

Evoking ... to "make present and actual" the discerned graces

The XVII General Chapter was a privileged moment of discernment that designed the congregational perspective for the next six years, and also interpreted, clarified and updated various aspects of the charism.

The capitular statements or intuitions that we want to highlight are:

- ✚ **Missionary reform, as a horizon and objective of the renewal** that the Congregation is living to contribute to the ecclesial transformation "going forth". It demands personal, community and pastoral conversion (5)
- ✚ The **Claretian charism** is a **gift** to the Church that does not "belong to us (to religious) exclusively"; in it we share religious and **lay** people the only mission of Christ, each from his/her specific vocation (DC Introd.)
- ✚ The progressive path from a **multicultural congregation** to an **intercultural congregation**, as an opportunity for greater justice, fraternity and peace between us and in society (6)
- ✚ **Walking with others** is our way of living the apostolic mission, since we do not only do with others, but we walk with others. It involves a change of mindset and is a criterion of discernment (8)
- ✚ **Accompaniment is** not only a tool of discernment, but a way to evangelize, evangelize ourselves and build relationships (18)
- ✚ Sustainability **in** its triple dimension: relational, charismatic and economic that makes us one family and one heart, a congregational body (19)
- ✚ **Learn to learn**, from reality, from ourselves, from life, from others and from God and with God (12)

Commitments

Chapter discernment has led us to five general commitments that want to express "in practice" which and how are the paths to go in this six-year period, grounded on the values that give us identity.

The General Government, through their Planning for the Six-years, integrating the various areas of their mission promotes an animation of communion, accompaniment and interculturality. In collaboration with the Governments of the Entities, they are taking steps to carry it out according to the intuitions and orientations that the General Chapter has seen as timely and effective at this time. Below are some paths already undertaken years ago and continued today, others initiated, some in the process of being presented... In 2020 our usual meeting platform, meetings and visits has been in digital mode. In this way we have sought to:

- **To motivate a dynamic of personal conversion, which strengthens life in the Spirit and the centrality of Christ.**

For it is still urgent to enliven the missionary ardor, the vocational experience at every stage of life, the personalization and integration of the charism into personal and community experience, and because the reorganization affected the lives of the Entities and of each sister, the dynamic of personal conversion is not only a response to our fragility but the most effective strength for the vitality of the apostolic body.

The animation to that end is carried through:

- Canonical Visit
- Specific and Fraternal Visits
- Creation of the EGEs General Spirituality Team
- EVOCANDO *Itineraries* (Cuba and Reus)
- Training to Sisters of Asia (EGEs)
- Workshop "Towards the Common House"

- **Promote shared charismatic identity as an integrative and dynamizing source of communion and mission**

From care for communion and communication. Accompanying the walk of the Entities, especially the youngest; promoting spaces to ground and emerge the fruitfulness of the Claretian charism in the Laity, deepening in the consciousness (first of all of ours) that the call to live the charism of Paris and Claret is a shared gift from the Claretian religious vocation and the lay vocation.

For this we are working on:

- The creation of the Training Itinerary for Sisters and Laity *Walk Together*
- The renewal of the website
- The dynamization of the missionary month (videos, online encounters)
- Implementation of the SEMICLAR Secretariat program
- The realization and distribution (to the Entities) of material and propaganda on Causes

- **Working so that 'walking with others' is assumed as a lifestyle and an indispensable way to accomplish our mission.**

We are part of the Church and in and from it we collaborate from the specifics of our charism to the unique mission of Christ: to proclaim the good news to all peoples. In the Church, house of communion, we share the various charisms and vocations, enrich each other, and fully carry out the desire of Jesus: that they may all be one as You Father and I are one. We are a small Congregation, but with open doors in giving and receiving, welcoming and going out to meet, creating and being communion.

They have been launched (or continued):

Work in networks with various institutions:

- UISG (Presidency; Committee on Education, JPIC Commission);
- AMCG - Charismatic Families
- NGOs (own and others)

In Claretian Family:

Meetings (at least two per year) of the General Governments. Share your own and common life and projects.

Vocational youth ministry in Claretian family (Online course for referents, 'Claret Way' and 5 other projects)

Laudato Si' Action Plan

- **To enhance the formation and creation of intercultural apostolic communities that live diversity as riches and prophecy.**

The Mission is lived out in communities. The exchange of experiences and people helps to reflect the universality of the charism, the availability to missionary sending, the interculturality that enriches us. It grows the sense of FAMILY that enjoys equally the gifts received and shares the challenges.

Initiatives that seek to give expression to this aspect are:

The Exchange Project.

The Forum: Mary Immaculate Opens us to joy and hope

The Congregational Seminar on Interculturality (previous work and immediate realization)

Accompaniment and training for volunteers (Africa)

- **Care and motivate care. Accompaniment and discernment of people, structures and works.**

It is a delicate and sensitive field in the mission of animation and government; of respect, listening, acceptance of the diverse, reorientation, formation, motivation to change, of joint search. That is, to accompany from discernment and fraternal support.

We experience the mutual need to strengthen the exercise of government from co-responsible service, closeness, circularity and discernment.

To raise awareness and grow in these attitudes there are carried out:

Training Workshops for Local Governments in English (Asia, Africa).

Training workshops for Juniors from different entities

Creation of the Apostolic Mission Team

Vocational culture workshops

Support and guidance to review processes in entities

Personal attention to sisters

- **Respond to the cry of the peripheries and the poorest.**

Inequality in our world, the vast marginalized majorities in many different ways and degrees, ask us for a permanent and attentive look at the reality and an evangelical commitment, concrete, in practice, that responds to the needs, above all of the poorest, of the most forgotten in society. Both the appropriate training and the most effective action possible are important.

Willing to respond to this, it has been launched:

The General Mission Solidarity Team (SPM)

Hannan Project - accompaniment to the EPSM (Provincial Solidarity Team for the Mission)

Together with the Claretian Missionaries the foundation in Farafangana, Madagascar as a project of life and common mission in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Prayers for JPIC World Days

- **Share in people and goods and work for sustainability.**

A body is sustainable when the various components that support it are in balance. The sustainability of the congregational body in its triple spiritual-charismatic, relational and economic dimension, is a permanent challenge among us that impels us to a permanent review, formation, transparency, consultation and advice so that the assets of the congregation are at the service of building communion and the mission of announcing Jesus.

To continue growing as a Family for the mission, the following have been promoted:

- Visits, meetings, sending circulars
- Advice from the General Administration and the General Council of Economy
- Training Workshops for treasurers. In the spirit of charism and in the technical field.
- Update of the accounting system, manuals and the sheets of the financial reports
- Analysis of the financial-economic reality of the congregation

- ✓ **This point is completed by the Economics report.**

The assets of the Congregation are always intended to serve the missionary action of the Church. That is, to promote the lives of people and the care of the material means necessary for evangelization. Care that involves not only preserving, but also managing goods properly and making them fruit.

A body is healthy when the various components that support it are in balance. The sustainability of the congregational body in its triple spiritual-charismatic, relational and economic dimension is a permanent challenge among us that impels us to a permanent review, formation, transparency, consultation and advice so that the assets of the Congregation are at the service of building communion and to carry out the mission of Jesus' proclamation.

- **Involvement of the General Administration in the implementation of the Chapter commitments.**

At the end of the general Chapter, the General Government received the transfer of charges at the end of October 2017. Thus opened, a new stage of congregational walking with desires and hopes to continue improving in all areas of our lives and, specifically, in the management, increase and communication of goods, which are at the base of every missionary project.

In 2018 the Chapters and Assembly of the new Major Entities were held. Special attention deserved the economic field because of the complexity of unification of administrations of previous entities in some cases. For this purpose, a visit was made to the administration of Africa (Oscar and Cristina in March) and Latin America (Cristina in April).

It is also worth noting the annual meeting of the CGE (General Council of Administration) where it was proposed how to help implement the commitments made in the General Chapter on economics. One such proposal, was the creation of a permanent Help Desk to attend government and economic consultations on technical issues and to accompany the training and practice of administration.

At the XIX Meeting of major Superiors in Barcelona., several days were devoted to the work from the administration: - to raise awareness of the shared responsibility of all in the experience of poverty and in the management of goods.

- Information was provided on the General Administration
- the Major Entities (ME)'s group of economics continued to work on the theory and practice of economics, deepening issues and better understanding how to keep accounts
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The COMMITMENTS undertaken at this meeting were made known to the governments of the MEs and subsequently to all the sisters on circular of the Superior General, Jolanta Kafka, (10 February and 3 March).

The annual meeting in March assessed the functioning in view of the subsequent renewal of the members for the next three-year period.

The general Solidarity for Mission team meets. Lia Latela (General Prefect of Mission), María Cristina Ruberte (General Prefecta de Economía), Oscar Mary and Lidia Alcántara (members of the General Council of Economy) participate. Attempting to evaluate and define roles and steps to follow

2020

The annual CGE meeting took place in Madrid from 25 to 29 that same month. On the 25th, the Solidarity Team for the Mission meets in person, taking advantage of the presence of CGE members who are part of the STM. A time of analysis and evaluation of the Congregational situation with respect to the Hanan project.

Following the study of the documents sent by the MEs, the Council produced a general report. It is noted that, year after year, widespread decapitalization is taking place in the Congregation. It therefore advises that deficit Entities be studied in order to be able to determine the expected deficit in sufficient time, so that internal or external means of financing can be determined without undermining the institutional heritage and ensuring both the viability of those Entities and that of the institution in general.

In this regard, it was also reflected on the possibility of enhancing the NGOs that the Congregation has, so that concrete objectives are set, aimed at seeking funds to cover the deficit of works that, by their very nature, are difficult to be economically self-sufficient and which nevertheless perfectly meet the institution's founding objectives.

The careful study of these reflections by the General Government at its April meetings resulted in an extensive circular from the Superior General to the SSMM and Councils (14 Apr 2020), with Conclusions, Recommendations and Proposals to initiate a process in the Entities that would subsequently lead to the development of a GENERAL PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION.

By then, the widespread and intense emergence of the Covi-19 pandemic had led to the closure of airports and borders. The GG had to suspend all scheduled visits and meetings, with the Administration Improvement Plan being postponed until some economic issues, such as the so-called "Stable Heritage" and others, could be deepened in person.

In April and May, CGE members who are part of the STM have found all the Entities teams and organized a folder of material for team training.

In May there was a telematics meeting of the CGE to see how we could continue to accompany the treasurers as needed. Interviews were conducted. We can say that, in general, they were very positive.

The CGE put them in common on the 29th that same month and then worked the GG with CGE two afternoons to share and look for common criteria in crisis time.

As a result of the cessation of activities in schools and houses of spirituality, our income in the Congregation declined. Budgets had to be revised and expenditure reordered, applying unrealizable items to other more urgent expenditures, mainly: aid to OM in difficulty and improvement of computer technology. This has allowed the online media to be applied in numerous training and accompaniment meetings, and we have created greater awareness of the need to work for the care of all.

Thank God, we don't have to mourn many losses among the sisters. In most of our schools, students have been accompanied online and we have collaborated or created social assistance initiatives everywhere we are, thanks mainly to Korima's help. Some communities have improved their sustainability by creating or expanding their own crop production spaces.

Contributions have been made to the General Administration as budgeted. Only in one case has it been necessary to help in an extraordinary way by the delicate situation of the Entity.

The use of online media has enabled the GGeneral to conduct numerous meetings with ME governments where the economic issue has also been addressed, especially in cases that required it most. We have also participated in abundant training meetings on investments and others.

For improvement changes in the company "Sage", we had to leave the accounting program used in the General Administration and move from the Conta Plus Professional to one of the Models of "Sage 50". This involved the general finance officer having to do two training courses in 2019 with two exams, reorder the accounts to respond as much as possible to those of the program while still being similar to those of our congregation, and wait patiently for the transfer of data from one program to another. Only from July 2020 we started the economy of the year in the new program.

We are still correcting how to account for investments that are in the AG but belong to some ME and we also need to update the inventory cards in the new program.

- **What income is expected to be received for mission development in the immediate future?**

As for real estate, the General Administration only owns the General House of Rome, from which it obtains a three-storey lease. It does not have other properties to rent or sell.

Financial income: By indication of TRESSIS GESTION, S.G.I.I.C., S.A. , some changes have been made to investments to seek to improve performance in IBERESTION 2000, without increasing the risk too much and preserving as much as possible the ethical sense (environmental care, social commitment and governance of the institution).

For the same ethical reasons the interests of investments in the IOR have lately been quite poor in Euros. The best results have been in Dollars in both the IOR and Miami.

At some point, and if circumstances require it, we have thought about the possibility of applying for long-term loans with low interest and good profitability.

We are confident that the accused financial pothole of 2020 can recover in 1 or 2 years with the global application of vaccines, the disappearance of the Covid-19 virus and the revival of the global economy.

In this regard, we hope that our Apostolic Centres will soon be able to function normally and the number of sisters receiving due pay for their work in other centres will grow. In this way, our missionary presence can be maintained and increased in places most in need through the **Communication of Goods**.

Project Application: In the last two years, thanks to the functioning of STMs at all levels, the Congregation has grown to submit applications to NGOs and other institutions for educational and health constructions, support for different development projects and the training of our sisters.

We hope that what has been achieved so far will be improved and consolidated in the future.

Proper preparation in the exercise of administration remains urgent

With the joy of poverty and shared goods.... To enjoy goods and sustainability at the service of the mission.