



Rivers of Living Water

11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The regions and zones present their strengths, weaknesses and challenges at the 11th Assembly. Having become aware of the situation of some of them firsthand by them being present in the plenary meetings, and knowing the feelings of other groups through the contributions made before the Assembly, here are the main weaknesses, threats, strengths and opportunities. They have been discerned by the participants and originate a possible scenario for the next quadrennial.

The strategic lines that are hereby presented should be analysed by the lay people of each place of origin in order to extract from them the most urgent, timely and effective aspects for each region, group or community.

STARTING POINT

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. The **creativity** discovered as a result of adverse situations (the COVID-19 pandemic, socio-political contexts, among others), which has allowed us to continue with our community life (**High capacity for Adaptation**).
2. Defined features of **maturity, courage and audacity**.
3. The **spirituality** of each member and the sense of belonging has allowed permanence over time. Knowing that the same charism unites us makes us feel at home, in fraternity.
4. **Rapid expansion of the Movement** through the various efforts at a local level, awareness-raising visits and training meetings not only for the clergy (Africa) but also for the lay people (Latin America).
5. Closeness to the Claretian Family for a **shared mission** and a joint training.
6. Existence of the **formative process** as the axis of the communities. In addition,

new technologies and media were incorporated to share training materials, raise awareness about the Movement and evangelise.

7. Walking as lay people **without relying on religious branches**: The absence of a religious advisor in the communities has not been an impediment to continue with the Claretian charism.
8. Strong sense of **fraternity**: The groups present at the Assembly are strong, consolidated, active, and united within their regions.
9. Capacity for **teamwork** as an essential tool to continue growing and for the work of the zone delegations, despite our cultural, linguistic, geographical, and demographic differences.
10. A **diverse movement**: Said richness of the movement in interculturality, with members working in different fields and living different situations in their family lives, allows us to generously put all of our background experience at the service of the Movement and its mission, reaching many environments.
11. Sensitivity and openness to **synodality, co-responsibility, and networking**.
12. **Growth potential**: There is a strong feeling for identifying significant elements of the charism and the Movement that will enable our growth.

WEAKNESSES AND THREATS

1. Limits in **language knowledge** (English and French) and document generation in different languages, making it difficult for all the members of the Movement to communicate with each other.
2. Difficulties in **internal communication**: the information of the Movement is not reaching the communities. There is a need to manage different channels in a more efficient way, considering that some communities have limited material resources and scarce technological resources (countries with inadequate or no telecommunication infrastructure).
3. **Inefficiency in existing communication channels**: Ensuring connection between the General Council, the regions or the zones, and the communities is not guaranteed. Message overload through different channels hinders real communication.
4. **Uncertain discernment processes**: Some members lack the knowledge of the spirit of the Movement, are reluctant to adopt commitments made by the community or themselves, or engage in discernment without enough identity foundation.
5. **Ageing** regions, zones, or communities: there is a lack of promotion, some closed groups do not welcome new vocations, certain demographic contexts result in older populations...
6. **Lack of support for certain communities**, leading to a feeling of abandonment and isolation.
7. Influence of daily life environment: Fatigue, laziness, precarious living conditions, and excessive work can **hinder participation in the life of the Movement**. Not all members are active and fully involved.

8. Severe **economic scarcity** in some environments where the communities are located, and little initiative to develop income-generating activities for the Movement's funding.
9. Lack of awareness for the **communion of goods**: Limited participation in communal sharing by already-admitted lay members and lack of economic autonomy for the majority of groups.
10. **Weak ties within the Claretian Family** in some regions or zones: Not all of the Claretian Family promotes and supports the Movement; some positions are even against it or hinder the communities' connection to the LCM.
11. **Lack of clarity regarding community advisement**: Excessive dependency of some groups/communities on religious advisors (CMF). The absence of advisors is still experienced. The advisors themselves are unsure about the best way to support the communities.
12. **Difficulties in travelling and meeting** in certain zones or regions: Different geographical realities (islands, plurinational areas...), limitations in air or maritime transportation, diverse political and economic situations, and significant social and cultural differences.

OUR IMMEDIATE HORIZON

Based on the teamwork, main challenges that the Movement envisions as guidelines to work on in the coming years have been identified:

1. **Communication** should flow in all directions and levels.
2. Feeling responsible for the proper functioning of the Movement, including the **communion of goods**.
3. Conveying that our Movement is a **vocational reference** for young people and adults close to the Claretian family.
4. **Taking care of our Movement** and each of its lay members, considering different ages and realities.

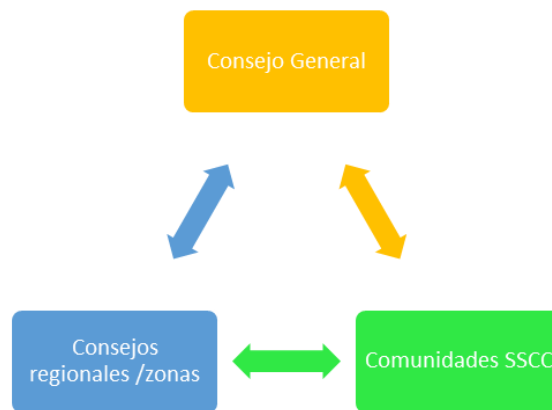
STRATEGIC GUIDELINES FOR THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD

1. **Communication**: To strengthen communication among all the members of the Movement, ensuring that the information reaches everyone in a coherent manner, with moderation and generated in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French, using the official technological and traditional means (on paper in places where it might be necessary), through regional councils and communitarian teams that have the responsibility to encourage the analysis from every cultural reality, supported by the generous service of the gifts of members of the Movement.
 - 1.1. To promote **two-way communication** (between the general council, the regional councils/zones and the communities) in the areas of

encouragement, training, economics or whatever field where it may be esteemed necessary.

1.2. To adopt the **female perspective** in our documents and in the communication of the Movement, using inclusive language, among other resources.

1.3. To develop a normative document that establishes: **which channels are the official ones**, what the objective of each channel is, what content will be sent through each of them and who will be able to publish it.



2. **Care of our Movement:** To grow by promoting the Lay Claretian vocation among the youth without forgetting to take care of the diverse age realities of each of our communities, strengthening our identity through a greater commitment and coherence of life, so that it transmits our love for the Movement to others.

2.1. To strengthen the **Vocational Promotion** (Provoca) team as an axis for the spread of the Claretian charism and the Lay Claretian Movement as a life choice for young people and adults.

2.2. To care for and **keep integrated the older lay people** of the Movement taking advantage of their experience in the way for the laity.

2.3. To promote and strengthen the **good relationship** of the Lay Claretian Movement with the Claretian Family to strengthen the Claretian charism and shared mission.

2.4. To promote training and information to **accompany** new and existing communities.

3. **Economy:** To encourage the Claretian Lay people to partake in their shared responsibility through the communion of goods.

3.1. To maintain a dynamic and diverse **economic commission** to promote responsible management of the Movement's assets.

3.2. To raise awareness through a **permanent campaign** among the lay claretians about the importance of the communion of goods for the functioning and growth of the Movement..

3.3. To provide more **frequent and publicly accessible economic reports** to Claretian lay people, presented in a graphical and understandable format.