



Our Model



Our Founder

Bulletin of Independent Delegation of Kolkata

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### MAJOR SUPERIOR'S EASTER MESSAGE

*Easter: The Triumph of Divine Love, the Renewal of Creation, and the Hope of Eternal Life*

“The Lord is Risen indeed!” (Luke 24:34)

With hearts filled with Easter joy, I greet you in the name of the Risen Christ! Easter is the axis upon which our faith turns, the event where history meets eternity, and death gives way to life. It is not simply the commemoration of a past event but the celebration of the decisive transformation of human existence in the Resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb is the silent witness that proclaims the fullness of God's self-giving love and signals the dawn of a new creation.

The Resurrection is the climax of the Paschal Mystery, where the seeming defeat of Good Friday is revealed as the supreme victory of divine love. Through the Cross, God entered the depth of human suffering, and in the Resurrection, He infused that suffering with redemptive meaning. This is the hope St. Paul boldly professes: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile” (1 Corinthians 15:17). The Resurrection reveals that history is not a closed cycle of decay but a narrative opened toward the horizon of eternity.

Easter confronts the deepest anxieties of the human heart: the fear of death, the absurdity of suffering, the fragmentation of human dignity. Christ's Resurrection affirms that the final word belongs not to chaos or death, but to life and love. The world may be wounded, but the Risen Christ is the pledge that human history bends toward divine justice, peace, and the reconciliation of all things (Colossians 1:20).

In our present era, where wars scar nations, ecological crises strain the earth, and human dignity is too often traded for profit or power, the Easter proclamation compels us to act. Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation are not optional ideals but concrete expressions of Resurrection faith. Just as Christ shattered the stone of the tomb, we are called to break the stones of indifference, division, and exploitation. Easter people must be witnesses of life in a culture preoccupied with death.

Our missionary identity as Claretians finds renewed relevance in this light. The Risen Lord walks with us, as He did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), transforming our disillusionment into conviction and our fears into mission. The Resurrection impels us to stand in solidarity with the wounded of the world and to echo God's unwavering love in both word and deed.

May this Easter rekindle within us the courage to live authentically as proclaimers of hope and architects of peace. May our communities become signs of the Kingdom communities where life triumphs over despair, reconciliation over division, and mercy over judgment.

Let us raise our hearts, voices, and hands to proclaim together:

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! He is truly Risen!

Wishing you all a Grace-filled Easter Season, radiant with hope and renewed purpose.

Your brother in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF  
Major Superior  
Kolkata Independent Delegation



Christ is Risen  
Alleluia!



MYSTICS  
ENFLAMED  
IN MISSION



THIRD DELEGATION ASSEMBLY  
KOLKATA INDEPENDENT DELEGATION  
18<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup>, FEB. 2025



Prot. SG 63/2025

## MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL Claretian Celebration of the Jubilee 2025

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Lk 4:18-19).*

Dear brothers,

Wishing you all a blessed and fruitful Jubilee Year 2025!

Following the grace-filled experience of our Congregational Jubilee last year, the Church's Jubilee in 2025 offers us a renewed opportunity to keep the fire of the Spirit alive within us and to spread its flames wherever we go (Cf. CC 9). As a pilgrim Congregation, we are called to walk with hope, trusting that the Lord who has guided us through history continues to journey with us. This hope is especially vital in a world where despair, division, and uncertainty threaten to extinguish the missionary fire within us. The Holy Fathers, from St. John Paul II to Pope Francis, have consistently highlighted the crisis of hope affecting new generations and even evangelizers (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 84). In this Jubilee, we are invited to renew the foundations of our hope—rooted in God's unwavering fidelity and boundless mercy.

The Jubilee Year is marked by the ritual of passing through the Holy Doors of basilicas worldwide. Yet, this act is far more than a ritual—it is a profound invitation to cross two sacred thresholds that shape our journey of faith. The first is the interior door of the heart, where we encounter the indwelling Lord (cf. Jn 15:4; Rom 8:9) and allow His heartbeat to resonate within us, opening ourselves to love, reconciliation, and deeper communion with others. The second is the mystic door of the Gospel, which leads us into the transcendent horizon of God's Kingdom, where our eyes are opened to see everyone as a child of God (*fratelli tutti*). Imbued with the Christ-consciousness, we recognize the dignity of every person and celebrate fraternal communion through concrete acts of love and service. This Jubilee is also a privileged moment to rediscover the gift of Reconciliation, both personally and communally—a time of grace to foster forgiveness, healing, and renewal within ourselves, our communities, and our ministries.

The biblical concept of Jubilee (cf. Leviticus 25)—a time of release, restoration, and renewal—resonates deeply with our Claretian charism of being servants of the Word and missionaries of hope and transformation. As a Congregation called to a prophetic mission, we are invited to embody the spirit of the Jubilee in tangible ways by promoting justice, peace, reconciliation, and care for creation. I encourage each community to prayerfully reflect on how you can incarnate this spirit in your specific context. Through communal discernment, consider the concrete steps you can take to implement some of the following suggestions.

## 1. Internal Renewal: Living Jubilee in Claretian Life

The spirit of Jubilee calls for renewal within the Congregation, particularly in how we relate to one another, live our vows, and embody missionary discipleship. This renewal must be grounded in rekindling our missionary passion because without it, we cannot be bearers of hope.

### a) *Fraternal Reconciliation and Community Life*

- Encourage processes of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation within communities where relationships have been strained by misunderstandings, conflicts, or past wounds.
- Foster authentic fraternity, ensuring that every member feels a sense of belonging and support, and that no one is left feeling abandoned or marginalized.
- Promote a culture of listening and synodality, where all voices are valued in decision-making.

### b) *Economic Justice and the Use of Resources*

- Apply the principle of Jubilee economics by managing community resources in a spirit of solidarity and simplicity.
- Strengthen responsible financial management and sharing of goods, ensuring that our goods serve the mission and the needs of the poor.
- Commit to economic transparency and accountability, making financial resources a means of communion rather than division.
- Engage actively in initiatives that combat poverty and marginalization.

### c) *Care for the Integral Health of Missionaries*

- Foster regular renewal programs to nourish the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our members.
- Support those who have served in demanding missions by providing opportunities for rest, ongoing formation, and spiritual rejuvenation.
- Encourage each missionary to care for his integral well-being and moral uprightness offering support for healing from wounds and overcoming unhealthy patterns.

## 2. Missionary Commitment: Bringing Jubilee to the World

As Claretians, our missionary calling compels us to be prophets of justice, reconciliation, and care for creation. The spirit of Jubilee can shape our ministries in powerful ways.

### a) *Commitment to Justice and the Poor*

- Strengthen ministries that promote the dignity of the poor, particularly in marginalized communities giving special attention to the sick, the elderly and prisoners.
- Advocate for the rights of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, living out the biblical Jubilee principle of welcoming the stranger.
- Support initiatives that provide access to education, healthcare, and empowerment for vulnerable populations.
- Stand firmly for truth, justice, and mercy, even when it comes at a personal cost, and support those who courageously pursue these values.
- Engage in advocacy for debt relief and economic justice, amplifying the voices of the poor.

### b) *Peacebuilding and Reconciliation*

- Actively engage in peacebuilding efforts, fostering reconciliation in regions torn by division and violence.
- Promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, strengthening mutual understanding in a world often marked by fragmentation.
- Facilitate healing processes for individuals and communities affected by war, discrimination, and historical injustices.

### c) *Integrity of Creation and Ecological Responsibility*

- Implement sustainable environmental practices in Claretian houses and institutions, integrating *Laudato Si'* into our way of life.
- Promote eco-friendly projects, such as reforestation, organic farming, and renewable energy, particularly in mission territories.
- Educate and raise awareness on climate justice, involving young people and local communities.
- Develop eco-spirituality retreats and formation programs, linking care for creation with Claretian spirituality.

### 3. A Jubilee Approach to Leadership and Governance

#### a) *Servant Leadership and Synodality*

- Encourage servant leadership and synodal participation, ensuring that governance is inclusive and consultative.
- Strengthen discernment-based decision-making processes in all our structures fostering responsibility, accountability and transparency at all levels.
- Deepen the sense of shared mission at every level, recognizing that we all participate in the Missio Dei through the diversity of vocations, charisms, and ministries

#### b) *Formation for Missionary Jubilee Spirituality*

- Integrate Jubilee themes into the formation of Claretians, ensuring that our missionaries develop a vision of justice, reconciliation, and care for creation.
- Provide specialized training in social justice, peacebuilding, and ecological stewardship for those involved in social ministries.
- Encourage ongoing formation programs that nurture personal renewal, intercultural dialogue, and a deepened Claretian identity.

Dear brothers, as sons of the Heart of Mary, we keep our hearts aflame with God's love, sharing in her compassion and steadfast hope for a suffering world, and collaborating with the Spirit in bringing God's Dream for humanity to life. On our pilgrimage, Mary walks with us, guiding us with hope and grace.

**Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF**  
*Superior General*



*Feast of the Chair of Peter*  
*Rome, February 22, 2025*

## The Third Triennial Assembly Holy Cross Retreat Center, Pandua



The Third Delegation Assembly of the Kolkata Independent Delegation was held from February 18–23, 2025, at Holy Cross Retreat Center, Pandua. Guided by the theme “*Mystics Enflamed in Mission*,” the assembly served as a time of reflection on the past three years, strategic planning for the future, and the election of new leadership.

The assembly was presided over by Br. Carlos Verga, CMF, General Prefect of Youth and Vocation, whose presence and guidance enriched the proceedings.

Throughout the assembly, key reports were presented, offering a thorough assessment of the Delegation’s life and mission. Among them were the Triennial Report, delivered by Fr. Ponson Toppo, CMF, Delegation Secretary, and the Financial Report, presented by Fr. Jini P., CMF. These reports provided a comprehensive overview of the Delegation’s governance, missionary initiatives, financial sustainability, and forward-looking objectives.

One of the significant outcomes of the assembly was the preparation of the Triennial Document, which captured the essential discussions, resolutions, and commitments shaping the future path of the Delegation.

One of the significant moments of the assembly was the announcement of the new Delegation Council for the term 2025-2028. The newly appointed members are:

- Major Superior: Fr. Peter Johnson A. CMF
- Econome and consultor: Fr. Jini P. CMF
- Consultors: Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF & Fr. Augustus Kujur CMF

The assembly also included the felicitation of the new leaders and a vote of thanks



to the outgoing members for their dedicated service. A solemn oath-taking ceremony was held, during which Fr. Peter Johnson CMF officially assumed the role of Major Superior. The assembly concluded with the official closing by Br. Carlos Verga CMF, a Eucharistic celebration, and a final vote of thanks by Fr. Ponson Toppo CMF.

### Key Outcomes of the Assembly

- Appointment of the New Delegation Council for the term 2025–2028.
- Strengthening of youth ministry, educational initiatives, and mission expansion.
- Strategic planning for financial sustainability and enhancement of social apostolate.
- Reinforced commitment to transparent governance and community building.
- Preparation of the Triennial Document, capturing the key discussions and collective commitments.

With a renewed sense of commitment and unity, the Third Triennial Assembly reaffirmed its dedication to the Claretian mission and the continued growth of the Delegation.

## Courtesy Visits



As part of fostering cordial relationships and strengthening mutual collaboration, a series of courtesy visits were undertaken to esteemed Church and academic leaders.

The Delegation had the privilege of meeting His Grace Thomas D’Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata, and Rev. Fr. Dominic, S.J., Principal of St. Xavier’s College,



Kolkata. The visit also extended to Rev. Fr. Felix Raj, S.J., Vice Chancellor of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata a meaningful encounter that underscored a shared commitment to faith-based education and collaboration.

In Jharkhand, the Delegation conducted courtesy visits to His Grace Vincent Aind, Archbishop of Ranchi, and His Excellency Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Sim-



dega, on March 17, 2025. This was followed by a visit to His Excellency Binay Kandulna, Bishop of Khunti, on March 18, 2025. These fraternal visits provided valuable opportunities to express goodwill, discuss mutual concerns, and seek blessings and guidance for the mission ahead.

## Laying of the Foundation Stone St. Claret Hostel, Basmata

A significant milestone was marked on April 10, 2025, with the laying of the foundation stone for St. Claret Hostel, Basmata. The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, Major Superior of the Kolkata Independent Delegation.



The occasion was graced by the presence of Fr. Jini, CMF, Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar, CMF, contractors, community members, sisters, hostel children, and other collaborators. The foundation stone was blessed and laid with prayerful solemnity, invoking God’s guidance and protection over the construction process and the future ministry of the hostel.

This new initiative is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment for poor Santhal children, particularly those from remote and underprivileged areas, to support their holistic development and academic growth.

## Regents Get-together 2024–2025 Nirmal Sadan, Ghatsila



“*Building Brotherhood, Deepening Missionary Zeal*” - The much anticipated Regents Get-together 2024–2025 was held at Nirmal Sadan, Ghatsila, bringing together regents from across the Delegation for days of fraternity, formation, and reflection. The participants arrived on March

28, 2025, and were warmly welcomed with a community supper, setting a tone of brotherhood for the gathering. The program was officially inaugurated on the morning of March 29 with a serene morning prayer and meditation led by Deacon

Balram Mandi. The day's spiritual journey was enriched by the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Fr. Arockiasamy, CMF, Superior of the host community. A formal welcome followed, during which Fr. Antony L., CMF, Program Coordinator, greeted the regents and offered bouquets, creating a vibrant and fraternal atmosphere.

The day centered on the theme: "A CMF Faith Response to the Realities of Life: Returning to the Origin." Fr. Antony guided an engaging session that encouraged regents to share their field experiences and reflect on the challenges of missionary life, including language barriers. Practical strategies were discussed to overcome these challenges, with a strong emphasis on relationship-building, deep communication, and remaining rooted in one's Claretian vocation amid real-world difficulties.

Day Two: March 30 began with prayer and meditation led by Fr. Surendra Murmu, CMF, followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Jain Charles, CMF, who also served as the day's resource person. His theme, "In the Process of Making a Genuine Missionary," highlighted three core dimensions: conformity with Christ, living the Claretian charism, and personal transformation. He emphasized that genuine transformation must be holistic, encompassing physical, intellectual, and spiritual-psychological growth a message that left a lasting impression on the young regents.

The afternoon session was led by the Major Superior, Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, who spoke on the theme: "Authenticity in Consecrated Life: Living without Mask." Fr. Peter challenged the regents to live lives marked by integrity and depth, free from pretence. He outlined 17 traits of authenticity, offering a thoughtful and practical roadmap for personal and missionary growth.



On March 31, the final day of the gathering, the group began with morning prayer and meditation led by Fr. Suraj Tete, CMF, followed by the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Fr. Augustus Kujur, CMF. The day also included a joyful outing to Chandil Dam, where regents, along with their formators, shared moments of recreation and fraternity, highlighted by a boating activity that fostered deeper bonds.

A reflective evaluation session was held at the picnic site, where the regents expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Delegation Council, the Program Coordinator, Fr. Antony L., CMF, and the Nirmal Sadan Community for their warm hospitality and meticulous organization. Special appreciation was extended to the resource persons for their valuable insights and guidance. The regents also recommended that future gatherings be scheduled earlier in the academic year around November or December to allow more time for the learnings to be internalized and applied in their respective mission fields.

One of the most cherished moments of the program was the personal interaction with the Major Superior, who took time to meet each regent individually, offering encouragement, counsel, and fraternal support. The gathering concluded on a joyful and uplifting note with the final supper at 7:30 p.m., leaving all participants renewed in spirit, strengthened in fraternity, and deeply committed to their missionary journey.

**Quinquennium: 2025  
Nirmal Sadan, Ghatsila**



"Deepening Mission, Maturing Leadership." The Quinquennium Programme 2025 was held at Nirmal Sadan, Ghatsila from April 1-4, 2025, bringing together six young Claretian priests, Frs. Clarans V, Suraj Tete, Honest Raj, Robert R, Abinash Toppo, and Sonot Murmu for a meaningful time of reflection, formation, and fraternal bonding.

The program was inaugurated with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, Major Superior of the Kolkata Independent Delegation. The first day centred on deepening the missionary heart under the theme

"Dilexit Nos" (*He Loved Us*), guided by Fr. Antony L., CMF. The sessions addressed pastoral and personal challenges, including an insightful discussion on sexual ethics in ministry led by Fr. Augustus Kujur, CMF, and an inspiring reflection on moving from "survival to thriving" in consecrated life, animated by Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF.



On the second and third days, Fr. Kurian Karakattu, OCD offered a deeply enriching series of sessions focusing on pastoral leadership, reconciliation, personal vision, and the challenges of leadership. Through a blend of practical exercises, reflective sharing, and honest conversations, participants

were encouraged to deepen their self-awareness and strengthen their missionary conviction. Throughout the program, daily Eucharist, personal meditation, and community prayer served as spiritual anchors, nurturing both individual reflection and communal discernment. Recreational activities fostered relaxation and strengthened the spirit of fraternity among the participants.



The final day featured a joyful outing to Chandil Dam, where the participants conducted a thoughtful evaluation of the program. Their feedback highlighted appreciation for the program's spiritual depth, quality of inputs, and fraternal atmosphere, while also suggesting greater context-sensitive facilitation for future editions.

The Quinquennium Programme 2025 concluded as a deeply transformative experience nurturing the hearts, minds, and spirits of young missionaries, equipping them to lead with authenticity, humility, and purpose in their ongoing journey of service.

**Nurturing Vocations: Vocation Camp: 2025  
Claret Vidya Niketan, Nayasarai, Ranchi**

From March 25 to 28, 2025, Claret Vidya Niketan, Nayasarai, Ranchi warmly welcomed 26 enthusiastic young aspirants for a vibrant and spirit-filled Vocation Camp. The participants, drawn from various dioceses including Ranchi, Simdega, Gumla, Daltonganj, Jamshedpur, and Giridih arrived with youthful zeal and a sincere desire to discern God's call in their lives.



The camp was blessed by the presence of Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, Major Superior of the Kolkata Independent Delegation, together with Fr. Augustus Kujur, CMF, Prefect of Formation. Fr. Jaswant Nayak, CMF, the newly appointed Prefect of Youth and Vocation, and Fr. Telesphor Aind, CMF, the outgoing Prefect, joined the Vocation Promoter and the Claret Vidya Niketan community in warmly welcoming the boys.

The program featured a well-balanced blend of activities designed to help the participants discover their talents, grow in confidence, and deepen their understanding of vocation. A variety of competitions including Hindi and English reading, solo singing, essay writing, Hindi speech, and a written test kept the participants both engaged and motivated. Recreational games and group activities added an element of fun, fostering joy, friendship, and a strong sense of camaraderie.

One of the highlights of the camp was a series of insightful input sessions delivered by the Claretian Fathers. These sessions were carefully structured to nourish the participants' spiritual growth and guide them along the path of vocational discernment. The topics included:

1. The Gift of Life and Our Response
2. Mission and Vocation
3. Our Founder and the Congregation
4. Stages of Formation and Community Life

The entire camp was marked by an atmosphere of faith, friendship, and reflection. Alongside learning and discussion, the participants were given time for prayer, personal reflection, and meaningful interaction in a serene and supportive environment.



As the camp came to a close, there was a tangible sense of gratitude and renewed hope. Each young aspirant returned home with inspiration in their hearts, a deeper sense of fraternity, and greater clarity about the path they are called to follow. The experience remains a cherished milestone on their journey of faith and discernment.

### Cyber Sapiens Claret Nivas, Barrackpore

#### *Cybersecurity and Wellness Strategies for a Balanced Online Life*

A thought-provoking and insightful webinar titled “Balanced Online Life” was conducted on December 16, 2024, at Claret Nivas. The event brought together the brothers of Claret Nivas, along with members of the Daughters of St. Ann’s and the Sisters of Divine Providence, fostering a collaborative environment for learning and reflection. The session began with a warm welcome and introduction by Fr. Antony CMF, who introduced the guest speaker, Fr. Jenith Seker, Ph.D., a priest of the Kottar Diocese, currently associated with Matha TV.



Fr. Jenith addressed pressing topics relevant to today’s digital age, including cybercrime, digital wellness, and safe online practices. He shed light on the rising threats in cyberspace and how they impact individuals, especially those in religious and social ministries. With practical insights, he shared strategies to balance online engagements while maintaining mental and emotional well-being.

An engaging Q&A session followed, where participants voiced their concerns about cybersecurity threats and received expert guidance from the speaker. The webinar was enlightening, informative, and timely, equipping participants with essential knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world responsibly and mindfully. It left a lasting impression, encouraging all attendees to pursue a more balanced and secure online life.

### Christmas Celebration Prem Nivas Community, Titagarh

On December 15, 2024, the spirit of Christmas radiated with warmth and compassion at Gandhiji Prem Nivas Leprosy Centre, Titagarh. The celebration was



lovingly organized by the brothers of Claret Nivas, in collaboration with the candidates, and the Sisters of the Daughters of St. Anne’s, Sisters of Divine Providence, and the Sacred Hearts Brothers. The heartfelt initiative aimed to bring joy and companionship to the leprosy patients residing at Prem Nivas, many of whom experience deep loneliness during festive times. The evening unfolded with a delightful array of performances, including dance, mime, a Christmas skit, and voluntary programs by the residents themselves. Each performance carried the message of love, hope, and the light of Christ, touching the hearts of all and making the occasion truly memorable.

This meaningful celebration was a powerful expression of solidarity, compassion, and the true essence of Christmas bringing light to the forgotten and joy to those

in need.

### Children’s Day Celebration Claret Nivas, Barrackpore

On January 19, 2025, the first-year students of Claret Nivas, Barrackpore, joyfully organized a Children’s Day celebration, bringing smiles and laughter to the faces of young participants. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 17 children from Selempure, 21 children from Bstola, and 12 mothers, making it a truly heartwarming and successful gathering.

The celebration commenced at 10:30 a.m. with a warm welcome, followed by an



opening prayer service, the lighting of the lamp, and an inspirational message directed to both children and their parents. The message beautifully highlighted the importance of unity and the purpose of the Claretian ministry in nurturing young lives. A variety of games and fun activities were then conducted, which saw energetic and joyful participation from the children. Their excitement, creativity, and enthusiasm lit up the entire event. The Children’s Day celebration at Claret Nivas was not only a day of fun and festivity but also a meaningful opportunity for community bonding and for affirming the value of every child’s unique presence and potential.

### Empowering Futures through Education and Community Claret Study Centre, Lalpur

Claret Study Centre, Lalpur stands as a unique and impactful ministry of the Kolkata Independent Delegation, dedicated to empowering students in this region of the country. Renowned as a premier institute, the centre supports aspiring candidates preparing for a wide range of competitive examinations including Engineering, Banking, JPS, SAIL, JSSC, Railways, and many others in both government and private sectors.

From 2021 to 2025, the centre has welcomed 858 students, the majority of whom belong to ST, SC, and OBC categories, with a few from the general category. These students often come from economically challenged backgrounds and cannot afford the high costs of reference books, periodicals, newspapers, and other study materials. The Claret Study Centre steps in to fill this gap by regularly updating and providing free access to essential academic resources, tailored to the students’ needs.

The centre also offers a well-structured and conducive physical environment for serious academic engagement. This supportive atmosphere promotes togetherness and social bonding, encouraging students to view one another as part of a larger family. With a minimal and affordable fee structure, registration remains open throughout the year, allowing students the flexibility to join at their convenience without any restrictions.

Beyond academics, the Claret Study Centre fosters holistic development through celebrations, cultural activities, and community building events:

**Claret Feast Day (October 22, 2024)** was joyfully celebrated with enthusiastic student participation. They decorated the hall, anchored the program, sang, and



performed both group and solo dances. The event featured messages from Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar, CMF, Prefect of the Apostolate of the Kolkata Delegation, along with Frs. Martin Soren, Prabhat Tara Ekka, and Sunil Xaxa, CMF. Their inspiring words encouraged students to pursue their careers with purpose and values. The celebration concluded with a festive cake cutting, common dance, and shared snacks.

**Christmas Celebration (December 20, 2024)** was another joyful occasion. Frs. Deosahay Minj and Richard Soreng, CMF, served as the chief guests. Students took the lead in anchoring the program, which included carol singing and dances. A Christmas cake was cut jointly by students and guests. The guests shared meaningful Christmas messages, urging students to incorporate the spirit of the season into their lives and ambitions. The event ended with joyful group singing, dancing, and snacks for everyone.

A **Picnic Day** was organized on **February 3, 2025 (Sunday)** at Chanchala Ghag, with the participation of a large number of students, accompanied by Frs. Martin Soren and Prabhat Tara Ekka, CMF. The day offered a refreshing break from intense academic preparation. Activities included traveling, singing, dancing, music, games, cooking, and communal meals. This outing fostered camaraderie, relaxation, and renewed motivation for the road ahead.

The Claret Study Centre continues to serve as a beacon of hope and transformation, not only equipping students for career success but also nurturing values of community, responsibility, and personal growth.

### A Joyous Milestone: Kindergarten Graduation Day St. Claret School, Barrackpore

The air was filled with joy, pride, and heartfelt emotion as St. Claret School, Barrackpore celebrated the Graduation Day of its Kindergarten students on March 7, 2025. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the young learners' lives, symbolizing their first formal step into the world of education. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Shri Sushil Murmu, Second Officer In-Charge of Mohanpur Police Station, along with Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, Major Superior of the Kolkata Independent Delegation, and other dignitaries including Fr. Jini, CMF and Fr. Anim, CMF. Their encouraging presence added both warmth and inspiration to the celebration.



With beaming smiles and hearts full of dreams, the tiny graduates proudly received their certificates amid applause from parents, teachers, and guests. The program featured delightful performances by the children, offering heartfelt thanks to their mentors and celebrating the friendships and lessons gained during their foundational years. It was a cherished day, not only for the children but also for their families, who watched



their little ones take a confident step forward on their journey of learning and growth.

The event concluded with words of appreciation from the invited guests and heartfelt blessings for the children's bright and promising futures, leaving behind memories that will be treasured by all.

### Champions at District-Level Scouts and Guides Meet St. Claret School, Barrackpore

St. Claret School proudly stood tall at the North 24 Parganas District-level Rally and Cultural Competitions for Scouts and Guides, emerging as champions in a dynamic display of discipline, talent, and team spirit.

The event brought together Scouts and Guides from various schools, showcasing their skills through a vibrant series of rallies, drills, and cultural performances.



es. Our students demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and creativity, earning applause and accolades across categories.

The highlight of the day was the unity and enthusiasm shown by our Scouts and Guides, who not only represented the school with pride but also reflected the true spirit of scouting "Be Prepared" in action and character. This remarkable achievement at the district level is a testament to the rigorous training, guidance from dedicated scout masters, and the unwavering commitment of our young leaders.

### CISCE Zonal Athletics Meet 2024 St. Claret School, Barrackpore

On July 11 and 12, 2024, the talented athletes of St. Claret School participated with enthusiasm in the CISCE Zonal Athletics Meet for Girls, held at the Sports Authority of India grounds in Salt Lake, Kolkata. The event brought together young sportswomen from various CISCE-affiliated schools, providing them a platform to showcase their dedication, discipline, and sporting spirit.

We are immensely proud to announce that our students performed exceptionally well in the competition:

- Sunita Tigga (Class VII-A) soared to success by securing a prize in the High Jump, demonstrating grace, agility, and determination.
- Mayurakshi Dasgupta (Class XII-A) displayed remarkable strength and technique in the Hammer Throw, earning a well-deserved prize for her performance.

These remarkable achievements have brought pride and recognition to St. Claret School. The dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship displayed by these young athletes are truly inspiring. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to them, as well as to all participants, for their spirited performances. We wish them continued success in their future athletic pursuits.

### St. Claret School at August Auxesis 2024 St. Claret School, Barrackpore



On November 21, 2024, students of St. Claret School enthusiastically participated in August Auxesis 2024, an inter-school cultural fest that celebrated creativity, intellect, and skill across a

wide range of events. The competition featured diverse categories such as Debate, Pick and Speak, Instrumental Solo, Non-Fire Cooking, Coding, and Cube Solving, providing students a platform to express their talents and compete with confidence.

The event culminated in a grand prize distribution ceremony held on November 23, at Sukanto Sadan, where the winners were honored for their outstanding performances. We are proud to announce the following achievements from our students:

- Kingshuk Ghosh (Class V-D) secured the Third Prize in the Instrumental Solo category, showcasing his musical talent.
- In a brilliant display of articulation and reasoning, Pratyay Bhattacharya (Class X-A) and Debosmit Mondal (Class X-B) emerged as First Prize winners in the Debate competition.

These remarkable achievements are a testament to the vibrant talent and dedication nurtured at St. Claret School. Congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and commendable efforts!

### A Heartwarming Visit to 'Asha Kiran': A Mission Mankind Experience St. Claret School, Barrackpore



On January 17, 2025, the students of Classes V to X of St. Claret School, as part of the Mission Mankind initiative, had the profound privilege of visiting 'Asha

Kiran', a branch of the Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission School an orphanage dedicated to nurturing children with various disabilities.

The visit proved to be both a touching and enlightening experience for the students, who were warmly received by the staff and the children. They were introduced to the institution's inclusive learning environment, where compassion, care, and education beautifully intertwine to create a space of belonging and growth for every child.



A truly moving highlight of the day was witnessing the National Anthem performed in sign language a powerful expression of patriotism, unity, and resilience. The moment left an indelible mark on the hearts of everyone present, reminding them of the strength in diversity and the transformative power of empathy. This encounter not only deepened the students' understanding of social responsibility but also inspired them to reflect on ways they can contribute meaningfully to the lives of others. The day stood as a heartfelt reminder of the beauty of human connection and the mission to serve with kindness and purpose.

### An Educational Excursion to Science City: Exploring the Wonders of Evolution St. Claret School, Barrackpore

On 25th January 2025, a group of nearly 130 enthusiastic students of Class VIII, accompanied by 8 dedicated teachers from St. Claret School, embarked on an exciting and educational trip to Science City, Kolkata. With curiosity and scientific wonder in their hearts, the young Claretines were eager to explore and learn beyond the walls of their classrooms.



The highlights of the visit included engaging experiences at the 3D Space Theatre, the Vande Bharat Express exhibit, the thrilling Dark Ride, and the captivating Digital Panorama. Each of these showcased impressive and interactive displays focusing on 'Human Evolution' and the broader 'Evolution of Life', offering students a dynamic perspective on the journey of mankind and the natural world.

The excursion was both informative and enjoyable, sparking deeper interest in science and technology while encouraging students to think critically about the past, present, and future of human development. It was a memorable day filled with discovery, learning, and fun truly a perfect blend of education and adventure.

### Road Safety Seminar 2025 – A Lesson for Life St. Claret School, Barrackpore

On 29th January 2025, a group of selected students from St. Claret School had the privilege of participating in the Road Safety Seminar organized by the West Bengal Government at Rabindra Bhawan, Barasat. This initiative, which began on 8th July 2016, continues to promote awareness and responsibility on the roads especially among the youth.

The seminar was graced by the presence of several eminent dignitaries, including Mr. Sharad Kumar Divedi (District Magistrate), Ms. Pratiksha Jharkhariya (Superintendent of Police), and Mr. Sparsh Nilangi (ASP Zonal), whose presence and words of encouragement left a lasting impression on all attendees.

The session began with a powerful presentation on travel safety, which not only informed but also inspired. It educated us on various traffic rules, signs, and signals, and emphasized the importance of responsible behavior on the road. One of the most alarming revelations was that nearly 3,000 lives are lost annually due to road accidents, a sobering reminder of why road safety must be taken seriously.

An especially valuable part of the program was the demonstration of basic life-saving skills, including CPR and first aid. Students were shown how to perform these

skills correctly, equipping us with the knowledge to act in emergencies. To keep the atmosphere engaging, a quiz session was also conducted. Students who answered correctly were awarded gifts, which encouraged enthusiastic participation and active learning. We returned from the seminar with enlightened minds and determined hearts. We are truly grateful for this golden opportunity and vow not



only to abide by traffic rules ourselves but also to spread awareness among others. As proud Claretines, we believe that every life matters, and road safety is a shared responsibility.

### Graduation Day Celebration Claret School, Sahanagar

The Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony is always a heartwarming occasion, one that celebrates not just an end, but a fresh new beginning for our little stars.

On February 1, 2025, the UKG students of Claret School, Sahanagar joyfully marked this significant milestone with a delightful Graduation Day celebration. The event was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Alex CMF, who was warmly welcomed at the start of the program.



The highlight of the day was the much-anticipated convocation ceremony, where the tiny graduates confidently walked onto the stage. Their beaming smiles were met with loud applause as they proudly received their scrolls of merit a symbol of their early achievements and bright futures ahead.

Rev. Fr. Alex CMF, in his inspiring address, blessed the children and urged them to become passionate learners. Sharing from his own life experiences, he encouraged them to be hardworking, curious, and kind laying the foundation for a successful journey ahead.

The atmosphere was filled with pride, joy, and the sweet memories of a cherished chapter coming to a close. It was truly a memorable and joyous day for the young graduates, their teachers, and proud parents.

### CLASP 2024 – A Grand Celebration of Sportsmanship Claret School, Sahanagar

The much-awaited Annual Sports Day – CLASP 2024 unfolded with vibrant energy and a spirit of healthy competition, bringing together students, staff, and guests for a day of excitement and athletic excellence.

The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Pritom Biswas, Officer-in-Charge of Memari Police Station, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. His encouraging words and gracious presence added great value to the day's celebrations.

The grounds of Claret School came alive with colorful displays, enthusiastic cheers, and dynamic performances. From thrilling track events to lively team games, the students showcased their talents, discipline, and team spirit, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained and inspired.



The atmosphere was filled with joy, determination, and unity, making CLASP

2024 not just a sports event, but a true celebration of perseverance, teamwork, and youthful energy. Medals and trophies were awarded to the winners, acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

CLASP 2024 will be remembered as a day when the Claretian community came together to celebrate the power of sports and the joy of participation.

### Charity Day Celebrations – A Lesson in Compassion Claret School, Sahanagar

With the aim of nurturing hearts as well as minds, Claret School observed Charity Day in two meaningful phases instilling in students the values of empathy, kindness, and the joy of giving.

In a humble yet heartfelt initiative, each student contributed ₹1 or ₹2 from their own pocket money, pooling together a charity fund that would go on to make a real difference in the lives of others.

On January 22, 2025, a group of students visited the Missionaries of Charity Home for TB patients. There, they presented a water purifier as a practical and much-needed gift for the patients' wellbeing. The students also performed soulful cultural programs- songs, dances, and skits filling the home with smiles, laughter, and a sense of companionship.



The second phase of Charity Day was held on January 27, within the school campus. The school extended a warm invitation to poor and needy individuals from the surrounding villages. In a beautiful gesture of love, students personally served them lunch and gifted them blankets to help them brave the winter chill. The day was marked by heartfelt service, gratitude, and a strong sense of community.

Charity Day was more than just an event, it was a transformative experience for everyone involved. It reminded us all that even the smallest acts of kindness can bring great joy and hope.



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### A Heartfelt Farewell to Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF Claret School, Sahanagar

On April 7, 2025, the Claret School community at Sahanagar came together in a spirit of gratitude and love to bid farewell to Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF, marking the end of his remarkable tenure as Principal.



The farewell program, though brief, was deeply moving. Students, teachers, and staff expressed their sincere appreciation through heartfelt words, melodious songs, and thoughtful tokens of gratitude. Each gesture reflected the profound impact Fr. Peter had made on the school community not only as a leader but as a guiding light and fatherly figure.

His visionary leadership, gentle presence, and unwavering dedication have left a lasting legacy in the hearts of all. As he embarks on a new chapter in his mission, the Claret School family remains ever grateful and prays for abundant blessings on his path ahead.

### Picnic Day – A Day of Fun, Fellowship, and Festivity St. Claret Hostel, Sahanagar

The campus of St. Claret Hostel, Sahanagar, was buzzing with excitement as students and staff came together to celebrate Picnic Day in high spirits. With around 210 participants, the event turned into a beautiful day of bonding, laughter, and unforgettable memories.



The celebration was packed with energy sports, games, singing, and dancing filled the air with joy. While the boys thrilled in friendly football matches, the girls showcased their skills on the basketball court, all in the spirit of camaraderie and fun.

A highlight of the day was the delicious food. From a hearty breakfast to tasty tiffin and a satisfying lunch, every meal was shared with joy and a sense of community. A special local dance performance added a vibrant cultural touch, delighting everyone present. The day concluded with a moment of prayer and thanksgiving, acknowledging God's blessings and the joy of being together. Picnic Day 2025 left every heart full and every face smiling a perfect reminder of the joy found in simple moments shared with others.

### The Telegraph Awards St. Claret School, Bishrail

St. Claret School, Bishrail, was bestowed with the prestigious Telegraph School Awards on November 18, 2024, during a grand ceremony held at Dinabandhu Mancha, Siliguri. The school proudly received two significant recognitions:

- Merit Certificate for Maintenance and Eco-Friendly Initiatives
- Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Social Service



A team of enthusiastic student representatives, accompanied by the club animators, proudly represented the school at the event. They were filled with a sense of pride and joy as they shared the stage with other unsung heroes and esteemed personalities. The recognition served as a powerful affirmation of the school's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, inspiring all to strive for excellence beyond academics.

### Annual Sports Day St. Claret School, Bishrail

The Annual Sports Day of St. Claret School, Bishrail, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour on December 21, 2024. The event aimed to foster values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical well-being among the students.

The entire school community students, teachers, and parents actively participated in a variety of athletic and fun-filled activities. The school grounds came alive with energy and excitement as students competed with spirited determination, showcasing their athletic skills and team spirit. The day concluded with a grand awards ceremony, where outstanding performers were honoured across various categories. The cheers of encouragement and celebration reflected the pride of



achievement and the true spirit of healthy competition. The event was not just a celebration of sports but also a vibrant gathering that strengthened the bond within the Claretine family, leaving behind cherished memories for all.

### District Annual Athletic Championship St. Claret School, Bishrail

On January 31, 2024, St. Claret School, Bishrail, proudly participated in the District Annual Athletic Championship held at Hazrirampur ASDM High School in Dakshin Dinajpur. Competing against 11 reputed schools, our students showcased outstanding performance, securing the runners-up position and bringing home numerous medals and certificates.



Adding to this proud achievement, two of our talented students Swapan Hasda and Bubai Besra earned selection to compete at the National Level Football Championship held at Kuriakose Elias English Medium School, Kerala. Their selection followed their re-



markable performance at the Regional Pre-Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2024, hosted by Palian World School, Kolkata. These accomplishments highlight the dedication, discipline, and perseverance of our young athletes and reflect the outstanding mentorship and support provided by the school's sports

faculty. The entire Claretine community celebrates their success and wishes them continued triumphs on the national stage.

### Graduation Ceremony St. Claret School, Bishrail

On February 8, 2025, St. Claret School, Bishrail, joyfully celebrated its Graduation Ceremony, marking a proud and memorable milestone in the academic journey of its students. The event was a reflection of the students' hard work, resilience, and personal growth throughout the years.

The ceremony was graced by Shri Jyothirmoy Roy, who delivered an inspiring



and thought-provoking address, encouraging the graduates to embrace future challenges with confidence, vision, and integrity. His words left a lasting impact, instilling a deep sense of motivation and purpose in the hearts of the young graduates. The program honored not only academic excellence but also the values and character that the students cultivated during their time at the school. The event concluded with heartfelt gratitude from students and staff alike, as the graduates stepped forward with renewed determination to pursue their next academic and life goals.

### Orientation Programme for the Staff St. Claret School, Bishrail

An Orientation Programme was held for the Primary and Secondary staff of St. Claret School, Bishrail, on March 24 and 25, 2025, respectively. The sessions were expertly conducted by Ms. Swati Mukherjee, a retired and highly respected faculty member of St. Claret School, Barrackpore.

Drawing from her vast teaching experience, Ms. Mukherjee delivered insightful sessions that focused on enhancing teaching methodologies, classroom management strategies, and professional growth. Her engaging approach and practical tips inspired the staff to rethink and refine their instructional practices. The programme proved to be a transformative and enriching experience, fostering a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm among the educators. Participants appreciated the rele-



vance and depth of the sessions, expressing heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. Equipped with fresh perspectives and actionable strategies, the Claretine educators look forward to applying these insights in their classrooms to create a more effective and student-centered learning environment.

### Empowering Educators: Teachers' Orientation Program St. Claret School, Basmata

On April 1, 2025, St. Claret School, Basmata, hosted a well-organized Teachers' Orientation Program, marking a purposeful beginning to the new academic session. The event brought together the entire teaching staff for a day of inspiration,

learning, and professional development.

The orientation was graced by a panel of esteemed resource persons: Dr. Mary Margaret Tudu, Principal of Modern College, Mr. Stephan Murmu, Deputy Manager at State Bank, and Mr. Samuel Soren, a respected lawyer. Each speaker brought unique perspectives to the program, helping teachers reflect on their noble vocation, responsibilities, and the impact they have in shaping young minds.



Dr. Mary Margaret Tudu highlighted the importance of values-based education and the role of educators in nurturing both intellect and character. Mr. Stephan Murmu emphasized financial awareness and stability for teachers, encouraging them to plan wisely for personal and professional growth. Mr. Samuel Soren addressed the legal responsibilities and rights of teachers, enlightening them on classroom discipline, protection of minors, and ethical conduct. The sessions were interactive, thought-provoking, and enriched with real-life examples, leaving the staff both encouraged and empowered. The orientation not only helped set clear goals for the year ahead but also strengthened the sense of community and shared mission among the educators.

The day concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing deep appreciation to the resource persons for their valuable time and insights. The program reaffirmed the school's commitment to academic excellence, holistic education, and the continuous growth of its educators.

### Annual Sports Day St. John Mary Vianney School

On March 17, 2025, St. John Mary Vianney School at Mariampur Mission, Dinajpur Diocese, Bangladesh, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great excitement and energy. The event showcased the vibrant spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and healthy competition among the students.

The day was filled with various athletic events and fun-filled games, encouraging the holistic development of students through physical activity. The enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, and parents created an atmosphere of joy and celebration. Winners were honored with medals and certificates in a grand prize



distribution ceremony, making the day both memorable and inspiring for everyone involved.

### Enhancing Education through Empowerment Balubari, Dinajpur, Bangladesh



On March 28, 2025, a meaningful animation session on School Management and Modern Methods of Teaching was conducted for the Sisters and Teachers of St. Francis Xavier High School, located in Balubari, Dinajpur, Bangladesh. The session was led by Fr. Michael Raja Pandian CMF, who brought with him a wealth of experience and a passion for educational transformation. The program brought together the teaching staff and religious Sisters in an engaging and interactive platform focused on enhancing the quality of education, improving academic leadership, and promoting student-centered teaching methods. The goal was clear: to equip educators with the tools, mindset, and skills needed to create dynamic and nurturing learning environments.

Fr. Michael highlighted the key components of visionary school leadership, strategic school planning, effective classroom management, and value-based education. Through lively discussions, case studies, and collaborative activities, participants explored new perspectives on making the school a space for integral growth and academic excellence. A special focus was given to modern teaching methodologies, including activity-based learning, child-friendly approaches, learner engagement strategies, and integrating technology into teaching. The training emphasized that teachers are not just knowledge providers, but facilitators, mentors, and role models shaping the future of society.

The Sisters and teachers expressed great appreciation for the insights and inspiration they received during the session. Many noted that the animation renewed their commitment and offered practical strategies to enhance both teaching effectiveness and school administration.

### Sohrai Celebration St. Claret Parish, Basmata

On January 19, 2025, the vibrant spirit of Sorhai, the chief harvest festival of the Santhal tribe, came alive in full splendor at St. Claret Parish, Basmata. The celebration was steeped in cultural richness, communal thanksgiving, and spiritual depth. This year's Sorhai celebration was made even more special by the presence of Rev. Bro. Carlos Verga, CMF, the General Canonical Visitor from Rome.



He was warmly received with a traditional welcome and Santhal dance, reflecting the community's deep respect and affection. In a beautiful gesture of solidarity and joy, Bro. Carlos himself joined the people in their dance, sharing in the rhythm and spirit of the occasion.

The highlight of the day was the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. George Gomesto Soren, who also preached a meaningful homily. He (in his homily) reflected on the significance of the harvest in the lives of the Santhal people and emphasized the importance of gratitude to God, to the earth, and to the community for the blessings of life and sustenance. Following the Mass, the newly harvested fruits were blessed and shared among the faithful, symbolizing unity, abundance, and God's providence.



The day reached its joyful peak with a vibrant Santhal dance performance, accompanied by the beats of traditional drums and songs. Dressed in colorful ethnic attire, the people expressed their cultural pride and happiness, dancing with joy and reverence. The Sorhai feast at St. Claret Parish was not only a religious and cultural celebration but also a profound reminder of the rich heritage and deep faith of the Santhal community. It was a day that brought together hearts in unity, reaffirmed cultural identity, and celebrated the generous blessings of God.

### Jubilee Cross Procession and Adoration St. Claret Parish, Basmata

As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, the Diocese of Dumka has launched a spiritually enriching initiative by sending the Jubilee Cross from parish to parish, inviting the faithful to deepen their faith and renew their commitment to Christ.

On March 16, 2025, the Jubilee Cross reached St. Claret Parish, Basmata, and was received with great reverence and solemnity by the parish community. The



faithful, young and old, came together in large numbers to welcome the Cross with devotional songs, traditional rituals, and a spirit of joyful anticipation. For one full week, the Jubilee Cross remained in the parish, becoming a powerful symbol of grace, unity, and reflection. During this

sacred time, the Cross was taken to different substations, allowing more people across the parish to venerate it and participate in special prayer services, Eucharistic adorations, and moments of silent reflection.

This spiritual journey of the Jubilee Cross provided the faithful a precious opportunity to draw closer to the Lord, contemplate His love and sacrifice, and be renewed in their mission as joyful witnesses of the Gospel. The week-long presence of the Jubilee Cross at St. Claret Parish was a graced moment, fostering deeper faith, communal solidarity, and spiritual renewal in this Jubilee Year.

### International Women's Day Celebration St. Claret Parish, Basmata

On March 8, 2025, St. Claret Parish, Basmata came alive with vibrant energy and unity as women from the parish and members of other faith communities joined together to celebrate International Women's Day. The celebration was a powerful display of solidarity, empowerment, and interfaith harmony.



The event commenced with an awareness rally, which drew the attention of the public as the participants marched through the streets holding placards and raising slogans advocating for women's rights, dignity, and equality. The rally set the tone for the day's events, emphasizing the vital role of women in society. A remarkable 300 women participated in the celebration, making it a memorable and impactful gathering. The chosen theme for the day was "Accelerate Action", echoing the global call to advance gender equality and women's empowerment through concrete efforts. A key highlight of the day was an insightful input session by Mrs. Veronica, a passionate advocate for women's welfare. She focused on the various government schemes available for women in Jharkhand, educating the participants on how they can access support for education, health, entrepreneurship, and safety. The event was not just a celebration, but a meaningful opportunity for learning, awareness, and community building. It affirmed the dignity of every woman and encouraged continued action toward a just and inclusive society.

### Pilgrims of Hope – A Spiritual Journey St. Claret Church, Shahanagar

As part of the Jubilee Year preparations, the faithful of St. Claret Parish, Shahanagar embarked on a sacred pilgrimage to St. Claret Church, Basmata, Nimpahari on March 30, 2025. The pilgrimage was a beautiful expression of faith and unity under the inspiring theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."

The core purpose of the pilgrimage was to encounter the God of the Mountain. In Scripture and spiritual tradition, the mountain represents a place of divine presence a sacred space where God reveals Himself and invites His people into deeper communion.



Our parishioners experienced just that. As they ascended the mountain, surrounded by the serene beauty of nature, a holy and peaceful atmosphere enveloped them. The climb became a journey of the soul, filled with prayer, reflection, and awe at God's magnificent creation. It was a powerful moment of connection—with God, with one another, and with the natural world.

The pilgrimage not only deepened the spiritual lives of the participants but also rekindled their hope and commitment to walk as true pilgrims, seeking God in every step of their lives.

Indeed, it was a day of grace, inspiration, and spiritual renewal—one that will be cherished in the hearts of all who took part.

### Empowering Young Minds Mariampur Mission, Dinajpur Diocese, Bangladesh

On April 15, 2025, as part of the ongoing mission of the Claretians to nurture faith and inspire young hearts, Fr. Michael Raja Pandian CMF led a dynamic animation and retreat program for the students of Mariampur Mission in the Diocese of Dinajpur, Bangladesh. The event, held in the serene and spiritually vibrant setting



of Mariampur, drew a large number of enthusiastic students who participated with deep faith and joyful energy.

Fr. Michael, known for his engaging style and ability to connect with youth, animated the sessions with a blend of prayer, reflection, motivational talks, and interactive

activities. The retreat focused on spiritual renewal, personal growth, and Christian values, helping the young participants reflect on their identity, purpose, and relationship with God.

The sessions encouraged the students to be rooted in their faith while facing the challenges of modern life. With themes drawn from Scripture and the life of St. Anthony Mary Claret, Fr. Michael invited the youth to become agents of peace, hope, and service in their communities.

The program was also marked by moments of Eucharistic adoration, personal prayer, singing, group sharing, and creative expressions that allowed the students to deepen their spirituality while forming bonds of friendship and fellowship. This retreat has left a lasting impact, rekindling a spirit of discipleship and commitment among the youth of Mariampur. This initiative is yet another sign of the Claretians' missionary zeal and their commitment to accompanying the young in their journey of faith across borders.

### Spiritual Pilgrimage To Bandel St. Claret Parish, Bishrail

A spiritual pilgrimage was organized for the parishioners of St. Claret Parish, Bishrail, from March 21 to 23, 2025, drawing together a group of 75 faithful for a deeply enriching and faith-filled journey.



The pilgrimage included meaningful visits to sacred and historical sites such as:

- St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata
- The Tomb of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- Our Lady of Health Shrine Basilica, Bandel

The spiritual highlight of the pilgrimage was the Way of the Cross and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Our Lady of Health Shrine, Bandel. These moments offered the pilgrims time for prayer, reflection, and renewal of faith. The journey served not only as a time of spiritual growth but also as a unique opportunity for fellowship and deeper communion among the parishioners. The experience left all participants spiritually strengthened and united, carrying home with them cherished memories and renewed devotion.

### Jubilee Year Celebration St. Claret Parish, Bishrail

On March 30, 2025, the faithful of St. Claret Parish, Bishrail, joyfully inaugurated their Jubilee Year Celebration with the solemn reception of the Jubilee Cross from Mehendipara Parish. The celebration commenced with a procession from Immaculate Convent, marked by the vibrant expressions of Santali culture, including traditional dance and music that reflected the community's deep-rooted faith and heritage. The Holy Cross was carried with reverence to the parish church, where a solemn Eucharistic celebration was held, invoking God's blessings upon the parish as it embarked on this grace-filled year.



Following the Mass, the Jubilee Cross

was taken to each family within the parish, symbolizing spiritual unity, renewal, and the shared journey of faith. This sacred journey of the Cross, which began on March 30, will continue until April 12, 2025, ensuring that every household experiences the grace and blessings of the Jubilee. The Jubilee celebration at Bishrail stands as a beautiful testimony to the faith, tradition, and unity of the parishioners as they journey together with renewed hope and spiritual fervor.

### Touching Lives through Health and Healing Dehknamari, Tushkhali, St. Claret Parish, Nazat

In a heartfelt outreach to the underserved community of Dehknamari, St. Claret Parish, Nazat, in collaboration with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, Mariyap-



palli, organized a Medical Camp and Health Awareness Programme on March 25, 2025. The initiative was aimed at offering free medical care and creating awareness about healthy living among the local population, especially women and children.

The day began with a short inaugural ceremony where representatives from both organizing bodies addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of good health, hygiene, and early medical intervention. A dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and health workers offered free medical check-ups and consultations to over 300 beneficiaries. Common health concerns such as fever, respiratory infections, skin conditions, and malnutrition were attended to with care and compassion. Essential medicines, nutritional supplements, and health kits were distributed, with special attention to the needs of the elderly, children, and pregnant women.

Interactive health awareness sessions were held throughout the day, covering vital topics like:

- Personal hygiene and sanitation
- Importance of nutrition and a balanced diet
- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Maternal and child health care
- The importance of vaccination

Women received valuable input on menstrual hygiene, postnatal care, and child nutrition, while children were given deworming tablets and vitamin supplements



to strengthen their immunity and overall well-being. The camp not only provided much-needed medical aid but also left a lasting impact by encouraging the community to adopt preventive health practices and seek timely medical assistance. The warm response and active participation from

the villagers reaffirmed the importance of such initiatives in remote areas. The success of this programme was a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and community care. St. Claret Parish, Nazat, and the Missionaries of Charity Sisters extend their heartfelt thanks to the medical professionals, volunteers, and well-wishers who contributed to this noble cause.

Together, we continue to walk the path of healing, hope, and human dignity.

### Deanery Level Women's Day Celebration Rupantor Church, Debpukur

“Honoring the vital role of women in church and society”

Under the vibrant leadership of Fr. Subodh Kisku CMF, the Parish Priest of Rupantor Church, Debpukur, a vibrant Deanery Level Women's Day Celebration was held on March 23, 2025 at the Morning Star Seminary Hall. The event was a remarkable gathering of faith, reflection, and recognition of women's contributions to both the Church and society.

The celebration brought together participants from four neighboring parishes-St. Lourdes Church, Barasat, St. Joseph's Church, Barrackpore, Immaculate Church,

Serampur, and Mary Immaculate Church, Kancharapara highlighting the spirit of unity and collaboration among the communities. The program commenced with a warm welcome, followed by an inspiring keynote address by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. George Panthanmakkal, Rector of MSC. The highlight of the event was a thought-provoking session led by the Resource Person, Fr. Richard Soreng CMF, who spoke passionately on *“The Role of Women in the Church and Society”*. His reflections stirred deep appreciation for the invaluable presence and service of women in various aspects of community and ecclesial life.



Adding color and vibrancy to the celebration, the women presented a series of cultural programs—soulful songs, traditional and folk dances, and thought-provoking skits that beautifully portrayed their talents, faith, and cultural heritage. These performances brought joy and inspiration to all and underscored the creative spirit of the women in the deanery. The spiritual heart of the celebration was the Holy Eucharist, solemnly presided over by Fr. Sebastian Rodrigues, lifting the hearts of all in thanksgiving and grace.

The event was not only a celebration but also a reminder of the ongoing journey toward recognition, empowerment, and participation of women in the mission of the Church. The enthusiastic participation, prayerful atmosphere, and meaningful expressions of faith and culture made the day a truly memorable and enriching experience for everyone present.

### The Seed and the Cross

(Perspective by a tribal believer reflecting on Lent and Easter)

Fr. Peter Johnson CMF

The earth is dry, the seed is deep,  
The hills are silent, all things sleep.

We wait, we fast, we share, we pray,  
The old path teaches: die, then stay.

The Tree stood tall on Calvary’s land,  
The Son hung low by human hand.

But dawn broke through, the stone rolled wide,  
And Christ walked free, alive, our guide.

Now drums beat loud, the earth sings clear:  
The Risen One walks with us here.



### Education as Liberation: The Tribal Path to Empowerment

Fr. Peter Johnson CMF

*“Education is the gateway to freedom; for India’s tribal children, it is the key that unlocks a future of dignity, self-reliance, and transformation.”*

#### Breaking barriers, building futures:

Education is not merely about books, classrooms, and certificates, it is the foundation of freedom and the pathway to human dignity. For India’s tribal communities, education is more than a right; it is the key to liberation from centuries of marginalization and a bridge toward self-reliance and social transformation.

#### Honouring roots, shaping futures:



The tribal story has long been one of resilience, of living in harmony with nature, of vibrant cultures and deep wisdom. Yet, when it comes to formal education, many tribal children still face enormous barriers. Poverty, cultural disconnect, social exclusion, and lack of resources often conspire to push them away from the school gates. The result is a growing dropout rate that

weakens not just individual lives, but entire communities.

#### The bridge to self-reliance:

Education, however, when approached with understanding and cultural sensitivity, can become the most powerful tool for empowerment. Schools that honour tribal identity through mother-tongue learning, culturally relevant lessons, community involvement, and psycho-social support can transform education into an experience of belonging and self-worth. When children see their roots respected in the classroom, they grow into confident, skilled, and compassionate contributors to society.

#### Resilience in learning:

Empowerment begins the moment education affirms a child’s identity while equipping them for modern challenges. The inclusion of vocational training, life skills, spiritual guidance, and community engagement ensures that education does not alienate, but uplifts. It gives tribal students the ability to shape their own future, not just survive in a changing world but lead change for their people.

#### Not charity, but justice:



The road to tribal liberation is not paved by charity, but by commitment to equal opportunity and meaningful education. Empowering tribal communities through education is not simply a development agenda it is a moral duty and a shared hope for a just and inclusive society.

#### Let education lead the way:

Let education be the voice that calls every tribal child forward, not as the last in line, but as the builders of a new future rooted in dignity, culture, and freedom.

### Women: Silent Flames of Evangelization and Empowerment

Fr. Ponson Toppo CMF

In the grand tapestry of the Church and society, women have always played a vital, though often unheralded, role. From the quiet witness of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to the courageous voices of women leaders today, their presence has shaped faith communities and uplifted the marginalized. Women are not just participants in the life of the Church, they are powerful agents of evangelization and empowerment.

In countless parishes and mission fields, women catechists, animators, and mothers are at the forefront of sharing the Gospel not just through words, but through lives rooted in compassion, resilience, and service. Their intuitive pastoral presence often reaches where formal structures cannot. By nurturing faith in families, guiding youth, and walking with the poor, they become living Gospel messages.



Beyond the Church walls, women drive change in society. They organize self-help groups, lead educational initiatives, and stand for justice in communities where inequality still looms large. *Their leadership is not always loud, but it is transformative fueling education,*

*promoting health, building peace, advocating for justice, nurturing families, leading prayer groups, mentoring young girls, and fostering inclusive communities.* Their influence, rooted in faith and courage, brings healing and hope to those most in need.

To empower women is to empower the Church. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis writes: “The Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution which women make to society through the sensitivity, intuition and other distinctive skill sets which they, more than men, tend to possess” (EG 103). To recognize their role is to embrace a more inclusive, dynamic, and hope-filled future. Women strong in faith and rich in grace continue to be the quiet revolution that carries the mission of Christ forward, one heart at a time.

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## Reflection

### What should be the approach of Church leaders toward recognizing, valuing, and empowering women and their contributions to the life of the Church and society?

The Church's mission to promote justice, equality, and the dignity of all persons naturally includes uplifting women as full and active participants. Here's a well-rounded approach Church leaders can take toward the concept of "To empower women is to empower the Church":

#### 1. Recognize and affirm women's contributions

Church leaders should intentionally acknowledge the spiritual, pastoral, and social leadership that women already provide. This includes their roles as catechists, educators, healthcare workers, social activists, mothers, and caregivers. Public affirmation helps validate their mission and motivates others.

*Recognition is the beginning of empowerment.*

#### 2. Provide platforms for participation

Empowerment must go beyond words. Women should be given spaces of decision-making at the parish, diocesan, and organizational levels such as pastoral councils, finance committees, and ministry leadership.

*Let women be collaborators, not just volunteers.*



#### 3. Invest in formation and capacity building

Church leaders can empower women through theological, pastoral, and leadership formation programs. Equipping women with tools for advocacy, faith formation, and social leadership strengthens their voice and impact.

*Empowerment begins with education and training.*

#### 4. Promote inclusive language and liturgy

A subtle but powerful way to honour women's dignity is by using inclusive and respectful language in liturgy, homilies, and church documents language that reflects the equal dignity of men and women in God's plan.

#### 5. Stand against injustice

Leaders must actively challenge gender-based violence, discrimination, and exploitation within communities and society. The Church has a prophetic voice and should use it to defend the rights of women and girls.

#### 6. Encourage women's vocations in all forms

While encouraging religious vocations among women, the Church must also value lay vocations and women's roles in the secular world as teachers, doctors, administrators, and entrepreneurs who carry Christ's mission into everyday life.

#### 7. Walk with humility and listen

Empowering women also means listening to their stories, needs, and visions for the Church. Leaders must foster a Church culture that listens before it speaks.

*Listening is the first act of love.*

### Easter, our Spring of Joy

Fr. Lawrence V CMF

When I reflect on the mystery of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, I have a great feeling of refreshment and joy in my spirit, as Easter is the celebration of victory over all evil forces including death. It coincides with the rise of spring season with fragrant flowers and fruit-bearing plants everywhere manifesting life and vivacity, evoking hope and gratitude in the minds of all beings. We thank God, the Father for his love and mercy for taking care of His children in every way. In this jubilee year of hope, the celebration of the Paschal Mystery gains more significance as Easter is the hope of the resurrection of all of us in Jesus Christ, that our final sure destiny is life eternal.

When Jesus rose from the dead, the whole universe was transformed by His risen light and a new creation was introduced where the old sin, selfishness, and death

were fully won over and all believers through baptism now become partakers of this victory and freedom (2Cor 5:14-21). This Christian freedom or liberty essentially consists in the liberation of the inner self from the tentacles of the "ego consciousness" as St. Paul experientially expresses it as: "It is not I who live but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). The redeemed person in Christ lives with a new awareness in place of the old ego awareness, which is fully taken over by the new "Christ consciousness" wherein one thinks and feels as Christ himself which St. Paul calls "having the Mind of Christ" (cf. Phi 2:5). In other words, it is living as another Christ.

This new creation is the hope of Easter. In spite of evil and its angels playing havoc everywhere in the universe, the Christians are victors in Christ as he has said,



"I have won over the world" (Jn 16:33). When the evil in us that is ego (in the negative sense of doing everything for one's own self prestige and advantage) is dethroned and Christ is enthroned 24 hours in our hearts, there will be a long lasting peace and serenity with love and mercy overflowing from them. The victory of the cross is the victory of love and mercy. Therefore, all the redeemed in Christ become the ambassadors of the same love, mercy and reconciliation (2Cor 5:21).

Ego is the first enemy of love but love always overcomes and saves it. In particular, participating in the life of risen Christ one can easily handle it, because

he/she is saturated by His love (2Cor 5:14). The resurrection of Jesus and love (*agapē*) are much connected in the Gospel of John: It is the beloved disciple who leaned on the side of Jesus during the last supper is the one who recognizes the fact of resurrection first, while Peter, the head of the disciples, in spite of entering into the empty tomb first, remains confused (Jn 20:6-8). Similarly, it is the same disciple who sees the risen Jesus at the shore of the sea of Tiberias and recognizes Him and alerts Peter, while the other disciples could not do so (Jn 21:7). Then, when the risen Jesus entrusts the leadership of the Church to Peter he asks him also three times "Do you love me" (Jn 21:15-17). These instances abundantly make clear that *agapē* is essential to grasp the deeper dimension of the mystery of resurrection and to be impacted by its liberating power.

This liberating power is experienced essentially in our thoughts and feelings.



These two areas of human life are the most difficult to handle and control, which breed a host of negativity that causes the loss of peace and joy. It is said a normal person generates 6000 to 60000 thoughts every day and 95% of them are negative and repetitive. Since the majority of these thoughts are negative, they keep the mind in constant preoccupation and anxiety. Our thoughts and feelings should be weaned off the ego dictation. The grace of the Eucharist is the best means of achieving this. Through this the risen Lord stays in our hearts, and if we allow His rays to radiate our thoughts and feelings they can be purified of all negative content. If we constantly keep Him in our thoughts, our entire life will be a spring of joy with the fragrance of his loving presence, emanating from our inner selves and positive feelings blooming in our conduct. Let us always remember "ego always blinds but love enlightens"!

## Ongoing Formation: Embracing Growth Through Life's Seasons Inspired by Katherine May's "Wintering"

Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF



Religious life, much like nature, follows seasons of growth, renewal, challenge, and transformation. The metaphor of wintering as Katherine May presents it—invites missionaries to see times of stillness or struggle not as setbacks, but as sacred opportunities for renewal. Just as winter prepares nature for spring, so too does ongoing formation renew missionaries for fruitful service.

### The necessity of ongoing formation

Ongoing formation is not optional—it is integral to discipleship and mission. The ever-changing realities of the world and the evolving needs of the Church require missionaries to grow intellectually, spiritually, communally, and pastorally. Without this, one risks stagnation and burnout.

### Embracing winter as a time of renewal

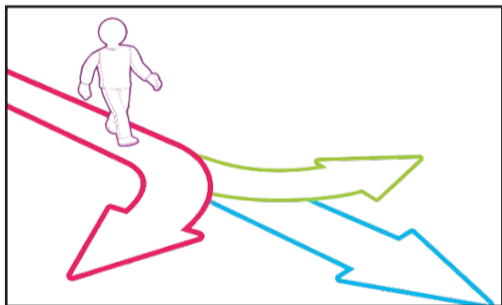
Periods of dryness or transition are invitations to step back, reflect, and renew. Through retreat, prayer, and study, missionaries find new strength and rediscover their zeal. These “winters” are fertile soil for vocational depth.

### Reflection and self-awareness

Missionaries must regularly assess their spiritual health, community relationships, and mission effectiveness. Tools such as journaling, spiritual direction, and communal discernment help identify needed changes and affirm God's call.

### Rituals and spiritual anchors

Disciplined spiritual practices—such as the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic adoration, and meditative prayer provide stability and nourishment. They help missionaries remain faithful even when emotions fluctuate.



### The power of community

Fraternal life sustains missionaries. Peer support, mentoring, and intergenerational wisdom foster mutual growth. Shared learning and communal discernment ground missionaries in their vocation and strengthen mission resolve.

### Developing new skills

Ongoing formation includes learning new competencies:

- Theology and Scripture
- Pastoral response to social justice and ecological issues
- Intercultural communication
- Emotional well-being and stress management
- Digital evangelization and modern communication

Such growth equips missionaries to meet emerging challenges with compassion and creativity.

### Creativity in stillness

Periods of apparent inactivity can be creatively productive—times for writing, study, and planning. These efforts nourish long-term vision and deepen the missionary's inner life.

### Formation: A Lifelong Journey

Formation is not a stage to complete but a pilgrimage to embrace. By staying open to God's unfolding call, missionaries grow in maturity, clarity, and joy.

### Role of Superiors and Formators

Leadership must foster a culture of lifelong learning by:

- Supporting studies, sabbaticals, and retreats
- Encouraging open dialogue and accompaniment
- Offering safe spaces for renewal and guidance

### Conclusion: Flourishing Through Every Season

Life's winters are not failures but invitations to deepen one's call. Missionaries who embrace ongoing formation remain spiritually alive and missionally effective. Like spring after winter, renewed hearts bloom again with joy and authenticity.

*Reference: Katherine May, Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times, Riverhead Books, New York (2020).*

### Welcoming Rev. Br. Carlos Verga CMF, General Canonical Visitor



### Felicitation of Our New PhD Holder



### Rev. Br. Carlos Verga CMF with the youth of Claret Gyanalaya, Masagram



# Moments of third Delegation Assembly

New Delegation Team 2025-2028



DELEGATION CURIA,