



Lay Claretian Movement
General Secretary

Bilbao, 6 September 2018

Dear Lay Claretian sisters and brothers.

We have begun the countdown for the celebration of the **X General Assembly** of the Lay Claretian Movement and we are writing to you with the initial information about it.

The Assembly will be celebrated at the **Casa de Encuentro Villa Claret in Medellin, Colombia**(<http://cmfcolven.org/casas/villaclaret/>) **from the 13 to 21 July 2019 with the theme: 'Together around Him: so that the world may believe'**. To specify a little more detail about the dates, the 13th will be for arrivals and welcome and it will officially begin with supper. On the 21st it will officially end with lunch.

Able to participate in the X Assembly, with active and passive vote, is one full member representing each group / community (according to the criteria approved at the previous Assembly) and a representative of each Regional Council. It would be good if there are also represented, although without vote, the groups in discernment or other individuals who want to know more about the Movement. If from any group more than one person would like to participate, as the house has plenty of capacity, let us know so that we can explore the possibilities. The Regional Assessors can participate but without vote as also other Claretian Missionaries or other members of the Claretian Family it is thought opportune to invite.

We will let you know the cost later, but as on other occasions, we are going to ensure that nobody is prevented from taking part for this reason. **We all know the importance of participating in the General Assemblies.** They give us a wider vision of the Movement, encourage the sense of belonging, reinforce the feeling of fraternity and connect us with the different realities of the Movement. There is still time that communities and each group can plan for this expense and provide the economic contributions needed for it. This style of

operating is very much in tune with the document on 'Sharing of Goods' that was presented in the previous Assembly and which was sent out so that all of us would read it and put it into practice in our groups and communities. If there is anyone who has still not read it, you can download it from this link to our webpage in the section for documents/formation:

<https://www.seglaresclaretianos.org/images/02DOCUMENTOS/Formacion/The-Goods-Community-in-the-LCM.pdf>

Regarding the **content**, we thought that after two Assemblies which centred on reflecting about our identity and who we want to be, this will not be achieved if **Jesus is not the centre of our life and our community**. From there, the importance that our communities be places of encounter with Jesus and with our brothers and sisters so that we feel strengthened in the faith and sent out to the world to give witness to who we are. The theme wishes to gather this idea which is going to focus part of the work and reflection of these days. So that this reflection can gather the feeling of the majority of the people in the Movement, we have thought **to prepare material and send it to the groups as preparation for the Assembly**. We will send it to you later.

Another important matter to treat will be **the approval of the new version of the Statutes and Applicable Norms**. With the passage of time it is seen that in the Movement there are new realities that are either not recognised in the Statutes and Applicable Norms or do not respond to the necessities that are arising. In the Assembly in Aparecida, Brazil in 2011 the study of some concrete points of both documents was requested, so as to be able to draft it in the form that would be more in accordance with the present needs and a team was created to do this. In the Assembly in Granada, Spain in 2015 the conclusions the team came to were presented and it was agreed that the new version would be put forward. Tino, the former General Secretary, was charged with gathering the suggestions and the necessary changes and, together with the present General Council, we have prepared a new version. The presence of Fr. Manolo Tamargocmf in the Council has been a great help in this. Because of the responsibilities he has carried, he has needed to draft and supervise statutes, regulations, etc. on many occasions so he is accustomed to this type of document. Another important collaboration has been the supervision on the part of Fr. Domingo Andres cmf, a legal expert from the

Juridicumcommunity of the CMF in Rome who has made some contributions and has given approval to the new version.

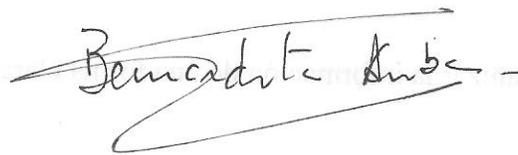
To be able to approve the new Statutes and Applicable Norms in the General Assembly, it is necessary that the new version be read beforehand in the groups and Regional Councils, so that if there need to be any changes they can be incorporated in time, in such a way that at the Assembly only its approval will be voted on. Once the Statutes are approved in the Assembly, they in turn must be approved by the Dicastery of the Laity, Family and Life. The Applicable Norms do not need to pass this stage, only the approval of the General Assembly. Soon we will send you this task explaining in more detail how to do it.

We hope that you warmly welcome this convocation for the next X General Assembly and the content we are proposing.

As always, we place our Movement into the hands of Mary, counting always on her loving protection and the grace and impulse of the Spirit. And so, we invite and ask you not to forget to pray for the Movement and for this Council.

Receive a very fraternal loving embrace.

BernardetaArbaiza
General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernardeta Arbaiza", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.