



Lay Claretian Movement
General Secretariat

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)
October 10th, 2022

Dearest family:

Although we may have the feeling that our previous Assembly is still very recent, more than three years have passed since our meeting in Medellín in 2019. The pages of the calendar have continued to move at their own pace, despite the fact that in many places our activity and our lives have been slowed down or lethargic for many months. After living through so many limitations, confinements and forced social distancing, we will have the opportunity to enjoy once again with the joy of the meeting and fraternal communion as a real gift from God (even if we must still do so with due caution). An invitation to allow ourselves to be invaded once again by the Spirit so that He may guide the steps of our Movement. Therefore, with great joy we would like to announce that we have already started the preparations for the celebration of the **11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAY CLARETIAN MOVEMENT**. With God's help, will take place **from the 8th to the 16th of July 2023** in the retreat house "Padre Claret" in Chaclacayo (**Lima - Peru**).

The motto for our 11th General Assembly will be **"RIVERS OF LIVING WATER"**, inspired by **Jn 7:38**. This gospel text invites us to renew our mission, inviting us to turn our life into a torrent of "living water", flowing from our encounter with Christ. A torrent driven by the currents of the Spirit, which can irrigate all the shore of our reality so that Life may spring up there and every desert may be transformed into fertile land. In the light of this passage from the Gospel, we will deepen the reflection carried out by the working team that was formed in the Movement at a general level to offer our contribution to the synodal process promoted by the Church. Because we want to build the Church we dream of from our own conversion.

It will also be a special Assembly, because we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our establishment as a Movement. We will therefore take the opportunity to take a look at our history as a Movement, to recognise the traces that the Spirit has left on our journey. This will help us to better discover how it is acting in our present and what it is asking of us for the future. As a wise person once said: *"We can only understand the present by looking at the past, and we can only live the present by looking to the future"*.

In future communications we will provide you with more details, but in the meantime, it would be good for each region and group to organise themselves in order to try to ensure their representation. In accordance with the provisions of our Statutes (article S.18), and the criteria for participation approved at the previous Assembly, they will be able to participate:

- > With right to voice and vote:
 - The members of the General Council.
 - One representative from each of the Regional Councils.
 - One delegate for each admitted group of less than twenty members
 - Two delegates per group of twenty or more members.

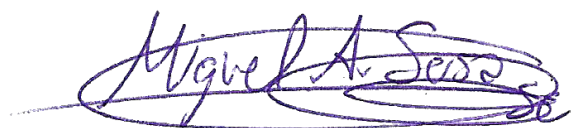
- > With right to voice but without vote:
 - One representative from each discerning group.
 - Regional Council Advisors.
 - Persons invited by the General Council.

It is important to remember that no one in the Assembly may have more than one vote. In the event that a group is unable to send one of its members as a representative, it may delegate the vote to an admitted lay claretian from another group provided that he/she does not already hold the right to vote for his/her own group or any other group (Applicative Norm N.18.2). Each community and Regional Council shall notify the General Council in writing of the persons who represent it well in advance (Applicative Norm N.18.3).

The house has enough capacity, but the capacity is not unlimited, so we recommend clarifying as soon as possible the availability to participate. Likewise, it is important to be clear that when the corresponding period opens at a later date, the submission of a registration form will not guarantee a place at the Assembly, and that you will have to wait for the confirmation of that place by the Council.

When we announce the opening of the registration period, we will inform you of the registration fee. As always, we will try to ensure that financial problems are not an obstacle to participation in the Assembly. Remember that the representative of each group does not attend the Assembly in a personal capacity, so we invite you to organise yourselves in each community and in each region to facilitate the participation of your delegates in the Assembly, making a forecast of the expenses in order to plan the financial support through the communion of goods. It is also important to be well informed of the procedures and deadlines necessary to obtain the visa and travel documents required in each country.

Let us start our journey. Let us pray together from now on to entrust to the Heart of our Mother Mary the path we are now embarking on. May the light of the Spirit guide us throughout this time of preparation so that, like all previous Assemblies, our 11th Assembly may give good fruit and become a significant moment of blessing for the Movement. A fraternal embrace to all in permanent communion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Miguel Ángel Sosa". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Miguel Ángel Sosa, lc
General Secretariat
Lay Claretian Movement