

## FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE IX GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Granada, 24th July 2015

### REFLECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### ANTECEDENTS

Under the theme 'Lay Claretians, Present and Future' the VIII Lay Claretian General Assembly celebrated in Aparecida produced an analytic vision of the Movement at that time and determined what is the future image that they aimed to achieve. As a consequence of this analysis – expressed in two drawings – the Movement began a journey of reflection that would permit it to grow and mature.



With the aim of complimenting the lines of action established at the Assembly, the General Council decided to establish two working groups, comprised only of Lay Claretians, whose mission would be to deepen the analysis begun by the Assembly of Aparecida in order to offer the Movement practical tools that would permit it to go forward confronting the weaknesses that were detected while potentialising its strengths. The first, dedicated to reflecting upon all the materials related to the Identity of the Movement, and the second, centred on all the questions referring to its organisation.

#### I. IDENTITY

Concretely, the team that focused on deepening the Identity of the Movement was constituted by eight Lay Claretians with a wide knowledge and experience of the Movement and from different origins to contribute to a more global vision of the reality: Maria Dolors Serradell (North Spain), Milagros Vicente (North Spain), Nancy Burgos (Caribbean), Justy Sánchez (Colombia), Elizabeth Gareca (Bolivia), Naillett Narváes (Venezuela), with Carmen Espejo (Bética) as secretary and Miguel Ángel Sosa (Bética) as coordinator.

This team focused on deepening the Identity and began their work in July 2014, and from the beginning conclude that in agreement with what had been expressed by the Assembly in

Aparecida, there didn't exist a lack of identity as such, but rather a lack of 'understanding' of this identity. Starting with this premise, dissecting the conclusions of the final document of the Assembly of Aparecida they delineated and prioritised a range of themes for reflection and work.

The first of these, 'Clarification of our Identity and deepening the charism' has been concretised already in a document which served as a way in to all the reflection of this IX Assembly in Granada. In it they tried to respond to the failure of Lay Claretians to assimilate the identity reported in Aparecida, seeing it as an instability that is causing a weakness at its base. While all our energy is directed to seeking equilibrium on a unstable seesaw, because it's small base is not solid and the movement cannot advance and move forward but rather stays permanently in the same place, all the energy that we are expending can end up being unproductive.

The document tries therefore to be a help that creates a clarity and understanding about what is fundamental to vocational discovery and our charism, structured in three parts: first, SEE, makes an analysis of how one arrives at discovering one's own vocation and some of the characteristics of the Claretian charism. In the second part, JUDGE, an attempt is made to confront these characteristics with the actual reality of the Movement identifying symptoms we have that point to our underlying problems and weaknesses. In the third section, ACT, suggestions are proposed to orientate the journey that we can follow in order to correct these imbalances.

In essence, with the reflection proposed in the document it is intended that the Lay Claretians arrive at having their own identity giving a response in their lives to three fundamental questions: What is my mission as a lay person? Why am I Claretian? Why am I in a Movement?

This document is only the beginning of the work. Its global vision identifies different matters that merit being analysed more deeply and was well received by the Assembly which considered it to be a historic moment within the Movement. For this reason the General Council suggests the continuation of the work of reflection begun by the Team for the deepening of the Identity and, with the distribution of its conclusions, it aims to achieve an extensive reflection in each community and region of the movement.

## **II. ORGANISATION**

The General Council following the work and the lines of action proposed in the VIII Assembly held in Aparecida, convoked a team to revise the organisational part of the Movement, formed by: Carmen Espejo (Bética), Milagros Vicente (North Spain), Fernando López Tapia (North Spain), Tomas Lamberty (Caribbean), Justy Sánchez (Colombia) Y Sebastiana I. Cangassu Parente (Brazil), Edison Chalco (Perú), as secretary and Antonio Paramés (Bética), as Coordinator.

### **➤ MEMBERSHIP OF THE MOVEMENT (LCM)**

A document was presented to the Assembly with the principle aspects to be analysed divided into 7 working groups:

- How does one belong to the LCM
- Discernment, joining and leaving.
- Mixed groups and communities
- Belonging to the LCM
- The LCM as the dynamo of groups and individuals
- Relationship with the Claretian Family.
- Shared Mission as an expression of maturity

The participants of the Assembly met in thematic discussion groups dealing with the way entering and membership of the Movement in groups limits and fails to completely respond to the lay life, the possibility of accepting the entrance and membership of individuals was valued, while continuing to highlight the preference and importance of the communitarian dimension.

In connection with the previous theme the need was identified to use the new communication technologies in the accompaniment of Lay Claretians and promote twinning with other groups, especially with those that do not belong to a region. These same technologies can also help in the discernment and following of a community life appropriate to the charism when difficulties in participation arise.

The proposal about individuals joining the movement might be able to provide a response to some of the problems that arise among the members of mixed groups (made up of lay people that share the Claretian charism but where not everyone is or wants to be part of the Lay Claretian Movement).

In the same way it is thought to be important to prioritise the charismatic aspects in the presentation of the Movement and the lay life it manifests, especially in the promotion of initiatives and with the other branches of the Claretian Family, with whom it is indispensable that fraternal relationships are created that allow us to effectively and maturely fulfil evangelising projects and social gatherings co-responsibly.

The contributions and proposals that the Assembly made in respect to this imply a detailed revision of the Applied Norms and Statutes that need to be worked on and brought to the corresponding bodies: the next General Assembly of the Lay Claretian Movement and the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

➤ **Groups without a region.**

The Assembly has manifested a great concern for the accompaniment of groups without a region. Previously this situation was regulated by the existence of zones, formed by regions and groups that were close by and in contact.

Presently the Movement has 20 groups that are under the guidance of the General Council. They are very diverse communities: culturally, linguistically, closeness to the Claretian Family, geographic situation, etc., conditions that increase the difficulty of the Council.

The reflection led to thinking about the possibility of inviting them to participate in the gatherings of other groups or regions that are close by or similar, creating a twinning

relationship between communities with a regional mediation that allows for support to be given at different levels: identity, formation, spirituality, sharing of goods and fraternity.

### **III. COMMUNICATION**

Communication is one of the principle challenges that the Assembly has identified as needing to be urgently worked on. After detecting the difficulties and lack of knowledge of the activity and work undertaken by the Movement at all its levels (groups, regions and General), the study and drawing up of a general communication plan is recommended, that helps in determining the organisation and efficiency of the different channels of communication available today. Therefore and as recommended at the Assembly of Aparecida in its lines of action, communication is a basic instrument for our accompaniment and mutual attention, especially in communities without a region.

The Assembly has demonstrated a special sensitivity for the attention to the communities and groups that do not speak Spanish and are of a non-Latin culture. It is not just a matter of translation, with which we have an evident difficulty that we have to overcome. The principle challenge is the appropriate expression and adaptation of the Movement in each culture and way of understanding the world, life and charism, overcoming the barrier of an exclusively Latin American vision at a time when the charism is flourishing in different parts of Europe, Africa and Asia.

### **IV. SHARING OF GOODS**

In the actual financial analysis of the Movement some important aspects were identified in this dynamic which were directly related to the identity with the Movement, and in the search to improve the sharing of goods for which the following conclusions were made:

- The economy of the Movement at present depends on the contributions of the regions of Spain and the support of the Claretian Missionaries.
- There are regions and groups that do not adequately make the contributions that they are responsible for. The resulting deficit directly impacts on the work of coordination, accompaniment and promotion.
- The expenses that are made for the management, administration, accompaniment and Assemblies, etc. appropriate to the workings of the Council are greater than the total of the contributions coming in from members.

It is essential that work is done in groups and regions to highlight the importance of the sharing of goods, the organisation and the economic commitment as an important part of the identity and membership that we are said to have with the Movement.

The Assembly reminds us that in accordance with the Applied Norms the members and groups that fail to fulfil their contributions during two consecutive years are automatically excluded from the Movement if they fail to give reasons for their situation to their respective councils. (N24.2).

This document collects the final conclusions of the work that was realised during the IX General Assembly and approved in Granada, on the 24th July 2015.