



Movimiento de Seglares Claretianos
Secretaría General

Sevilla, March 7th, 2002

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this Lent time, an appropriate occasion for the Christian Community to make a halt in the way to check, to reflect, to correct and to thank for his own existence, I am getting in touch with you all. First of all to encourage you to live this liturgical time intensely, in order that we could realize more clearly the vocation for which we have been called, and let us deeply analyze the way in which we live in the world, let us revise the particular situation in which we live to take a position facing the injustice structures, lack of solidarity and oppression that surround man and do not allow him to be free and authentically human being. Let us give thanks for everything that have been given to us and for the compassionate love that Father God is giving continuously to each one of us.

Secondly, to inform you on the annual meeting of the General Council that we celebrated at Chicago during February the 7th to 10th. They have been days of intense work in which we have been talking about the different aspects of the Claretian Lays Movement: path, projections towards the future, new groups, etc. We were taking also some steps to continue preparing the VI General Assembly and, above all, we have evaluated to ourselves in the effectiveness of the different services that we have assigned in the different secretariats. Likewise we had the opportunity to get in contact with the USA Claretian Lays groups: the Spanish speaking one and the “Companions in Journey” English speaking group.

NEW GROUPS

We are glad to communicate you that the following groups have asked for their incorporation to the Movement:

- Sinai, of Loja (Granada), belonging to the Betica Region, that, after a period of four years in discernment, has decided to request its incorporation to the Movement as an admitted group.
- The Claretian Lay group of Imaichi, at Osaka, in Japan, that after a reliable formation process, and accompanied first by F. De Grandis and later by F. Jaime Cisneros when the former died, has asked for its admission; they are 14 members.
- “Barbastro Martyrs” group, of Hirakata, in the surroundings of Osaka, too; 20 persons make up the group. In the first instance were accompanied by F. De Grandis, but right now do not have Religious Assesor.

The request of the Lumen Group, from South Korea, as a group in discernment, has been received. This group is constituted by 19 members and they carry out mainly their mission in the Wontong Missionary Center, at Seoul, a place for lays Vocational training and for research on missionaries themes, with the group being accompanied by F. Gabriel Kim. Also after coming back to home, I found the documents from another group that has been passed to the accepted condition: the Saint Joseph II of Bayamón, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Region. On the other side, several persons incorporated themselves to groups already existing: such as is the case of 4 persons recently incorporated to the Alba group at Zaragoza, Spain. To all of them we wellcome and tell that all the Claretian Lays are at their service for everything they may need. We are glad and congratulate ourselves on it.

GROUPS HISTORY

With respect to the data that we asked to you for writing the history of the Claretian Lays, we communicate to you that only few groups have answered to this initiative, but we want to stand out and to thank the effort and collaboration of those groups that accomplished it: “Martyrs of Barbastro”, Argentina; Claretian Lays of Silver Harbour; Claretian Lays “Bayamon Gardens” of Puerto Rico (Caribbean Region); “Llerena Group”, from Santa Rosa de Chena (Chile Region); Sinai group, from Loja (Granada); “Exodo”, “Theotokos” and “Siloé”, all three from Seville, Betica Region.

In relation to the history of the Regions, none was received.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Claretian Lays Movement founding, we insist and we invite you all to write the history of your Groups. According to the received histories and taking into consideration the points that have been highlighted by some of them, we have decided to offer a questionnaire to facilitate and to fill in several details that we consider important. Besides, it is good to keep a homogenous style among the histories with a view of their publication. We encourage you to make an effort and to write your own history. From my own personal history, I can tell you that it is rewarding to remember the path followed since the beginning. Also it is important to keep in a written form what each of the groups lived, to avoid that anything could get lost, and we may offer to others what we have received free. The questionnaire that we proposed is the following:

- **Creation of the group:** involved persons, some fact or event that helped to make the decision to constitute the group, date of the group creation.
- **Location of the group:** where does it arise, under what circumstances.
- **Development phases of the group:** date of approval as a group in discernment; formation process (persons that helped to them; points that were more attractive; themes that were studied at higher depth; materials that were used; other formation initiatives); main difficulties found; connections with another Claretian Lays groups; relationships with another brands of the Claretian family. Date of admission into the Movement.
- **Growth as a community:** experience of the Claretian spirituality by the groups; initiatives or materials that helped them to go into this field in depth; frequency of the meetings and personal participation in the same; the services within the

community (coordinators, responsible for formation, economy, etc). Commitment to the promotion of the Movement and accompanying to other groups and persons in discernment).

- **Missionary dimension of the group:** main missionary compromise fields of the group and its members; resonance of the task of each one in the life of the group; the different missionary compromises that have been carried out and the reason for it; compromises that were given up and its cause; discernment criteria to decide the new missionary compromises, etc.
- **More important events in the life of the group:** persons who have gone integrating into the group and others who have left it; important celebrations; moments of special intensity in the life of the group; visitors, etc.
- **Relationship with the Regional Council and with the General Council:** Regional Assemblies (participation of the group in the preparation and carrying out of the Assembly); responses to the circulars and other materials that arrive from the General Council.

We beg you to send the history to Cristina Martínez. Colegio Mayor Hernando Colón. Sor Gregoria de Santa Teresa, s/n. 41012 – Sevilla –España. E-mail: hcdireccion@retemail.es before September 1, 2002.

SOME ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2002 YEAR

Cristina will make a visit to the Puerto Rico groups and she will participate in the Second Caribbean Regional Assembly, that will take place at Fusimaña (Silver Harbour) on August 29 to September 2, 2002. There she will be able to have an interview with the representatives of the Region groups. Likewise she will attend the Assembly of the Betica Region, from which she forms part.

Aurora will participate in the Formation Meeting that will celebrate the Venezuela Region on August. She also will visit the Panamá groups. She will also take part in the Justice and Peace Workshop organized by the CICLA.

F. Abella will take advantage of his visit to the India mission to motivate some initiatives that are being carried out to promote the Movement.

Once more it is talking about the convenience to visit the groups of the Nigeria Region. October could be a good moment, coinciding with the visit of F. Abella to the Claretian missionaries, on occasion of the Provincial Chapter of that nation. It seems reasonable that the visitor should be an English speaking Claretian Lay. We will be in touch with Miren, coordinator of the North Region in Spain in order to see whether a Claretian Lay from that Region could carry out this service.

PREPARING THE VI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Another theme that we have dealt with has been the preparation of the VI General Assembly of the Movement that will be held in Spain. Every group will

receive on September the call of the Assembly, where the place, theme, dates, price, etc. will be specified.

In my previous letter of the 2001 year, I asked you the preferences for the formation theme to deal with in the Assembly. Taking into consideration the answers of the following groups:

- Bahía Blanca and Martyrs of Barbastro from the Argentina – Uruguay Region;
- Sinai, Exodo, Siloé, A. Testamento, Almendralejo, and Shemá (in discernment), from the Bética Region, Spain;
- Heart of María, of Logroño, and Heart of María, of Zaragoza, from the North Region, Spain;
- Llerena, St. Antonio M^a Claret, Mariano Avellana, and Andacullo, from the Chile Region;
- Claretian Lays of Quibdó, Claretian Lays of Quibdó (in discernment) and Claretian Lays of Medellín, from the Colombia Region;
- Claretian Lays of Cochabamba and Claretian Youth (in discernment) from the Bolivia Region;
- Chicago group (Spanish speaking) and
- Travelling for the Kingdom, Guatemala,

the preferential formation theme has been the A); “**On the claretian Lay mission**” , followed by the C) **Spirituality**. Hence, the subject for the next Assembly is:

THE CLARETIAN LAY MISSION IN THE PRESENT MOMENT. The Claretian Lay faced with the challenges of the mission in the today world. What does it mean and does involve a prophetic evangelization in the social, political, cultural and religious contexts of the today world? How to assume the new raising of the Church upon the mission?

It was decided to make an easy inquire with the aim that the groups think on that theme and could contribute to the preparation of a document to be worked out for the Assembly. The inquiry remained as follows:

- 1.- What challenges for the evangelization do you discover in the reality of our world?
 - a) at the local level
 - b) at a global level
- 2.- What would we need to answering these evangelization challenges as Claretian Lays?
 - a) inachmuch as attitudes
 - b) with regard to actions
- 3.- What proposals would you have for the Movement in order to maintain an evangelization truyl significant for the today world?

We beg you to carry out it and then send it to Aurora Bailon, Air post office 316, Quibdó (Chocó), Colombia. E-mail: camino@co12.telecom.com.co before September 16, 2002.

MOVEMENT PROMOTION

This is a current issue that does worry to all of us and that everybody should take with great responsibility. We comment now on some initiatives that could help in this respect:

- To use the existing materials to present the Movement and to prepare new ones according to the different cultural sensitivities. From the General Council, it could be possible to help the publishing of some materials for the presentation in other languages different to the Spanish one.
- To present the Movement within the youthful pastoral process. It will be necessary to go depth in the collaboration with the vocational youthful pastoral.
- Promotion in zones where Claretian Missionaries Congregation is present and the Movement does not exists yet. In this respect, it will be asked to Miren Elejalde, Coordinator of the North Region in Spain, to make a tracking of the established relation with Ana M. Dupleyez, of the Claretian parish church of Hayes. The English materials that we have will be sent to her and she will be invited to participate in the VI General Assembly. Likewise, Cristina takes in charge to write to F. Peter Schütz, Germany Provincial Superior, to propose him the possibility for promotioning in that country the Movement. F. Abella will get in touch with the Apostolate Prefect, F. Krzysztof Gierat, from Poland. Cristina will write to F. Roland Lozano, Provincial Superior of the USA West Province, proposing him to consider the Movement promotion within the commemorative acts with occasion of the centenary of the presence of the Claretian missionaries in USA.
- We invite to each of the groups to offer, in their origin places, this possibility for living the faith as a received gift. As we said at the beginning, this is task of everybody.

We would like to stand out the wellcome and affection that were given to us in the Claret House where we celebrated the Encounter. F. Cirone, Superior of the community and the other claretians of the formation centre have made possible that we felt with pleasure and as in home. It was also very important to rely on the Claretian Lays of Chicago, they have been always watchful to everything we needed. Besides, we had the opportunity to get together with the members of the Claretian Lays Spanish speaking group and the Companions in Journey English speaking group. They told us their trajectories, disquiet and projects. From the General Council we have given them some recommendations and informed them on projects for an immediate future. It was also very nice the get together organized by the two groups, with the Claretian Missionaries existing in Chicago being invited too. Once more we could verify the importance of meeting and to get to know each other, this results in creating authentic family bonds.

For the moment nothing more, I hope that you will receive news from Julio Cesar with respect to the Movement economy. In the same way, Aurora, through the journal and personally, will offer you materials and asking you for collaboration in the form of papers for the journal.

That María help us to walk towards Easter. That once more let us be reborn with vigour. Fortified and in high spirits by the claretian gift, I embrace you.

Cristina Martínez Benavides

General Secretarist of the Claretian Lays Movement.