



Major Superior Speaks ...

We are very close to the celebration of the feast of our father and Founder St. Anthony Mary Claret on 24 October 2023. I am writing this message from the Forge Centre, Los Negrals, Spain, where I participate in the Forge renewal program. On 07 October 2023, on the feast of Our Lady of Rosary, we had the opportunity to visit La Granja, the place where our founder had the “great grace” of preserving the sacramental species of the Eucharist day and night within his breast. It was a very moving experience for me to be there and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. I would like to dwell on the role of the Holy Eucharist in the life of our founder for this edition of Flame Kolkata.

If one were to identify three pivotal elements in the spiritual-charismatic core of St. Anthony Mary Claret, they would be the Eucharist, the Word of God, and cordi-Marian sonship, in that order. The love of the Eucharist was evident from his childhood, as Claret himself has indicated in his autobiography: “I used to attend the Holy Mass on all feasts and holy days and on other days, too, when I possibly could. On feast days I usually attended two Masses, a Low Mass and a High Mass” (Aut. 36). The reception of the First Communion was momentous: “Words cannot tell what I felt on that day when I had the unequalled joy of receiving my good Jesus into my heart for the first time” (Aut. 38). In No. 767 of his Autobiography, he describes the depth of his interior experience of being in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in a beautiful way: “When I am before the Blessed Sacrament, I feel such a lively faith that I can’t describe it. Christ in the Eucharist is almost tangible to me; I kiss his wounds continually and embrace Him. When it’s time for me to leave, I have to tear myself away from his sacred presence”.

The highpoint of Claret’s eucharistic experience happened at the Church of the Rosary at La Granja de San Ildefonso on August 26, 1861, nine years before his death. Claret used to pray before the statue of Cristo del Perdón (Christ of Forgiveness) inside this church (cf. Aut. 694). The traditional understanding within our congregation has been that this great grace of “uninterrupted sacramental presence of Christ,” which began on August 2, 1861, continued until his death on October 24, 1970. The experience effected an interior transformation and released unprecedented apostolic fervour in Claret. This special grace gave great importance and apostolic meaning for his life, both interiorly and exteriorly. He notes down: “Because of this, I must always be very recollected and inwardly devout. Furthermore, I must pray and confront all the evils of Spain as the Lord has told me” (Aut. 694). He was all the more humbled by this extraordinary grace; but at the same time, it laid upon him all the more responsibility to live committed to imitating the very life of Christ in both His interior and exterior dimensions.

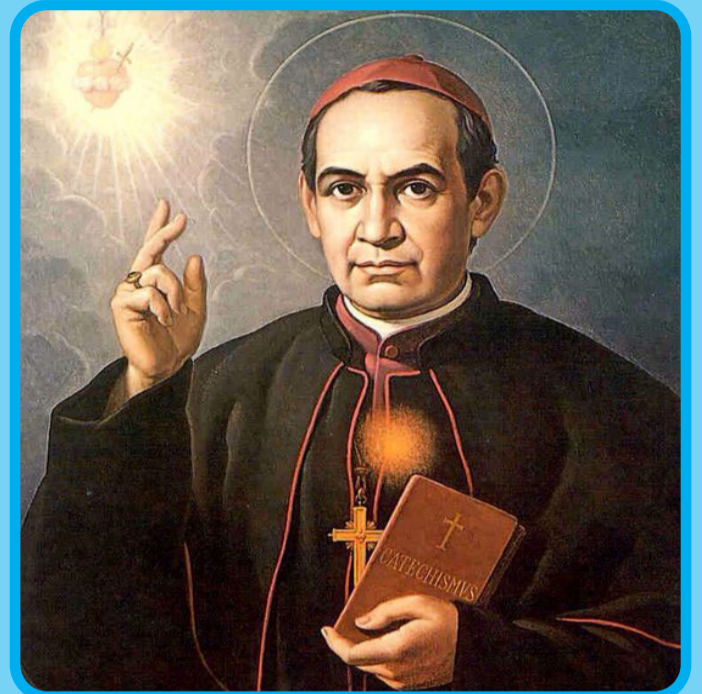
What is its implication for us Claretians? Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a constant memory of his life and death. Not a memory that simply makes us think of him but a memory that makes us members of his body. That is why Jesus on the evening before he died took bread saying, “This is my Body,” and took the cup saying, “This is my Blood.” By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ, we become one with him. The Eucharistic event reveals the deepest human experiences, those of sadness, attentiveness, invitation, intimacy, and engagement. It summarizes the life we are called to live in the Name of God. Only when we recognize the rich network of connections between the Eucharist and our life in the world can the Eucharist be “worldly” and our life “Eucharistic.”

The Second Vatican Council teaches that “the spirit and aims of each founder should be faithfully accepted and retained, as indeed should each institute’s sound traditions, for all of these constitute the patrimony of an institute” (Perfectae Caritatis, n. 2). This time of thanksgiving for which our Congregation is preparing is thus an invitation to turn our gaze to our Founder St Anthony Mary Claret. Let us make all efforts to deepen our spiritual life, nourished by the Holy Eucharist, on a daily basis.

Let us consecrate the entire congregation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that she, a woman docile to the Spirit and a model of deep fidelity to Jesus, may fill us with her motherly love and zeal for souls. In this Jubilee year of the foundation of our congregation, gathered round Mary in prayer, like the Apostles in the Upper Room, may we relive the experience of Pentecost, strengthening our missionary enthusiasm in order to go and preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Wish you all a very Happy Feast of our Founder St. Anthony Mary Claret.

Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF  
Major Superior.

**HAPPY FEAST-24 OCTOBER**



**ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET  
PRAY FOR US**



**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of our Congregation**

**CONTENT**

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### DELEGATION ASSEMBLY-2023



The Delegation held its assembly from 29-31 May, 2023, at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore. All the members, except one member each from the communities, were present for the assembly. The theme of the assembly was: "Our Missionary Journey on the Synodal Path." During the assembly the members Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, presented the Circular Letter of Rev. Fr. General, *Our missionary journey on the synodal path*. The Prefect of Education presented the *Education Policy* of the Delegation and the need to create awareness regarding safe environment in our educational institutions. He also dealt on the provisions of the POCSO Act. Information on the forthcoming *Spirituality Congress* and the *ASCLA West Claretian Discerning Leadership workshop* were also presented for better participation. Then the different Prefectures too presented the evaluation of the life and mission of our Delegation based on the *Triennial Action Plan*. They presented the concrete actions planned along with their commissions, actions taken and the future plans for the academic year 2023-2024. Overall, the days were moments of communion of life and sharing.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### SILVER JUBILEE



Delegation level Silver Jubilee celebrations of Frs. Augustus Kujur CMF, Fr. Basant Kispotta CMF, Fr. Michael Raja A. CMF, Fr. Paul Toppo CMF, Fr. Peter Johnson A. CMF, Fr. Sony John G. CMF and Fr. Telesphor Aind CMF, was solemnised on 30 May, 2023. Fr. Joseph Soren CMF from the *Province of San José del Sur* was also present for the celebration as it was his Jubilee too.

#### RENEWAL OF RELIGIOUS VOWS

Nine of our students renewed their religious vows on 30 May, 2023.



#### PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Students Jakrias Ekka, Judeson Abinesh A. and Sahaya Rajan M. professed their final yes to God on 31 May, 2023.



### FELICITATION



The members of the Delegation thanked and felicitated Rev. Frs. George Kollamparambil CMF, St. Thomas Province and Gabriel Mankim Sangma CMF, North East Independent Delegation for their four year of dedicated and selfless service to Kolkata delegation. They completed their service in the delegation and returned to their Major Organisms.

### SUPERIORS MEET- 2023



The Delegation Level Superiors meet- 2023, was held from 22- 23 August, 2023, at Holy Cross Retreat Centre, Pandua. 14 Superiors along with major superior and council members participated in the meeting. During this meeting, Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the Major Superior took an orientation session on *Evaluating Community Interactions*, insights from Family Therapy. Each local superior presented a report on the *Role of Animation* as Superiors, blessings & challenges and best practices of their communities. Fr. Jini P. CMF, the Delegation econome presented the overall economic status of the Delegation. The Superiors spent a quality time to discuss common concerns and issues of the Delegation. Overall, it was a very fruitful discourse.



### ECONOMES' MEET- 2023

The Economes' Meet for the local economies of the communities of the Delegation were held from 16 – 18 August, 2023. The orientation talk was given by the Major Superior where he highlighted the main points of the *Economic Criteria of Catholic Social Teaching*. He also presented the chapters XX and XXI of the CMF Directory on *Economes and Administrators* and *Administrative Management* to motivate and guide the local economies. Mr. Alex an Acmeerp expert from Chennai was the resource person who dealt with Budget Making through practical workshop. Fr. Jini P. CMF, the Delegation econome took sessions for participants on Re-visiting economic policy, Record Maintenance and Interim and annual Audit observations etc.



**CLARETIAN DISCERNING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**



The ASCLA West Level Claretian Discerning Leadership workshop took place from 17 – 23 July, 2023, at Claret Nivas, Carmelaram, Bangalore. There were 35 participants in the workshop and most of them were the council members, secretaries and a few Superiors from the ASCLA Major Organisms. The main objectives of the workshop were to promote in the Congregation a culture of discernment at all levels (especially among those with leadership responsibilities). To help the participants grow as individuals and as Claretians responsible for communities and mission activities. To enable as many Claretians as possible to exercise “Claretian Discerning Leadership” (CDL) within the framework of ecclesial and congregational orientations and with the help of recent contributions from human sciences.



**ANNUAL RETREAT – 2023**

Annual Retreat – 2023, for the members of the Delegation was held in two phases. The first phase was held from 05 - 10 February, 2023, at Divya Darshan, Nilganj, Barrackpore and the second phase was held from 12 – 17 February, 2023, at Social Service and Pastoral Centre, Khunti. Rev. Fr. Anselmus S. CMF guided the members of the Delegation to the internal journey of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation of the spirit.



**DIACONATE ORDINATION**



Stu. Sahaya Rajan was ordained a deacon on 15 July, 2023 at Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram by His Grace Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, along with the students of Bangalore Province.



**REGENTS’ GET-TOGETHER**



The regents’ get-together for the 12 regents of the Independent Delegation of Kolkata was held from 15-19 April, 2023, at Claret Ashram, Sahari. It was animated by Fr. L. Antony CMF, the Prefect of Formation. The regents had enough time for sharing and rejuvenating their spirit before their entry to the novitiate. The Major Superior was also present for a day of input and meeting.

**FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION**



Claret Nivas Theology house and Delegation Curia community Barrackpore, celebrated the anniversary of the 175 year of the founding of our congregation on 16 July, 2023. An hour of special prayer service was conducted in the morning at Claret Nivas Chapel, wherein, the message of Rev. Fr. Mathew Vatamattam CMF, the Superior General was read out and reflected. The thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Augustus Kujur CMF, the Superior of the Community. Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the Major Superior, was present for the celebration along with other priest members of the communities. The entire celebration was centred on gratitude to God, our beloved Mother, Our Founder, co- founders for founding our congregation and all the missionaries for their faithfulness and dedicated service to the congregation.

**NEW RESIDENCE**



Rev Fr Antony Bhyju CMF, The Major Superior laid the foundation stone of a new residence on 12 April, 2023, at Nirmal Sadan, Ghatsila. The council members Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, Fr. Jini CMF and Fr. Telephone Aind CMF, were also present for the event.

**INAUGURATION OF SAINT CLARET SCHOOL**

The inauguration of new Saint Claret School, Ghatsila was held on 12<sup>th</sup> April,



2023. Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the Major Superior of Kolkata Independent Delegation, was the chief guest and Sri

Nataraj swamy, the Maharaj of Ramkrishna Math, Ghatsila and Mr. Banu Murmu, the Mukhia of Dharampahal Panchayat, Ghatsila, were the guests of honor. The council members Rev. Frs. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, Jini P CMF and Telephone Aind CMF were also present for the occasion. On this occasion the teachers, students and pre- philosophy brothers performed educative and colourful cultural programmes. Many parents, neighbours, staff and students of DB Tech witnessed this historical event.

### INAUGURATION OF TRAINING CENTRE



The inauguration and blessing of Santal Women Empowerment Training Centre at Masagram was held on 25 March, 2023. Rev. Fr. Ignatius Peter Sarto, the Coordinator of Commissions, Asansol Diocese and Regional Secretary of BEC, West Bengal blessed the centre and Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, inaugurated the centre. The aim of this centre is to promote holistic development of Santal women and Adolescent girls through livelihood training, awareness camps, computer and tailoring training and other similar activities. Special thanks to our generous donors Navara Govt. and Proclade Yanape.

### INAUGURATION OF ST. CLARET HOSTEL



The inauguration and blessing of the new hostel building at Sahanagar was held on 21 August, 2023. Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the Major Superior of Kolkata Independent Delegation, blessed and inaugurated the new hostel building. All the Superiors of the Kolkata Delegation were present for the inauguration event. The cultural programmes performed by the hostel children made the event very colourful.

### FORMATION HOUSES

#### CLAVACO - ANNUAL COMPETITION



Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary, Nayasarai, Ranchi, organized its Annual Competition called "CLABACO" from 16 - 27 January, 2023. Various indoor and outdoor competitions were conducted to foster sportsmanship and competitive spirit among the students.

#### ANNUAL DAY



Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary, Nayasarai, Ranchi, concluded its academic year with the Annual Day Celebration on 14 April, 2023. The theme of the day was "St. Anthony Mary Claret - our Inspiration". Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, the Prefect of Apostolate, was the chief guest. The evening was coloured with the enthusiastic performances by the students in the form of speeches, songs, dances, comic, kawali and one act play. Many religious fathers, sisters, parishners, well-wishers and guests were present for the celebration. It was a significant event to exhibit the talents of the students and our hospitality to the neighbors. It was also the day to thank all the collaborators for their interest and generous contributions in our growth and developments.

### VACATION CAMP



"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Mt: 9:37-38.

The Vocation Camp was held from 26- 29 April, 2023, at Claret Vidyaniketan, Nayasarai, Ranchi. It was wonderful to see 23 young aspiring candidates coming to participate in the camp with the intention of serving God through Claretian way of life. They were introduced to our Claretian way of life through various activities and talks. They were also given platform to exhibit their talents in different fields. Finally, 14 candidates were selected and invited to join our Claretian way of life.

### SILVER JUBILEE



Claret Vidyaniketan community solemnized the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Basant Kispotta CMF on 08 June, 2023. It was a day of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness and accompaniment in the life of Fr. Basant Kispotta throughout the 25 years of his vocational journey. His companions, Family members, representatives of religious communities and a few parishioners joined in the celebration and showed their love and appreciation. The day was graced with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, felicitation, cultural programme and fellowship meal.

### WELCOMING THE NEW CANDIDATES



Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary, Nayasarai, Ranchi, joyfully welcomed 26 candidates from different parts of our country on 10 June, 2023. They offered themselves willingly and joyfully to be formed as Claretian Missionaries. Fr. Raimund Tigga CMF, the Superior of the community and Fr. Jagat Pal Minj CMF, the Prefect of the students, wholeheartedly welcomed and wished best wishes to the new candidates with a token of Holy Rosary.

### LITERARY ASSOCIATION MEETING



Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary, Nayasarai, inaugurated the Literary Association Meeting on 16 July, 2023. On this occasion, the community combined the celebration of the inauguration of the Jubilee of 175<sup>th</sup> year of the foundation of our congregation. "Religious Harmony" was the theme

of the day. Mrs. Ranjeeta Hemram, the Deputy Controller of Examination, Jharkhand was the chief guest of the day. The students made the evening colourful and memorable through their creative programs.

On the same day Claret Vidyanikten Community celebrated the inauguration of the 175<sup>th</sup> year of the foundation of our congregation with the faithful of St. Antony of Padua Parish, Saparam. The theme was introduced by Fr. Bijay Kumar Panna CMF, the Parish Priest and Mrs. Neelam Tigga during the Eucharistic celebration. Special prayers were offered for the Congregation and its members.

**SPORTS MEET**



Claret Vidyanikten Seminary organised sports meet for the youth of the parish and candidates from the nearby convents. An enthusiastic and energetic sense of sportsmanship was displayed by all the participants in friendly football matches. It was a day of relaxation, filled with fun and friendship. Thus, it was an excellent opportunity to strengthen the cordial relationship with the youth and neighbouring religious.

**ANNUAL PICNIC**



Claret Nivas, Barrackpore community and the supporting staff went for their Annual Picnic to Science City and Eco Park on 03 September, 2023. Fr. Jain Charles CMF, and six pre-philosophy students who were there for five days practical courses on electrical work and plumbing also joined the community for picnic. It was a day of relaxation, entertainment, learning and revival of the family and community spirit.

**CLARETIAN WEEK**



Claret Nivas, Barrackpore Community joyfully celebrated Claretian Week from 11 – 15 September, 2023. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the initial stages of the congregation, Claret’s way of life, and to imitate him more closely in following Jesus Christ. There were creative prayer services, inspiring reflections, thought provoking homilies and solemn Rosary conducted by the priests and students. On this special occasion the community also organized online sharing by Claretian missionaries who are working in different parts of the world.

**PADDY TRANSPLANTATION**



Claret Nivas, Barrackpore Theology house organized the Paddy Transplantation from 21-24 July, 2023. This is one of the very important activities of the Theology house. It helps them to participate in the hard work and struggles of the farmers.

**SHORT COURSE**



The Theology students of Claret Nivas, Barrackpore and pre- philosophy students of Ghatsila attended 5 days of practical courses on electrical work and plumbing at ITI Don Bosco, Liluah. It was a well thought and useful course planned by the formators to empower and equip the students in electrical work and

plumbing works. This initiative will definitely bear fruit in the daily lives of the students in the community. The test was conducted on the last day of the course to evaluate their learning. They also organised friendly volleyball and basketball with the hostellers of the institute.

**SCHOOLS**

**ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS**



An Orientation Program for all the teaching staff of our schools was organized on 01 April, 2023 at St. Claret School, Barrackpore to share the spirit of our apostolic charism, to unite them with the same vision, to impart Claretine education and to animate into effective student friendly style of teaching. Around 120 teaching staff from four of our schools of our Delegation participated in the program.

**INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS**



Inter-school competitions were organized on 12 August, 2023, for the Claretines from our schools at St. Claret School, Barrackpore to strengthen the bond between our Claretines and to imbibe in them healthy competitiveness. Various cultural and literary events like solo and group singing, Debate, Quiz and Creative writing were conducted. Around 140 contestants from three of our schools participated and the winners were awarded.

**SEMINAR**



St. Claret School, Barrackpore, organised one-day Career counselling classes for classes VIII- XII on 16 May, 2023. The Premium Coaching Institute conducted session on right career choice from early age and oriented the students on various branches like - medicine, mechanics, computers, electronics, information technology etc. They also spoke to the students about the modern competitions and demands in the employment sectors.

### INTER- HOUSE QUIZ COMPETITION



It was a witty and fun-filled competition among the four houses of the school auditorium. The Red House bagged the first prize, Yellow House and Blue House followed as runners up. The competition proved to be a good learning experience for all who had witnessed it.

### TTIS SCHOOL EXCELLENCE AWARDS



TTIS School Excellence Award was the most awaited award ceremony organised by The Telegraph, a leading media House. Excellence in academics (Individual achievement), social service, eco- friendly initiatives and Shining Star (Non-teaching staff) were the categories in which St. Claret, Barrackpore marked its outstanding achievements. The winners were awarded with certificates in each category, group and individual. This was an outstanding and glorious moment for the school.

### SEMINAR



Claret School, Sahanagar organized one-day Seminar on Fire Safety and First Aid in collaboration with the Memari Fire Safety Management on 18 August, 2023. The local inspector of Fire Safety and other members of the local fire station were present for the seminar. The inspector explained to all Claretine Students about being alert and prudent when a fire accident takes place. The necessary precautionary elements are to be maintained to avoid fire accidents. The practical demo was enacted in order to teach the students how to escape from the fire and how to put off the fire by using the fire safety equipment which is placed in each corner of the building. The seminar ended with the oath-taking ceremony.

### INDUSTRIAL VISIT



St. Claret School, Sahanagar organized an Industrial visit to Maa Bameswari Mill which is located near Burdwan. All the Higher secondary students were taken to the Rice mill for a one-day factory visit. It is part of their SUPW project work for internal examination by

the HOD of the department Mr. Suman Patra. All the students participated with full involvement in understanding the process by which the paddy is made ready for the market. The students studied the variety of Rice and the importance of cultivation of the paddy. We thanked the Manager of the Rice mill for the great exposure for the students and for their study.

### MEDICAL CAMP



Free Medical Camp was organized in Claret School, Sahanagar on 14 August, 2023, with the purpose of giving awareness to all students on Good Health and hygiene. Dr. Ritesh Mondal and Dr. Sayani Ghosh from Burdwan volunteered to help our Claretine Students. Both the doctors gave an awareness and motivation talk with the purpose of serving the people with utmost sincerity in a well-maintained hygiene. Many students have asked many questions to clarify their doubts and personal counselling was also offered for personal problems of the Girls. Fr. Peter Johnson CME, the Principal thanked them for their great service.

### HANDS-ON TRAINING



The Art Club of Claret School, Sahanagar invited a local mud potter on 01 September, 2023, to give a practical training to our students on Clay Mud working models. This hands on training was organised to meet the demand of the New Education Policy, that suggests the inclusion of various hands-on training for the students with bagless working days. The Students were much interested in learning various skills on clay mud creative expressions which is related to their curriculum.

### TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION



St. Claret School, Bishrail celebrated the Teacher's Day on 05 September, 2022. The first hour of the day, the students spent time with their respective class teachers expressing their gratitude by wishing them with songs, giving gifts and appreciating teachers' contributions in their lives. Thereafter the students came together for a common programme to wish and honour their teachers. The students performed various programmes like- songs, dances, skit, yoga, stunts, speech etc. Mr. Debashish Ghosh, school teacher was the chief guest of the auspicious day. The school also organized friendly volleyball and throw-ball matches between the teachers and the students. It was a fun filled day.

### FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

St. Claret School, Bishrail celebrated Fancy Dress Competition on 29 October, 2022. It was an exciting day for the students of Pre-KG, LKG and UKG as they costumed themselves for the Fancy Dress Competition. The children were dressed as different personalities such as Indian soldiers, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Chandra Shekhar Azaad, Tree, Nurses, Doctors, Santa Claus, Spiderman, Lord Krishna, Tribal Man and Woman, Advocate, Religious Nuns, Lord Shiva, Angel, Police, Corona Warriors, Hindu Pujari, Political Leader etc. It was a fantastic presentation of the richness of Indian cultures, traditions and practices. The Fancy Dress Competition was well appreciated by the teachers and the parents.

**CHILDREN'S DAY**



St. Claretine Family at Bishrail celebrated children's Day celebration on 14 November, 2022. The day's celebration was organized by the teaching and non-teaching staff of the school. They performed different programme such as song, dance, speech, magic-show etc. to entertain and to express their love and concern for the students. Rev. Fr. Vinnarasu CMF was the chief guest of the day.

**CLA-UTSAV - 2022**

St. Claret School, Bishrail organised CLA-UTSAV-2022 on 17 December, 2022. It was a wonderful occasion for parents, guardians, friends and well-wishers to come together to celebrate Social Integration and Religious Harmony in our country and to build our communion as people related to the family of St. Claret School. The main events at CLA-UTSAV-2022 were Fun and Games Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle, Science and Art Exhibition, Video presentation on St. Claret and Claretines' presence in the world. Shri P. Promoth I.A.S. (Sub-Divisional Magistrate & Sub-Divisional Officer, Gangarampur Sub-Division) and Rev. Fr. John Soren, CMF (Secretary of Claret School, Sahanagar) were the Chief Guest of the day. The event was organized to raise fund to help the people of Sri Lanka in their crisis. It was very much appreciated by the chief guest, guest of honor, parents, guardians, friends and well-wishers.

**INTER - SCHOOL SPORTS' MEET**

The students of St. Claret School, Bishrail participated in Sports' Meet organized at the zonal, district and subdivision level. The students grabbed the opportunities in various events like- Long Jump, High Jump; Discus-Throw, Javelin Throw, Shot-Put, 100 Mts. Race, 200 Mts. Race, 400 Mts. Race and Marathon Race. It was a wonderful platform for the students to showcase their sporting spirit and talents.

**BLESSING OF PRE-PRIMARY SECTION**



The blessing and inauguration of the Pre-Primary Section of St. Claret School, Bishrail took place on 14 February, 2023. It was blessed and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the Major Superior of Independent Delegation of Kolkata. Rev. Fr. Michael Raja CMF, the Principal of the school, Fr. Fulgence Kertketta CMF, Fr. Vinnarasu CMF, Fr. Anup Lakra CMF, and the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Claretine family were present on the occasion. The Pre-Primary Section would be shifted to the renovated building from the start of academic year 2023-24. It would facilitate the better ambience for fun and learning activities for the little ones.



**ANNUAL COMPETITIONS**



St. Claret Hostel, Bishrail inaugurated its annual competitions 2023-24 (CLA-HOCOS 2023-24) on 24 June, 2023. The competitions would last up to the end of the month of November. This annual competition is a wonderful platform for the holistic growth of the children. This completion provides ample opportunities to express their talents in the atmosphere of friendly competitive spirit to foster a mutual appreciation and encouragement. On this occasion the children professed their pledge and Fr. Anup Hemant Lakra CMF, the hostel in-charge declared the CLAHOCOS 2023-24 open. The students were divided into four groups – Aviators, Titans, Innovators and Master.

**INTER CLARET SCHOOL COMPETITION**



The students of St. Claret School, Bishrail participated in Inter Claret School Indoor Competitions organized by St. Claret School, Barrackpore on 12 August, 2023. The students could give their best and bagged various prizes in different events such as Solo Dance (Classic) – first (Western) – third, Group Dance – second, Debate – first, Quiz (Junior Category) – third, (Senior Category) – second, Drawing – first. The event was a great experience and learning for the students.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**



St. Claret School, Bishrail celebrated 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration on 15 August, 2023. On this occasion the students expressed their patriotism through the performances of dances, songs, poems, skits and speech. In her address, Sr. Pramila D'Silva AC, the Chief Guest of the day, motivated the students to be dutiful and responsible citizens. On this occasion Rev. Fr. Michael Raja CMF, the Principal of the school felicitated and applauded the students who participated in Inter Claret School Competitions at Barrackpore.

**TEACHERS' DAY**

With gratitude and love, the students of St. Claret School, Bishrail celebrated Teachers' Day on 04 & 05 September, 2023.



On this special occasion, the students expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the teachers for being their teachers and friends. They performed varieties of speeches, dances,

songs, skits to honour teachers' wisdom, dedication and kindness to them. Rev. Fr. Michael Raja CMF, Principal of the school appreciated and thanked all the students for their well-organized programme.

### INTER CLARET SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS



Inter Claret Schools Football and Kabbadi Competitions (CLA-SPIRITUS) was held on 30 September, 2023, at St. Claret School, Bishrail. 89 Claretines from 4 schools namely St. Claret School, Barrackpore, St. Claret School, Basmata, St. Claret School, Sahanagar and St. Claret School, Bishrail) participated in the Football and Kabaddi tournaments. St. Claret School, Sahanagar became Champion in both Football and Kabaddi competitions and St. Claret School, Bishrail, was runner-up in both the events. Throughout the tournaments an amazing spirit of sportsmanship and skills were displayed by the students.

### VILLAGE CLEANING CAMPAIGN



St. Claret School, Basmata, organised a Village Cleaning Campaign at Damri and Bagnol villages on 22 July, 2023. The Village Cleaning Drive was led by Fr. Antonish Lakra CMF, the Principal and the teachers. The students of classes VII and VIII participated in the drive. It was an inspiring and motivating efforts by the Principal, teachers and students of St. Claret School, Basmata.

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### INDEPENDENCE DAY



St. Claret School, Basmata celebrated 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India with pride and sense of patriotism. Mr. Habil Murmur, Social Activist (Congress Party Worker) was the chief guest of the day. Mr. Rajkumar Marandi (Majhiharam), Mrs. Savita Tudu, the former Mukhya were also present as guests of honour on the gala occasion. After the hoisting of the Tricolour colourful cultural programmes like – songs, dances, skit etc. were performed by the students. The school management also organised a friendly football match between hostellers and day - scholars.



### TEACHERS' DAY



RC Mission School, Sarangloya, Ranchi, celebrated Teachers' Day on 05 September, 2023. The students performed varieties of cultural programs and presented gifts to the teachers to honour and appreciate their dedication and hard work.

### GREEN INITIATIVE

The management, staff and students of Saint Claret School, Ghatsila celebrated Environment Day on 03 July, 2023. It is one of the much needed **Green Initiative** campaign initiated by Saint Claret School. To make this **Green Initiative** efforts extensive, the students and parents were encouraged to carry a plant or croton and come for the celebration.



Fr. Arockiasamy CMF, the Principal of the school conveyed an appealing message to the students and parents and stressed on the importance of the nature and green environment. He encouraged all to plant trees and crotons to make our mother earth greener.

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### INDEPENDENT DAY



Saint Claret School, Ghatsila, along with DB Tech staff and students, joyously celebrated 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India with pride and a sense of patriotism. The school kids and the students of DB Tech, performed various cultural programs to express their love for the country. Fr. Suraj Tete CMF, was the Chief Guest of the day. In his address, he urged the parents to train and make their kids to be better citizens of India in future.

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## PARISHES

### MOTHER'S DAY



St. Claret Parish, Sahanagar celebrated Mother's Day in commemoration of St. Monica's Feast Day on 04 September, 2023. Rev. Fr. Alex CMF, the Parish Priest, and Fr. Samuel Hembrom CMF, the Assistant Parish Priest, organized the program in a grand manner. Huge number of faithful attended the Holy Eucharistic Celebration with proper preparation for reconciliation service. After the Mass, many cultural events and games for all the mothers were conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners. The great event got over with the fraternal meal for all who were present for the event.

**MOTHERS' DAY**



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Betapur celebrated St. Monica Feast Day on 27 August, 2023. On this occasion they wished best wishes and prayed for all the mothers of the parish. On the view of mother's day celebration our missionaries, Fr. Richard Soren CMF and Fr. Thomas Lakra CMF organised one-day recollection and pilgrimage for all the mothers to Rangat parish.

On 05 September, 2023, they also celebrated Birthday anniversary of St. Mother Teresa and on this occasion they wished happy feast and prayed for the MC Sisters who are collaborating with our mission in Batapur.

**SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND HOLY SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**



Rupantor Quasi Parish, Debpukur joyfully celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 13 August, 2023. His Grace Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of the Diocese of Kolkata, solemnised the celebration through the Holy Eucharistic celebration and inspiring sermon. On this occasion 23 children received their Holy Sacrament of Confirmation through the gracious hand of His Grace



Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of the Diocese of Kolkata. Many priests, sisters, friends, well-wishers and guests joined the celebration. Varieties of cultural programmes were performed to make the Jubilee celebration colourful and memorable. All the

priests, sisters and senior members, who have generously contributed for the growth of the church and faithful in all the way possible were felicitated by the parish priest and faithful of the parish.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**



Rupantor Quasi Parish, Debpukur celebrated 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India with pride and a sense of patriotism. On this occasion, they offered prayers for the entire country – its leaders and citizens and prayed for the peace and prosperity in the entire country.

**CRUS VEER - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST**

St. Mary's Church, Sarangloya celebrated two events on 17 September, 2023. Firstly, Crus Veer Celebration (Soldiers of Christ). On this occasion, the children were honored and prayed for on the feast of the exaltation of the Cross. The children took an oath to become committed Soldiers of Christ and to practise four weapons called Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Sacrifice and Good work in their daily life. Secondly, the faithful of parish joyfully celebrated the "Karma Feast". During the Holy Eucharist the Karma Tree branches and the crosses were blessed. These Karma Branches were later taken and placed in their paddy fields as the symbol of God's blessing for the good harvest and protection from all the harms and loss.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

The faithful of Kudubari, one of the sub-stations of St. Claret Parish, Bishrail organised three days Retreat from 23 – 25 July, 2023. Rev. Fr. Pius Kisku and two other fellow priests from the Diocese of Raiganj animated the retreat. Along with the faithful of the Kudubari, people from various other villages and nearby parishes participated in the retreat and were spiritually nourished and empowered.

**YOUTH DAY**

St. Antony of Padua Parish, Saporom, Ranchi, convoked Youth Day Celebration in the parish on 13 August, 2023. Around 80 youth participated in the celebration. The celebration was organized systematically. Fr. Raimund Tigga CMF, nourished the youth spiritually by conducting an adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There was also a special Holy Eucharistic celebration for the youth. The youth day celebration also marked the colourful cultural programs and fulfilled activities by the youth. The Students from Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary were also present for the celebration. Fr. Sunil Xaxa CMF, the chief guest, addressed the youth and encouraged them to be spiritually, socially and publically responsible leaders in the Church and the society.

**MOTHER'S DAY**



St. Antony of Padua Parish, Saporom, Ranchi, celebrated Monika Divas as "Mother's Day" on 27 August, 2023. On this occasion, Novena was organized in the parish for the spiritual rejuvenation and nourishment. A special Mass and prayers were offered for all the mothers of the parish and the world. After the Mass, Fr Bijay Kumar Panna CMF, the Parish Priest, organized colorful cultural programs and Bible Quiz competitions. All the mothers gave their active and high spirited participation throughout the celebration. It was a grand celebration.

**BIRTHDAY OF MOTHER MARY**



St. Antony of Padua Parish, Saporom, Ranchi, blissfully observed the Birthday of Mother Mary on 08 September, 2023. In honor of Blessed Virgin Mary, Novena was conducted from 30 – 07 September, 2023, in the parish. On this occasion pilgrim-

age was organized to Mother Mary Shrine at Singpur. In that, around 110 Pilgrims of the parish walked to the Shrine singing and praying to Mother Mary. Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharistic celebration was arranged for the pilgrims in the shrine. It was a very grace filled celebration of the Birthday of our Blessed Mother.

**CATHOLIC MAHA MAHILA SANGH ADHIWESAN**



The first ever Catholic Maha Mahila Sangh Adhivesan was conducted on 12 February, 2023 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Betapur. Huge number of women from various parish were present for this Catholic Maha Mahila Sangh Adhivesan. His Excellency Most Rev. Selvaraj, the Bishop of Port Blair and Rev. Fr Albinus Barla, V.G were present for the convention. It was a memorable and enriching program.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**



The International Women's Day celebration was organized on 8 March, 2023, at St. Joseph's Church, Betapur. The active, generous and selfless role of women in the family, church and society were highlighted during the program. Rev. Fr Sonot Murmu CMF, the chief guest of the day encouraged and appreciated all the women for their responsible and committed role in building the family, church, society and the world.

**INAUGURATION OF GROTTA**



On the occasion of the Birthday the Blessed Virgin Mary, a newly built Grotto was inaugurated and blessed by Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson at St. Joseph's Church, Betapur, on 8 September, 2023. On this occasion, Rev. Fr. Richard Soreng CMF, the Parish Priest of celebrated thanksgiving Holy Eucharist in the parish.

**KARAM UTSAV**



Deanery level Karam Utsave was hosted by Rupantor Church, on 8 October, 2023. The celebration commenced with the cutting and bringing of Karam branches to the church followed by the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr. Augustus Kujur CMF, the Pahan of the Karam Utsav presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration. On this occasion, the Karam Dance competition was also organised for all the parishes and religious institutions of North 24 Parganas at Morning Star Regional Seminary Hall. The dance competitions were held in two groups, one for parishes and other for religious institutions. A meaningful and colourful Karam dances were performed by all the participants. The faithful of Rupantor Church also performed dances and fashion show to add colours to the program. Rev. Frs. George, the rector of MSC, Henri Saldana the dean of the diocese and Jesu were the chief Guest and the guest of honour of the day.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PROJECTS**



The Independent Delegation of Kolkata through its social entity "Claretian Society" is diligently involved in transforming the lives of the poorest of the poor and the tribal families, groups and communities by promoting holistic development of children, women and adolescent

girls through various projects in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar. Diverse development activities are being carried out through several small and medium socioeconomic projects, such as- Self Help Group (SHGs) formation, Agriculture and Livestock Management, Capacity Building training on Rights and Entitlements, Vocational Training, Adult Literacy- Education for Women, Promotion of Health and Sanitation, Conservation of environment, Savings promotion, Acquisition of Livestock and goods, Health Care Training for women and girls and Medical Check-ups, Live Stocks Training and Distribution, Vocational Training like Computer and Tailoring, Gender Equality Awareness Training, Training on rights and entitlements of Government Schemes and programs. These programs do bring about the desired level of optimism and results in the lives of the end users.

Our sincere gratitude to all the donors – Misereor, Church in Need, Proclade Yanapay, Fundacion Proclade, Proclade Betica, Loyola Foundation, Missio München, Erbacher Foundation and other individual donors collaborators and well-wishers for making this a reality.

**Glimpses of the inaugural celebration of the 175 year of the Anniversary of the Foundation of our Congregation**







# CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES



**175** YEARS  
**Spreading**  
THE OF THE  
**Flame Spirit**