



**Provincial Superior**  
**Province of Chennai**

## Claretian Provincial House

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Dear brothers,

Greetings.

As we are celebrating the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of our Beloved Congregation it is good that we reflect a while on the prophetic statement of our Father Claret, "**Today we begin a great work**" proclaimed on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1849. We are accustomed of hearing and repeating this statement, "*Today begins a great work*". But, in fact, what Fr. James Clotet, one of the cofounders, presents us is in his chronicle, is the former statement and not the latter one.

Through the words "we begin", Father Founder includes all the members of his Congregation. In his word of "*today*" we find him placing the evangelizing ministry of the Congregation for our times. In his "*great work*" we observe him highlighting the life and mission of the Congregation incarnated into various apostolate in different cultures and continents. Fr. Cristobal Fernandez, the author of the biography *El Beato Padre Claret*, makes a comment of an optimistic force with which Father Claret pronounced these words. He writes, "Fr. Claret, deeply possessed by the transcendental act, was exclaiming with a burst of satisfaction".

Followed by these words, there is another note of lesson presented to us by Fr. Clotet about the commentary of Fr. Manuel Vilaro Serrat, another cofounder. On hearing the prophetic utterance of Father Claret, the latter smiled at him and said, "How great it can be, we being very young and little in number". To this Father Founder replied, "*You don't believe, but you will see, you will see*".

This reply has got another prophetic tone which the English translation is incapable of expressing. Because, Father Claret told Fr. Vilaro particularly 'you don't believe', but to the rest of the first community he said repeating, "You will see" (lo veran). It became true already in the time of the cofounders, namely, Fr. Vilaro could not see the realization of these words because of his early death, whereas Frs. Fabregas, Clotet and Xifre saw the accomplishment of the prophecy in the Congregation already in their days through the growth of the members, ministries and communities not only in Spain, but in Africa and America too.

If we keenly look at the meaning of these two prophetic statements, we are able to see the light of their realization in our Country too. As we the Claretian Missionaries of the Province of Chennai, officially

begin in our province the Golden Jubilee year of the presence of our Congregation in India, we also celebrate the canonical erection of the Independent Delegation of Kolkata.

On this day of the Foundation of our Congregation, we are able to feel one with those cofounders of our Congregation the fulfilment of the words of Father Claret, "you will see. You will see". We are seeing today the Great work of Father Founder, carried out in India through all of us, especially, our senior missionaries. On the one side, while the Golden Jubilee presents the development of our Congregation in India through five Major Organisms as a part of the Great Work, the Independent Delegation of Kolkata expresses the commitment of all the members of our province in bringing into a reality those prophetic words of our Father Founder.

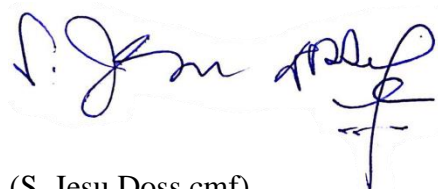
While thanking our Lord Jesus Christ for his providence on all of us, we the Indian Claretian Missionaries, let us gratefully remember the German Province for its maternal accompaniment in all the ways. We are indebted to all our Superior Generals, especially Most Rev. Fr. Gustavo Alonso, CMF, His Eminence Cardinal Aquilino Bocos, CMF, His Excellency Josep Maria Abella, CMF and Most Rev. Fr. Mathew Vattamattam CMF. We fondly remember that small work started by Rev. Fr. S. Anselmus and his first companions sent to Barrackpore by Rev. Fr. Franz Xavier Dirnberger CMF is bearing witness to the Prophetic words of Father Claret by becoming an Independent Delegation of Kolkata. All of us deserve appreciation and admiration for our contribution to this prophetic symphony. May the Good Lord bless all of us.

Let us remember all our brothers who lived with us and worked for the reality of our Congregation in India and this New Major Organism of Kolkata. May the Good Lord be their Eternal Reward.

HAPPY FEAST TO ALL.

Take care and pray for me

Fraternally yours



(S. Jesu Doss cmf)

Provincial Superior

