



THE FORGE

CLARET HOUSE BULLETIN

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The burning fire... The Editorial

Claretian Missionary... A man on fire with love!

Between 1961 and 1962, St. Anthony Mary Claret composed one of the most magnificent descriptions of an apostolic missionary. Fruit of many years of pastoral experience, after being in touch with different realities, cultural backgrounds and a wide diversity of people, almost at the end of his ministry and life, our Father and Founder synthesized the density of his evangelical baggage in few symbolic and powerful statements that have come to be known as the 'Definition of the Missionary.'

Doubtlessly, the main element of his Definition is no other than *fire*. This is that fire present in the forge of the heart of Mary, moulding from the beginning of the vocational process the life and ministry of the young missionaries.

The fire articulated by St. Claret, as the centre of his Definition, embraces three constitutive dimensions, absolutely intertwined and in complementary reciprocity, enriching and deepening the vision of our Founder:

The first constitutive dimension of the Claretian burning flame is *mystical*. Fire speaks about the density of the experience of God that the Saint has developed along the years. Fire is the symbolic expression of the profound and vibrant love of God rooted in his heart, the metaphorical description of this genuine relationship of true love.

Secondly, we can discover an *apostolic* dimension. The fire impels our Founder to preach, to write, to teach... Fire is the

power that makes the missionary work to be effective, significant and fruitful. Fire is the support of an intensive and tireless ministry. The fire burning in the heart of an evangelizer is courage, enthusiasm, eagerness... Fire is passion for the Gospel, passion for the Kingdom. Lastly, the third constitutive dimension of this missionary fire is *vocational*. Fire spreads its flames incredibly fast and without borders. The missionary fire searches always to be shared, to be offered, to be donated. A man on fire with God's love wants others to be also inflamed with the same fire, he wants to make others participants of this very mystical experience and apostolic zeal.

This number of *The Forge* will focus on this third element of the Claretian fire, the vocational dimension. Each page of this booklet wants to transmit the living flame burning within us and invite you, dear reader, to share its heat, its light, its life, its passion... In fact, to share the fire that makes us to be who we are: Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, men on fire.



Fr. Manuel Ogalla CMF
Formator of Postulants





The heart beating... Our daily life

COME & SEE EXPERIENCE

During the month of April, Claret House held the Come & See Experience, a time for sharing our daily life with those young men who are discerning their Claretian Vocation. In this occasion, four people were the participants coming from different places of the country: Blessing from Tafara, Stanford from Gutu, Justice from Makwa and Rodrick from Zhomba. Together, we could visit Arrupe University where we study, the parishes of St. Charles and St. Dominic where we do our apostolate, the schools where the Claretians work... We prayed together, enjoyed our community life and shared the joy of this Missionary vocation. Let us continue praying for them and their option of life.



PRE-NOVICE DAY IN NYAZURA

The postulants Kuda and Effort, accompanied by their formator Fr. Manuel, participated on the 19th March in the Pre-Novice Day at the Carmelites Priory in Nyazura (Prophet Elijah). Thirty eight people from different Congregations could share our dreams and challenges embraced by a nice atmosphere of fraternity and complementarity. The facilitator was Sr. Florence Muchingami LCBL who lead us through the interesting topic of "Vocational Discernment."



SYNODALITY IN CLARET HOUSE

On the 26th March, a nice group of Lay Claretians came to Claret House to work hand by hand with this community. The experience was wonderful and very rich. We could strengthen the sense of communion between the Religious Life and the Lay people, the belongingness to the same charismatic inheritance and the reality of the Synodal process in which we are all involved.



BR. KUDA AND FR. MANUEL FINISH THEIR STUDIES



The month of May has been marked by the end of the studies of two members of our community. Firstly, Br. Kudakwashe Mashaire has completed his Bachelor Degree in Philosophy undergone during three years in Arrupe Jesuit University. On the 10th of this month, he defended his Dissertation entitled "COVID 19 Pandemic as a compounding disaster of the Zimbabwean Educational System." Secondly, our formator Fr. Manuel Ogalla was graduated by the Catholic University of Zimbabwe in the Post Graduate Diploma in Education, obtaining a Distinction and a Special Award for the highest aggregate mark.





The Forge... *Fides quaerens intellectum*

God shepherds us with love.



Alluding to Pope Francis who says that we are not masters of our vocations but administrators of the gifts that God has entrusted to us for the good of all people, we share with the community the call as well as the response. Vocation, has a great dose of the mystery of love, since by it we behold the voice of the Shepherd. No doubt, it is said to be a long march in a search, with hearts touched, once and for all, repeatedly and spontaneously. We are the Lord's cared fields and the lambs pastured by him with great love. Warmed by his love, we want the world to wake up in joyous flames, witnessing different ways of talking, acting, living and relating.

We are the sheep that goes nowhere without a shepherd, we cannot afford to live sleepy lives because ours is the duty to "wake up the world," that is to let it be illumined by the love in the light of Christ. Neither can we passively assist the procession to our burial because to us is addressed the exhortation: "Young man, I say to you rise" (Lk 7:14). We rise to be responsibly at the service of the earnest care of vocations in us and in others. Firstly, a vocation promoter is a labourer in the field of the Lord. The Lord himself sees, hears and accompanies the labourer. He can firmly be convinced that He who called him will support him, right to the day of Jesus Christ (CC 51). We are called to cooperate with his grace, putting ourselves unconditionally at his service. God's fidelity towards us should be reciprocated by a complete faithful effort on our part.

"We are not masters of our vocations but administrators of the gifts that God has entrusted to us for the good of all people" (Pope Francis).

Secondly, a vocation promoter is a fisher of the fishers of men. Human beings are fished out by love not only by art. By love and for love, people do exceptional things. Thus, the care of vocations needs an adequate dose of love. Claret well defines the missionary vocation as being on fire with God's love, because love motivates us to acquire the art, techniques, skills and relevant creativity. Moreover, love forges us to be generous with our time, talents and strength. We suffer tiredness, when we do not love enough.

Thirdly, a vocation promoter is a postboy, the friend to the bride, Christ. In giving and receiving, he does well to be just like Jesus: joyful, simple and humble. Metaphorically, the promoter needs to be at least a mirror if not a human editor, giving hope and helping people to renew their love story with God. He should understand that just like him, prior to discover their vocation, the young people are like shapeless mud in the hands of a potter or steel bars in the forge of the blacksmith. Post discovery, all is great and glory.

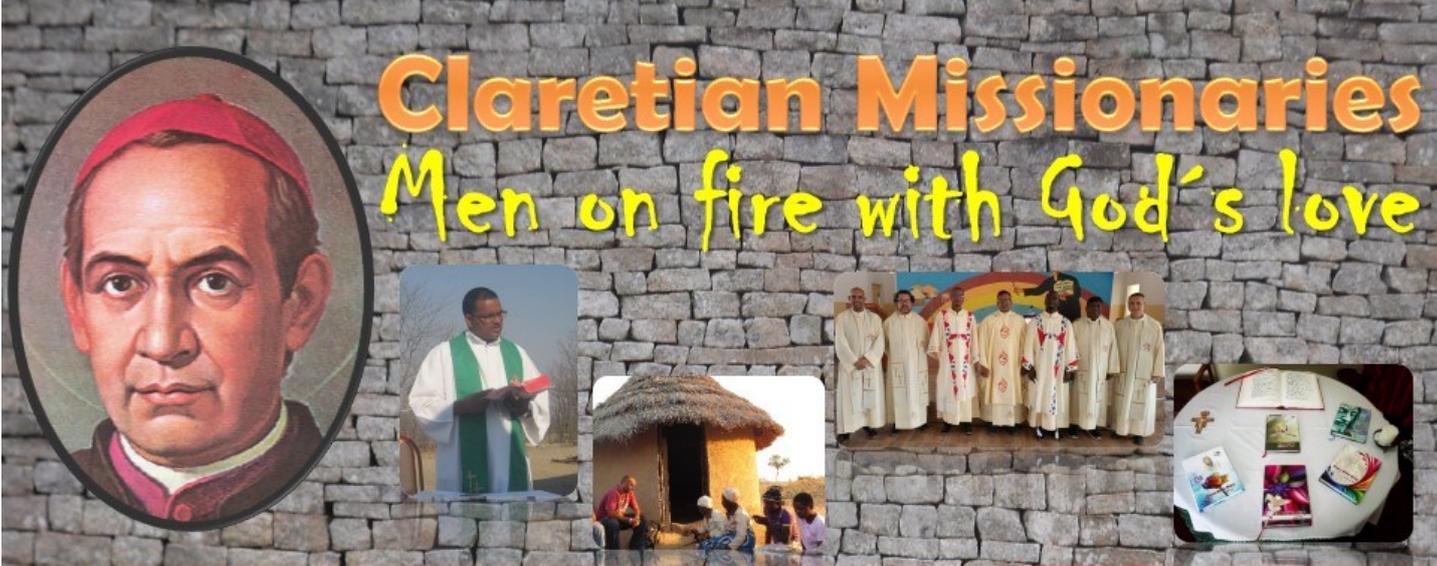
The promoter is a vocation mid-wife, actively present at birth. After having mediated, expects results. However, despite the results, we should keep on: working by trust in the words of Jesus (cf. Lk 5:4), at the side of the bride, feeling impelled by his love to serve (cf. 2 Co 5:14). Lastly, we should always be renewed in our strength by trusting that the Good Shepherd cares for us with his love.



Fr. Nyasha Choga CMF
Vocation Promoter



God, the blacksmith... The Claretian Vocation



-  **Founded by Saint Anthony Mary Claret.**
-  **We are more than 3000 spread throughout the world (73 countries).**
-  **Working in Africa since 1883 and present in 17 countries.**
-  **In Zimbabwe since 2002 (Harare and Gokwe).**

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