



Movimiento de Seglares Claretianos
Secretaría General

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN
NON-REGIONAL GROUPS CHAIRMEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Summer season is over in Spain, so here am I in touch with you again to share information on the General Council Meeting hold in Bangalore (India) from June 26th to June 28th. On the occasion actually we were taking part in the 6th Gathering of the Claretian Family that was going on there.

Saying *Claretian Family* means carrying a dream together, sharing in a common path and project. It means plenty of hands interwoven, manifold eyes looking for each other. In the untiring zeal of a saint for all the ages we feel invited and pushed to follow on his passion for God and for the human being. In doing so, in each one of our projects we are learning the *making together with others* as a new life art. The above mentioned Gathering has been indeed a very rich experience for all the lay Claretians who took part in. A wonderful chance to share in the prayer and the team work was given to us. We could also discover new tastes while approaching in a humble way the country's reality. In all, we could realize we were forming the "evangelizers army" which Claret dreamed of.

On the newsletter as well as in the CLM website you may find a detailed long report on the 6th Gathering. It is also published there the paper we presented as LCM. I would suggest you to take a look at it and take it into consideration at the regional and communitarian level, since it has much to do with our own life style.

The Gathering final conclusions highlight and attach great importance to the fact that Claretian Family may work together in fields such as Vocational Youth Pastoral, general and regional assemblies, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, formation. To enforce such program it has been decided that each institution may have a person in charge for the relations with Claretian Family. According to our Statutes, it is the General Secretary to choose a representative. Therefore Aurora Bailon was appointed to do it.

The General Council kicked off on June 26th. We were all filled with a lot of dreams and projects. Each Secretary presented its report, on the conviction that being LC is a worth while missionary task since God has called us to it. What to do in order to help grow and develop the LCM was the only horizon of our discussions. On our reflections, we couldn't help admitting that sometimes enthusiasm and devotion to carry on our programs has lacked. From this standpoint aroused again a clear conviction: LCM is badly in need of a "free flying agent", a kind of person available at any time to go around wherever may be requested, in order to help establishing or consolidating through training or through on going formation the LCM groups.

On the other hand, it is obvious that General Councils' endeavours are just useless if not supported by each one of us. Allow me therefore to submit you a very concrete question: are you all convinced that being Lay Claretians is a calling to which we wish to answer together within the framework of LCM? I earnestly hope so. If so indeed, everything would be much easier.

We are glad to say that lately we have been called from many places to introduce our Movement. In the case of Peru, for instance, we've invited for a long visit. During few months we'll share life with people interested in meeting our family. In such a situation, the presence of a "free flying" lay Claretian would be most necessary. Until it will become possible, we have asked Bolivia Region to assume this task. Although it will be done in different stages, they will visit all the places where Claretians Missionaries are present.

In Honduras a new group has been formed. So far, contacts and communication with them have been hold through mail, but they expect to be visited soon. From Congo too the same request has been repeatedly done. To some places like Sao Tome, it would be much necessary to pay a call to clarify what LCM is all about. Unfortunately indeed sometimes not even other Claretian Family branches have got a proper understanding of our identity. In many other places too a kind of deep involvement of the General Council may prove to be just too important, but our life circumstances don't allow it often.

One of our main concerns is that from some Regions due periodical information is lacking. We believe we should be informed in detail about the groups and communities, its members (name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail, job, missionary activity,,,), as well as all what is related to the life of each group in a regular basis. We know that some Regions are working hard, still not receiving much information from the Secretaries is a real hindrance for us. As an example of this, since the answers to our requests of information from the Regions didn't arrive we have not been able to provide updated information for the Claretian Agenda. This delay has caused some headaches to the CMF General Secretary. Samely, sending the newsletter to the addresses list we have got is often a waste of time and money. Addresses should be updated at least once a year, otherwise a double amount of work is demanded from us. Nancy Burgos will get in touch with you on this aspect, since it is much important for the financial running. So we are asking you to send again the list of the groups to the General Secretary with personal data of each member, as well as those of the Coordinating Councils.

During last year regional assemblies have taken place in Italy, Caribe, Betica, North Spain, Bolivia, Venezuela and Brasil-Paraguay. In all of them reflections on the Region life as well as planning for the near future has been done. The General Council has either participated or at least has sent a message of encouragement to all of them. Some Regions have deemed it right to organize a formation gathering for members of few organisms together. Such an initiative is going on in several places already.

Few new communities have been admitted into the Movement: Apukuka from Andacollo, Region of Chile; Bismilach from Malaga; Ces from Las Palmas (Gran Canaria), Shema and Antioquia from Seville, all of them belong to the Betica Region of Spain. Please receive you all our warmest welcoming to the LCM.

Translation work is improving day by day. A few Lay Claretians are doing a wonderful work for us in this field. Julio Martinez, from "Itinerantes por el Reino" community of Guatemala, has traslated

into English some issues of our newsletter. Alfredo Bomba (French) and Antonio Paneque (English) from Siloe community of Seville are translating the General Secretary tidings. Still, much work is there to be done yet. For instance, documents and formation themes. It goes without saying that we do need people able to give a hand in such an important work. Should you have some availability, please get in touch with us at the soonest.

For Internet Commission, besides Angel Roldan and Tino Rodriguez, two other people have volunteered. In the Council we have appointed Nancy Burgos chairwoman of the Commission, so she will contact Internet Commission members to dinamize the LCM website and find out new fields of development in the web. The LCM database has been decided to be moved to Access programm, since it is a tool that can be easily used all over the world. Please remember that in 2007 General Assembly a new General Council will be elected. At that time, database system should be fully actualized. For this task, Lay Claretians with experience and knowlegde in Access are needed. Please, make yourself available. Otherwise, we'll have to rely on a professional.

Writing a paper on the history of the different branches of Claretian Family as a joint venture is another decision we reached to in Bangalore. Nancy Burgos will take care of it for us. Besides that, we will publish an introductory leaflet written by Milagros Vicente on the occasion of the IV Gathering of the Claretian Family.

Starting preparations of the 7th General Assembly of LCM was another important issue of the Council meeting. On the occasion of the last General Assembly in Vic, Guatemala was proposed to be the host of it. "Itinerantes por el Reino" community of Guatemala has already accepted holding this event in July 2007. A couple of items have been presented to choose among them the main theme of the coming Assembly. I beg you to indicate the theme you deem best before Dicember 31st and let Milagros Vicente know it. The following are the suggested themes:

- a) The family. Experiences and problems it is facing nowadays.
The future of family, foreseen fields of commitment.
- b) Lay Claretian spirituality within the people of God. What does a lay and missionary spirituality mean? How does prophetic dimension challenge spirituality? Which are the most representative traits of a claretian spirituality, how to live them from a lay condition?

Finally, please be informed that the next General Council Meeting will be hold in Guatemala in July 2006. Thereby concrete decissions regarding 2007 General Assembly logistics will be made.

Please have courage in all your endeavours. May the Virgin Mary protect and guide us in following Christ as Claret.

Cristina Martinez
LCM General Secretary

Seville, September 18th 2005.