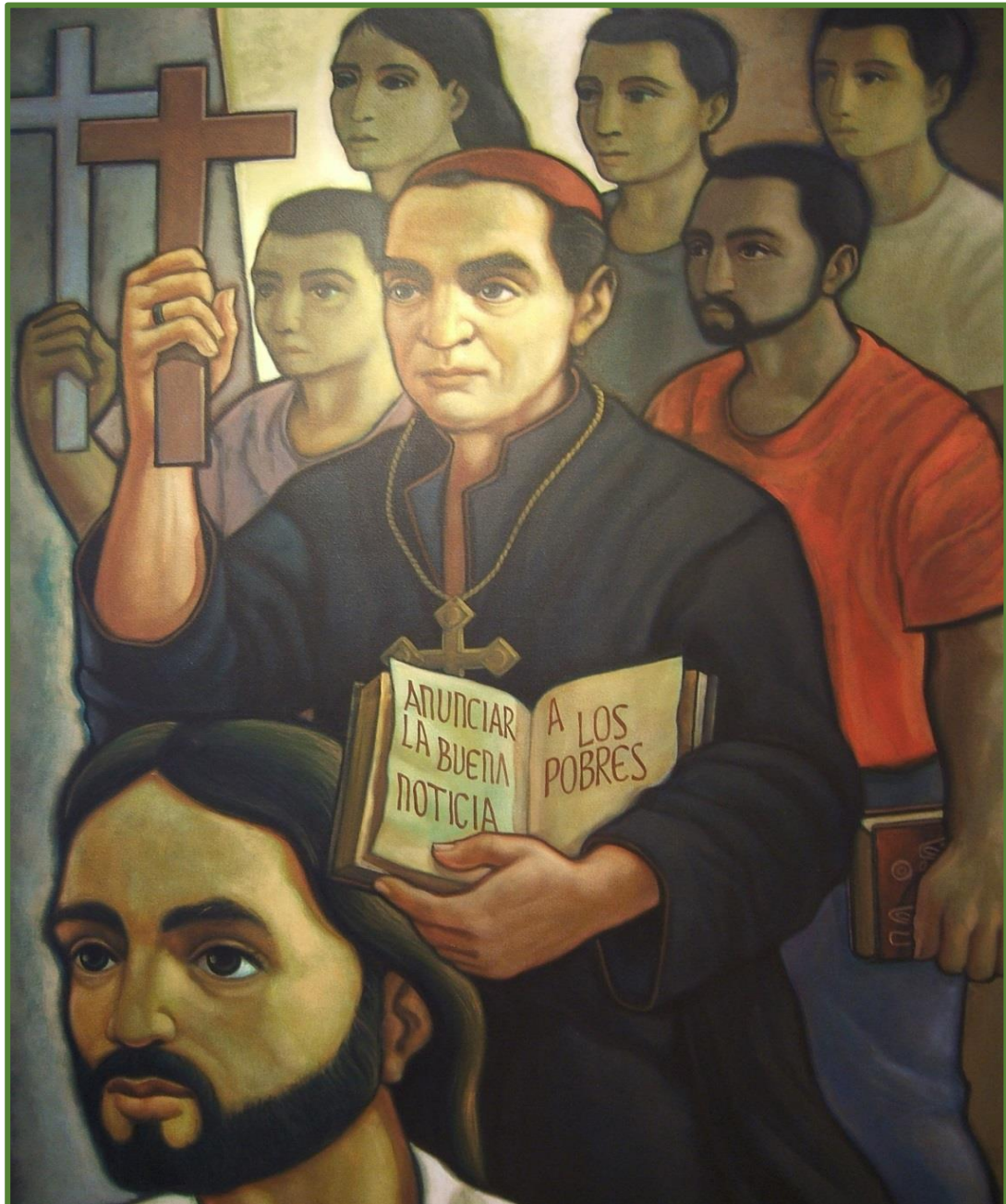


Triduum

St. Antony Mary Claret y Clara



Proclaim the Gospel to every creature

Introduction

This year, the theme chosen for the Triduum of Saint Anthony Mary Claret y Clará is: **“Proclaim the Gospel to every creature”**. The letter to the Hebrews tells us: “Many times and in many ways God spoke in the past to our fathers through the Prophets; in the last times he spoke to us through the Son whom he instituted heir of all things.” (Cf.Hb.1, 1-2)

As we read the Gospels we find that Jesus sent his disciples "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And, behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."(Cf. Mt. 28, 19-20).

To this day God has continued to call other men and women to proclaim the Gospel. One of them is St. Anthony Mary Claret, to whom we dedicate our prayer these three days.

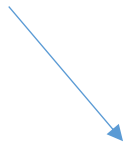
Helped by his autobiographical writings we will reflect on aspects that Claret used to be a true herald of the Gospel.

Each day we will end the Triduum with the Apostolic Prayer he wrote.

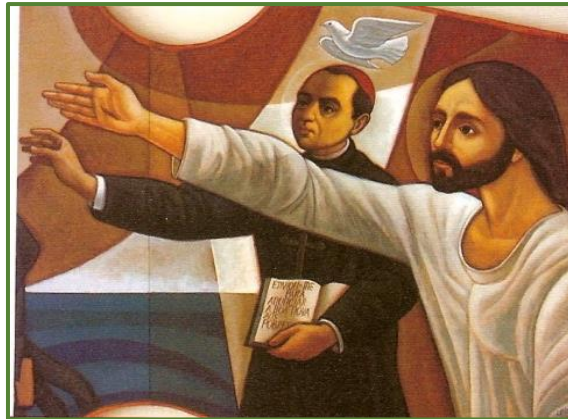
Thus, I place the links of some Hymns that you can use:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsC633l2GI0> (*Hymn to Claret*).
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNofd0SIUvM> (*Ideal Missionary*).
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PumrTIDTT40> (*May I know you and know me*).

Go and made Disciples of all nations Mt 28: 19-20



First day THE WORD OF GOD IN CLARET'S LIFE



First Moment

The assiduous reading of the Word of God accompanied Claret throughout his life, during his childhood, his adolescence, in his years of search to respond to the call of the Lord in the right place and until the end of his life. In his writings we discover his love of Sacred Scripture.

"From a very young age I felt inclined to piety and Religion. Every day of feast and obligation he attended the Holy Mass, he was always so collected, so modest and so devoted.

When I was ten, they let me receive communion. I cannot explain what happened to me on that day when I had the immeasurable joy of receiving my good Jesus in my heart for the first time. Since then I have always frequented the holy sacraments of Penance and Communion, but with what fervor, with what devotion and love!

In addition to the Holy Mass, frequent Communion and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which he attended with such fervor because of the goodness and mercy of God, he also attended every Sunday and feast day the Catechism and explanation of the holy Gospel, which the parish priest always did for himself every Sunday, and finally this function ended in the afternoon with the most holy Rosary". (Cf. Aut. FC, 36.38-39)

(Moment of silence to reflect)

Second Moment

As Claret recounts let us now have a look on the call of God to go to preach or mission:

"Ever since the desire to be a Carthusian, which God had used to uproot me from the world, I not only thought of sanctifying my soul, but also of continually thinking about what I would

do and how I would do it to save the souls of my neighbors. To this end, I prayed to Jesus and Mary and offered myself continually to this same purpose. The lives of the saints that we read at the table every day, the spiritual readings, that I in particular had, all helped me to this; but what moved me most and excited me was the reading of the Holy Bible, to which I have always been very strongly attracted.

There were passages that made such a strong impression on me that I seemed to hear a voice saying to me the same thing I read. Many were these passages, but singularly the prophet Isaiah: "I have taken you from the ends of the earth and have called you from the far lands. With these words I knew how the Lord had called me without merit on the part of my country, my parents or myself. And I said unto you, You are my servant; I have chosen you, and have not rejected you. Fear not that I am with you: turn not away: for I am your God: I have strengthened you, and helped you, and the right hand of my righteous man hath protected you.

In many passages of the Holy Bible I felt the voice of the Lord calling me to go forth and preach. The same thing happened to me while I as at prayer. So I decided to leave the Parish and go to Rome and present myself to the Congregation for the Propagation of Faith to be sent anywhere in the world." (Cf. Aut. FC, 113-115. 120)

(Moment of silence to reflect)

Third Moment / Scripture Reading

"You, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen; lineage of Abraham, my friend; You whom I took from the ends of the earth, whom I called from its ends, to whom I said: "You are my servant, I have chosen you, don't I have it rejected."

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be anxious, for I am your God; I strengthen you and help you, and support you with my right hand." (Isaiah 41: 8-10)

(Moment of silence to internalize the Word)

Fourth Moment

In this moment we echo what resonates in us from what we have heard through the Word of God, the writings of Father Claret or present to the Lord our prayer of thanksgiving or petition.

Final Prayer

O my God and my Father,
may I know you and make you known;
love you and make you loved; serve
you and make you served; praise you
and make all creatures praise you.

Second day
MAY GOD BE KNOWN, LOVED AND SERVED BY ALL



Ambiance

Yesterday we remembered Claret and his fervent reading of the Word of God. On this second day we will remember him as a reader of the lives of the saints.

First Moment

That God be known, loved and served by all was an ardent desire in Claret, he tells us: "The Lord made it known to me that I would not only to preach to sinners but also to catechize and preach the simple farmers and villagers, etc., etc. Whenever I went to a town, he never did it, with any earthly end, but for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. My goal is that God be known, loved and served by all. Oh who had all the hearts of men to love God with them all! Oh my God! The people do not know you! Oh if they knew you! You would be loved more." (Cf. Aut. FC, 118,199, 202)

"Another reason that impels me to preach and confess is the desire I have to make my neighbors happy. Oh, what a great joy it is to give health to the sick, freedom to the prisoner, comfort to the afflicted, and to make the wretched happy! For all this and much more is done in bringing to my neighbors the glory of heaven. It is to save him from all evils and to seek him and make him enjoy all good things, and for all eternity (Cf. Aut. FC, 213).



(Moment of silence to reflect)

Second Moment

Claret was a lover of the reading of Holy Scripture, he was also a lover of the life of the Holy Fathers and other saints:

“In addition to this love that I've always had for the poor sinners, it moves me also to work for their salvation; the example of the prophets, of Jesus Christ, of the apostles, the saints, whose lives and stories I read frequently, and the most interesting passages for my use and profit, more and more as a stimulus to work hard, and some of those fragments will refer here.

From the beginning I loved the preaching style of Jesus Christ. What comparisons! What parables! I set out to imitate him with comparisons, similes and simple style. But what excites me is the zeal of the Apostle Paul. How he runs from one place to another, a chosen vessel carrying the teachings of Jesus Christ! He preaches, he writes, he teaches in synagogues, in prisons and everywhere.” (Cf. Aut. FC, 214, 222, 224)

“I also encouraged the reading of the lives and works of the Fathers of the Church: St. Ignatius, martyr; St. Justin, philosopher martyr, St. Irenaeus, St. Clement, presbyter of Alexandria; Tertullian, Origen, St. Cyprian. I read very often the lives of the Saints who were distinguished themselves for Charles Borromeo, St. Francis Regis, St Vincent de Paul, St. Francis de Sales. In this meditation a fire was lit in me so burning, that it would not let me stand still. He had to walk and run from one place to another, preaching continuously. I can't explain what I felt in myself. I felt no fatigue, nor was terrified at the awful calumnies being leveled against me, nor was I afraid of the greatest persecutions. Everything was sweet to me as long as I could win souls to Jesus Christ, to heaven, and preserve them from hell.” (Cf. Aut. FC, 225-227)

(Moment of silence to reflect)

Third Moment / Scripture Reading

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
Lk 4: 14 - 19*

(Moment of silence to internalize the Word)

Fourth Moment

In these moments we echo what resounds in us from what we have heard through the Word of God, the writings of Claret or address to the Lord our prayer of thanksgiving or petition.

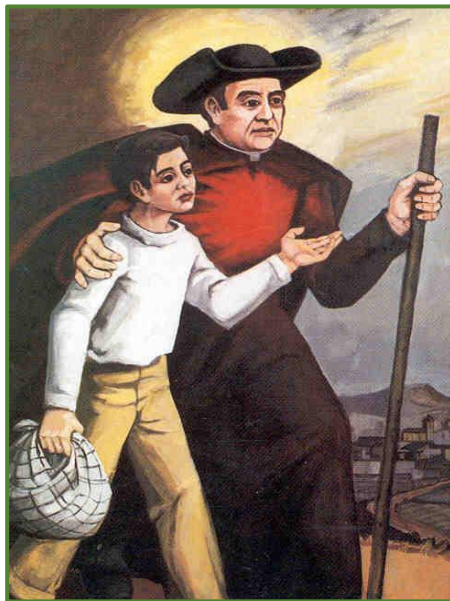
Final Prayer

O my God and my Father, may I know you
and make you known;
love you and make you loved;
serve you and make you served;
praise you and make all creatures praise you.
Grant, my Father, that all sinners be converted,
all the just persevere in grace,
and all of us attain to eternal glory. Amen.. (Cf. Aut PC, 233)



Third day

VIRTUES THAT A MISSIONARY MUST HAVE THAT HIS PREACHING MAY BEAR FRUIT



Atmosphere

On the first and second day of this triduum we have reflected on the love of reading Sacred Scripture and the Life of the Saints, writings that resounded in Claret's heart and impelled him to proclaim the Gospel.

On this third and last day, we will dwell on four virtues of which Claret speaks to us, apostolic missionary and that every missionary must have so that his preaching bears fruit.

First Moment

Claret, a zealous proclaimer of the Gospel, wanted to imitate the virtues he discovered when contemplating Jesus, his Master. Let's listen to what he tells us about humility, and poverty.

Humility

"Now I would like to say something about the virtues I know are necessary for any missionary in order to bear fruit. I would say that the apostolic missionary should be a model of all the virtues: he should, in fact, be virtue personified. Following Christ's example, he should first

practice, then preach. "He began to do and teach."¹ By his actions, the missionary should be able to say with the Apostle, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

I knew that if I was to acquire the virtues I needed in order to become a truly apostolic missionary, I would have to begin with humility, which I regard as the foundation for all other virtues.² From the time I entered the seminary at Vich to study philosophy, I began to make a particular examen of this virtue of humility, and I really needed to because I had been so preoccupied in Barcelona with sketches, machines, and other such foolishness that my head was quite swollen with vanity and my tainted heart was flattered at hearing all the praises and compliments I received. My God, forgive me; I am truly sorry for it!

I strove to imitate Jesus, who tells all of us, "Learn of me, because I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls."³ And so I constantly thought on Jesus--in the crib, in the carpenter's shop, on Calvary. I meditated on his words, his sermons, his actions; on the way He ate, dressed, and traveled from town to town. I took courage from his example and would ask myself, "How would Jesus act in this case?" Striving to imitate Him filled me with contentment and joy because I was pleased to think that my model was also my Father, my Master, and my Lord. My God, how good you are! You gave me these holy inspirations to help me imitate you and be humble." (Cf. Aut. FC, 340-341, 356)



POVERTY

"He had nothing, he wanted nothing and he refused everything."⁴ I was content with the clothes I had on and the food that was set before me. I carried all I had in a bandanna. The contents of my luggage were a full-year breviary, a sheaf of sermons, a pair of socks, and an extra shirt--nothing more.

¹ Acts 1:1.

² Claret's treatment of humility is, characteristically, Christ-centered (par. 356). *Motives* for humility: because it is essential to the Christian apostolate (par. 341) and because it is pleasing to Jesus (par. 356). *Nature* of humility: a practical knowledge of one's own nothingness and a delight in being dependent on God (par. 347). *Acts* of humility: not taking pride in oneself (par. 348); not looking down on others; being constantly aware of one's own nothingness, even in moments of the greatest exaltation (par. 350); inner illuminations on this virtue (pars. 343, 344); an infused sense (par. 353); humiliations, especially those arising in the exercise of the ministry (pars. 342, 352); meditation and reading (pars. 343, 350); particular examen (par. 351).

³ Mat. 11:29.

⁴ This norm of conduct was inspired by Jesus' recommendations to his apostles before He sent them out on their first missionary journey (Matt. 9:35-42).

I had no money, but then I had no need of it. I didn't need it for horses, carriage, or train because I always traveled on foot, even though I did have to make some quite long little journeys, as I shall tell later. I didn't need it for meals because I begged for them wherever I went.

I knew that people were deeply impressed by this detachment, and for that reason I was determined to maintain the position I had taken. To encourage myself, I would recall Christ's teaching on the matter and meditate on it constantly, especially those words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.... If you would be perfect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor and come, follow me.... No one can be my disciple unless he renounces all things.

I have observed one thing, and the least I can do is set it down here: When one is poor and really wants to be poor, freely and not by force, then he enjoys the sweetness of poverty. Moreover, God will take care of him in one of two ways --either by moving the hearts of those who have something to give so that they will give it to him, or else by helping him live without eating. I have experienced both.." (Cf. Aut. PC, 359.361-362.364)

(Silence to reflect)

Second Moment

We continue with the virtues of meekness and love of God and neighbour that Claret imitated of Jesus.

MEEKNESS

"I knew that the virtue an apostolic missionary need most, after humility and poverty, is meekness.⁵ Jesus told his beloved disciples, "Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Meekness is one sign of a vocation to be an apostolic missionary. When God sent Moses, he gave him the grace and virtue of meekness. Jesus Christ was meekness itself, and because of this virtue He is called the Lamb. The prophets foretold that He would be so mild that He would neither break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax;⁶ that he would be persecuted, calumniated, and covered with reproaches and yet remain as one without a tongue and say nothing.⁷ What patience and meekness! Yes, by his labors, his suffering, his silence and death on the Cross, He redeemed us and taught us how we must act to save the souls He has entrusted to us.

⁵ Christ announced the reign of God in meekness and humility, not power and violence. (Cf. pars. 372-375.) The missionary is a man of zeal--vehement love--and needs to be held in check by prudence and kindness (par. 381). Meekness is so necessary that it is a sign of a call to the ministry (par. 374). Claret made a particular examen of meekness from 1862 to 1864.

⁶ Is. 42:3.

⁷ Is. 53:7.

My God, give me a zeal that is discreet and prudent so that I may do everything strongly yet sweetly, meekly yet thoroughly. I hope to act in all things with a holy prudence, and to this end I shall try to remember that prudence is born in man along with his natural reason, is nurtured by study, strengthened by age, clarified by consulting those who are wise, and perfected in daily experience.." (Cf. Aut. PC, 372,374,383)



LOVE

"Love is the most necessary of all the virtues.

Yes, I say it and will say it a thousand times: the virtue an apostolic missionary needs most of all is love. He must love God, Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his neighbors. If he lacks this love, all his talents, however fine in themselves, are for nothing. But if, together with his natural endowments, he has much love, he has everything.

The same Holy Spirit, by appearing in the form of tongues of fire above the Apostles on Pentecost, showed us this truth quite clearly: an apostolic missionary must have both heart and tongue ablaze with charity.

My neighbor, I love and cherish you for a thousand reasons. I love you because God wants me to love you; because God commands me to love you; because God himself loves you. I love you because God has created you in his image for the life of heaven. I love you because you have been ransomed by the blood of Jesus Christ. I love you because of all that Jesus Christ has done and suffered for you. To prove my love for you, I will strive and suffer; I will undergo any work or pain, even death, if necessary, for your sake." (Cf. Aut. PC, 438,440. 448)

(Silence to reflect)

Third Moment / Scripture Reading

- *Take upon you my yoke, and learn from me, that I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls. (Mt 11:29)*
- *Jesus said to him, if you want to be a prefect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven; then come and follow me (Mt 19:21)*
- *He said to her, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is similar to this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt 22:37-39)*

(Moment of silence to internalize the Word)

Fourth Moment

In these moments we echo what resounds in us from what we have heard through the Word of God, the writings of Claret or address to the Lord our prayer of thanksgiving or petition.

Final Prayer

God and my Father, may I know you and make you known;
love you and make you loved; serve you
and make you served; praise you and make all creatures praise you.
Grant, my Father, that all sinners be converted,
all the just persevere in grace,
and all of us attain to eternal glory. Amen.. (Cf. Aut PC, 233)

