

Report of Mission Procurators Meeting - 25th -29th of January 2021

The first ever meeting of mission procurators of the congregation of the Claretian missionaries was held from 25th to 29th of January 2021. Although it was scheduled to take place in Rome, due to travelling restrictions caused by the prevailing situation of the COVID-19, the meeting was facilitated using the online platform. All the mission procurators of the major organisms of the whole of Claretian world, together with some associate partners in mission, participated in these five days of encounter, each day spending around three hours together online starting at 13.00 hours at Rome. The General Mission Procurator, Rev. Fr. Lord Winner CMF, coordinated the online meeting in an efficient and a professional manner, planning in advance and meticulously taking into account of every detail possible, that made the encountering more alive, interactive and interesting. Each day's three-hour session was divided into three major segments where different aspects pertaining to mission procure of the congregation were brought forward for study, reflection, discussion and proposal making. The sessions were moderated by Rev. Fr. Lord Winner CMF, the General Mission Procure; and each day there were subject matter specialists who were invited to make their presentations. Spanish and English were used as the medium of the forum while there were provisions for simultaneous translations.

The **first day**'s introductory session started with prayer and words of welcome by Rev. Fr. Lord Winner CMF, the General Mission Procurator. Then Rev. Fr. Artur Teixeira CMF, the General Prefect of Apostolate warmly welcomed all the participants to have a fruitful time in these days, where they come together to share, to learn, to coordinate with each other so that the mission of Jesus Christ will be carried out in the style of our beloved founder St. Anthony Mary Claret.

After the welcome message, each participant was given a chance to introduce himself or herself. Based on the continental categories, participants made their salutation. There were altogether 48 participants from ACLA, ASCLA EAST, ASCLA WEST, ECLA and MICLA Conferences.

After a short break the meeting resumed. This time it was Fr. Lord Winner, who made a presentation on the General Mission Procure (GMP). He highlighted the guiding principles on which the General mission procure functions and explained the objectives and the year plans that direct the life and activities of the GMP. Afterwards he presented the various activities carried out in the last year like, project management processes, CLAPNET – online platform where details of projects are displayed and made available for Claretian funding sources to select, management of PYHMP – Proclade Yanapay Hostel Maintenance programme, SOS Fund for emergencies, Training Claretians in project work, PRISMA – Claretian Project Training Platform. He also presented a financial report of all the projects that were handled by the GMP. Then there was an allocation of time for 'question and answer' session, in which good number of clarifications were made. The day's event came to an end with this.

On the **second day**, the meeting commenced at 13.00 hours, Rome time. After the prayer song and the words of welcome by Fr. Lord Winner CMF, the day's speakers were introduced.

The first session was conducted by Fr. Vincent Anesthasiar CMF, the General Secretary of JPIC, of the congregation. He made his reflection on the topic of 'Human rights and Development work'. In his presentation he highlighted the need to have critical appreciation of the approach to development work and to know the human rights instruments. He emphasized that the approach to development work should always consider human rights as many human instruments have been left behind although significant achievements have been made in the past. He made the audience to think that development work needs to involve the wellbeing of environment, economy and people. He highlighted the difference between the negative rights and positive rights and legally binding rights. Finally, he presented 5 pillar criteria known as 'PANEL approach' to evaluate our development work. The 5 pillars are Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment, Long term goal. He concluded his presentation with the invitation that we shall strive to involve in development work from the Human Right perspective.

After a short break, the second session was coordinated by Rev. Fr. Artur Teixeira, the General Prefect of Apostolate. The session was on evaluating the Claretian Criteria for project management. This was done in view of presenting new proposals for the XXVI General Chapter. He highlighted the four main criteria for coordination and management of projects with the congregation. And each criterion was taken for study and evaluation. Participants expressed their views on the following manner expressing the good practices found, issues faced, matters that needed consensus and proposals that will put forward to the General chapter. Many members participated vibrantly in this session.

The **third day**'s session started with a prayer song. There were 51 participants who showed up for the meeting on this day. Mr. Thomas Gerhards, an independent consultant for project management from Germany presented his paper on the topic of 'Changing scenarios of project management in religious congregations. He spoke from his wide experience of 35 years of working with a good number of missions procures of the different congregations. He explained the importance of project management and highlight the difference between the traditional scenario of managing the project and modern scenario of managing the project. His presentation was very well appreciated during the question-and-answer session.

After a short break the meeting resumed. Fr. Gabriel Ponce and Ana Maria Estevez from Proclade Betica (Fatima Procure) who presented on the expectations regarding project work funded by Claretian funding Sources. In her presentation, she highlighted the different criteria that Claretian Funding sources hold for choosing a project, like, gender analysis, human rights-based approach, accountability, sustainable development goals, importance of inclusion of verifiable indicators, etc. It was a moment of discovery to many participants to understand what are the demands and conditions that guide the selection of a project and management of project from the perspective of the Claretian funding source from Spain and Germany.

Finally, there was given a time for Q&A, during which many doubts were clarified. With that the day's event came to an end.

The **fourth day**'s session was attended by 49 participants and it commenced with a prayer song sung by a Claretian from the Philippines. After that, Fr. Lord Winner CMF welcomed everyone proposed the plan for the day. Then the floor was opened to Ms. Giovanna Reda from Italy from the Good Shepherd International Foundation to talk to the participants on "Disaster preparedness and disaster management".

She started explaining the "Disaster Risk management cycle". She described the importance of being prepared to face disasters at any time as a disaster is a sudden catastrophic event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community. In such a situation, disaster preparedness is mandatory, but many times people take it for granted. It is normally undertaken by governments or NGOs or communities or individuals. But as a congregation who take care of the wellbeing of the people, we need to be prepared for responding to disasters. Especially the mission procurators are the persons who are very much in touch with the ground situations of the realities. And we need to be prepared to better respond and cope with the immediate aftermath of a disaster to reduce loss of life and livelihoods. She also listed down strategies like training for search and rescue, establishing early warning systems, developing contingency plans.

She then spoke of 4 steps of disaster preparedness: 1. identify the risk; 2. develop a plan for action; 3. implement and train; 4. be a leader in your community. In summary, she focused her presentation on the Standards we should employ when we are faced with disasters; on the funding opportunities that are present that needs to be tapped to support such a situation; finally, she gave some tips on assessment and implementation on disaster preparedness and management.

Then Fr. Artur Teixeira CMF made a presentation on the SOS Claretian Family Programme which was started in 2018 with the joint effort of Claretian family. This effort is to support the communities of the Claretian Family in times of such disaster. He explained the guiding principles that guide this effort. To most of the mission procurators it was a new information and they appreciated that such a joint effort of preparedness in times of disaster is a very good step to sustain one another. In years to come this will certainly grow and would bear much fruit.

After a small break, the meeting resumed. Mr. Fernando Guzman spoke about the volunteers for Claretian mission from the International perspective. In the year 2016 this work of volunteers was started in the Claretian missions. He facilitated the participants through his sharing of experience and some tools for reflection. He started his presentation by sharing some photos and information of how some of the young volunteers volunteered to be as missionaries at different places and situations in the past.

He made a proposal to procure - a mission- service experience during a pre-established period of time in the Claretian communities that carry out social projects and development programmes in favour of the poorest and mother earth. It is to lay men and women linked to the congregation and is carried out in any part of the world where the Claretian family is present.

He also indicated that the volunteers could participate in 3 different levels:

1. Social – as they can provide general support to social projects and development programme.
2. Professional – as they can make a specific contribution to these projects and programmes from a particular discipline.
3. Internships – as they are come to participate in the volunteer programme through agreement with study centers, universities etc. The day's session came to an end with a question-and-answer session.

The last and **final day** started with a prayer song. There were around 48 participants who showed up for this online conference of the last day. Fr. Lord Winner welcomed the participants and set the tone for the day with information about the plan for the day.

The first session was conducted by Fr. Rohan Dominic CMF. He made his reflection on the topic of Social Work initiatives based on Sustainable Development Goals. He started his presentation highlighting the MCT document telling the need for the Claretian Missionaries to necessarily get involved in the social transformation processes. He highlighted that it is very Claretian to be involved in the social justice issues of the world and there is prophetic call within our vocation. It is in line with working for the Sustainable development goals prescribed by the UN. We have been engaging in in social and development work quite long time.

He further narrated how the UN came forward to formulate the 17 sustainable development goals in the year 2015 for a better and a more sustainable future for all. He pointed out that there are 169 targets and 232 indicators which have the common theme of “leave no one behind”. Then he made a question to the audience to reflect that “Do we need to incorporate the SDGs in our developmental work of the mission procures?”

The rest of his presentation was answering the question. And we have to get involved in the SDGs as development in the past has not been equally distributed among all the human communities and countries in this world. There are several areas which are not touched by the economic growth models. The SDGs set a clear platform to achieve the mission of development without discrimination.

He proposed 3 suggestions to the Mission procures of the provinces. They are as follows.

1. In our own province, let us think of our targets are based on the 169 targets of the UN.
2. Make the province with the SDG Mapping – to check which are the SDGs implemented through you mission activities, what we have left out and what do we need to include. We need to know who the other actors, shareholders who do the same mission as we do, and this will help us to how we can network with each other.
3. In planning new ministries, identify the SDGs and plan accordingly so that no one is left out.

After his presentation there was a question & answer time, in which some of the participants made some clarifications.

The second session of the day resumed after a short break. It was Fr. Lord Winner who made a presentation on the practical guidelines for the Mission procurers. He started explaining about the appointment of the Mission procurers of each organism and stressed the importance of having a mission procure for every organism and the way it should be carried out. Many practical information on day-to-day management of the office of mission procure were shared by him. Further he also explained the new developments that are going to be implemented in the congregation in the area of mission procure and the way CLAPNET can be managed by mission procurers etc. He then gave a glimpse of the strategic plan for 2022-2024 of the General Mission procure. He also insisted on the need to use the social media for fund raising and information sharing by each mission procure of the organism. After his presentation, as usual there was a time given to the participants to ask questions and clarify matters.

Then Fr. Augustine Ortiz CMF read out the message that would go out to the whole Congregation from this encounter. Afterwards the time was spent for the oral evaluation of the whole session. Overall, it was much appreciated.

Then Very Revered Father Mathew Vattamattam, the Superior General addressed the participants. He thanked and appreciated the SOMI Team and all the organizers of the event. He further made the participants to reflect quoting the recent writings of the Pope Francis that we have to work together in collaboration with one another for the betterment of the humanity, so that no one is an outsider.

He also indicated the three processes of transformation viz a congregation going forth, a community of witnesses and messengers, men who adore God in the spirit. We cannot be only social workers; we are also believers. Let us discern and respond from our charism.

Our task is to walk together and work together as we do in a dance, we don't step over the other but give and respect the space of each other. He also insisted the values of responsibility, accountability, transparency of mission procurers in their work.

Afterwards, Fr. Lord Winner proposed the word of thanks to all the collaborators and participants for their support for the success of the encounter. With the song to St. Claret for bearing apostolic fruits by the work of missionaries, the Mission Procurers Meeting came to a satisfactory end.

Reported by **Fr. Stephen Sathesh CMF**
Mission Procurator of St. Joseph Vaz Delegation