Exercises for the chaplains and even a few seminarians from El Escorial.

1868. In Paris, Claret visits Our Lady of Victories Church, center of the Archconfraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, such an important place for Claret's spirituality and apostolate since the 1940's.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE FORGE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

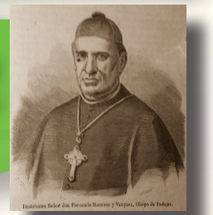
The XXIV General Chapter approved a new congregational project called *The Forge in Everyday Life*. This project lasted four years and was promoted by the General Prefecture of Spirituality. It began in Advent of 2010 and ended at the conclusion of the 2014 Liturgical Year. Its objective was to help the members, communities and Organisms become aware of the moment they live in and grow in missionary zeal following the methodology of the Forge. It entailed a big push to deepen Claretian spirituality in the light of its charism in the Church.

Since *The Residential Forge* was already well known, it was divided into four key stages, which corresponded to the four nuclei of *the Forge: Quid Prodest* (2011), *Patris Mei* (2012), *Caritas Christi* (2013) and *Spiritus Domini* (2014). The Claretians received a collection of nine booklets translated into different languages for each key stage. In addition to some reflections on Claretian spirituality, personal exercises, suggestions for community meetings and ideas for daily *Lectio Divina* were included in them. A website was also created in view of the project.



FERNANDO RAMIREZ VAZQUEZ

Bishop of Badajoz (1807-1890)



Barros (Badajoz, Spain). He was consecrated Bishop of Badajoz in 1866. He strongly defended the rights of the Church and wrote notable pastoral letters. He participated in the First Vatican Council. In December of 1866 he accompanied the Royal Family and Claret on their trip to Lisbon. Afterwards he would comment: *After admiring Claret's spirit of piety and his deep knowledge of the human heart which is revealed in all his writings, I witnessed his zeal, industriousness and vehement interest in the salvation of souls when he honored my house with his presence, accompanying Her Majesty Queen* ***Isabella II.*** *During his stay here he was frugal with food and worked assiduously, he made sure to permit himself only a short break late at night, which even the bed I had prepared for him testified. He preached to the people, men and women religious, seminarians and in the hospitals, urging the love of God and doing good.*

OTHER POSITIONS IN THE CONGREGATION

CONSTITUCIONES

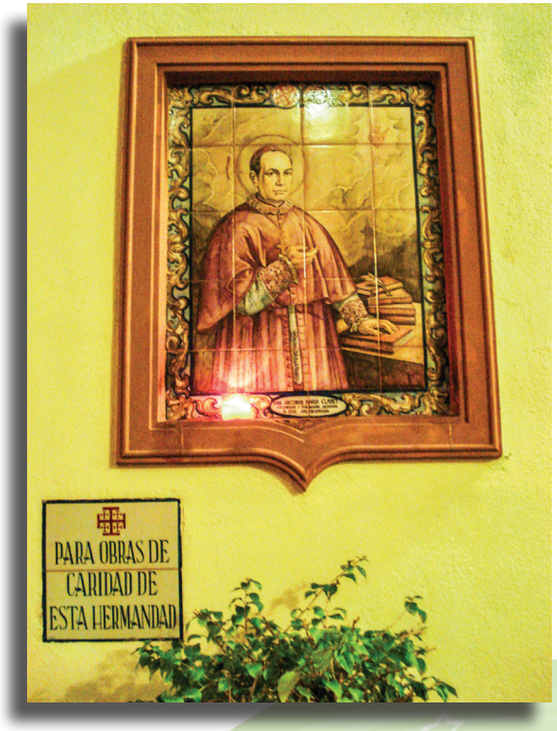


Image of Claret at the Pontifical and Royal Brotherhood and Confraternity of Nazarenes of Jesus del Gran Poder y Maria Santisima del Mayor Dolor y Traspaso (Sevilla)

152. For the service of the whole Congregation, other duties and offices under the direction of the General Government can be constituted in keeping with the norms of our law.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What other positions do you know of that collaborate with the General Government in service to the Congregation?*
- *Do you collaborate with any of them because of your ministry?*

"Human beings are not born once and for all
on the day their mothers give birth to them,
but life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves."
(*Gabriel Garcia Marquez*)

NOVEMBER

15



1840. During these days Claret begins a novena in Santa Coloma de Queralt (Tarragona).

1846. Fr. **Joseph Caixal**, from Pla de Tarragona, gives Claret an account of the success of his recent travels and interviews with priests, who have become interested in propaganda work. Claret plans to edit two books per month.

1851. Claret travels by train from Puerto Principe to Nuevitas (Cuba) and begins a pastoral visit there.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

IN THE UNITED NATIONS

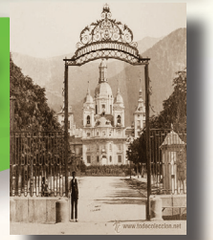
The General Chapter also unanimously approved doing a mission at the UN. We already had some access to UN Agencies, but in 2009 the *Department of Public Information* (DPI) (now known as the *Department of Global Communications*) confirmed the Congregation's status as an Associated NGO. It later obtained the recognition from the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC) and is currently a part of it. In April of 2017, Fr. Rohan Dominic, former Superior Delegate of Sri Lanka Dependent Delegation, was entrusted with this mission, on behalf of the General Government.

At the UN our mission's focus is centered in four areas: migration and refugees, environment and climate change, indigenous peoples and mining, and peace and reconciliation. We actively participate in the implementation of the UN's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and try to influence the United Nations in the above-mentioned areas through our experiences at the local level. We take part in UN meetings, join NGO committees and work with religious congregations through the *Religious at the United Nations* (RUN).



JOSE CASANOVAS, CMF

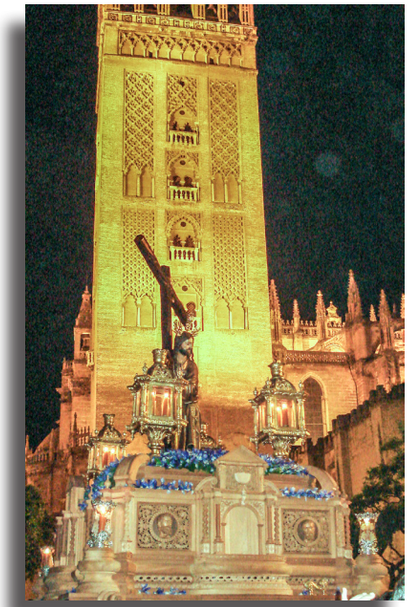
(1835-1893)



Calldetenes (Barcelona, Spain). He entered the seminary in Vic. In 1859 he entered the Congregation. He was one of the pillars of the Congregation at that time. Vic, Gracia, Segovia. He was a great missionary of the Castilian lands. Fr. **Fabregas** wrote of him: *Mr. Casanovas is a fledgling soldier who still handles the weapon of the Castilian language with some difficulty. But it seems that as long as God gives him life he must not leave any enemy of God's name without corrective action.* He shared close confidences with Father Claret in Segovia, like the time he accompanied **Serrat** and two aspirants to La Granja, and Father Claret obligated them to drink chocolate *as a penance.* He was arrested with three others during the revolution of 1868 until **Clotet** managed to free them. He was assigned to Santander under the protection of the Marquis of Arco, **Joaquin de Isla-Fernandez Pantoja**. There he tirelessly dedicated himself to preaching and giving missions throughout Spain. He died while preaching a novena in Montblanch (Tarragona).

CONSTITUCIONES

THE NATURE AND CONVOCATION OF A GENERAL CHAPTER



Holy Week procession of the Jesus del Gran Poder (Sevilla)

153. The General Chapter—in obedience to the Spirit and in full fidelity to our missionary charism as sanctioned by the Church—is the highest authority in the Congregation devoted to watching over that charism for our brothers. It is also the greatest symbol of the whole Congregation's communion of life and mission.

It authentically represents the entire Congregation and collegially expresses the participation and concern of all its members in the life and its activity in the Church.

154. The General Chapter is convoked by the Superior General. An Ordinary General Chapter is held whenever a Superior General must be elected. An Extraordinary General Chapter is held whenever the Superior General and his Consultors deem it necessary for the mission, growth, expansion, or renewal of the Congregation or for some other reason that might be highly advantageous to it.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Recall the General Chapters in the history of the Congregation.

- *Could you mention a characteristic of each one of them, especially those celebrated after the Second Vatican Council?*
- *Which General Chapter has had the greatest impact on your Claretian life? Why?*
- *Have you ever participated in a General Chapter? If yes, what did the experience mean to you?*

"To be independent of public opinion
is the first formal condition of achieving anything great."
(*Friedrich Hegel*)

16



1850. Claret arrives in Barcelona, where he remains devoted to preaching until the day he embarks for Cuba.

1858. Claret writes to **Pius IX** acknowledging receipt of the congratulatory message he sent him on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the *Libreria Religiosa* and informing him that the ***Academy of St. Michael*** in now in motion.

1869. Claret writes to Fr. **Joseph Xifre** from Rome that he is happy they are founding in Chile. He also tells him about Fr**. Manuel Subirana**'s missionary activity in Honduras and about America in general as a *young vineyard*, where their work is well worth it.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE EARTHQUAKES IN HAITI AND CHILE

On January 12, 2010 there was an earthquake in Haiti. Its epicenter was 15 km from the capital, Port-au-Prince. A series of aftershocks were also recorded. Its effects were devastating. By January 25th, more than 150,000 bodies were recovered and the total number of deaths was estimated at over 200,000. There were no personal misfortunes among the Claretians, but our homes and churches suffered great destruction and some of our Haitian Postulants lost loved ones. Antillas Independent Delegation immediately began to provide personal and material assistance along with members of the Claretian Family.

That same year, in the early hours of February 27th, one of the largest earthquakes in history shook south-central Chile, with a magnitude of 8.8 on the Richter scale. A large part of the downtown areas of the cities of Curico and Linares collapsed and the old buildings in their historic sections, including our churches, were destroyed.



ANTHONY FERNANDO DE ECHANOVE

Archbishop of Tarragona (1768-1854)



Otxandio (Biscay, Spain). He became a priest in 1792. He was the Rector of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, appointed Abbot of the Royal Palace of La Granja of San Ildefonso in 1818 and Archbishop of Tarragona in 1826. In 1837 he was declared *estranged from the kingdom and deprived of all considerations, distinctions, honors and awards*. He was banished first in Mahon, then in Frejus, Toulon and Nice, and finally in Rome. In 1844 the exile was revoked. He was Father Claret's great friend and protector. He died in Tarragona on November 1st. Father Claret arrived in Tarragona on February 4, 1846 to give a mission and Spiritual Exercises for the priests there. While Claret was staying in the Archbishop's Palace he had the opportunity for his first personal contacts with Archbishop Echanove and canon **Caixal**. He wrote a circular letter in defense of Father Claret, because *there were a few who wanted to kill me* (Aut 466). He participated in and encouraged Claret in founding the *Libreria Religiosa*.

TASKS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

CONSTITUCIONES

155. The General Chapter, with a spirit alert both to the Lord and to the demands of the whole community, treats of matters that concern the entire Congregation. Therefore:

1) It thoroughly examines the state of the Congregation and carefully promotes its appropriate renewal by offering programs of action.
2) It applies the Church's teaching on religious life and apostolate to the Congregation.
3) It exercises a teaching function as regards the spiritual heritage of the Congregation.
4) It declaratively interprets doubtful or difficult points that might arise as to the meaning and observance of the Constitutions.
5) It issues those decrees and guidelines that it deems necessary or opportune.
6) It also belongs to the General Chapter to elect the Superior General and his Consultors.



St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish (Sevilla)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Which tasks of the General Chapters do you consider most necessary for the life of the Congregation?*
- *Are you interested in following the progress of the General Chapters through communication services?*
- *Do you usually read the declarations of the General Chapters and apply them to your life? Call to mind one that has especially helped you in your missionary life.*

"Knowledge is a matter that can be considered relatively easy.
To want and to be able to act according to what one wants,
is a matter more difficult."
(*Aldous Huxley*)

17



1852. Claret finishes his pastoral visit in Jiguani and leaves for Baire.

1858. Claret replies to Fr. **Jeronimo Pages,** who is concerned about how slowly the beginning of the revitalization of El Escorial is taking, that he is not neglecting it and that he spoke about it with the Queen a few days prior and right after that with President **O'Donnell**.

1861. Claret reveals to Fr. **Paladio Currius** that he is worried about the Puerto Principe hacienda: he would like to sell it or lease it, since it is decreasing in value. It is owned by Claret and he has expenses and alms to give in Madrid.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

NEW DELEGATIONS IN ASIA AND AFRICA

During this time, new Independent Delegations emerged due to significant growth in vocations and the maturity acquired by the various congregational areas in Africa and Asia. In June of 2010, Korea, which had been dependent upon East Asia Delegation, was officially erected as Independent Delegation. Two years later, in July of 2012, the missions of Congo and Cameroon began functioning as Independent Delegations, with Gabon which remained as Mission dependent on the General Government. All three were part of the former Afrique Centrale Delegation. Once the island's military conflict was over in February of 2012, Sri Lanka Mission became a Dependent Delegation of Deutschland. It was the twentieth anniversary of the first foundation of the Congregation in Sri Lanka. The new Delegation had three houses and 35 professed members, of which 23 were priests. The accompanying Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka, Joseph Spiteri.



JUAN ECHEVARRIA, CMF

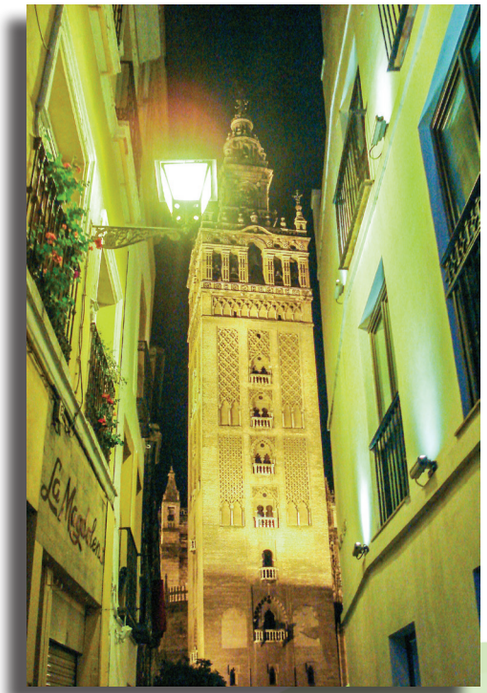
Writer and Martyr (1886-1936)



Meñaka (Biscay, Spain). Even during his formation, he already stood out for his intelligence and virtue. He began his missionary work as a teacher in Segovia. He was especially gifted in preaching. Segovia, Tolosa, and Calahorra were some of his assignments. In 1919 he began to write commentaries about the Archconfraternity's Intentions for *Iris de Paz*. He achieved extraordinary success, which is why the Superior General assigned him to the Buen Suceso community in Madrid. There he worked permanently from 1921 to 1936. He soon published one of his most celebrated books: *Horas del Corazon [Hours of the Heart]*. On the occasion of the beatification of Claret, he publishes *Recuerdos del Beato P. Claret [Memories of Blessed Father Claret]*, with numerous anecdotes. He enjoyed great friendships, like those he had with Joaquin Calvo Sotelo and Juan de la Cierva. When the Spanish Civil War was declared in 1936, Fr. Echevarria took refuge in a private house. On October 10th, he was arrested and taken to Porlier prison. He was shot to death in Paracuellos del Jarama (Madrid) on November 22nd along with 4 other Claretians.

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

CONSTITUCIONES



The Giralda (Sevilla)

156. The following take part in the General Chapter:

1) The Superior General as president and the General Consultors and officials.
2) Provincial Superiors.
3) One Delegate from each Province and one Delegate from each Independent Delegation.
4) As many Delegates as the preceding General Chapter has established in order to assure a proportionate representation of personnel from each Province.
5) As many Delegates as the preceding General Chapter has decided on for the re-presentation of general houses and as many as it has allowed the Superior General with his Council to designate.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you think that there is an effort to make sure all the parts and sectors of the Congregation are represented in the General Chapter?*
- *Do you think someone is missing among the participants that could enrich the discernment of the Chapter?*
- *Do you usually talk with representatives of your Organism before the Chapters to make them aware of your observations and suggestions?*

"Wherever the TV glows, there sits someone who isn't reading."
(*John Irving*)



1863. Claret is happy that the missionaries have taken books from the *Libreria Religiosa* and he tells Fr. **Joseph Xifre** that those books and pamphlets will help bring more fruit.

1868. From Paris Claret writes to Fr. **Carmelo Sala**, now canon of Cadiz, recalling the times when he took care of the Altar of the Forsaken at the church in Montserrat (Madrid). He tells him that his health is better than it was in Spain, where he was very ill a year ago.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

REORGANIZATION PROCESSES

If this stage in the history of the Congregation could be characterized by anything it would be the processes of reorganization. In January of 2011 the first Chapter of the recently created Peru-Bolivia Province was held at the *Casa Claret* of Chaclacayo-Lima in Lima (Peru). The Chapter was attended by 29 members, led by Fr. General, Josep M. Abella.

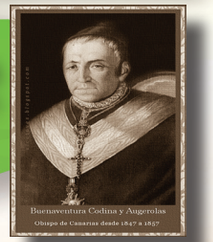
In February of the same year the new United States Province was constituted, as a result of the unification of the USA-East and USA-West Provinces. The Government of the new Province, led by Fr. Rosendo Urrabazo, took office as part of an Assembly that gathered in California from February 1st through 4th, attended by Fr. Paul Smyth, Vicar General.

On July 16, 2011 the journey of the newly constituted San Jose del Sur Province began, which includes the former Organisms of Argentina-Uruguay and Chile, plus the Missions of Humahuaca (Argentina) and Paraguay, formerly dependent on the Provinces of Betica and Santiago respectively.



BUENAVENTURA CODINA AUGEROLAS

Bishop of the Canary Islands (1785-1857)



Hostalric (Girona, Spain). He studied with the Piarists in Barbastro and then in Cervera. He entered the *Congregation of the Mission* in 1804. He was imprisoned in Leganes in 1839. When he left he went to France. He was appointed Bishop of the Canary Islands in 1847 and consecrated in Madrid in 1848 where Father Claret accompanied him on his way to the Canary Islands. His response to the situation in which he found himself in the Canary Islands was the great Mission preached by Father Claret. The friendship the two shared was extremely cordial and fraternal, to the point that the Bishop took him as an advisor. Their fraternal communion continued later on and could have been further consolidated if Father Claret would have been able to stop in the Canary Islands on his way to Cuba to visit them all, as he wished to. Few documents of this epistolary relationship remain, but one of them especially reveals that the relationship between these two men of God was extraordinarily cordial.

THE HOLY SEE, AUTHENTIC INTERPRETER OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

CONS TITU CIO NES

157. The Apostolic See reserves to itself the authentic interpretation of these Constitutions. In order to change their norms it is necessary that there be a decision of two-thirds of the votes of the General Chapter followed by the approval of the Apostolic See.



Church of Saint Basil the Great (Rome)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *In the light of your experience as a Claretian, do you think that any of the Constitutions' norms should be changed? Which one? Why?*
- *What does it mean to you that the Constitutions are subject to the interpretation of the Holy See?*

"Youth is happy because it has the ability to see beauty.
Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old."
(*Franz Kafka*)

NOVEMBER

19



1849. Claret goes to Barcelona to heal from a *cyst* on his leg. It will take some time.

1855. Claret begins giving Spiritual Exercises for the clergy in Puerto Principe (Cuba) in two consecutive sessions. He gives them to the Ursuline nuns at the same time.

1861. Claret confides to **Saint Micaela** in a letter*: I go around with my Madrid bitterness; I am happy everywhere except in Madrid, it is my Calvary.*



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE NEW *CMF DIRECTORY*

On January 24th and 25th a commission of Claretian experts met at the General Curia in Rome to review the *CMF Directory*. Presided by Fr. Jose Felix Valderrabano, Secretary General, the Commission was made up of Fr. Emmanuel Edeh, General Consultor, Fr. Manuel Arroba *(Iuridicum)*; Fr. Manuel Carrasco (Betica) and Fr. Mathew Pottemparampil (Bangalore, then member of the *Claretianum*). They began their work reviewing and updating the *CMF Directory*, whose former edition was dated 1999. With the passage of time, it was appropriate to update some norms and incorporate the fundamental dispositions and guidelines established by the last two General Chapters and other forums of the Congregation, in order to promote a vigorous missionary life. In the October 18, 2011 session, the General Government definitively approved the new edition of the *Directory* of the Congregation with its adopted legal changes. Our charismatic heritage was greatly enriched.



JUAN MANUEL GONZALEZ DE LA PEZUELA

Governor of Cuba (1809-1906)



Lima (Peru). Son of the Marquises of Viluma and Count of Cheste. He fought valiantly in the Civil War in favor of the liberal-Isabellan cause. He was Governor of Puerto Rico and then of Cuba and Captain General of Cuba in 1853. He was a man of good faith and desirous of success, honest, but lacking tact. In the process of Claret's beatification he declared: *For having supported the laudable intentions which Claret greatly desired, precisely regarding the issue of whites marrying colored people, and which I judged to be of great necessity, I resigned my position as Captain General as a result of a somewhat harsh communication that I received from the Government for supporting it, as I said, and for assisting the Bishop as much as I could.* Upon leaving office, Claret wrote: *Allow me to congratulate you and assure you that the Archbishop of Cuba will never forget the religiousness with which you deigned to protect him in his arduous apostolic mission.* He died in Madrid on November 1st.

THE OBLIGATORY NATURE OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

CONS TITU CIO NES



Church of Santa Maria della Consolazione (Rome)

158. We, the members of the Congregation, are obliged by the prescriptions of these Constitutions so that we may grow in the way of the Lord and in the service of the Kingdom of God. However, the force of this obligation should derive from the very nature of each prescription. The Church most highly exhorts all of us to base our earnest search for the vigour of our missionary life on the Constitutions.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you tend to seek vigor for your missionary life in the Constitutions?*
- *With what degree of conscience and responsibility do you strive to fulfill the Constitutions "to grow in the way of the Lord and in the service of the Kingdom of God"?*

"Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy."
(*Howard W. Newton*)



1851. Interrupting his pastoral visit to Nuevitas (Cuba) due to a dance, Claret briefly visits Baga and San Miguel de Baga.

1856. Claret congratulates Bishop **Joseph Caixal** because his exile has ended and he has been able to return to his diocese, but warns him that the calm conditions that have begun will not last long and he should take advantage of them to catechize, preach and publish.

1855. Claret approves Fr. **Antonio Barjau**'s plan to travel to the Peninsula, but hopes he will not *take off too quickly*, and that he is able to leave the Santiago seminary in good hands.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE REORGANIZATION OF CONTINENTAL CONFERENCES

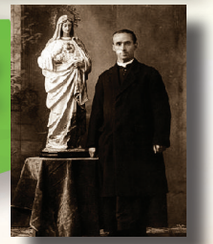
The Continental Conferences underwent five adjustments to their configuration at the beginning of 2013. Two of them were due to the 2007 partition of the previous and only Conference of Asia. As a result, the Conferences were configured as follows:

- **ASCLA-East** (*East Asia, Indonesia-Timor Leste, Philippines, Korea*).
- **ASCLA-West** (*Bangalore, Chennai, Northeast India, St. Thomas, Kolkata, Sri-Lanka*).
- Another new Conference brought together the two Conferences of Iberia and CEC. Gathered in Buckden in January of 2013, the Major Superiors of the ten Organisms in Europe approved the statutes of the new Conference of Europe (**ECLA**).
- The new Conference of America was born from the unification of what had previously been CICLA and NACLA. It was named **MICLA**. It was formally established in November of 2012, following a process of discernment carried out by the Claretians of the entire American continent.
- **ACLA** brought together all the Claretians of Africa beginning on January 12, 2000.



BLESSED ANDRES SOLA MOLIST, CMF

Martyr of Mexico (1895-1927)



Vilarrasa de Taradell (Barcelona, Spain). Obedience sent him to Mexico. He served as a professor at the Claretian Postulancy in Toluca. He combined this work with popular preaching. During Christmas of 1924 he was sent to the community of Leon (Mexico) where he was able to dedicate himself more easily to preaching, despite the Mexican government's veto of all pastoral work, especially from foreign clergy. Religious persecution intensified, churches closed and priests and religious were persecuted. Fr. Andres Sola remained faithful to his vocation and continued practicing his ministry. A studio photo, taken as a memento of a First Communion, gave away the fact that Fr. Sola was a priest. He was accused, along with Leonardo Perez, a lay collaborator, and the young Mexican priest Trinidad Rangel, of assaulting and derailing a train. On April 25, 1927, the three were shot. They were beatified in Guadalajara (Mexico) on November 20, 2005.

FORMULA OF PROFESSION

CONSTITUCIONES

159. In answer to God's call, I, _____, desire to seek his glory more earnestly, to devote myself to him more fully, and to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did, in the ministry of Salvation throughout the world.

Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered here, through your hands, _____, I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit, to God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, and I offer myself in special service to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in order to fulfill the aim for which this Congregation has been established in the Church.

And so, I vow to God CHASTITY, POVERTY AND OBEDIENCE forever (or for one year, or for three years), and I promise to live in the community of apostolic life of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, according to its Constitutions, which I will observe with all possible care.

Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to be witness to my profession. Pray for me, that in serving God and the Church, I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, and that I may reach the perfection of charity. AMEN.



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What does it mean for you that the Constitutions end with the Formula of Profession?*
- *Which element of this Formula is most challenging to you?*
- *Today it would be appropriate to renew your religious profession in community and pray that all Claretians be faithful to the gift of their missionary vocation.*

"To be 'community' is a verb and not just a noun.
It is an action, a process. It is a grace which must be asked for, nurtured,
and allowed to grow, not just the result of our efforts."
(*MS* 69)

NOVEMBER

21



1849. Claret undergoes leg surgery in Barcelona and suffers a severe reaction to the medication.

1856. As a metropolitan, Claret shows the groups of canons from Puerto Rico how to proceed with the election of the Capitular Vicar. He demonstrates great knowledge of civil and canon law.

1862. There is disappointment with the transfer agreement of the house in Segovia. Claret insinuates to Fr. **Joseph Xifre** that if things do not go well, they should move to Avila, which is Bishop Blanco's wish.



ENCOUNTER WITH CLARET

MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

This program was promoted by the General Prefecture of Spirituality and launched in 2008. *Its objective was to aid in getting to know Claret and the martyrs better through visits to the most significant sites, study and personal meditation*. The experience lasted a month and provided knowledge of the Congregation's origins in its historical and geographical contexts. Three encounters were held in Vic and Colmenar Viejo: The first, in Spanish, in September of 2011; the second, in English, in September of 2012; and the third, in French, in September of 2013.

After the General Chapter in 2015 this experience was interrupted in favor of the *Residential Forge*, reformed according to the new guidelines requested by the last General Chapter. The first renewed edition (Forge 22) took place in October of 2017 in Los Negrales (Madrid). This required the adaptation of the Los Negrales building and the establishment of a new international Team, dependent on the General Government.



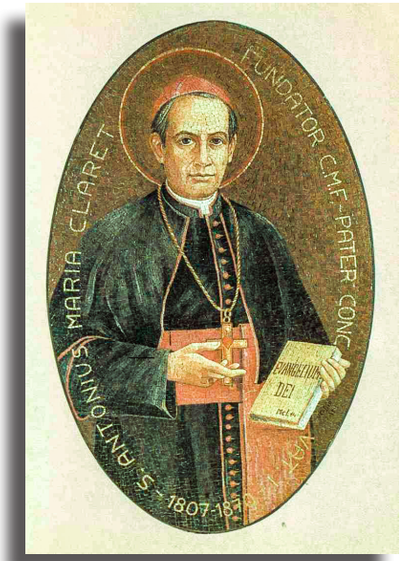
CORDIMARIAN FILIATION

FILIACIÓN CORDIMARIANA

Between 1840 and 1850 Claret developed an idea: how to offer those who wish to remain in the world the opportunity to embrace the radical nature of the Gospel. The first step was the publication of a book entitled *Las Hijas del Santisimo e Inmaculado Corazon de Maria [The Daughters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary]* (1850). The ideal presented was almost revolutionary at this time: *to live the fullness of consecration in the world, with the Heart of Mary as their cloister*. In Plasencia (Spain) in 1943, almost a century later, a group of Claretian Missionaries picked up the torch ignited by Father Claret and decided to turn his dream into reality. The Claretian book started to become the *norm of life* for a core of enthusiastic young women determined to become a *family* within the Church. In 1947 Pius XII promulgated the *Provida Mater Ecclesia*. Father Claret's dream already had its own path within the Church. On November 21, 1973, on the feast of the Presentation of the Virgin, *Cordimarian Filiation* was approved by the Church as a Secular Institute of Pontifical Right.

SELECTED TEXTS FROM THE GENERAL CHAPTERS





Mosaic of St. Anthony Mary Claret in St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican)

"St. Anthony Mary Claret founded the Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in order to foster the salvation of men, especially by means of the missionary preaching of the Gospel. He was prepared for this from his childhood by supernatural lights and inclinations. Especially through meditation on the Sacred Scriptures, he felt himself forcefully called by the Holy Spirit to consecrate himself to Christ and to imitate His life by proclaiming the Gospel. Seeing how Christian life had declined among the people through the lack of preaching, he wanted to associate himself with other priests who would dedicate themselves to the apostolic ministry of the Word, so that they could accomplish together what he could not do alone. Along with five other priests he founded – in the city of Vich on July 16th, 1849 – a Congregation of missionaries 'who would be and would be called Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'" (**1967, SH 6**)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you feel like you are part of the group of missionaries who, together with Claret, dedicate their lives to consecrating themselves to Christ in the proclamation of the Gospel?*
- *Do you like the name that Claret chose for the Congregation? What does it mean to you now?*

"The man who is good at making an excuse,
is seldom good at anything else."
(*Benjamin Franklin*)



1860. Finding himself overwhelmed by the problems of El Escorial, Claret got up at midnight and began to pray, and he perceived the image of the Crucified One saying to him: *Courage! Don't lose heart; I'll help you.*

1863. Claret advises Fr. **Joseph Xifre** that some of the animosities Rome has toward the *Constitutions* can be remedied by looking at those of the Redemptorists and the Jesuits, and he says that the points in question do not affect the nature of the missionary Congregation.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

IN INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Congregation's first house on the island of Flores, belonging to Indonesia - Timor Leste Independent Delegation, was blessed in January of 2012. The dream of making ourselves present on this island characterized by its abundant vocations had now come true. The new community would serve the parish in Soko with 7,000 parishioners and develop a broad vocational promotion.

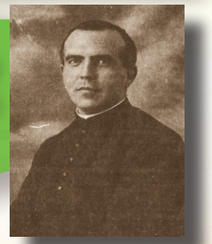
In April of the same year a foundation was made in Kuching (Malaysia), a mountainous area 40 kms outside of Serin, a foundation dependent on Chennai Province. Beginning on April 4th of the same year, Fr. Anup Hemand Lakra and Fr. R. Berchmans from Chennai settled in the parish in Bunan to serve forty-two small communities in remote locations and in the territory of the Bidayuh tribe.

On November 9, 2012, West Nigeria Independent Delegation assigned two of its missionaries to the Archdiocese of Johannesburg in South Africa. This was the first Claretian presence in South Africa.



JUAN IRUARRIZAGA, CMF

Missionary and Musician (1898-1936)



Igorre-Yurre (Biscay, Spain). Brother of **Luis**, Francisco, Gervasio, Crescencio and Ruperto, all musicians and Claretians. In a short time, he came to master all methods of music theory. He collaborated with his brother Luis in the great work *Repertorio Organico Español [Spanish Organ Repertoire]*. He wrote two publishable brochures, *Las Melodias Orientales [Oriental Melodies]* and *La Educacion de la voz [Educating Your Voice]*, both lost during the war, in which he summarized his knowledge and personal experiences. Then he began to publish his first compositions: *Villancicos de Navidad [Christmas Carols], Beata Mater, Ave Maria*, etc. He is considered one of the best organists that the Claretian Institute has ever possessed. Once he was ordained, he was assigned to Paris as organist of Rue de la Pompe. Upon the death of his brother Luis, he succeeded him as organist at the Shrine of the Corazon de Maria in Madrid and directed the magazine *Tesoro Sacro Musical*. He died young, murdered in 1936 in Paracuellos del Jarama (Madrid). His brothers Gervasio and Ruperto collected his works and published them in a volume entitled *Mosaico Sonoro [Resounding Mosaic]*.



CHARISMATIC ELEMENTS AND INDIVIDUAL TRAITS



Church of Santa Agnese in Agone (Roma)

"In the personality of our Father Founder there are elements that pertain to his charism and spirit as Founder, to which one must always look as a source of inspiration. Besides these, however, there are individual traits to be found in him which derive from his personal psychology or his environment, and which are not transferable to the Institute.

It is necessary for us to look at the complete development of his intuition and apostolic drives in order to direct ourselves toward a knowledge of the genuine charism of the Institute." (**1967, SH, 11**)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Is it difficult for you to distinguish between Claret's traits as an individual and as a Founder?*
- *Which ones, of either type, are most attractive and inspiring to you?*

"Resentment is like swallowing poison and expecting the other person to die."
(*St. Augustine*)

NOVEMBER

23



1852. Claret arrives in Santiago, Cuba to assist those who are sick with cholera.

1865. Claret has a second interview with the Pope in Rome, where he presents his catechism, which, with the observations that seem appropriate, could become the *single catechism* and go down in history as the catechism of **Pius IX**. Regarding whether or not he should be the royal confessor again, the Pope and some Cardinals determine that he should return to Catalonia and await instructions.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE CIRCULAR LETTER *MISSIONARIES*

Fr. Josep M. Abella published a new Circular Letter entitled *Missionaries*, in the middle of his second term. It was dated August 13, 2012 – the Feast of the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro and the day the Congregation remembers their martyrs. The letter was comprised of four chapters, in addition to the Introduction: 1) The Mission: A Fundamental Topic; 2) New Horizons for the Mission of Consecrated Life; 3) Our Claretian Mission Today; and 4) The Missionary's Call to Holiness.

The Circular Letter recalled and commented on the commitments assumed at the XXIV General Chapter. But, above all, it thoroughly developed a rich set of guidelines that urgently needed to answer a crucial and decisive question in order to continue writing the congregation's history with true missionary grammar: *Who are we and how are we to live our missionary vocation today?* It focused, therefore, on the Mission, which is the central perspective of our vocation to be missionaries and to be so in a concrete way today. The Circular Letter was translated into different languages and sent to each Claretian.



FLORENTINO SIMON, CMF

Bishop in Brazil (1868-1935)



Murchante (Navarre, Spain). He belonged to the dynasty of the Simons, a family that birthed several of Murchante's mayors during the 19th and 20th centuries. He entered the Congregation at a young age. As a newly ordained priest he was assigned to Brazil and appointed Superior of the community of Campinas and later of Rio de Janeiro and then dedicated himself to religious governance as a Consultor and Provincial Superior. During the six years that he presided over the Province, he was the protagonist in the tremendous reception that the country made for the Spanish aviators of the *Plus Ultra* in February of 1926 as he preached the sermon in the Thanksgiving Mass in Rio de Janeiro. Shortly after finishing his fruitful six-year term (1931), he was elected by the Holy See as Bishop of San Jose de Tocantins in the state of Goyas. He was 63 years old then. Three years of evangelization and incessant work were enough to mine his precious and robust existence. He died in São Paulo as a man of evangelical simplicity, possessing the heart of an apostle and an intrepid spirit.

CONSECRATION TO JESUS CHRIST



"The primary element in the vocation of our holy Founder is complete consecration to Jesus Christ in order to follow Him and imitate Him as closely as possible in His evangelical life and in the manner of His Apostles, working and suffering in order to lead men to the glorification of the Father. This eagerness to follow Christ closely led him not only to imitate His conduct but also to assimilate His spirit in the intimacy he enjoyed as the Son, as in the outpouring of energy to which his zeal for the glory of the Father impelled him. Thus, he at length experienced how Christ truly lived in him not only through the extraordinary grace of experiencing within himself continuously the Eucharistic presence and importuned him in the apostolate and his own self oblation." (**1967, SH 13**)



Pauline Chapel used as the seat of four consecutive conclaves. The first pope elected here was Leo XII and the last was Pius IX (Quirinale Palace - Rome)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus Christ is at the center of Claret's life. His goal is to feel as He feels, to be configured with Him.

- *Do you try to imitate Jesus in prayer, work and suffering like Claret did?*
- *How do Paul›s words resonate within you: "I live, but it is not me: it is Christ who lives in me"?*

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."
(*Nelson Mandela*)

NOVEMBER

24



1851. Claret is on a pastoral visit in Nuevitas (Cuba), where he writes to the Bishop of Vic about how Spain has abandoned Cuba regarding the liturgy and the clergy.

1863. Claret hopes the missionaries will work on expanding the ***Academy of St. Michael***; he sends 4000 certificates and 100 diplomas to Segovia.

1868. From exile in Paris he writes to Fr. **Manuel Miura** one of the letters in which we find Claret happier, with *peace, tranquility, good health ... much better than in other years ... I lack nothing.*



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

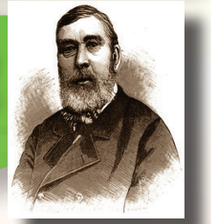
MORE AWARDS

On April 26, 2012, Archbishop **Fernando Sebastian Aguilar** was awarded a Gold Medal from the *Paul VI Foundation*. He was the Archbishop Emeritus of Pamplona and Bishop Emeritus of Tudela since 2007 and President of the aforementioned Foundation from 2004 to 2010. Cardinal Jose Saraiva was appointed Honorary President of the *Academia Bonifaciana de Anagni* and received the *Caravella del Mediterraneo Award* from Bari (Italia). Bishop Juan Jose Pineda received the *Congressional Medal* from the Republic of Honduras. Bishop Pedro Casaldaliga was proclaimed Doctor *Honoris Causa* by the Catholic University of Goias (Brazil). The Sumanahalli Center (India) received the *Bangalore Award of Selfless Collaborators* of those affected by leprosy and HIV. The Claretian Community of Canada received the Silver Medal from Quebec. The film *A Forbidden God*, about the martyrs of Barbastro, received the Silver Fish as the *Best Catholic Film* in the V International Catholic Film Festival. The mini-series *Barefoot on Red Soil*, about the life of Msgr. Pedro Casaldaliga, received the *Gold FIPA Award* in France.



JEAN LAURENT

Palace Photographer (1816-1886)



Garchizy (Bourgogne, France). He was one Spain's most significant photographers during the second half of the 19th century, together with Clifford. In 1843 he began residing in Madrid. Two photos of Father Claret are known to be from this photographer, one from 1860, of which many originals and several prints were made. This is how Fr. **Retes** described it: *In it, our Venerable is standing, facing forward and in very formal dress, with his crosses and bands. Because of his sweet and calm expression, I like it more than the previous one (a Madrazo type).* In fact, Sister Felipa, sister of Charity, at age 94 said that this was the portrait that most resembled him. His Claretian photos were placed among those of the second family by Fr. **Postius**. In said family, Fr. Postius included some drawings and oil paintings, all inspired by the photos of Laurent. Among the paintings we can highlight the well-known *The Baptism of Prince Alfonso* by **Rafael Benjumea**.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PASCHAL MYSTERY





Quirinale Palace (Rome)

"For our Founder the evangelical Counsels were not abstract realities but facets of the life of Christ, through which He gave testimony before men to the Kingdom of God, more by His life than by words, living in anticipation the complete sacrifice of Himself and His complete self-giving to the Kingdom of God.

Personal participation in the Paschal mystery, along with the complete abnegation of oneself to the very shedding of one's blood for the salvation of men, and testimony to the power of the risen Christ, lived so fully by the Founder, and subsequently by so many of our confreres, must be an ideal and a stimulus for a generous and ever-increasing fidelity on the part of all members of the Congregation." (**1967, SH 16**)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What blessings have you received in your life by practicing the evangelical Counsels?*
- *Does Christ's Paschal Mystery illuminate the contradictions that you find in your missionary life?*

"If we don't believe in free expression for people we despise,
we don't believe in it at all."
(*Noam Chomsky*)

NOVEMBER

25



1842. From San Juan de Olo Parish, Claret sends Canon Soler, *Padre de la Hermandad de Maria del Rosario [Father of the Brotherhood of Mary of the Rosary],* a basic plan for the formation of missionaries.

1858. Claret makes a retreat today, in which he reflects on the persecutions. He had a very consoling dream about them: they treated him like Jesus and he reacted like Jesus.

1863. On this day Claret felt that the Lord was telling him *You are too pampered*, and he made a resolution to be more mortified and not complain about people.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE CONGREGATION ON THE SCREEN

The second decade of the millennium was a prosperous time in terms of congregational film events of various ranks:

- In Spain in 2013, the mini-series about Mons. Pedro Casaldaliga, *Descalzo sobre la tierra roja*; two episodes about his life centering on his struggles in favor of the peasants in Mato Grosso (Brazil).
- A video about everything that happened in Sallent on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the birth of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.
- A television report about the Mother House in Vic on TV3 (Spain).
- The premiere of the movie *A Forbidden God*.
- Spanish TV presented a program on PROCLADE and the Claretian mission in Honduras.
- In Mexico, *La Cristiada [For Greater Glory]* premiered and was very successful in Mexico and the United States. It relates the period of battling for religious freedom, where our Blessed Fr. **Andres Sola** died a martyr, among others.



ALFONSO XII

King of Spain (1857-1885)



Madrid (Spain). Son of Queen **Isabella II** and King **Francisco de Asis de Borbon**. The beginning of his reign ended the *First Republic* and gave way to the period known as the *Restoration*. After his untimely death from tuberculosis at age 27, he was succeeded on the throne by his posthumous son, Alfonso XIII, led by his mother's regency, the widowed queen Maria Cristina, since he was under age. The then Prince Alfonso was born the same year Claret arrived in Madrid. The Queen considered Claret as the Prince's protective angel. He received his first lessons in religion and morals from Claret, even though his official private tutor was Cardinal Puente, Archbishop of Burgos. Also, it was Claret who spiritually accompanied him during the first few months of exile in Paris. When the Prince went to Rome in March of 1870 to receive his First Communion from the Pope, he took alms with him to meet Claret's needs.

OUR CORDIMARIAN SONSHIP



"Our Sonship in the Heart of Mary is a proper note of our spirituality and apostolate. It has penetrated the life of the Congregation and sustained its energy in the pursuit of the purposes of our Institute.

The Church told us during the Council that in thinking about Mary with filial reverence and contemplating her in the light of Christ, she penetrates more deeply into the highest mystery of the Incarnation (cf. LG 65) The Church does not hesitate to proclaim Mary's mediation, which the Council called her 'maternal duty' (LG 60), a motherly office which 'the Church both experiences and commends to the hearts of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may unite themselves more closely to Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer.' (LG 62)

The Heart of Mary signifies mainly the person of the Virgin, but the word itself centers us in the soul and spirit of Mary which exulted in God her Savior." **(1967, SH 17)**



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *In a world of "hard hearts", how does our Cordimarian sonship help you to be an apostle of tenderness and cordiality?*
- *How has your Cordimarian spirituality evolved throughout your life?*

"Whatever we achieve inwardly will change outer reality."
(*Otto Rank*)

NOVEMBER

26



1859. These days Claret still hopes to restore the Hieronymites in El Escorial. He and the Nuncio also discuss the problem of the reduction of Masses.

1863. Claret begins giving Spiritual Exercises for the Sisters Adorers in Madrid.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

THE SYNODS OF BISHOPS

In October of 2012, the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on *The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith* was celebrated. It was actively attended by the Father General, who was elected as one of the representatives of the Union of Superiors General, and Msgr. Juan Jose Pineda, Auxiliary Bishop of Tegucigalpa, representing the Episcopal Conference of Honduras.

In October of 2014, the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family was celebrated. Three Claretians attended: Cardinal **Fernando Sebastian**, Bishop Juan Matogo, Bishop of Bata, and Fr. Manuel Arroba, Professor of Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

In recent synods, members of the Congregation are usually sent to contribute their specific expertise and their missionary spirit.



FRANCISCO OZAMIS, CMF

Bishop of San Jose de Tocantins (1874-1929)



Guernica (Spain). Shortly after being ordained a priest he was assigned to Brazil. By 1900 he was already in that country as a missionary. After becoming familiar with the Brazilian language, he arrived to Pouso Alegre as a founder, fully dedicating himself to popular missions. He developed an immense ministry in Campinas as a preacher and lecturer, sought out by many Brazilian dioceses, then later went to Belo Horizonte as a professor, and then to Rio de Janeiro as Superior and Pastor. Appointed Provincial Consultor, he went to São Paulo as Superior and Director of *Ave Maria* magazine. The Claretian Congregation accepted the Holy See's proposal that they take responsibility for a mission in the Goyas territory and in 1926 he was elected Bishop of said mission with its See in San Jose de Tocantins. The following year, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of Bananal Island. He was at the helm of these missionary dioceses only a short time, since he died unexpectedly in 1929 due to complications from a brain operation.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN IDEALS AND REALITY



"Our general impression is that we are very far from having effectively concretized the doctrine and the directives of Vatican II and the 1967 chapter, along with the program of Claretian life which the latter clearly outlined. Perhaps what has been decisive in all this is not to have activated in sufficient measure plans for renewal and for continuing education for our personnel. Furthermore, these plans would have favored the communion of spirits, which the different mentalities, generations, attitudes towards life, etc., has hampered during these last years." **(1973, 22)**



On the left is the Church of Sant'Adriano al Foro, the former Curia Julia, which had housed the Senate of Ancient Rome. On the right is a Bronze Statue of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

There is often a great distance between our ideals and our behavior.

- *Do you strive to know and support the guidelines of the Congregation?*
- *Do you participate in the permanent formation initiatives that the Congregation offers you?*

"You don't develop courage by being happy in your relationships every day. You develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity."
(*Epicurus*)

NOVEMBER

27



1850. Claret is in Barcelona *working until he crashes*. He is already looking forward to setting sail for Cuba to relax a little.

1854. Claret arrives in Puerto Principe (Cuba) with Fr. **Paladio Currius** and in the next few days they look for land to establish the Farm-School.

1856. Claret is still waiting for a response from Rome on whether to stay in Cuba or return to the Peninsula.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

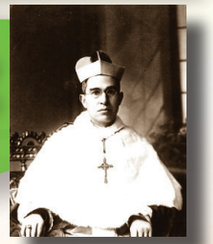
POPE FRANCIS AND THE CLARETIANS

After Pope Benedict XVI resigned on the 28th of February 2013, Jesuit Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected as the new Pontiff. Bergolio had had a very close relationship with the Claretians in Argentina as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and in particular with the *Editorial Claretiana*, where all his books were published, and the *Center for Philosophical and Theological Studies or CEFyT* (Cordoba, Argentina). He also entrusted some important ecclesial events to some Claretians such as the *VI Latin American Missionary Congress* in 1999 and the pastoral care of the divorced in new unions. In 2001 Cardinal Bergoglio participated in the Claretians' 100th Anniversary celebration in Rio de la Plata and in January of 2012 he was present at the 1st Provincial Chapter of the new San Jose del Sur Province. At the same time, he widely recommended the *Department for Distance Learning* of *CEFyT*.



ABEL ANTEZANA, CMF

First Archbishop of La Paz (1886-1968)



Huayculi (Tarata, Bolivia). He professed in the Congregation in 1911, already a priest. The Claretians had recently arrived in Cochabamba to take charge of the seminary, where he carried out his teaching ministry. They established in Oruro after numerous mishaps. Fr. Abel dedicated himself tirelessly to the missions in 1919. In 1924 he was appointed Bishop of Oruro at the same time that Fr. **Ramon Font** was appointed as Bishop of Tarija. He was a great promoter of the Church's Missionary Crusades. In 1939 he was appointed Bishop of La Paz and Archbishop in 1943. He attended the Second Vatican Council. He was a great defender his people's rights and deeply loved the Church and the Congregation. Founder of Catholic Action; President of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference since 1954 and promoter of the founding of Catholic University in 1965. A year later he resigned. He retired and died in Saint Louis (United States).



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS ON THE JOURNEY OF RENEWAL



Via Giulia (Rome)

"Dear Brothers: Everyone is aware that this 18th General Chapter had to confront a situation that was delicate at the very least, full of uncertainty and worry, and, at times, resistant. We too have kept this reality constantly before our eyes. However, we have preferred to situate it within the process of life and the history of salvation, where faith and hope have an irreplaceable position, where charity is always creative and regenerative, where Christ's Passover overcomes every form of death, of discouragement, of dispersal.

One thing that has sustained our vision-a thing that has touched us with a deep sense of gratitude-has been the example of so many sons of the Congregation who are joyfully carrying out their missionary tasks, great or small as they may be, their sufferings, their fatigue,-all of which prepares the way of the Lord." **(1973, 38)**



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *Do you notice the negative aspects of the Congregation more than anything else, or do you emphasize the example of the brothers who live out their vocation with joy?*
- *Make an effort today to discover and value all the positive things you see in your community and Organism. Give thanks to God for them.*

"Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence."
(*Leonardo da Vinci*)

NOVEMBER

28



1853. From Bayamo (Cuba), Claret emphatically protests against the Lieutenant of El Cobre and defends Fr. F. Mirosa's actions regarding cohabiting couples to the governor of Santiago; for this reason, he will personally go to El Cobre.

1862. Claret informs Fr. **Dionisio Gonzalez** that, in view of the difficulties with the Archbishop of Toledo regarding Seminary in El Escorial, he has agreed with the Queen and the Nuncio that he should take the matter to Rome and modify its legal status.



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF RELIGIOUS

During this era several of our missionaries were elected Presidents of their respective National Conferences of Religious: Fr. Henry Omonisaye, Provincial of West Nigeria, of the *Conference of Nigeria* (elected General Consultor by the XXV General Chapter in 2015), Fr. Luis Angel de las Heras, Provincial of Santiago, of the *Conference of Spain* (CONFER) (appointed Bishop of Mondoñedo-El Ferrol, Spain in 2016), Fr. Artur Teixeira, Provincial of Portugal, of the *Conference of Portugal* (elected General Prefect of the Apostolate in the 2015 Chapter), and Fr. Leo Dalmao, Provincial of the Philippines, of the *Conference of the Philippines* (AMRSP) (elected General Prefect of Formation at the XXV General Chapter).

The Congregation's service to Religious Life has been constant, not only as Presidents of the different Conferences but also through its Institutes, Universities, Roman Congregations, publications, etc. Fr. Jesus Torres' service stands out as a great model in the Congregation for Religious.



MANUEL DE JESUS SUBIRANA

Classmate of Claret (1807-1864)



Manresa (Barcelona, Spain). He studied at the seminary in Vic, where he was Anthony Claret's classmate and friend. He was ordained a priest in 1834. He went to Cuba with Father Claret, where he worked intensely, traveling the island in all directions, suffering deprivation and illness. Father Claret wrote of him: *he was a schoolmate of mine. We were ordained together, although to different orders. He was a very virtuous and wise man and a zealous worker in Catalonia and later in Cuba. He later went to Guatemala and Honduras, where he still is, working wonders and going from town to town preaching, as he did in my diocese* (Aut 593). He and Fr. **Francisco Coca** *were always on the move from one village to another, giving missions. They never rested.* (Aut 594) He developed an intense apostolic work in Honduras, especially among the Hicaque Indians, as a missionary, catechist, social promoter and even a miracle worker. He wrote a dogmatic-moral Catechism that could be grasped by children and people of all classes. He died with a reputation for holiness on November 27th in Yojoa.



BEING FLEXIBLE WITH HOW THE COMMUNITY IS ORGANIZED

"Local community is not determined so much by the location or 'domus' as it is by living all levels of our Claretian life together. Hence, our communities should enjoy a certain flexibility as to the manner in which they are established, so that a single community might even be formed of members living in different, more or less neighbouring groups, united not merely at the top (or superior), but in the totality of the community." **(1973, GC 34)**



Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Rome)



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *How do you live out your sense of belonging to your local community? Do you love it? Do you concern yourself with building it up through the small details of your everyday life?*
- *Are you flexible when circumstances demand some changes in your community's rhythm?*

"The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself."
(*Thales*)

NOVEMBER

29



1843. Claret tells the Ecclesiastical Administrator about the case of exorcism of the possessed person in Taradell.

1856. Claret informs the Nuncio of the steps taken in relation to the Subordinate Diocese of Puerto Rico and how, *by divine mercy, the spiritual evils that afflicted her have ceased.*



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

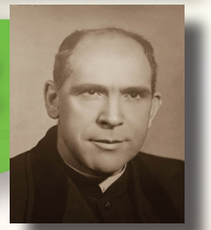
THE BEATIFICATION OF 23 CLARETIAN MARTYRS

On October 13, 2013, 23 Claretian martyrs from Sigüenza, Fernan Caballero and Tarragona were beatified in Tarragona, with a group of almost 500 more martyrs of the Spanish Civil War of 1936. The celebration was presided by Cardinal Angelo Amato and attended by about 25,000 people including a large number of Claretians led by the Fr. General, Josep M. Abella and his Council. The beatification of **Jesus Anibal Gomez,** the first Colombian martyr and a Claretian student, stands out. His liturgical memorial is celebrated on October 13th. The information bulletin of the Congregation, the NUNC, dedicated a special issue to the event. Some of the celebrations in different sites of the Congregation, such as Tarso (Colombia), Seville and Vic are reflected in it. Several symbols were highlighted in the beatification logo: the cross, the Holy Spirit, a Heart, fire and the palm of martyrdom.



TORIBIO PEREZ, CMF

Provincial Superior (1896-1972)



Villalobar (Leon, Spain). He entered the Congregation as a Postulant in 1909, at the Postulancy in Santo Domingo de la Calzada (La Rioja). He made his first profession in August of 1917. He was ordained a priest in June of 1922. His ministerial life was dedicated mainly to formation, as Prefect of Postulants in Santo Domingo de la Calzada and later as Novice Master in Salvatierra; and in the Government: Provincial Superior of Castilla (1950-1956) and Cantabria (1956-1962). He devoted the last years of his life to preaching as a *foot soldier.* He died in Bilbao. The missionaries he formed remember him more as Novice Master than as Provincial. Nevertheless, his time in government as Provincial was very fruitful. We could say that his missionary dedication was basically reduced to tasks of the Congregation, but tasks of great responsibility. In spite of everything, his life was that of a true missionary whom everyone called *Saint Father Toribio.*

THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF THE FOUNDER





Basilica of St. Stephen in the Round on the Celian Hill (Rome)

"Our Father Founder's own experience of his missionary vocation was the organizing principle of his existence and the deep motivation which guided his entire life and apostolic activity. This experience of Claret's becomes in turn a source of inspiration and incentive for us in the response we must make to our vocation in the Church and the world today. As we here and now recall his vocational journey, we affirm the origin of the life that has been *propagated* and *followed* by the Congregation: a life that leads to communion, invites us to conformity with Christ and impels us to relive his prophetic spirit." **(MCT 52)**



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What do you think of the fundamental stages of the Founder's spiritual journey?*
- *What have the stages of your own journey been so far?*

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."
(*Diogenes*)

NOVEMBER

30



1850. Claret continues preaching in Barcelona while he waits to embark for Cuba. Today his preaching at Santa Maria del Mar has a tone of farewell.

1858. In a letter Claret presents Fr. **Joseph Xifre** with a wide mission field *in Spain and beyond* and he does not want him to refrain from admitting young people or to worry about finances.

1859. He is co-consecrator of his successor in Santiago, Cuba, Fr. **Manuel M. Negueruela,** at Las Salesas Reales Church (Madrid).



MEN ON FIRE (2009-2015)

MORE BISHOPS AND A CARDINAL

Fr. Juan Jose Chaparro was appointed Bishop of San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentina) in August of 2013 and Fr. Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe was named Coadjutor Bishop of Makurdi (Nigeria) in July of 2014.

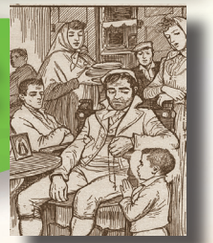
In 2014, the Pope accepted Bishop Gaspar Quintana's resignation as Bishop of Copiapo (Chile) and appointed Bishop Javier Travieso as Apostolic Vicar of San Jose del Amazonas (Peru).

In February of 2014, news spread that Bishop **Fernando Sebastian,** who had retired from his episcopal responsibilities, had been named Cardinal. He received the Cardinal's biretta from Pope Francis with the Cardinal's title of Saint Angela Merici. Up to that point the Cardinals had been: A. M. **Larraona**, A. **Tabera** and J. Saraiva, to which Fernando Sebastian was then added.



JOSEPH CLARET CLARA

Claret's Brother (1810-1844)



Sallent (Barcelona, Spain). Even though he was the youngest male child, he was the one who achieved the best position. He obtained Manuela de Sola's hand, the doctor's daughter, who was related to a noble family. They settled in Olost. In his application to enter the Society of Jesus in 1838, Claret said that his two brothers each had *a large factory*. We know that Anthony spent periods of time in Olost with his brother Joseph. They had six children. Two of his daughters were religious in Mother **Vedruna's** order: Dolores and Maria Asunta. His youngest son, Ramon, lived in Archbishop Claret's house in Madrid at different times between 1862 and 1867. It appears that he was the one who paid for the tombstone when his uncle's body was moved to Vic. His other siblings also visited Joseph Claret Clara's house in Olost. Anthony spent a few days there in 1837. And it was Jose who helped him get a passport for Rome.

ELEMENTS OF CLARET'S MISSIONARY VOCATION



"Father Claret describes his vocation as the result of a complex experiential process that can be traced through his infancy. This process includes, among other elements, an early sense of friendship with Christ (above all, in the sacrament of the Eucharist), in whose deep sense of Sonship Claret gradually came to discover God the Father, who sent Jesus because he loves the world. Another important element in this process was a special experience of the 'world', which Claret, as a young man, came to know in all its goodness, relativity and dangerousness.

From yet another direction, Claret cultivated his radical experience of God in Christ by persistent meditation on the Scriptures, in which the texts dealing with the vocation of the Prophets and of Jesus impressed him with telling effect. At the same time he kept alive his keen awareness and grasp of what was most urgent for the Church and the society of his times in relation to God's plan of salvation.

A very important influence both on his closeness to Christ and his grasp of the ways of salvation for the world, was the presence of Mary, with whom he sensed that his own mission, in its origin and exercise, was closely linked." **(MCT 53)**



FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- *What fundamental features characterize Claret's spiritual experience?*
- *What features characterize your own spiritual experience?*

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."
(*Epictetus*)