



# THE FORGE

## CLARET HOUSE BULLETIN

www.claretianszimbabwe.com



Vol: 3 Issue: 5

8<sup>th</sup> December 2022



## The burning fire... The Editorial

### Rooted in Christ... accompanied by Mary

#### *Cordimarian Spirituality*



The XXVI General Chapter called all the Claretian Missionaries to “be rooted in Christ and audacious in Mission” (QC 1). This motto from its programmatic exhortation *Querida Congregación* (QC)

is, doubtlessly, a call to all of us to have present in our life and ministry (if they can be separated!) the Christological foundation of our missionary Charisma.

However, this Christological Root is not understandable in Claret and the Claretians without the presence of Mother Mary. Like in Pentecost, she was present in the moment of the foundation, among that small group of young priests who put his “*devotion and confidence in the Holy Cross and the Blessed Virgin Mary*” (Aut 490).

The spirituality of Fr. Claret was always profoundly Cordimarian. From his childhood, as he recounts in his Autobiography (Aut), Mary was present in his prayers and devotions. In his adulthood, this devotion became a profound sensibility as well as a maternal concern for the salvation of God’s children -or “souls” as he refers, using those times spirituality (cf. Aut 493)-. In his spirituality, the presence of Jesus and Mary cannot be separated, “*Jesus and Mary are my only support and guide, the models I propose to follow and imitate*” (Aut 642).

This Marian spirituality goes forth in two directions “ad extra” and “ad intra.”

1. *Ad extra* or to others means that all our work, pastoral ministries or any kind of missionary endeavour has to be tainted by the presence of Mary’s motherly love. To have with our neighbour a “motherly heart,” as he says in that well-known prayer. Also, when he says, “*O Heart of Mary, forge and instrument of love, kindle in me the love of God and neighbour*” (Aut 447). Our motherly heart is manifested by respecting and defending every human being, especially the most vulnerable, seeing ourselves as brothers to all (Cf. QC 80).

2. Also *ad intra*. It goes towards the interior of the missionary community, characterized by a fraternal life, built together, generously, in mutual respect and fraternal love (Cf. CC 10-19). As our last General Chapter invited us to dream about, our maternal care is expressed by “*fostering spaces of living together, genuine relations and fraternal life*” (QC 61).

### To have with our neighbour a motherly heart

Finally, the General Chapter invited us to “*intensify the Cordimarian dimension of our spirituality: confession of God, revolution of tenderness* (EG 88, 288), *hope of the peoples and dream of a new world*” (QC 47). As the document concludes, “*Mary, the Mother..., will continue to accompany us. (As) our journey with Jesus continues...*” (QC 98).



Fr. Luis María Guerrero CMF  
Formation Team



# The heart beating... Our daily life



## SOME RENOVATIONS IN OUR FORMATION HOUSE

The beginning of the year was marked by some renovations in the formation house (addition of bedrooms, showers and toilets). With this, Claret house has become a resemblance of a beehive as it can now accommodate more aspirants and visitors. Sincere appreciation to all those who, wholeheartedly, have contributed towards this project through different donations and gift. Especial mention to our friends and parishioners from Ruwa and Zimre.

## CLARET HOUSE FAMILY GROWS!

Claret House has inaugurated this new academic year welcoming three new members full of energy and deep desire to strengthen their missionary vocation: Justice Munsaka from St. John Mission-Makwa, Rodrick Ziumbwa from St. Claret Mission-Zhomba and Stanford Matsinhise from St. Mary Mission-Mutero. Together with Effort Mupfudza, from St. Paul Mission-Chevecheve, who is doing his second year of philosophy, and the formation team (Fr. Manuel Ogalla CMF and Fr. Luis Maria Guerrero CMF), conform this vibrant community.



## CELEBRATING ST. CLARET DAY

This Claretian month (October) 2022 has been marked by a special *Quinnarium*. This was a five days-period marking the Feast of St. Antony Mary Claret celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During these five days, we were reflecting upon the different traits of our spirituality (Fire, Word of God, Heart of Mary, Community and Eucharist). Our *Quinnarium* and the Claretian month concluded with the celebration of the Solemn Mass for our Father and Founder, accompanied by the renovation of vows of Brother Lee Malunga CMF at St Dominic Parish, Zimre.

## SHARING WITH OTHERS

During the month of November, Claret House received the visit of different groups of the Claretian Parish of St. Dominic, fulfilling Claret's dream of "sharing with others." Two were the groups that have blessed us with their presence, the guild of the Sacred Heart and the SCC of St. Peter. Together we celebrated the Mass, we shared the happiness of a Missionary Community and we strengthened our bonds as Claretian Family.

Thank you for your visit and your love!





## The Forge... *Fides quaerens intellectum*

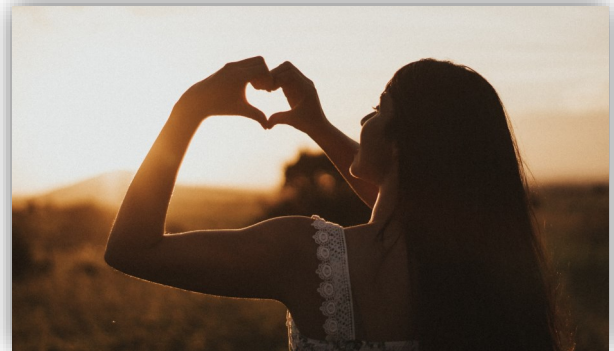
### How do I live my chastity?

When I joined the Congregation, it was the beginning of the era of Internet. The porn available at that moment was only in magazines and TV channels late in the night, mainly private ones. Today, there is a huge number of pornographic web sites accessible and free for everybody, included Consecrated men and women like me. Many people have developed addictions of diverse intensity to pornography and other sexual activities such as masturbation.

People get into these things for various reasons: boredom, isolation, pleasure-seeking, or hurt. In many cases, the sexual activity acts as a temporary alleviation from the pain one is experiencing, but sometimes it is just a simply seeking of pleasure.

The time of initial formation teaches us that healthy chastity is possible if we care some dynamism of prayer, self-knowledge, self-discipline, self-care, as well as formation and information about human sexuality and spiritual awareness. There is no magic formula in this topic. It is like the parable of the ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom, if the container of oil is not full enough, in the darkness of life, the light can be finished. Therefore, we need to keep enough oil to enlighten the darkness of our sexuality with formation and information, with self-awareness of what is happening in my life and telling me the truth of my relationships, with self-discipline avoiding the danger of some practices... Above all, the very important self-care regarding our strong relationship with God and with others.

Continuing with the parable, although it is a pity, that oil cannot be shared with others. In our sexuality and affectivity, each one has his or her own history, wounds and joys. My questions are different from others. The formation and information that I have received and I need differs from others. The awareness that we may have about ourselves as well as the help that we may have received at some moments of our life can be also different. The important thing is to be aware –truthfully– of what is happening in our lives and whether it is necessary to go and buy more oil. Perhaps



that night we will not meet the bridegroom but we believe that he will search for us and we want to be able to meet him with our light shining in the darkness.

Our context is not helpful because of the deformation in understanding Christian Sexuality. Consecrated men and women are nowadays sign of contradiction in this society that present the “consumption” of sexuality as something normal. We are living gifts of the Love of God; consequently, we should care of that gift in a mature way (healthy relations with others, living focused on our goals and depositing our trust in God’s strength as the only way of overcoming challenges). I remember that in the questionnaire of my first psychological assessment as postulant, this question appeared, “Are you living fully your sexuality?” One of us put his hand up and asked whether that question in the questionnaire was for us. The therapist answered, “Yes it is for you.” The same person asked again, “Do you know who we are?” The therapist replied, “Yes, I know that you are postulants of the Claretian Missionaries; Please, answer the question.” In fact, I do not remember what I answered that day, however that question helped me to learn about sexuality and how to grow in that area. Now, few years later, I can fearlessly answer, “Yes, I am living fully my sexuality in my Consecrated Life.”



Fr. Joaquin Béjar CMF  
St. Charles Lwanga Parish (Ruwa)



# God, the blacksmith... The Claretian Vocation



## Claretian Missionaries



**Do you feel called to be a Missionary?  
Are you zealous to set the world on fire with God's love?**

**Contact us on:**

**0718080828**

**0784962456**

**0715486172**

**0771516886**



## 20 YEARS IN ZIMBABWE

### Evangelizing through all possible means!

