

CLARET-LIFE AWARD

for Claretian initiatives
on defence and care of life



PARTICIPATION
RULES

1. Description of the initiative

The General Government of the Claretian Missionaries decided, in its action plan for the six-year period 2015-2021, to encourage the defence and care of life in its various manners through the Claretian award initiative- 'Claret-Vida award'. Consequently, the general prefectures of apostolate and youth and vocations ministry agreed to do this during the meeting of the Claretian family, prior to the celebration of the World Youth Day.

The initiative was opened this year 2017 to the Claretian family as a concrete expression of our desire to work together, charismatically uniting the different members of our religious families, secular institutes and lay people movements.

2. Times

- Elaboration of the rules: December 2017
- Disclosure of the initiative: January to March 2018
- Reception of the applications: From October 24th (St. Anthony Ma. Claret Feast) to December 10th of 2018 (Human rights world day)
- Analysis and decision: From 17th to 23rd 2018, and during the WYD in Panama, January 2019.

3. Proposal's justification

The reason for this initiative are the numbers 14-16 of the Chapter Declaration of the Claretian missionaries, "*Missionarii Sumus*"; here it is complete the quotation:

THE MEANING OF LIFE AND ITS CARE

14. In many of its dimensions, today's reality is made up of contradictory tendencies, of the battle between cultures that care for life and cultures that promote death¹⁹. On one side, the appreciation for life is growing. We human beings are happy when we are able to establish among ourselves relationships of love and care, boosted by the interactions facilitated by social media. But at the same time, millions of peoples experience loneliness and abandonment, harmful addictions, fragility, sickness, depression and the weight of unresolved guilt. Many of our contemporaries experience "an infinite sadness" (EG 2; 265).

15. In many regions of the world, where for centuries faith guided the search for the meaning of life, God has lost significance and importance for many. Together with millions of people of good will, there are those who have made the satisfaction of their interests and pleasures the fundamental meaning of their lives. We are all tempted in this way. In many societies some fundamental values (family, the common good, care for the weak, etc.) have deteriorated and undergone a serious relativization. The fragmentation of life and its rapid rhythm impede serenity, thoroughness and the formation of life

principles (cf. LS 18). Children, teenagers and youth, who are particularly vulnerable, grow without orientations, often deprived of the happiness that God wants for them and the means of discovering it; their problems and needs and those of their families challenge us in a special way (cf. MFL 2c, 60)¹. Today, the Church invites us to be messengers of the joy and mercy of the Gospel, to break down barriers of indifference and to accompany and open our hearts without fear to those living in the outmost fringes of society (cf. MV 15).

16. *We feel called to discover and bring forth in us the gifts of the Spirit; to share the joy and blessedness of the Gospel; to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (cf. MV 15) and to express our heart-felt compassion in our encounter with each person (cf. EG 127) and our concern for the vulnerable (cf. EG 209-216); to be – personally and as community – credible witnesses of hope in God who never wants to hide himself; to “live in mercy” and promote the joyful proclamation of forgiveness and the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness.*²⁰

Besides this, the same Declaration – number 57, 1 – expresses that *Shared Mission* is a fundamental trait of our identity and our missionary action. From this perspective, the XXV General Chapter proposes: “To learn the best ways of *sharing our evangelizing and missionary charism* with those who, from different forms of life (consecrated, lay, matrimonial, and ministerial) have been graced with it and form with us the Claretian family”.

The defence and care of life as a call from God to the Claretian mission “as a family” is therefore fundamental to this initiative of the General Government of the Claretian Missionaries in its action plan (2015-2021) and it is opened to other members of our charismatic family.

4. Goal

“Recognize and encourage the most significant Claretian practices related to the defence and care of life in its different expressions”.

5. Requirements for Participation

⇒ *Who can participate in the initiative:*

Claretian formation communities, schools and high education centres, parishes, missions, media and any other Claretian platform of apostolate that carries out concrete practices of defence and care of life in their communities or broader contexts (social or ecclesial).

⇒ *What is meant by “significant practices”:*

“Significant practices” means important or valuable experiences both for those who carry them out (pastoral agents, missionaries, a certain community or group), and for those recipients (a certain group of people, a certain community, a project, who commit themselves to a certain cause in favour of life, justice, or the environment, persons or groups of people in situation of exclusion).

A pastoral experience is significant when it awakens inner processes of transformation in the people and communities of origin and destination. When we would have accompanied this process for a considerable length of time, the pastoral experience becomes significant if it manages to move from indifference to empathy and commitment –manifested in concrete, systematic, organised, transformative actions of situations in the perspective of the Gospel. The experience is significant if it is integrated as an important spiritual dimension of our lives; if the

¹ We include the reference for the Chapter Document of Claretian Missionary Sisters. Cf. DC 2017. 16.2- 16. 5; 17. 1. 17.3.

Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist enlighten it. When it creates bonds of communion and fraternity, of shared mission, of teamwork, it is a significant experience. It is really significant if, from this practice, people are able to consider or rethink their vocation in the society and in the Church, by asking themselves: “How can I serve more and better according to my call?”

➔ *They have to be “Claretian” experiences:*

The word “Claretian” indicates that in that experience be present in some manner all or some of the six charismatic traits enunciated in the document of the XXV General Chapter, *Missionarii Sumus* 34-63:

- * Missionaries ‘with Spirit’;
- * Listeners and servants of the Word of God;
- * Missionaries in community;
- * Sent to evangelise and to listen to the poor;
- * With the whole Church and those who seek the transformation of the world;
- * Opened to the world in prophetic dialogue.

It is possible to access and download the complete Chapter Declaration by clicking the banner: “Witnesses and Messengers of the joy of the Gospel” in this link:
<http://www.claret.org/en/capitulo-general/noticias/30-09-2015/documento-missionarii-sumus²>

➔ *They must be experiences of “the defence and care of life”:*

It must be a concrete answer to some of the “Challenges” discerned by the XXV General Chapter as has been indicated at the third point of these proposals, or any other similar experiences.

6. How to participate

Those who want to participate must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. To write a brief narrative text explaining what the initiative in defence and care of life they are presenting is all about.
- b. The narration should not exceed two thousand (2000) words, and the person in charge of the Christian community of reference must support it by making a presentation of the experience.
- c. To send four (4) digital photographs with a minimum resolution of 3.2 MB and a video of a maximum duration of three (3) minutes with three (3) testimonies of the recipients of the action.
- d. To send all these materials via email to this e-address: **PremioClaretVida@gmail.com** or by post to:

*Award Claret Vida – Curia Generalizia dei Missionari Clarettiani.
Via del Sacro Cuore di Maria, 5. 00197 Roma – ITALIA.*

The dates for the reception of the consignments will be from 00:01 hours of October 24, 2018 to 23:59 hours of December 10, 2018.

7. Preliminary selection of the initiatives

Five representatives of the Claretian Family will make a preliminary selection of the candidates, taking into account three aspects:

² Documnt of XVII General Chapter Claretian Missionary Sisters: www.claretianasrmi.org (resources)

- That the initiatives presented be an opportune answer to urgent needs, throughout opportune evangelisers contents, by effective means.
- That they be in tune with the six charismatic traits enumerated above.
- That they can be considered “transforming experiences” of the realities according to the Gospel perspective.

8. Final Decision

The final decision will be taken through the votes of the young people participating at the encounter of the Claretian family before the WYD of Panama, in January of 2019, and by the vote of one representative of each branch of the Claretian Family.

Seen the experiences, the youth will be gathered by Organisms of origin to discern which to vote for³.

To guarantee equality of possibilities in the voting process, each Organism will vote only once⁴.

The different members of the Claretian Family branches will vote only once.

9. Awards

- First prize: 5000 €.
- Second prize: 2500 €.
- Third prize: 1000 €.
- For all the participants: a souvenir for their participation.

10. Explanatory notes

- No recourse will be entertained after the decisions of the award have been taken.
- The selected initiatives will be launched on the official web and social networks of the general prefectures of apostolate and youth and vocations ministry of the Claretian missionaries, as well as on the websites and social networks of the other members of the Claretian Family.

Rome, December 2017.



³ “Organism” is the Claretian jurisdiction to which we belong. For instance, in the case of the Claretian missionaries, San José del Sur is an Organism. In its jurisdiction are the missionary communities of Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina. The same thing occurs with other communities / centres of other branches of the Claretian Family. For example, Europe Province of Claretian missionary sisters RMI, includes their communities of Italia, Spain and Poland.

⁴ It can happen that some Organism from America Continent send more than a hundred young people because of the closeness to the place of the encounter, while another Organism from other Continent send only three participants. Doing like this, we will guarantee that organisms with few participants can participate under the same conditions that other ones with more representation.