



Our Model



Our Founder



175th Anniversary of the Foundation of our Congregation

Igniting Hearts with Love

Dear Brothers,

As we gather to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our founding, let us reflect on the essence of our calling—a calling that burns within us like a sacred flame. Our founder, Saint Anthony Mary Claret, envisioned a community of hearts ablaze with love and today, we honour that legacy.

A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are not mere followers; we are sons-Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. What does this mean?

- **On Fire with Love:** Our hearts are enkindled by divine love. It is a fire that consumes our doubts, fears, and hesitations. We carry this flame wherever we go, igniting hope, compassion, and transformation.
- **World-Changers:** Like sparks in a darkened sky, we strive to set the whole world on fire with God’s love. Our mission extends beyond boundaries, reaching distant lands and forgotten hearts, especially the peripheries.

Fearless and Fervent

- **Dauntless:** Nothing daunts us. Challenges become stepping stones. Privations and sacrifices are offerings on the altar of service. We smile at slander, knowing that truth prevails.
- **Welcoming Work:** Work is not a burden; it is our privilege. We embrace it, for in labour, we find purpose. Our hands build bridges, heal wounds, and sow seeds of grace.
- **Rejoicing in Suffering:** Suffering is not our enemy; it is our companion. We rejoice because it unites us with Christ’s passion. Through our wounds, His light shines.

Following Christ Single-Mindedly

- **Our Sole Concern:** How can we best follow Jesus Christ? This question echoes in our hearts. We walk in His footsteps, imitating His love, humility, and selflessness.
- **Greater Glory of God:** Our purpose transcends personal gain. We labour for the greater glory of God—the crescendo of creation’s symphony. Our lives harmonize with His divine plan.
- **Salvation of Souls:** Every step we take, every word we speak, is woven into the fabric of salvation. Souls are our treasure, and we seek them tirelessly.

Together, We Illuminate the World

Dear Brothers, as we celebrate this milestone, let us rekindle our commitment. Let our hearts burn brighter, our love deepen, and our service expand. The flame that began with Saint Anthony Mary Claret now passes to us—a sacred trust.

May our lives be living testimonies: “See how they love one another!” Let us set the world ablaze with God’s love, for in doing so, we honour our founder, our congregation, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I extend warm greetings to each of you.

Faternally,

Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, Major Superior

HISTORY OF THE CLARETIAN CONGREGATION

1849-1858: The Foundation:

- In 1849, six young priests, led by Antonio Claret, embarked on a missionary journey despite significant challenges.
- During this period, they faced initial struggles but also established the Institute’s internal structure.
- The first foundations outside Spain were laid during this time.

1858-1870: Constitution Solidification:

- Under the leadership of Joseph Xifré, the Institute’s constitution solidified.
- Foundations in Gracia and Segovia were established.
- Antonio Claret’s return to Spain provided crucial support.

1870-1899: Continued Expansion:

- Despite the death of the Founder (Antonio Claret) in 1870, the Congregation expanded.
- Foundations were established in Spain, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, and Italy under Father Xifré’s leadership.

1899-1906: Consolidation and Flourishing:

- After Father Xifré’s death, the focus shifted to consolidating previous achievements.
- The Congregation flourished in America under Father Clemente Serrat’s guidance.

1906-1922: Resumed Expansion:

- Expansion resumed after Father Serrat’s death.
- The Congregation rejected many foundations offers due to its growth in Europe.
- Missionary activity thrived in countries like Portugal, the UK, Germany, and France.

1922-1934: New Efforts and Beatification:

- Under General Nicolás García, expansion continued, particularly in the American republics.
- Missions in China were established.
- The beatification of Father Claret was a significant milestone.

1934-1937: Martyrdom and Persecution:

- This period was marked by martyrdom and persecution, especially in Spain.
- Numerous Claretians lost their lives during these dark times.

1937-1949: Perseverance and Hope:

- Despite tribulations, the Congregation persevered through World War II.
- Ecclesial figures emerged, and the beatification of Father Claret symbolized hope.

1949-1967: First Centenary and Global Expansion:

- Under the leadership of German General Father Peter Schweiger, the Congregation celebrated its first centenary with renewed optimism.
- Expansion continued globally, particularly in Japan, Canada, and India, coinciding with the Second Vatican Council.

1967-1979: Post-Vatican II Renewal:

- The post-Vatican II era witnessed the Claretians undertaking renewal under Father Antonio Leghisa.
- This period was marked by missionary expansion and internal reforms.

1979-1985: Influence of the MCT Document:

- Under Argentine Fr. Gustavo Alonso’s leadership, the Mission of the Claretian Today (MCT) document influenced significant changes.
- The Congregation was guided towards more effective missionary efforts.

1985-1991: Continued Growth and Changes:

- This period was characterized by continued growth and changes.
- The Congregation expanded its presence in countries such as Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Sri Lanka.

1991-1997: Renewed Missionary Zeal:

- Spanish Fr. Aquilino Bocos led the Congregation during this time.
- The beatification of the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro highlighted the renewed missionary zeal.

1997-2009: 150th Anniversary and Ongoing Restructuring:

- The Congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary amidst ongoing restructuring and growth.
- Areas like India, Nigeria, and Southeast Asia witnessed significant developments.

2009-2015: Organizational Changes and Bicentennial Commemoration:

- Spanish missionary Fr. Josep M. Abella oversaw further organizational changes.
- The bicentennial of the Founder’s birth was commemorated alongside new projects and beatifications.

2015-2021: Technological Advancements and Claretian Year:

- Indian Fr. Mathew Vattamattam became Superior General.
- The Congregation focused on reorganization efforts, established new foundations, and witnessed Pope Francis appointing Claretian Bishops.
- The period concluded with the implementation of the Claretian Year and technological advancements during the XXVI General Chapter.

Visit of Superior General



Rev. Fr. Mathew Vattamattam CMF, the Superior General made his visit to the Independent Delegation of Kolkata from 01 – 07 May, 2024. It was a joyful and grace-filled moment for the Delegation. The main purpose of his visit was to interact with the Delegation government. He embarked his social call by visiting few of our communities in Ranchi and interacted with our missionaries there.

Secondly, he visited Claret Vidyaniketan, our Minor Seminary House at Nayasarai on 02nd May, 2024. The community extended a grand welcome with cultural drums beats, singing, dance and hand-washing. During this occasion he graced the “Community Day Celebration” as a chief guest of the celebration. It was a momentous occasion for the CVN Minor Seminary community.



As per the plan, on his return to Kolkata, he spends a quality time of sharing and interaction with Delegation Team from 03rd - 04th May, 2024. During his stay in Kolkata, he interacted and motivated the teaching faculties of St. Claret Schools at Barrackpore and Sahanagar.



On 06th May, 2024, he took an opportunity to witness one of our missions namely Claret Premaloy, Nazat. He was given a grand cultural welcome by our missionaries and parishioners there. He also spent a fruitful time of interacting with the faithful of our mission.



Jubilee Renewal Seminar

The Jubilee Renewal Seminar for the Jubilarians of ASCLA West Conference was hosted by Province of Bangalore from 25th to 27th May 2024 at Provincial Curia, Bengaluru. 17 priests (seven from province of Bangalore, four from province of Chennai, five from delegation of Kolkata and one from province of Northeast India) participated in the renewal seminar; the participants included those celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Profession, and those celebrating Silver Jubilee of Sacerdotal ordination and religious profession.



Three-day seminar consisted of sharing of life’s journey, which helped the jubilarians to recall the joy and faithfulness of their vocation, Claretian fraternal communion and the fulfillment of ministerial priesthood. Fr. George Kulangara, CMI helped the jubilarians to reflect on Priestly Leadership through Mission Spirituality, while Fr. Benny Kootanal, MSFS inspired the participants through reflection on Holistic Maturity. Dr. Merin Thomas engaged in an interactive session with the jubilarians to understand the expectations of laity from priests. The group also enjoyed an evening with Claretian Community at Jalahalli. The jubilarians cherished the joy of Claretian fraternity and renewing of missionary commitment through this coming together.

Preparation for Perpetual Profession



The ASCLA West Conference conducted the second edition of the FORGE modelled Intensive Preparation for the Perpetual Profession (IPPP) from 30th April to 25th May 2024 at Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram, Bengaluru. Eight candidates (3 each from Chennai Province and St. Thomas Province and 2 from Kolkata Delegation) preparing for the perpetual profession this year participated in this intensive program.

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The sessions began with the individual members sharing in common on the six-months preparation they had in their respective formation houses under their prefects. Followed by that each one was given the opportunity to share deeply his vocational and formation itinerary and it was quite touching to listen to their individual stories. The regular program schedule included short inputs on the themes coupled with group discussions, common sharing, write ups, drawings and so on. Personal and common Lectio Divina, personal journal writing, personal prayer, guided meditations, personal dialogue with the spiritual directors, group dynamics, readings from the Constitutions, Directory and Autobiography were common features. Towards the end of each phase a film was screened which captured its soul and a review followed to draw inspiration from it. At the end of the *Patris Mei* phase the participants had a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Nagamangalam, at the end of the *Caritas Christi* a visit to Claretian mission in Sumanahalli, and at the end of the *Spiritus Domini* to our communities at Jalahalli and Malleswaram. All the participants had sharing with the spiritual directors at the end of each phase. The core group (Frs. Lawrence V., Mariadoss M., Antony L. and George Pettayil) also came together daily for the evaluation of the day and to plan for the next day.

The final spiritual exercises and the retreat were directed by Fr. Lawrence V. from 21st to 25th May with the goal to experience maximum self-transcendence and Jesus’ awareness in the heart. The whole experience was solemnly concluded on 25th May with the celebration of Holy Eucharist at noon. The participants expressed great satisfaction for their unique experiences which was quite new and transformative in many ways.

Priestly Ordinations



The family of the Independent Delegation of Kolkata was blessed with two Priestly Ordinations, namely Fr. Sahaya Rajan M. CMF, on 05th January, 2024, at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Rajamangalam Thurai and Fr. Judeson Abinesh A. CMF, on 08th May, 2024, at Our Lady Snows Church, Thadikkarankonam. The entire family of Kolkata Delegation wishes them Fruitful priestly life and mission.



New Priests Gathering



Two days New Priest Gathering took place from the 21st to 22nd of June 2024 in Delegation Curia, Barrackpore. Fr. Judeson Abinesh A. CMF and Fr. Sahaya Rajan M. CMF, participated in the gathering. An inspiring input session was led by Sr. Gracy Sebastian Idimuzhithadathil SDP, the Provincial of Sisters of Divine Providence, who shared her 35 years of experiences with priests. She highlighted the importance of ministerial priesthood, marked by love and respect for religious sisters and the laity. She emphasized the need for a compassionate and respectful approach in ministry. In the next session, Fr. Antony L. CMF, who dealt with the congregational instructions and Delegation Policies.

Next day, Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, led the Session on “Attitudes and Aptitudes Necessary for Our Journey.” This Session covered important topics such as Progress in Missionary Life, which included reflections on our constitution, self-care, time management, and the influence of social media in our lives, providing practical advice for our personal and ministerial development. The New Priest Gathering was a fruitful and spiritually enriching event, equipping us with the necessary tools and knowledge for our priestly journey.



The gathering concluded with an evaluation of the program, where we reflected on the insights and experiences gained and shared our suggestions.

Erecting of Residence



The erecting of Nishkalanka Bhavan, Sarangloya as a residence took place on 09th June, 2024. The occasion was marked with a thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic celebration in the community. The inaugural ceremony was led by Fr. Telesphor Aind CMF, the council member. The missionaries of local communities also joined celebration. Fr. Paul Toppo CMF, will be the Delegate Superior of the newly erected residence.

Inauguration of the New Residence



The inauguration of the new residential building at Sarangloya, Jharkhand took place on 13th January 2024. The new building was Blessed by Most Rev. Binay Kandulna DD, the Bishop of Khunti and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Bhyju V CMF, the Major Superior of Kolkata Independent Delegation. Most Rev. Binay Kandulna DD solemnized the thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic celebration. A number of priests, sisters, brothers, guests and well-wishers graced the occasion by their presence. The presence of Miss. Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Member of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly from Mandar as well dignified the occasion.

First & Final profession



On 31st May, 2024, the entire Claretian Family was indeed elated with joy and gratitude to witness the beautiful ceremonies of total dedication of two and self-surrender of 9 young men at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore and one at Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram. On this blessed day students Albel Lakra, Arvind Minz, Lalit Tirkey, Louis Tudu, Moses Tudu, Pranab Kadaiska, Ramiyel Tudu, Robert Soren, Saroj Hansda and Sudeep Kullu professed their first Yes and students Balaram Mandi and Sujit Kisku professed their final Yes to God and His people.

Jubilee Celebration



Silver Jubilee is a joyful and meaningful celebration that honors 25 years of dedicated religious life, highlighting the jubilarian's journey, achievements, and continued commitment to their vocation. The Delegation Level Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Antony Bhyju V. CMF and Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Fr. Bijay Kumar Panna CMF, Fr. Deosahay Minj CMF, Fr. Kuldeep Ddung CMF, Fr. Thomas Lakra CMF and Fr. Anil Minj CMF was held on 30th May 2024, at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore.

Parish Priest's Meet



The Delegation Level Parish Priest Meet was held from 27-29 November, 2023 at Monfort Nivas Kanke, Ranchi. Rev. Fr. Deepak Kindo SDB and Rev. Fr. Bisu Antony Aind, the VG of Khunti diocese, were the resource persons of the first day sessions. In his talk Fr. Deepak Kindo

dealt about the theme Youth and Parish. He also shared about the challenges encountered in dealing with the youth in the parish. He stressed that the Parish priest need to tackle the issues and concerns of the youth sympathetically and build confidence. Fr. Bisu Antony Aind shared about the pastoral concerns of the parish. He stressed that as Parish Priests today we need to strengthen people's faith, culture, youth, BCC, family visits, confession and impartial approach in our parishes. The parish priests were also given the ambience to share the blessings and challenges of their parishes. It was a very enlightening sharing.

Rev. Fr. Vincent Anesthasiar CMF, engaged the second day by sharing the life of Stan Swami. In his talk he said that as responsible Parish Priests we need to SEE- JUDGE and ACT (Be aware (See) Discern (Judge) Commit (Act)). At the end of the session all our parish priests were asked to make a realistic pastoral plan.

Annual Retreat- 2024



The Delegation Level Annual Retreats were organised in two phases. Phase -I from 28 Jan - 02 Feb, 2024 at Divya Darshan, Nilganj and Phase -II from 04 - 09 Feb, 2024 at Montfort Nivas, Kanke. Rev. Fr. George Ponodath SJ, facilitated both phases of the retreat. It was a treasurable moment of personal journey within and renewal of our bond with God.

Formators Training Programme



The Delegation Level Annual Formators Training program for the year 2023-24 was organized on 17th and 18th February, 2024 at Marsal Sadan, Sahanagar. The following members participated in it: Fr. Antony L CMF,

the Prefect of formation, Frs. Augustus Kujur CMF and Sonot Murmu CMF from Claret Nivas Barrackpore, Frs. Jegatpal Minj CMF and Christu Raj CMF from Claret Vidya Niketan Ranchi and Fr. Jain Charles CMF from Nirmal Sadan Ghatsila.

The First day, ASCLA West Plan of Formation (AWPF), a plan prepared as per GPF guidelines of the Congregation, was discussed. It started with the Role of formators and the environment of a formation house. After that each stage of formation such Aspirancy, Postulancy, Novitiate, Regency and Theology were discussed in detail.

The Second day, Rev. Fr. Antony L, the Prefect of Formation, shared certain studies made in the field of formation by various experts and shared some church documents' perspectives on formation. Requisites for healthy emotional growth are relatedness, competence, and autonomy. After explaining the above features, he also explained the ways to enhance such context.

ASCLA West Quinquennium-2023



ASCLA West Quinquennium-2023 took place from 01-05 December, 2023, at Divya Darshan Renewal Centre, Kolkata. The event was hosted by Independent Delegation of Kolkata. 69 Young Claretian Missionaries (within the 5 years of their priesthood) from the major organisms of India and Sri Lanka participated in this encounter. The main objectives of the program were to learn from and respond to the challenges; to deepen one's understanding of the Church's stand and to personalize our commitment. Fr. Vincent Anesthasiar CMF, Fr. Anthony Partrick Paul, the Parish priest of St. Antony Church, Barrackpore, and Fr. Antony L CMF,



prefect of formation, Independent Delegation of Kolkata moderated the sessions of the gathering. The sessions helped the participants to ground in their reality and empowered them to respond to the social challenges from a Church's social justice perspective and be rooted in deep spiritual life for which different

meditative skills were taught. The participants were also challenged with the present alarming realities of the priests in the world and were invited to return to the origin of "Call to serve and not to be served" after the model of Jesus, the servant leader.

Finally, the participants were called to examine their role, space and boundaries in personal and ministerial relationship and to instill a clear identity as a reliable respectful relational priest. The event witnessed an active participation of the missionaries in the common sessions, group sharing, report presentations, prayers and recreation.

Christmas Cheer



Christmas cheer was in the air on December 10, 2023, at Gandhiji Prem Nivas, Titagarh. Thanks to the efforts and initiatives of Claret Nivas Community, which collaborated with sisters of Divine Providence, Apostolic Carmelites sisters, candidates and sisters of Daughters of St. Ann's, and Sacred Hearts

brothers and organised a touching event called "Christmas with the Leprosy Rehabilitated and Aged People." The aim of the program was simple yet profound to make the residents of the Leprosy Center happy and feel loved; and that they may joyfully and warmly celebrate the birth of Christ.

The program unfolded with various performances such as songs, dances, mime, Christmas skits, and voluntary programs by the inmates. These activities not only entertained but also brought smiles and laughter on the faces of all present, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

Fr. Suboth Kisku CMF, the Parish Priest of Rupantor Church, delivered a heartfelt Christmas message, emphasizing the themes of love, compassion, and the spirit of sharing.

Celebrating Youth Spirit: "Christ in (You)th"



An "Annual Youth Gathering" was organized by Claret Nivas theology house, Barrackpore on 28th January 2024. The theme of the gathering centred on "Christ in You(th)". 120 youth from 10 parishes and ministry places participate in the gathering. This occasion anchored youth's vitality and potentiality connecting it with

deep faith in God. An inspiring session was delivered by the Delegation Secretary, Fr. Ponson Toppo CMF, who encouraged young people to live out the teachings of Christ by highlighting the value of leadership, friendship, service, and faith. The gathering was filled with engaging activities such as fun games, dance performances and interactions. These activities provided a platform for the youth to showcase their talents, bond with fellow participants, and to deepen their spiritual journey. One of the highlights of the event was the coming together of youth from both urban and rural areas. This amalgamation not only bridged geographical divides but also fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among the participants. As they shared laughter, stories, and experiences, it became evident that their shared faith transcended boundaries and brought them together as one community.



The day concluded with a thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic celebration and a friendship meal. The youth proceeded to their destination heart full of joy and mind enriched with the teachings of Christ. The "Christ in You(th)" event served as a testament to the power of youth in spreading love, compassion, and faith in today's world, echoing the timeless message of Christ's love for all. In essence, the event was not just a gathering of youth but a celebration of their unwavering spirit and commitment to embodying the teachings of Christ in their lives.

The Parents Get-together



On October 22–23, 2023, the Claret Vidyaniketan community at Nayasarai, Ranchi, saw yet another momentous occasion in its history: The Parents Get-together.

More than 70 parents participated in it. They had come from 5 different states of India. Fr. Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, the Prefect of Apostolate and Fr. Deosahay Minj CMF, the Parish Priest of St. James Church, Lalpur were invited to facilitate the sessions. The gathering was a wonderful occasion of mutual sharing and exploring the possibility of fostering precious vocations in the Congregation and the Church.

Christmas Carol



Christmas is season of sharing the gift of joy and love. Claret Vidyaniketan community at Nayasarai shared their joy of Christmas with the inmates of Leprosy Rehabilitation Center Radha Rani and CRPF Camp at Jagannathpur. The Minor Seminary students shared the

love of Christ with their fellow believers through dance, drama, and carol singing.

CLAVACO



An Annual Competition of Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary was held from January to March 2024. Various indoor and outdoor competitions were organized to foster sportsmanship and competitive spirit. CLAVACO is not just a bunch competition but serves as a platform for individuals or teams to showcase their skills, talents, and innovations while fostering camaraderie and healthy competition. Beyond the individual achievement, annual competitions also serve as platforms for cultural celebration and expression.

Basketball Court Blessing



The inauguration and blessing of a new Basketball Court at the premise of Claret Vidyaniketan Minor Seminary, Nayasarai, Ranchi was held on 15 December, 2024. by Fr. Basant Kispotta CMF. This Basketball court provides a safe and accessible space to our students to engage in various physical activities, promote healthy lifestyles, and nurture their talents. Moreover, the court serves as a hub for community gatherings, fostering social cohesion and unity among residents. Sincere thanks to the German Province for their generous funding towards the construction of Basketball Court.

Eco Club's Excursion



Thirty student of Eco-Club and two animators made an educational visit to CRIJAF-ICAR on 08th January, 2024. Two Scientists were assigned by the Institute for guidance during the entire visit.

Following programs were conducted sequentially during the visit.

- » Short presentation on jute and allied fibres by two scientists.
- » **Visit to Library**- where the students were explained various methods of jute cultivation with the help of model demonstration and video presentation.
- » **Visit to Jute Museum**- it was a golden chance for the students to see varieties of jute fibres and their products with their utility in our lives.
- » **Visit to Water Retting Tank**- students practically watched the procedure of jute retting process from its fibres which was powered by Solar Panels.
- » **Visit to KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra)** - an innovative vocation training centre for farmers and women who works on jute for making various products.
- » **Visit to Organic Farms**- where various edible products like mustard, lentils, vegetables were also grown in a healthy manner.
- » **Visit to Agriculture Machinery Section**- here the students got the opportunity to observe the practical demo of extraction of fibres from jute plant with the help of specific machines.
- » **Visit to Scientific Laboratory**- here the students observe various apparatus, chemicals used to test different types of soils for healthy growth of plants eg: PH meter, Distillation flask, etc.

This educational visit was a golden opportunity for the students to acquire on-field valuable information about jute and its products.

10th Anniversary of Scouts and Guides



To commemorate the tenth anniversary of St. Claret Scouts and Guides, an annual camp in the lap of nature was held from 13th – 16th January, 2024 in Bankura at Kaala Pathar.

The camp consisted of 75 Scouts and Guides, 2 teachers (Camp coordinator and Camp chief) and 5 other senior scouts and guides staff members. The camp was laden with a variety of games, activities and adventures such as archery, shooting, dart throwing, commando bridge making, Tarzan Jump, solve the puzzle, trekking, gazing stars at night and many more. The camp instilled a sense of responsibility and teamwork among the students.

Excursion to Science City



An excursion to **Science City**, Kolkata was organized for the students of Class VIII on 27th January, 2024. The students had tangible tour in the world of science and technology as they journeyed through 3-D Under Water Flora and Fauna,

Planet Earth 3-D Show, Panorama on the Human Evolution and Nature Park etc. The trip offered a fantastic opportunity to witness the fusion of science, technology, and the natural world. Science City captivated the students' attention.

Literary Club's Educational Trip

The Literary Club of St. Claret School, Barrackpore organized a one-day trip to the Indian Museum, Kolkata for the primary students on January 27, 2024, in compliance with its conviction that travel is an essential component of education. A total of 30 students, escorted by three teachers, participated in the Literary Club's educational tour.



The aim of the tour was not only to widen their knowledge about the heritage of India but also to learn and grow in togetherness. The Museum had a store of information for visitors. The 'Bronze Gallery' displayed a sizeable number of metal images dating back to 8th to 14th century CE. The 'Coin Gallery' showed a unique assemblage of coins more than fifty thousand in number. One of the major attractions was the 'Egyptian Mummy' on display. What left the students dumbstruck was the 'Mammal Gallery' which was a massive collection of bones and fossils of myriad animals found across South Asia. Painting lovers found solace in the Indian Miniature Paintings and the rare collections from the Bengal School of Painting. The terracotta artefacts including beads, baubles and trinkets were a treat to the eyes as well. The trip turned out to be a productive and fun-filled experience with a sea of knowledge to offer to the students. The enthusiasm with which students noted down every information exhibited their keen sense of observation and deep interest in delving into the unknown. The final attraction of the day was the sumptuous lunch that they savoured together. It was overall a memorable trip that would be indelibly etched in the memories of the students enriching them with learning outside the classroom.

Educational Trip



Experiences outside of four walls and books have a significant impact on how students are shaped in the field of education. Educational travels are a great way to combine creative thinking with practical, hands-on knowledge. A memorable trip was arranged for Scouts and Guides of Classes XI and XII at Air Force Station in Barrackpore on 28th March, 2024. Some interested Science-students and few more aviation enthusiasts were also part of this educational visit. The students were accompanied by Fr. Sony John, the Principal of School and two teachers Ms. Madhumita and Ms. Mitali. Three ground crew cops briefly demonstrated the operation and functionality of the Russian model MI17V5 that was placed in front of the students. They claimed that it could lift a maximum of 4 tonnes of weight, carry 36 passengers or 19 commandos with equipment, and fly for 2.5 to 3 hours at a time.

Through this visit the students learnt to honour their legacy by emulating the same spirit of excellence and service in our own lives. They returned from this trip with a deep sense

of appreciation and respect for the men and women who serve our nation. The time spent at the base will always be a source of motivation, inspiring them to aim high and make significant contributions to the community.

Kindergarten Graduation Day



On 08th March, 2024, St. Claret School in Barrackpore held its first ever Kindergarten Graduation Day. The parents, teachers, and administration were all filled with pride as the small children had a day full of happiness. For the kinders, it signalled the close of one chapter and the start of a

new one, from the excitement of crossing the stage to collect diplomas to the heart-breaking farewells to teachers. Excitement and nostalgia pervaded the air as graduates reflected on their academic careers and looked forward to what was ahead. The ceremony was attended by almost all the kindergarten parents. Rev Fr. Secretary, Fr. Principal and Vice Principal, Rev Fr. Ponson, the Delegation Secretary were also present. A welcome address was given before the lamp was lit, symbolising the beginning of a joyous celebration. There was a lot of enthusiasm during the ceremony as hats flew into the air, friendships were toasted, and lifelong memories were created.

Orientation on Effective Parenting

A Parent Orientation was organised by St. Claret School, Barrackpore on 13th April, 2024. "Effective Parenting" was the theme of the orientation programme. Hundreds of parents from classes V through XII came to the session, which was arranged in association with Empowered. Smt. Sreeja Patra, a parent and student counsellor at Seth Anandram Jaipuria College, led the sessions. She focused on questions, supports and aids, and the difficulties experienced in parenting their children in the modern worldng. The participant acknowledged the initiative and conveyed their desire for more regular sessions of this nature.



and the selfless service of the non-teaching staff, including school bus drivers, cleaners, and caretakers of the school. The Claretines performed colourful cultural programmes highlighting the importance of labour and respecting all the works. The school management offered a token of appreciation to all the non-teaching staff and acknowledged their inevitable contributions.

Labours Day Celebration



Claret School, Sahanagar celebrated the International Labours Day on April 30, 2024. Mr Bikash Hansda, President of Memari Block, was the chief guest of the day. On this occasion the Claretines honoured the hard work

and the selfless service of the non-teaching staff, including school bus drivers, cleaners, and caretakers of the school. The Claretines performed colourful cultural programmes highlighting the importance of labour and respecting all the works. The school management offered a token of appreciation to all the non-teaching staff and acknowledged their inevitable contributions.

Investiture Ceremony



St. Claret School, Sahanagar held its investiture ceremony for the academic year 2024 -25 on 22nd April, 2024. This event was a celebration of leadership and duty. In his address Fr. Peter Johnson CMF, the Principal of the School, acknowledged the exceptional efforts and leadership roles of the student leaders of the previous academic year, 2023-24. He, then, announced the names of the new student leaders, assigning the roles such as School Pupil Leader, Assistant and Monitor of the class, as well as Captains and Volunteers for various clubs and departments. In his address the chief guest, Rev. Fr. Mahananda Sinha SJ, the Superior of Kalna Mission, delivered a compelling message on the significance of leadership skills in becoming better citizens. The appointment of new student leaders for the academic year paves way and opportunity for the budding students to grow in their leadership skills.

Amidst the colourful cultural programmes presented by class XI students, the newly appointed leaders were honoured with batches and medals; and finally, they took an oath to fulfil their duties with greater commitment.

CLA-MAX 2023



St. Claret School, Bishrail, celebrated CLA-MAX 2023 (School Annual Day) on 21st December, 2023. The celebration was blended on the theme of National Integration. Centralizing on the theme, the Claretines creatively and effectively staged various colorful and heart-winning performances like- dances, skits, mimes, and Christmas carol. The best students were awarded for their academic excellences and attendance. The occasion was graced by Fr. M.V. Sunny, the administrator of Karuna Holistic Hospital and Institute of Medical Sciences, Buniadpur as the guest of honour. In his address he praised and appreciated the Claretians for their dedication and commitment to implant knowledge and wisdom in the children of the rural areas. He encouraged the students to be always creative in acquiring knowledge for their life and not merely for the exams. He also entreated all the parents to backup and support their children according to children's capacity and interest.

Annual Athletic Championship



The annual athletic championship was organized at Zonal, Subdivision and District Levels in Bongshihari, Gangarampur and Potiram respectively on 16th, 20th and 25th January, 2024. 12 of our students participated in various events such as 100 mts, 200 mts, 400 mts, high jump, long jump, discuss throw, shot put, javelin throw, marathon and triple jump, and they won various prizes in all the events. It was a rich experience, great learning and encouragement for the participants.

Graduation Ceremony



St. Claret School, Bishrail organized its First Ever Graduation Ceremony for moving-up students of Upper Kindergarten on 10th February, 2024. 68 Claretines were awarded graduation on this day. The event was organized and anchored by the pre-primary and the primary students. They performed beautiful and spirited dances, rhymes, and skits. The graduates expressed their deepest gratitude through a melodious song. Rev. Sr. Anita Alva MSI and Rev. Sr. Little Flower MSI were the chief guest and the guest of honour respectively. In her address, the chief guest congratulated the graduates and wished them all the best for their academic endeavours ahead. She also besought to the parents to recognize and respect the capabilities, talents and interests of the budding students and support, encourage and motivate them to reach their dreams.

Inter House Cricket Match



St. Claret School, Bishrail organized Inter-House Cricket Match among four houses namely Red, Green, Blue and Yellow. The knockout matches were played by the teams and the Red and Blue Houses entered into the final. The Red House displayed a fantastic team spirit and emerged as a winner. The students and staff were present to cheer and encourage the players.

Teacher's orientation



St. Claret School, Basmata, organised its one-day Teachers orientation program on 09th June, 2024. The aim of the orientation program was to enhance teaching skills, familiarize teachers with new educational policies, and integrate innovative teaching methodologies.

The orientation program was led by Dr. Sanjay Sebastian Marandi and Mrs. Angela Kiran, who creatively engaged the teachers and motivated them to enhance their continuous learning onwith the necessary skills and knowledge to adapt to modern educational demands and to build student-teacher relationship. The positive feedback and active participation highlighted the program's success and the importance of continuous professional development.

Mission Corner



92 Children received their First Holy Communion on 26th May, 2024 and 310 children received their Sacrament of Confirmation through the hand of His Excellency Most Rev. Julius Marandi, the Bishop of Dumka Diocese on 02nd June, 2024, at St. Claret Church, Basmata.



50 Children received their First Holy Communion and 27 children received their Sacrament of Confirmation through the hand of His Excellency Most. Rev. Elias Frank, the Bishop of Asansol Diocese on 26th May, 2024 at St. Antony Mary Claret Parish, Sah-anagar.



27 Children received First holy communion on 26th May, 2024, at Nishkalanka Bhavan Sarangloya.



11 Children received their First Holy Communion on 26th May, 2024, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Betapur.

Tribute to the Departed Soul

The faithful of Claret Vihar, Basmata mission expressed their deepest sorrow and condolences for the departed soul of Late Rev. Fr. Chinnapparaj CMF, the pioneer missionary of Basmata mission on 12th May, 2024. On this occasion, a special prayer service and mass were offered for the eternal rest of the departed soul. The faithful gratefully recalled the enormous missionary works and contributions rendered by the late missionary.



Commemorates of Hul Divas



St. Claret School, Basmata and St. Claret Parish commemorated “Hul Divas” on 26th June and 2nd July, 2024, respectively. The celebration conveyed the message of upholding the testament of the resilience and bravery of those who fought for justice and freedom. They remember and celebrated the courage and the ongoing struggle for justice and equality.



Parish Youth Gathering



Rupantor Church, Sardapalli organised parish youth gathering on 2nd July, 2024. 25 youth participated in the gathering. On this occasion, a Separate Holy Mass and orientation session was organised for the youth. Sr. Gracy, the Provincial of SDP, inspired the youth with the theme: Young Man Arise. Overall, it was a rejuvenating gathering for the youth.

Bible Seminar



St. Mary’s Church, Gazirvita, organised Bible Seminar for youth in the parish. More than 45 youth participated in the seminar. It was a significant event aimed at deepening youth’s understanding of Scripture and strengthening their faith. It provided an enriching experience for all who attended it.

Jhapla Mission



Fr. Anup Lakra CMF, our missionary to Jhapla, a substation of Gangutoli parish under the Simdega Diocese, has already arrived and commenced his life and mission. He will stay in Gangutoli parish and regularly render his pastoral service to faithful of Jhapla substation. He will study Jhapla substation in view of our future mission station. Best wishes and prayers for his fruitful missionary endeavors.



Pilgrimage



St. James Church, Lalpur organized a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Rosary Church, Kunkuri. Many faithful, fathers and sisters took part in the pilgrimage.

BCC Meeting



One of the substations of St. Claret Parish, Sahanagar organise BCC Meeting and engaged into a meaningful scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God’s Word. It aims to foster a personal encounter with God through His Word and to deepen spiritual growth and understanding among the faithful.

Youth Picnic



St. Claret Church, Sahanagar organised one day youth picnic at Claret Vihar, Basmata on 12th April, 2024. A delightful event aimed at fostering communion among young members of parish. It provided a day of fun-filled activities and opportunities for bonding. The youth enjoyed boating in Masenjor Dam and admired the beautiful natural sceneries around. They also had a meaningful interaction with the missionaries over there.





Momentus Photos Gallery

