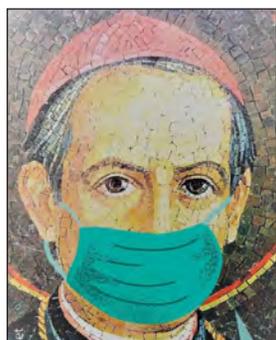




Adapting Parish & Community Life Amidst the Pandemic *Spreading the Gospel using Technology*

Dear Claretian Family & Friends,

It has been over a year since the world came to a sudden halt due to the Covid19 pandemic and nearly that long since we have sent you a newsletter.



This edition is filled with many stories and events that occurred both before the pandemic and after the country went into lockdown and many restrictions went into place.

The pandemic has surely affected everyone in one way or another. It has been a difficult time for many especially since we were all forced to make changes in our everyday lives: how we live, how we work, and how we interact with one another. These changes have also forced us to adjust how we minister, how we interact with the people of God.

When parishes were closed and restricted from large group gatherings, everyone had to come up with new ways to hold Mass, give Communion, hear Confessions, etc. and the obvious choice was turning to the internet. What a perfect way to remain in touch with the people of God while adhering to federal and local laws! And that is exactly what the Claretians did. Our parishes began to set up and continue to offer live

stream recordings of their Masses. When the restrictions for in-person gatherings slowly lifted, our churches once again opened to limited capacities offering indoor and outdoor Masses and outreach to the local community.

(continued on p. 2)



ABOVE RIGHT: *Fr. Paul Keller, CMF, blessing a parishioner in the parking lot of St. Anthony Claret in Fresno, California.*

RIGHT: *Limited capacity Mass at Notre-Dame d'Anjou in Canada.*



ABOVE: Fr. Steve Niskanen, CMF, offering Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) in Chicago, Illinois. RIGHT: Fr. Hector Navalo, CMF, following face covering mandate while at OLG.



Some of our other ministries such as Radio Claret America (radioclaretamerica.com), the Hispanic Ministry Resource Center (creerescrecer.org and cafeconcristo.com), and Claretian Biblical Animation Team (ibicla.org) continue to reach the masses through their existing online programming, podcasts, classes, and workshops. Since the pandemic hit, listeners and social media followers have increased. This also includes our devotees to St. Jude (shrineofstjude.org) who continue to support our ministries through direct mail appeals and the on-line support has grown as well.

No one can say when things will go back to “normal” or even if that will be possible, but we must do the best to adapt to our “new normal” and forge ahead as best we can, adhering to and respecting the rules in place (i.e. wearing a mask, keeping a safe social distance, etc.) and most importantly never losing or giving up in our faith in God. We continue to pray for those family and friends affected by the pandemic, for those who have lost their battle with the infection, for those who are in hospitals infected with the virus and fighting for

their lives, for those fortunate enough to already have been vaccinated, and for those still vulnerable to infection.

We hope you enjoy this latest Province newsletter and hope everyone had a blessed and joyous Easter celebration.

*Jesus Christ's passion, death, resurrection,
And ascension are the ultimate example of
Dying and rising, of death and new life.
We learn from Jesus that new life can come from death,
That we can find meaning in tough times,
That there really is light in the darkness.
We accept that all life has this rhythm of dying and rising
And that God is with us in good times and in bad.*

Announcement of XXVI Claretian General Chapter

The Congregation is preparing for our XXVI General Chapter from August 14 to September 12, 2021. The motto chosen for the Chapter is *Rooted and Audacious* which will highlight the need to cultivate our charismatic roots in order to be fearless missionaries in this hour of the Church.

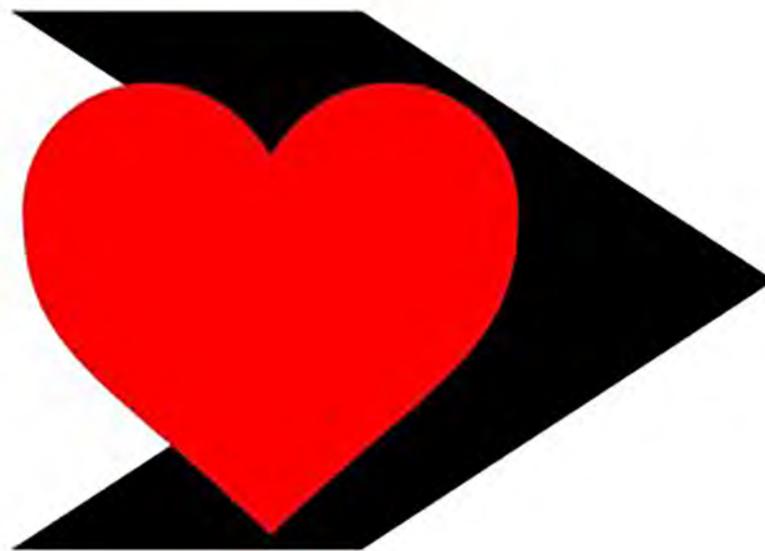
The official logo (below) of the Chapter was created by Fr. Maximino Cerezo Barredo, CMF. Playing with the symbols of the heart (in red) and the arrow (in black), the chosen logo connects its Claretian background with the Chapter theme. The logo, made with symbols used by Claret, expresses with clarity and simplicity the content of the Chapter motto: *rooted* (heart) and *audacious* (arrow). The red of the heart evokes the fire of the definition of the missionary, the passion that moves us, and the process of ongoing formation in the forge of the Heart of Mary, “men on fire with love.” The black of the arrow highlights the solidarity, firmness, and endurance in the tribulations of the missionary who proclaims: “Nothing daunts him.” The slightly slanted typeface emphasizes the dynamism and creativity that should characterize our life and mission.

Indeed, in the prayer that Claret used to address Mary at the beginning of the popular missions, he recognized her as his formator in the words, “You formed me in the forge of your heart.” Mary was the “director” of the entrusted mission, “I am like an arrow placed in your powerful hand.” The logo has, therefore, a clear cordimarian and missionary meaning.

Our Superior General, Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, reminds all Claretians that the General Chapter should treat the matters that concern the whole Congregation with a spirit alert to the Lord and to the demands of the whole community (cf. CC 155). Fr. Mathew focuses us on the fundamental questions that should guide us: What is the Lord asking of our Congregation today? How do we listen to what the Spirit is whispering in the hearts of our brothers and in our communities?

At the end of 2020, members of the USA-Canada Province elected the two delegates who will represent the Province and who will be joining Fr. Rosendo at the General Chapter; they are Fr. Beauplan Derilus and Fr. Paul Keller. As a first time delegate, Fr. Beauplan is curious and open to what the process of the Chapter will bring. “Based on what I have experienced, seen, and heard as a Claretian, my hope for the upcoming Chapter is committed to critically examine the way we do mission today and see if it is appropriate for these modern times.” Fr. Beauplan goes on to say: “We must remember that for a Chapter to be valid or credible, one must discuss the life of the mission . . . a Chapter is not a matter of changing the ‘chairs of power’ but recognizing that there is no higher form of mission than the life of the missionaries.”

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit fill Fr. Beauplan, Fr. Paul, and Fr. Rosendo with wisdom and understanding in their work for the Province and Congregation.



ROOTED AND AUDACIOUS
XXVI GENERAL CHAPTER

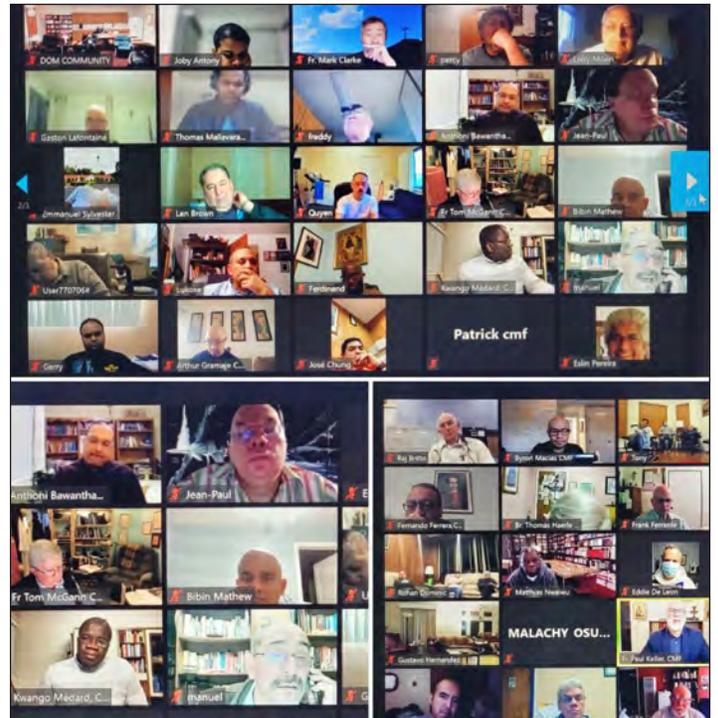
USA-Canada Province Retreats & Assemblies Virtual Events

The week of January 6–10, 2020 was the last time the Claretians met as a group for our annual Province Retreat and Mini-Assembly in Sierra Madre, California. The week was a time of relaxation and reflection but also included the presentation of reports from the Province Prefectures as well as Fr. Rosendo’s “State of the Province” report letting members know the current status of the Province.

Then in March the pandemic hit and most everywhere went into lockdown. We had no idea how long this pandemic was going to last and as the months went by, the Provincial Council was faced with the decision of how/where to have our August Assembly for 2021. The Province normally gathers at Techny Towers Retreat Center in Chicago, but they informed us that the facility was shutting down due to the pandemic, so it was decided to try something “new” that had never been done before, a “virtual assembly” via Zoom video-conferencing, which took place the week of August 3–7, 2020.

Our first attempt at a large virtual gathering of Province members did not go off without a hitch, mostly due to internet connectivity problems, but for the most part attendance was at 50%. It also gave a lot of our senior Claretians the opportunity to participate and spend time with their Claretian brothers (albeit via computer/TV screen) where under normal circumstances this would not be possible, often due to inability to travel for health reasons.

As the pandemic continued to take its course, our 2021 January retreat was also held virtually and this time we even engaged a retreat director, Fr. Gonzalo Fernandez, CMF, our General Prefect of Spirituality, to help lead the group during the week with a series of video recordings followed



Screenshot of Province members meeting on Zoom.

by participants breaking into small breakout rooms for discussion. Participation at the Assembly grew a bit more, as members became more familiar with the technology and were able to navigate their way through it.

Even though our preference, of course, is to be physically present with one another at retreats and assemblies, we still found a way to *connect* using this new virtual platform but we look forward to the day when we can once again physically gather as Claretian brothers.

Group picture of Claretian Province members at the January 2020 retreat.





Fire Badly Damages San Gabriel Mission

Since the 18th century, the San Gabriel Mission has been the center of life in the eastern Los Angeles valley. It has stood as a strong symbol of life and faith for countless people. We Claretians have served the parish since 1908 and it has a special place in our hearts over these decades.

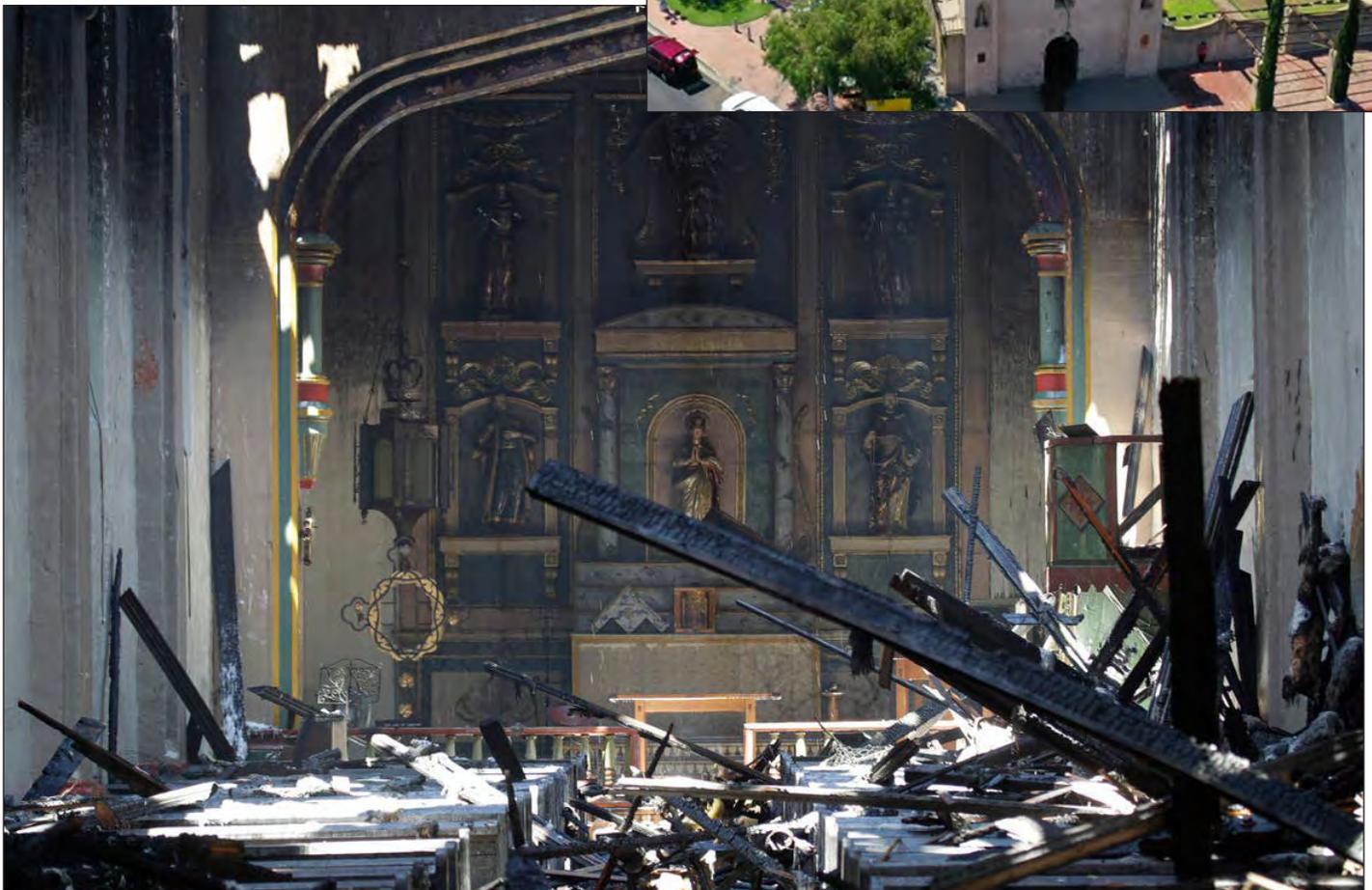
The massive fire in the old church on July 11, 2020 is the latest chapter in its storied history. The pastor of San Gabriel, Fr. John Molyneux, CMF, recalls that morning: “I received a call from our alarm company at 4:24 a.m. on Saturday morning letting me know that the fire alarms were going off in the Old Mission and that the fire department had been dispatched. I immediately entered the Mission through the sacristy, turned on the lights, and walked the length of the church to the front door. Although I smelled the smoke, I did not see any flames. I opened the front door of the Mission Church. When I turned, flames were coming from the choir loft and out the front of the Mission from above. At about 4:50 a.m., I was asked to evacuate everyone from the rectory; the

community was out of the house shortly thereafter . . . the fire line stopped before the altar, and the retablo was not harmed. I want to think that this was a miracle.”

Since July, there have been significant steps forward and surprise blessings. Associate pastor Fr. Ray Smith, CMF, noted that the Mission has rediscovered its roots. He says, “One of the operational ministries that has continued through the Covid pandemic has been our food pantry. Feeding people is what the mission has done since the beginning.” Fr. Smith noted that there is a sense of renewal, “Every generation is called to build the church; this is our moment for discovering new ownership of the Mission.”

RIGHT: Aerial view showing extent of damage to the roof.

BELOW: Fire damage to interior chapel at San Gabriel Mission.



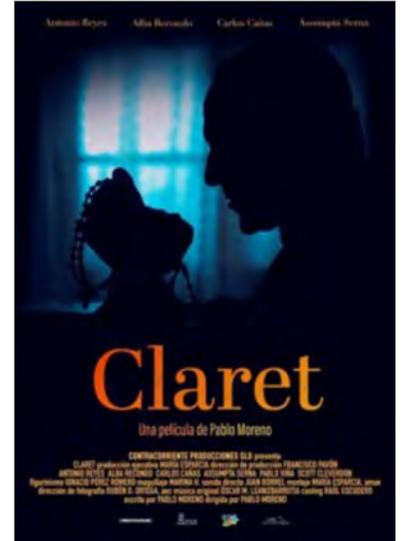


Limited Release of Movie *Claret* in Spanish Theatres

On December 4, 2020, the movie entitled *Claret* about our founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, had its official premier at the Juventud Cinema Theatre in Ciudad Rodrigo (Salamanca), Spain to a limited audience which included the director, Mr. Pablo Moreno, the main actor who portrays Claret, Antonio Reyes, other actors in the movie, and guests of the municipality of Ciudad Rodrigo. The movie also had a private showing for members of our General Government and guests in Rome, Italy marking the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Claret's death on October 24, 2020.

We know that our founder St. Anthony was a dynamic man of action. We will be able to see him on film and get a new vision of his life. The movie shows him as a man who fought all his life against the injustice and powers of the world and who carried the fire of the light of Christ's Gospel to the corners of the world.

As we Claretians look forward to the opening of the new movie about our founder, we will have to wait a bit longer for its global premier due to restrictions with the ongoing pandemic. There are plans to have the movie dubbed into several languages, including English. As we await with anticipation the movie's global release, you can watch the movie release trailer in Spanish at youtu.be/gF1sqohLLVQ.



New Gymnasium at Our Lady of Guadalupe School

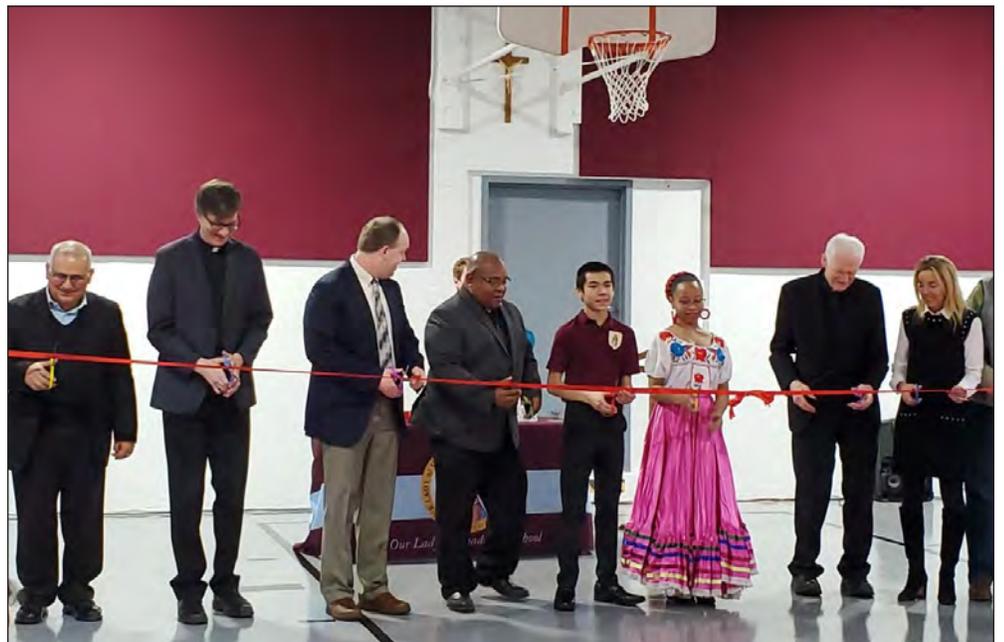
On January 29, 2020, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated gymnasium at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Chicago, Illinois. Surrounded by invited guests, which included the Claretians (Fr. R. Urrabazo, Fr. S. Niskanen, and Fr. M. Brummel), school principal Bonnie Hall, staff, and students. The pastor, Fr. Hector Navalo, CMF, was given the honor of blessing the new gym.

The gym renovation took two years to complete with the support of the Claretians, the Big Shoulders Fund (including patron donors Mr. and Mrs. White), and the Archdiocese of Chicago. Each contributed substantially in financing the gym's renovation.

Now that in-person restrictions are slowly being lifted and our children are back in school, the gym allows for students to be able to eat

lunch with social distancing requirements met and have physical education classes indoors during inclement weather.

Thanks to the efforts of both Ms. Hall and Fr. Hector, this project came to fruition. The school has served this southside community for over 70 years with over 167 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th grade.



Claretians (Fr. Hector Navalo, center) along with staff and students from OLG take part in ribbon cutting.

Inauguration of New Claret Community Center

In the 1960s the original Our Lady of Fatima church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, had to move its location in order to make way for the new Route 440 freeway. Fr. Raymond Bianchi, CMF, acquired an apartment building at 348 Smith Street and this building served as a chapel until the current church (at 380 Smith Street) was dedicated on September 18, 1971. The building at 348 Smith Street continued to serve as a Center for religious studies and provided meeting space for different groups in the parish. After a while it was closed in order to remodel it and to make it safer for everyone.

The remodeling process was a long and arduous process, taking almost twenty years in order to secure a building permit to begin the work. The permit was finally granted to Fr. Alberto Ruiz, CMF, (the pastor at the time) in 2016 and work fully began on February 11, 2018 with Mr. Eddie Trujillo offering to help us complete the project. The work was finally completed and the Claret Community Center was inaugurated on December 7, 2019. The Bishop of Metuchen, the Most Reverend James F. Checchio, was on hand to bless the opening of the Center and to celebrate with the Claretians, parishioners, and local community.

In March 2020 when the finishing touches were in place, the general lockdown began due to the Covid19 pandemic and the center was closed for some time. As Covid19 restrictions were relaxed the food pantry ministry moved into the new space and has helped many people in need of assistance. Currently, the main hall is being used to help distribute vaccinations to the local community.

As more in-person gathering restrictions are lifted the Center will serve as a meeting place for CCD and Confirmation classes, Bible study, and youth groups, while the choir has started using the space for rehearsals too!

A big shout out and congratulations need to go to Fr. Alberto Ruiz without whose persistence and hard work, this Claret Community Center would not have been made possible and reached its completion.



Fr. Alberto Ruiz celebrating the inauguration of the Center!



ABOVE: Bishop Checchio blessing the Center. LEFT: Front façade of newly renovated Claret Community Center.





Claretians in the News

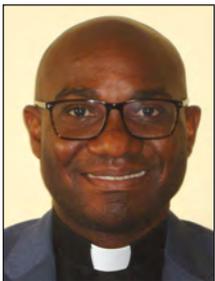


Fr. Paschal Amagba, CMF, presented his dissertation project entitled *Acculturation, Coping Skills, and Quality of Life among Diaspora African Immigrants and Refugees Living in the United States* on November 13, 2019 and was awarded his Doctorate of Psychology degree in a ceremony at

Capella University in Orlando, Florida on March 7, 2020. Congratulations!



Bishop Josep M. Abella, CMF, former Superior General was appointed as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Fukuoka, Japan, by Pope Francis on April 14, 2020.



Fr. Ferdinand Okorie, CMF, was appointed Editor-in-Chief of *U.S. Catholic* magazine on July 1, 2020. He succeeds Fr. John Molyneux who served in the position since January of 2003. Fr. Okorie is an assistant professor of New Testament studies and early Christianity at Catholic Theological

Union (CTU) in Chicago, Illinois, where he also serves as the director of Bible study and travel programs.



Ray John Mejorada, CMF, (left) and **Fr. Anthony Duy Luong, CMF**, (right) have been assigned to the Province and come to us from the Province of the Philippines.

Seminarian Ray John is continuing his theology studies at CTU in Chicago, while Fr. Luong is currently working as associate pastor at our Claretian parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the southside of Chicago.



Emmanuel Sylvester entered the Claretian Novitiate on September 7, 2020 at the hands of Fr. Brian Culley, CMF, (on right) in a ceremony held at the Chapel of Dominguez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, California. Emmanuel will spend his novitiate year at Dominguez under the guidance of Fr. Steve Sherwood, CMF, his Novice Master.



Vu Dinh Tien, CMF, a professed student from the Province of the Philippines has also been assigned to the Province. He too continues his theology studies at CTU and resides with our community of Claret House in Chicago.



Fr. Salvatore Bonano, CMF, celebrated his 102nd birthday on December 13, 2020 via Zoom videoconference given the current restrictions in place due to the pandemic. This did not stop his Claretian brothers from celebrating with him in his room at the nursing home where he lives in Los Angeles,

California. Fr. Sal is our oldest living Province member! Congratulations!

Seminarians Renew Vows in Chicago & San Antonio

Some of our seminarians renewed their vows on August 15, 2020 in a ceremony which took place at Claret House in Chicago, Illinois accompanied by their Claretian brothers. The vows of Tien Dinh Vu, Ray John Mejorada, and Norbert Medina, were received by Fr. Eddie De León, CME.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: *Tien Dinh Vu, Ray John Mejorada, Fr. Eddie and Norbert Medina in Chicago.*

Also renewing vows in witness of our Claretian community in San Antonio, Texas, was David Gutierrez. His vows were received by Fr. Len Brown, CME.



David Gutierrez and Fr. Len Brown in Texas.

Claretian Missionary Sisters share glimpse of Community Life.

Held in conjunction with National Women’s History Month, Catholic Sisters Week was held March 8-14, 2021, under the theme “Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World.” Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious. The Diocese of Palm Beach recently embarked on a video initiative in support of the women religious throughout the diocese. The first video of this project features the Claretian Missionary Sisters who live and work in the diocese: Sister Vivian Gonzalez, Sister Margarita Gomez and Sister Regina Gomez. These women religious, along with other sisters from the Archdiocese of Miami, presented information on their community’s founding, charism, and missionary work. Click on link to read more: thefloridacatholic.org/dioceses/palm-beach/claretian-missionary-sisters-share-glimpse-of-community-life/article_89424f1e-8207-11eb-9467-ef4a48a24d69.html



Claretian Missionary Sisters’ celebration in Palm Beach, Florida.

In Memoriam

Fr. Carmel Lerma, CMF



Fr. Carmel Lerma, CMF, was born on July 14, 1929 in Langa de Duero, Spain. Fr. Lerma grew up in Soria, a province of central Spain. He joined the Claretians in 1941 at the age of 12. He attended the Claretian Seminary in Bilbao, Spain, and completed his formation studies at the Université Catholique in Angers, France. Fr. Lerma made

his religious profession as a Claretian Missionary on July 16, 1947 and was ordained a priest on June 29, 1955.

After ordination, Fr. Lerma was assigned as Vicar of the Parish of Hispanic Immigrants in Marseille, France, from 1955 to 1957. He was then assigned to our Independent Delegation in Canada where he worked at the Collège Claretain in Victoriaville, Québec, in the capacity of assistant prefect, professor of economics, prefect, and director from 1957 to 1983.

In 1963, Fr. Lerma founded Camp Claret, a beautiful sprawling summer camp located on the shores of Lake Elgin. It is here that Fr. Lerma spent the majority of his Claretian years working as director of the camp for over 55 years. In Camp Claret, he created a unique outdoor setting where children ages 7 to 16 could experience an environment of growth and enrichment, as well as take part in a number of outdoor activities during the summer months. They are looked after by over 80 camp counselors who also teach them how to prepare themselves to becoming responsible, resourceful, and resilient human beings.

Along with his work at Camp Claret, Fr. Lerma worked at the Claretian parish of Notre-Dame-de-Protection in Sherbrooke, Québec, as an associate pastor from 1983 to 1986. He was the Econome for the Claretian Fathers of Québec from 1964 to 1983 and the Claretian Sherbrooke Community Econome from 1986 to 2014.

In 2014, when the Independent Delegation of Canada formally became a part of the USA Province, and the USA-Canada Province was founded, he continued in his role as Econome overseeing the financial needs of our parishes and members living in Canada.

Due to health issues towards the end of 2019 he was moved to a nursing home in Sherbrooke, his final place of residence. After 70 years of dedicated ministry, Fr. Lerma was called to his eternal reward on January 12, 2020, at the age of 90.

Père Carmel Lerma, CMF

Le Révérend Carmel Lerma, CMF, est né le 14 juillet 1929 à Langa de Duero, en Espagne. Le Père Lerma a grandi à Soria, une province du centre de l'Espagne. Il est entré chez les Clarétains en 1941, à l'âge de 12 ans, en fréquentant le Séminaire Claretain de Bilbao, en Espagne, et a terminé ses études de formation à l'Université Catholique d'Angers, en France. Le Père a fait sa profession religieuse en tant que missionnaire clarétain le 16 juillet 1947 et a été ordonné prêtre le 29 juin 1955.

Après son ordination, le père Lerma a été affecté comme vicaire de la paroisse des immigrants hispaniques à Marseille, en France, de 1955 à 1957. Il a ensuite été affecté à notre Délégation Indépendante au Canada où il a travaillé au Collège Claretain de Victoriaville, Québec, en tant que sous-préfet, professeur d'économie, préfet et directeur de 1957 à 1983.

En 1963, le Père Lerma a fondé le Camp Claret, un magnifique camp d'été tentaculaire situé sur les rives du lac Elgin. C'est ici que le père Lerma passera la majorité de ses années clarétaines à travailler comme directeur du camp, pendant plus de 55 ans. Au Camp Claret, il a créé un cadre unique en plein air où les enfants âgés de 7 à 16 ans peuvent faire l'expérience d'un environnement propice à la croissance et à l'enrichissement, et prendre part à des activités de plein air (natation, navigation, randonnée, etc.) pendant les mois d'été.) pendant les mois d'été. Ils sont encadrés par plus de 80 moniteurs de camp qui leur apprennent également à se préparer à devenir des êtres humains responsables, pleins de ressources et résilients.

Parallèlement à son travail au Camp Claret, le Père Lerma a travaillé à la paroisse clarétaine Notre-Dame-de-Protection de Sherbrooke, au Québec, en tant que curé associé de 1983 à 1986. Il a été l'Économe des Pères Clarétains du Québec de 1964 à 1983 et l'Économe de la Communauté Claretaine de Sherbrooke de 1986 à 2014.

En 2014, lorsque la Délégation Indépendante du Canada est devenue officiellement une partie de la Province des USA, et que la Province USA-Canada a été fondée, il a continué dans son rôle d'Econome en supervisant les besoins financiers, etc. de nos paroisses et membres vivant au Canada.

En raison de problèmes de santé vers la fin de 2019, il a été transféré dans une maison de soins infirmiers à Sherbrooke, son dernier lieu de résidence. Après 70 ans de ministère dévoué, le père Lerma a été appelé à sa récompense éternelle le 12 janvier 2020, à l'âge de 90 ans.

In Memoriam

Br. Urbain Herrero, CMF



Br. Urbain Herrero, CMF, was born on October 31, 1924 in Carbonero del Mayo, Spain. He joined the Claretians in 1937 at the age of 13. He attended the Claretian Seminary in Segovia, Spain, where he studied to become a tailor and cook. Br. Urbain made his first profession as a Claretian on July 16, 1941 and his perpetual

profession on July 16, 1947.

Shortly after his perpetual profession, Br. Urbain was assigned to the Claretian community in Santo Domingo de Calzada, a municipality in northwestern Spain, from 1947 to 1952. There he worked as a nurse, tailor, and cook. After this assignment, he was sent to Le Hutreau, France for one year, where he continued to perfect his talent as a tailor. He made many of the vestments used by the priests in the community as well as clothing for his Claretian brothers.

In 1953, he was part of the second contingent of Claretians from Spain, known as the “Claretian Fathers of Canada,” assigned to the new Independent Delegation of Canada. The Claretians were just settling at Villa Claret, in Victoriaville, Québec, when construction began on Collège Clarétain, the seminary school started and staffed by the Claretians.

Here Br. Urbain worked in the capacity of tailor and first chef of the school’s cafeteria from 1953 to 1991. He was also a man close to nature and he oversaw the dairy farm that was part of the school that he later transformed into a Charolais beef farm. Br. Urbain also sustained a small yet bountiful garden that helped provide the vegetables that were eaten by the students at the school. He was an excellent tailor too, equipping his community members with their cassocks, collars, vestments, etc., as well as fixing the school uniforms used by the students. As he grew older, Br. Urbain became artistically involved in the creation of stained-glass windows at Collège Clarétain, Camp Claret (the summer camp owned and operated by the Claretians in Lake Elgin, Québec) and even the International College in Rome, Italy.

Br. Urbain spent over 38 years at the Collège before retiring in 1991 and taking up residency with the Claretian community in Victoriaville until 2019, where, due to health issues, he was transferred to a nursing home in Laval, Quebec, his final place of residence. After 73 years of dedicated ministry, Br. Urbain was called to his eternal reward on March 17, 2020, at the age of 95.

Frère Urbain Herrero, CMF

Le Frère Urbain Herrero, CMF est né le 31 octobre 1924 à Carbonero del Mayo, Espagne. Il est entré chez les Clarétains en 1937, à l’âge de 13 ans, en fréquentant le Séminaire Clarétain de Ségovie, Espagne, où il a étudié pour devenir tailleur et cuisinier. Le frère a fait sa première profession clarétaine le 16 juillet 1941 et sa profession perpétuelle le 16 juillet 1947.

Peu après sa profession perpétuelle, le Frère Urbain fut affecté à la communauté clarétaine de Santo Domingo de Calzada, une municipalité du nord-ouest de l’Espagne, de 1947 à 1952. Là, il a travaillé comme infirmier, tailleur et cuisinier. Après cette affectation, il a été envoyé au Hutreau, en France, pendant un an, où il a continué à perfectionner ses talents de tailleur. Il confectionne de nombreux vêtements utilisés par les prêtres de la communauté ainsi que des vêtements pour ses frères clarétains.

En 1953, il fait partie du deuxième contingent de Clarétains d’Espagne, connu sous le nom de “Pères Clarétains du Canada”, affecté à la nouvelle Délégation Indépendante du Canada. Les Clarétains venaient de s’installer à la Villa Claret, à Victoriaville, au Québec, lorsque la construction du Collège Clarétain, le séminaire fondé et dirigé par les Clarétains, a commencé.

C’est là que Fr. Urbain a travaillé en tant que tailleur et premier chef de la cafétéria de l’école de 1953 à 1991. C’était aussi un homme proche de la nature et il supervisait la ferme laitière qui faisait partie de l’école et qu’il a transformée par la suite en élevage de bœufs charolais. Il entretenait également un petit mais généreux jardin qui fournissait les légumes consommés par les élèves de l’école. Il était également un excellent tailleur, équipant les membres de sa communauté de leurs soutanes, cols, vêtements, etc. et réparant les uniformes scolaires utilisés par les élèves. En vieillissant, le Frère Urbain s’est impliqué artistiquement dans la création de vitraux au Collège Clarétain, au Camp Claret (le camp d’été appartenant et géré par les Clarétains au Lac Elgin, Québec) et même au Collège International de Rome, Italie.

Le frère Urbain a passé plus de 38 ans au Collège avant de prendre sa retraite en 1991 et de prendre résidence dans la communauté clarétaine de Victoriaville jusqu’en 2019, où, en raison de problèmes de santé, il a été transféré dans une maison de soins infirmiers à Laval, au Québec, son dernier lieu de résidence. Après 73 ans de ministère dévoué, le frère Urbain a été appelé à sa récompense éternelle le 17 mars 2020, à l’âge de 95 ans.

In Memoriam

Fr. Edmundo Andrés, CMF



Fr. Edmundo Andrés, CMF, was born on November 25, 1931 in Cubillos, Spain. Fr. Andrés grew up in Soria, a province of central Spain. He joined the Claretians in 1944 at the age of 13 and he attended a Claretian school in Guadalajara, Spain. Completing his studies, his parents asked him if he would like to return to Cubillos

or go to another school, Fr. Andrés chose to stay with the Claretians and enrolled in the Claretian Minor Seminary in Jerez de los Caballeros, Spain, where he studied Philosophy from 1948 to 1951. He then entered the Claretian Theologate in Zafra, Badajoz (Spain), where he completed his Theology studies in 1956. Fr. Andrés made his religious profession as a Claretian Missionary on August 15, 1948 and was ordained a priest on June 29, 1956.

As a young missionary, Fr. Andrés' first assignment was at the Claretian House of Studies in Washington, D.C., as a seminary professor from 1958 to 1961. In 1961, he responded to the needs of the Congregation when he was asked to go to Victoriaville, Québec (Canada), to help teach English to the seminarians at Collège Clarétain for one year. After that, he returned to Washington, D.C., to do his doctoral studies from 1962 to 1964. Completing his studies in 1964, he was then assigned as professor of philosophy at the Claretian Claretville Seminary in Calabasas, California. He served there for two years before being transferred to the Claretian House of Studies in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1966 to 1970.

For the next 10 years he was assigned to a variety of campuses in the Midwest: at University of Illinois (Champaign, Illinois) as associate chaplain and director of religious studies; at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) as co-chaplain and pastor and Superior of the Claretian community there; and at Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, Illinois) as professor of math.

In 1980, Fr. Andrés once again answered the call to serve the Congregation in Guatemala where he was one of the pioneer Claretians establishing our presence in Izabal, El Estor, and Livingston. He served as pastor at Santo Tomás de Aquino (Izabal) and Superior of the Claretian community there from 1980 to 1998; Parroquia de San Pedro (El Estor) from 1982 to 1994; and Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Livingston) from 1994 to 1996.

In 1998, he was called back to the USA where he served as parish administrator of Our Lady of Fatima in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, until 1999 and then again from 2005 to 2017 as associate pastor and parish administrator. In between these assignments, he served in Chicago, Illinois, at Claret House as assistant director of formation and Our Lady of Guadalupe as associate pastor.

Due to health issues towards the end of 201, he moved to our Claretian retirement community at Dominguez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, California, his final place of residence. After 62 years of dedicated ministry, Fr. Andrés was called to his eternal reward on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Fr. Nnamdiogo J. Ebem, CMF



Fr. Nnamdiogo 'Nnamdi' Jude Ebem, CMF, was born on March 18, 1973 in Nigeria, Africa. He spent his elementary and high school years in Mgbowo (Enugu State) and joined the Claretians in 1997 attending the Claretian Institute of Philosophy in Nekede (Imo State), Nigeria. Fr. Nnamdi made his religious profession as a Claretian

Missionary on September 8, 1997 and was ordained a priest on July 15, 2006.

Upon ordination, Fr. Nnamdi was assigned as chaplain of Imo State University in Owerri for and as a teacher of philosophy at the Claretian Institute of Philosophy in Nekede for one year until 2007. He then did some missionary work for the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana from 2007 to 2009 before being assigned to the then Claretian USA Western Province in 2010. From 2010 to 2011 he was assigned as associate pastor at San Gabriel Mission in San Gabriel, California, and at Our Lady Queen of Angels (La Placita) from 2011 to 2012 in Los Angeles, California.

In 2012 he transferred to Chicago, Illinois, and for the next 6 years was assigned as associate pastor and temporary parish administrator of Holy Cross-Immaculate Heart of Mary. Then in 2018 he moved to Claret House for a brief period of time before his final assignment in-residence at our Claretian parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary in San Antonio, Texas. While in San Antonio he also worked at the Marriage and Family Institute providing professional counseling.

In Memoriam

Father Nnamdi's death on April 28, 2020 at the young age of 47 came as a complete shock to the Province and those who knew him within the Congregation as it was totally unexpected. He had so many more years of missionary service to give before his life was cut short.

Fr. John Hampsch, CMF



Fr. John Hampsch, CMF, was born on December 6, 1925 in Nashville, Tennessee. His family relocated to the Chicago area some years later and while in school Fr. John sensed the desire to study for the priesthood and he applied to numerous seminaries, only to be denied because of a speech impediment. He did not give

up and after applying with the Claretian Missionaries was accepted and joined in 1943 at the age of 18. He attended Dominguez Seminary and completed his philosophy studies graduating from Loyola University in California in 1948. Fr. John made his religious profession as a Claretian Missionary on July 16, 1944 and was ordained a priest on September 20, 1952.

His ministry began soon after ordination at Dominguez Seminary where he would return as a professor for the next eight years. He then was assigned as professor at Claretville, another Claretian seminary in Calabasas, California. From 1959 to 1962. All during this time, Fr. John pursued further studies at Notre Dame University in Indiana earning his M.A. in Philosophy.

Fr. John's first assignment to a parish was in 1963 where he was an associate pastor at All Saints Church in Fort Worth, Texas, until 1966. From there he was assigned to the Claret Cursillo Center in Phoenix, Arizona, from 1966 to 1969; he was the University chaplain in San Marcos, Texas, for a year after that. In 1970, Fr. John was assigned to the AVE Center as director and Superior of the Claretian theology residence in San Francisco, California. This assignment opened the door for him to begin the outreach ministry that would be the center of his work as a Claretian for over 50 years.

From 1970 to 1978 his assignments kept him in California, working at the Provincial residence in Los Angeles, San Gabriel Mission in San Gabriel, and Dominguez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, offering and preaching religious retreats, giving lectures, and making time

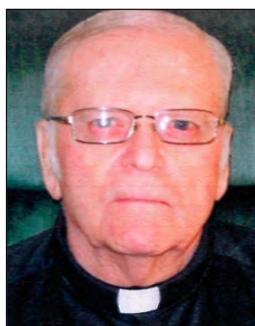
for extensive writing of books and pamphlets. He also wrote as a columnist for a local newspaper.

In 1978, Fr. John began working with the Catholic Claretian Tape Ministry (at Dominguez Seminary), founded in 1969 with the support of Fr. Luis Olivares, CMF, for the publishing and selling of large repertoire of books, booklets, and Fr. John's many recordings in support of the Claretian Missions. His outreach, especially through media and communications, brought many to witness the good works of the Claretians as an international Congregation, both in the USA and abroad. It also afforded him the time to dedicate himself to writing and publishing.

In 1993, this ministry now renamed Claretian Teaching Ministry (CTM), moved to the Claretian Renewal Center in Torrance, California, and would remain there until 2008. In 2019, the location of CTM would move once more to the Claretian administrative office in Temple City, California, the same year CTM celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was also the same year that, due to health reasons, Fr. John had to permanently leave the ministry he loved so much. He did continue to offer spiritual direction by phone and over the internet when he could.

He resided at Dominguez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, California, in his last years. After 69 years of dedicated ministry, Fr. Hampsch was called to his eternal reward on November 9, 2020.

Br. Richard Paquette, CMF



Br. Richard Paquette, CMF, was born on June 29, 1939 in Lowell, Massachusetts. Br. Paquette grew up in St. Joseph's parish in Lowell and became interested in the Claretians through his mother who was a devoted patron of St. Jude and who received information on the Claretians from the National Shrine of St. Jude in

Chicago, Illinois. He joined the Claretians in 1959 at the age of 20, briefly attending the St. Jude Seminary in Momence, Illinois and completing his university studies graduating from Indiana State University in 1964. Br. Richard made his religious profession as a Claretian Missionary on September 8, 1960 and his perpetual profession on September 7, 1966. Br. Paquette never had ambitions to become a priest. He said: "I wanted to be a religious brother and was influenced by several Marianist Brothers who trained me in my younger years."

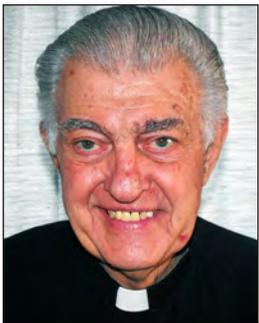
In Memoriam

Upon graduating, Br. Richard was assigned to the Claretian mission of Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Livingston, Guatemala, from 1964 to 1969. He returned to the USA in 1970 and was a religion teacher and sports director of St. Ann's Catholic Grade School (an American Indian Mission) in North Dakota until 1975. From there he was assigned as a pastoral associate of St. Anthony Claret Church in Lakewood, New Jersey, from 1976 to 1981. After a brief leave, he returned to the same Claretian mission in Guatemala from 1984 to 1987 and to the parish in Lakewood from 1987 to 1990. He also served at Immaculate Conception church in Pulaski, Tennessee, in youth ministry from 1991 to 1992.

Over the next 18 years, Br. Richard fulfilled much of his ministry as a Claretian brother in New Jersey, where he carried out the duties as pastoral associate in our Claretian parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Perth Amboy from 1992 to 2002 and from 2005 to 2010. In between those years from 2003 to 2005 he served as pastoral associate at Holy Cross/Immaculate Heart of Mary in Chicago, Illinois.

In 2010, he retired and became a resident of the Claretian community in Oak Park, Illinois. In 2016 due to chronic health issues he was moved to a nursing home in Chicago and subsequently to The British Home, another nursing home, his final place of residence. After 56 years of dedicated ministry, Br. Richard was called to his eternal reward on November 28, 2020, at the age of 81.

Fr. Richard J. Todd, CMF



Fr. Richard J. Todd, CMF, was born on May 27, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois. While growing up his parents instilled in him and his younger brother Bob a strong work ethic and Catholic faith. Fr. Todd attended St. John Berchmans Elementary School and graduated from St. Phillip High School in Chicago. He

credits his vocation to going to Catholic school where he was influenced by his teachers who were Dominican Sisters. Once he told his parents he was interested in the priesthood, they, too, encouraged him. Fr. Todd entered the Claretians' St. Jude Seminary in Momence, Illinois, in 1944 at the age

of 17. He completed his university studies graduating from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1955. Fr. Todd made his first profession as a Claretian Missionary on July 16, 1947 and was ordained a priest on June 9, 1955.

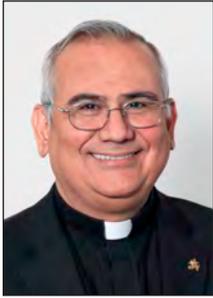
After his ordination, Fr. Todd's first official assignment was as associate pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, in Chicago, Illinois, from 1955 to 1957. Then he moved to St. Jude Seminary in Momence, Illinois, as assistant prefect of students and spiritual director for the students for one year and Claretknoll (Claretian School for Brothers) in Peru, Illinois, for two more years. In 1960, he was appointed as director of vocations for the next seven years.

In 1967 Fr. Todd was assigned as a missionary in Guatemala. He was the pastor of the Claretian mission in Livingston and Santo Tomás. During his time there he helped build strong faith communities while promoting education, better healthcare, and a sense of worth among the struggling Indian families who lived there. After 7 years of service in Guatemala, Fr. Todd was appointed by the Claretian General Government as coordinator of the order's world-wide mission in Rome, Italy, from 1974 to 1983.

Fr. Todd returned to the United States in 1983 and was assigned as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He remained there until 1989 when he was elected Provincial Superior of the USA Eastern Province. Fr. Todd remained in office until 1991, when he was elected to a six-year term as a Consultor for the Claretian General Government, which once again took him back to Rome, Italy.

Once his term on the General Government ended, Fr. Todd returned to the United States in 1997, where he was assigned as associate pastor of Holy Cross/Immaculate Heart of Mary, a predominately Hispanic parish in Chicago, Illinois, for two years. From 1999 to 2009, he then served as associate pastor and administrator of St. Paul Church, another Hispanic parish on the southwest side of Chicago. He was also the Superior of the local Claretian community there.

In 2009, Fr. Todd returned to Our Lady of Fatima in Perth Amboy serving there as parish administrator and Superior of the community until 2013 when he became a resident of the Claretian community in Oak Park, Illinois. In 2019, due to health issues he moved to Resurrection Life Center in Chicago, his final place of residence. After 58 years of dedicated ministry, Fr. Todd was called to his eternal reward on March 25, 2021, at the age of 93.



Letter from the Provincial

Dear Friends,

I wish you all the peace that Jesus sends to all his disciples after his resurrection.

His new life is a sign of hope and joy for the future of us all. Like the early disciples we really “see” him in the “breaking of the bread.” The disciples meet a stranger along the road to Emmaus and when they welcome him into their home and break bread with him, they “see” that the stranger is Jesus, the resurrected Christ. This also confirms the teaching of Jesus where he says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” and “what you do to the least of my people . . .”

This corona virus pandemic has been a challenge for us all and at the same time an opportunity to take more time for inner reflection and seek out that peace that Jesus wants for us all. It is from that interior peace that we reach out to the stranger we come across; it is from that peace that we allow ourselves to be welcomed into the lives of others.

Our missionaries have been busy this past year finding new ways to reach out to others and send messages of hope and encouragement. Some have published books, some have continued writing or finished writing books, while other members have had tremendous response and success with their online Bible courses and workshops. Our pastors, their associates, and volunteers were busy organizing outdoor Masses, online catechetical programs and most importantly working with the parish and local food banks providing much needed aid to the local community.

The team at the St. Jude League have seen an increase in their online donations and Radio Claret America and Café con Cristo continue to reach out to an ever-expanding audience through their online radio programming and podcasts with updates about the pandemic and words of encouragement to “Get vaccinated for your own health and that of your families.” And the list goes on and on.

The important thing is that our ministry did not stop; it has just been in a different mode. This pandemic has forced all of us to be more creative in how we can safely respond to people’s needs.

Our work has also included sending financial help to other people and organizations within the province and around the world in the Claretian spirit of “shared mission” who are facing similar challenges with far fewer resources.

We give thanks to God for the grace to respond to all of these needs. We give thanks to God for the benefactors who are partners with us in sending out these messages of hope. If God has blessed us with the ability to help others, how can we not proclaim his Word in our actions of love and concern. These times have brought us in to a deeper awareness of our interconnectedness, of our being one global family.

May the Lord bless you with God’s peace and keep you safe during these uncertain times

Rosendo Urrabazo, CMF
Provincial Superior

Claretian Calendar: January–May 2021 (continued)

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| 28 † Jim Overend (2015) | | | | | |
| † Nnamdiogo Ebem (2020) | | | | | |
| 29 † Michael Cecere (2007) | | | | | |
| MAY | | | | | |
| 03 Fco. Javier Reyes | | | | | O |
| 04 † Eugene Hernan (1978) | | | | | |
| 05 † Peter Caballer (1997) | | | | | |
| † Domingo Zuñiga (2018) | | | | | |
| 07 Manuel Villalobos | | | | | O |
| † Thomas Mitchell (1990) | | | | | |
| 08 Salvador Bonano | | | | | O |
| Stephen Sherwood | | | | | B |
| 11 † Ernest Hyman (1978) | | | | | |
| 12 † Arthur Valle (1959) | | | | | |
| 13 Jose Luis Chung | | | | | B |
| † Joseph Torres (1982) | | | | | |
| 15 Thomas McGann | | | | | O |
| Frank Hernandez | | | | | B |
| Jose Luis Chung | | | | | O |
| † George Sturm (2004) | | | | | |
| 17 Beauplan Derilus | | | | | O |
| 19 † Thomas Parramo (2004) | | | | | |
| 21 Sahaya R. Peter | | | | | O |
| 22 Paulus Marandi | | | | | B |
| † Anastasio Jimenez (1921) | | | | | |
| 23 Placido Rodriguez | | | | | O |
| Joby Antony | | | | | B |
| 24 Hector Navalo | | | | | O |
| 25 Paschal Amagba | | | | | B |
| † Inncentius Martin (1940) | | | | | |
| 26 † Angel Elroz (1976) | | | | | |
| † James McElvor (1988) | | | | | |
| 27 Jean Paul Bars | | | | | O |
| Patrick Ekong | | | | | B |
| Paulus Marandi | | | | | O |
| 29 Carl Quebedeaux | | | | | O |
| † Wayne Barron (2011) | | | | | |
| 30 Dan Magner | | | | | B |
| † Camilo Torrente (1946) | | | | | |
| 31 † James Tort (1955) | | | | | |



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Chicago, Illinois 60606-5006

www.claretiansusa.org
www.claretianinitiative.org
www.radioclaretamerica.com

We thank our readers for their prayers and donations to support our ministries.

Claretian Calendar: January–May 2021

JANUARY

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 01 | † Walter Mischke (2004) | |
| 03 | † John Zelaya (1992) | |
| 04 | Gerald Caffrey | B |
| | Joby Antony | O |
| | † Filomeno Perez (1941) | |
| 05 | Gerald Kumar | O |
| 08 | † Jacob Vives Anglada (1976) | |
| 12 | † John Schneider (1984) | |
| | † Wayne Schimmelmann (2017) | |
| | † Carmel Lerma (2020) | |
| 14 | † Bonifacio Mayer (1944) | |
| | † Richard Farrell (2015) | |
| 15 | † John Arans (1994) | |
| 18 | Olivier Nkwimi | B |
| | † Modesto Vicario (1962) | |
| 19 | † Yves Gauthier (2010) | |
| 20 | † Peter La Plana (1949) | |
| 22 | † John Salvador (2006) | |
| 23 | † Celestine de la Iglesia (2001) | |
| 25 | Benjamin Romero-Arrieta | B |
| | † Donald Lavelle (2019) | |
| 26 | Manny Marrufo | B |
| | † Orville Raeder (1971) | |
| | † Medardo Zuñiga (1978) | |
| | † Arnold Gonzalez (2018) | |
| 28 | Frank Hernandez | O |
| 31 | Mark Clarke | O |

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 01 | 109 Claretian Martyrs | |
| | Ray John Mejorada | B |
| | Ulungabo Mangye | B |
| 02 | † Vincent Andres (1978) | |
| 05 | Art Gramaje | O |
| | † J. Maria Llacuña (2009) | |
| 06 | † Michael Sans (1950) | |

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 07 | Agustin Carrillo | B |
| | † Joseph Bochenski (1998) | |
| | † Edward Widmer (2010) | |
| 08 | Thomas Haerle | B |
| | † Francis Iruarrizaga (1981) | |
| 09 | † Segundo Virumbrales (1914) | |
| 10 | J. Reegan Soosai | B |
| 11 | Quyen Nguyen | B |
| 13 | † Eduardo Vasquez (1963) | |
| 15 | † Leonard Cuellar (1978) | |
| | † Joseph Soler (1980) | |
| 16 | † Bernard Stacy (2000) | |
| | † Fermin Urrutia (2000) | |
| 18 | † Alexander Iturriza (1946) | |
| 20 | † Raymond Catalan (1987) | |
| 22 | Leonard Brown | B |
| 23 | Rohan Dominic | B |
| | † Joachim Uriz (1942) | |
| | † Fidel Zapatero (1970) | |
| | † Thomas Moran (2012) | |
| 27 | † Andres Moreno (1911) | |
| 28 | † Braulio Gonzalez (1921) | |
| 29 | † Francis Ambrosi (1992) | |

MARCH

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 02 | Lukose Kochupurackal | B |
| | † Carlos Castillo (2019) | |
| 03 | † Anthony Canudas (1986) | |
| 04 | Ferdinand Okorie | O |
| | † Patrick Finnegan (1970) | |
| 05 | † Clement Saenz (1957) | |
| | † Joseph Llobet (1967) | |
| 06 | Andrew Esua | B |
| | † Victor Redondo (1917) | |
| 08 | Thomas McGann | B |
| 09 | J. Alexander Gaitan | B |
| | Nelson Espinoza | B |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 10 | Milton Alvarez | B |
| 12 | † Joseph Gutierrez (1987) | |
| | † Edward Kolb (1983) | |
| | † Raymond Sunye (1991) | |
| 13 | Marcos J. Cardenas | B |
| | † Barnabas Marinas (1916) | |
| | † Paul Redin (1933) | |
| | † Domingo Zaldivar (1939) | |
| | † Joseph Peplansky (2011) | |
| 14 | Percy Diaz | B |
| | † Raymond Puigvi (1968) | |
| 15 | Paul Roy | B |
| 17 | † Peter Rodriguez (2004) | |
| | † Urbain Herrero (2020) | |
| 18 | William Paiz | B |
| | † John Feliu (1957) | |
| | † Luis Olivares (1993) | |
| 19 | Michel Correa | O |
| 22 | † Raphel Serrano (1946) | |
| 23 | Alberto Domingo | B |
| | † Albert Lopez (1931) | |
| 24 | Gaspar Masilamani | B |
| 25 | † Richard Todd (2021) | |
| 26 | † Pedro Lopez (1922) | |
| | † Andres Resa (1956) | |
| 27 | Manuel Villalobos | B |
| | † Raymond Prat (1925) | |
| | † Marcel Salinas (1997) | |
| | † Basil Frison (2002) | |
| 28 | Palm Sunday | |
| | † Felix Beperet (1967) | |
| 29 | † Fredrick Sahuc (2010) | |

APRIL

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 01 | † Richard Bartlett (2018) | |
| 03 | † Daryl Olds (2015) | |
| 04 | Mark Clarke | B |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 05 | Vicente Montiel | B |
| 06 | Gaspar Masilamani | O |
| | † Aloysius Ellacuria (1981) | |
| | † Thomas Joyce (2018) | |
| 07 | Rosendo Urrabazo | O |
| | † Roland Lozano (2017) | |
| 08 | Eslin Pereira | O |
| | † Benjamin Martinez (2006) | |
| 09 | John Raab | O |
| | Andrew Esua | O |
| | Vittorio Bruscella | B |
| 12 | † Manuel Milagro (1967) | |
| | † Francis Pacheco (1975) | |
| | † Edmundo Andrés (2020) | |
| 13 | † Justus Sedano (1967) | |
| 14 | Thomas Mallavarupu | O |
| 15 | Rene LePage | B |
| | Fernando Ferrera | B |
| | † Eugene Sugrañes (1942) | |
| 17 | James Raphel | O |
| | † Albert Daube (1949) | |
| 18 | Iridayaraj J. Britto | O |
| | † Domingo Capri (1923) | |
| 19 | † Angel M. Canals (1967) | |
| 20 | Lukose Kochupurackal | O |
| | † Mathew Di Mara (2002) | |
| 22 | † Emmanuel Goncalves (1944) | |
| | † Crescencio Lizarraga (1986) | |
| 23 | Ted Cirone | B |
| | Richard Suttle | B |
| 24 | Manuel Benavides | B |
| | Miguel Angel Velasco | O |
| | † Agustin Cubillo (1978) | |
| 25 | † Jose Nuevo (1996) | |
| 26 | † Juan Corominas (2012) | |
| 27 | † Joachim De Prada (1958) | |
| 28 | † Richard Treviño (1998) | |