



*Office of the Provincial Superior*

# CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES

EAST NIGERIA PROVINCE.

## CIRCULAR LETTER

### CONVOCATION OF THE VIII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Dear Brothers,

Greetings from the Curia.

1. On January 17, 2022, I sent the circular letter announcing the VIII Provincial Chapter. In it I recalled the key aspects regarding the Provincial Chapter as found in the Constitutions. These tell us very clearly the function of Chapter for the life of the Province. They identify the goals and provide the necessary rules for its organization and development. The circular also situated the Chapter within the historical framework in which we live and are called to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel. Finally, I indicated the path the Chapter would follow, that is the “Synodal Way” – new way of the Church and offered the itinerary for the preparation for the Chapter
2. Since then, the Pre-Chapter Commission have led us in a synodal way through the conversations at the various levels. From the communities and residences through the mission positions and special apostolates; from our collaborators to our confreres on mission, the synodal conversations bore much fruit. Thus, providing not just materials but indications for discernment for the Chapter and for our lives as Claretians.
3. Through these dialogues and fraternal discussions, the Pre- Chapter Commission have received proposals and valuable information that will form the basis for the work of the Chapter. I wish to thank everyone for their contributions.

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4. The election of delegates to the Chapter has been concluded. The Provincial Government has appointed those delegates allowed by the last Provincial Chapter. Thus, the number of capitulars has been decided. All has been done in accordance with the provisions of our legislation.
5. After the election of the delegates to the Chapter, the following confreres emerged as the elected delegates:

1. Amadi Charles
2. Duru Innocent
3. Edeh Emmanuel
4. Ezenwankwor John
5. Kalu Stephen
6. Madu Wenceslaus
7. Mbogu Nicholas
8. Ogbozo Chrysanthus
9. Igwe Magnus
10. Njoku George
11. Obilo Marcellinus
12. Onyenali Rowland
13. Ugwu Polycarp
14. Ogbonna Philip
15. Ukata Emmanuel

The ex-officio members are:

1. VRF. Mathew Vattamattam – Superior General/President of the Chapter
2. Nwobi Simeon – Provincial Superior
3. Igwe Perpetus – Provincial Vicar/Prefect of Spirituality
4. Azinta Anthony – Prefect of Apostolate
5. Oguejiofor Kenneth – Prefect of Formation
6. Eke Nathaniel – Prefect of Economy
7. Iwuagwu Matthew – Provincial Secretary

Also included in the ex-officio list are the superiors of communities:

8. Agu Terence – Superior Utonkon/Onyagede Community
9. Ajaegbu Antoninus – Superior Afara/Mgbirichi/Obinze Community
10. Obasi Cletus – Superior Garriki/Amurri Community
11. Ohiaegbe Julius – Superior Ibele/Orlu Community
12. Ekeogu Patrick – Superior Nnewi Community
13. IHEME Chukwuemeka – Superior Maryland CIP Community
14. Amaku Ethelbert – Superior Maryland Staff Community
15. Igbo Philip – Superior Attakwu Community
16. Isidienu Wenceslaus – Superior Nekede/Nguru-Aro Community
17. Amandikwa Anselm – Superior Provinciate Community
18. Onyekuru Bruno – Superior Port-Harcourt
19. Nweke Cornelius – Superior Kwande/Fier Community
20. Oparaji Marcellinus - Superior Aondona/Utamaityu  
Community/Coordinator North Nigeria Mission
21. Asiegbu Cyriacus – Superior Damongo Community  
/Coordinator Ghana Mission
22. Egbu Joseph – Superior Kumasi Community

The appointed delegates are:

1. Ekwujuru Stanislaus – Specialization in Rome
2. Ibe Casmir – Coordinator Chad Mission
3. Okereke Kelechi M. – Theology Student

The last two names after the third ballot would stand as substitutes. We are inviting the Major Superior of West Nigeria Delegation as an observer as well as two of our collaborators in the mission, that is the Superior of Claretian Sisters and a Lay Claretian. They will be present during some discussions during the Chapter.

6. Therefore, pursuant to the Constitutions, number 123, and number 386 of the Directory, with this circular letter I officially convoke the VIII Provincial Chapter of our Organism to be held in Maryland Nekede beginning June 19, 2022. This convocation is addressed especially to those who by office, election, or appointment, have the right and obligation to participate in the Provincial Chapter. Our norm stipulates that “the circular letter of convocation must be sent to each of the chapter members. However, even if it somehow fails to reach a particular chapter member, the convocation officially made to the whole Province is valid and sufficient.”<sup>1</sup>
7. With the publication of this circular letter the capitular period proper begins, in which we are called to participate actively in various forms. All the communities must recite during one of their moments of common prayer, especially the Vespers, the Prayer for the VIII Provincial Chapter.<sup>2</sup> This prayer has been sent to all the communities. The Provincial Chapter is a very important moment in the life of the Province. It calls for the participation of every member of the province in an intensive prayer. The whole Claretian family and all our collaborators are invited to journey with us in this moment of listening to what the Holy Spirit is directing us to do, as revealed in the book of Revelation, “*Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches.*”<sup>3</sup>
8. It is necessary to live this moment like men who adore God<sup>4</sup>. The participation of each and every one is important. This will affect the quality of the discernment during the Chapter and the willingness to welcome the decisions that emerge therefrom.
9. So, brothers we sincerely thank you all for the successful and smooth election of the delegates to the VIII Provincial Chapter and congratulate all the elected delegates and the appointees. You as well as the ex-officio have the duty to represent the rest of our brothers in this Chapter for the common good of the Province and the entire Congregation and the universal Church.
10. The theme of the Provincial Chapter is “**Rooted and Audacious as Missionary Province**”. From the heart beats of our Province, and after gathering the fruits of our conversations, we

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<sup>1</sup> Directory, 386d

<sup>2</sup> Directory, 386c

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 2:7

<sup>4</sup> Missionarii Sumus 73, Querida Congregacion, 30

resolved to reflect deeper on this theme that originated from the meeting of Major Superiors of the Congregation in Chile in 2020. In the convocation letter of XXVI General Chapter, the Superior General referred to this Meeting of Major Superiors thus:

In the meeting of the Major Superiors in Chile in January 2020, we took this theme Rooted and Audacious as the motto for our itinerary. The image of the compass that our Founder used to illustrate his vocation and mission helps us to understand this motto from a Claretian key. One pole of the compass is fixed at the centre point and the other is free to move around. Claret knew well that, in the measure that his heart was deeply rooted in Christ, he could freely and boldly move out to proclaim the Gospel where God sent him. In this time of epochal changes, we need the integrity of life rooted in Christ and the freedom of the spirit to explore new frontiers of mission if we want to live our missionary vocation credibly.<sup>5</sup>

11. This is a moment of dreaming together and realizing our dreams together as a Province according to our missionary and religious calling. No doubting the fact that from our conversations, from our communities to regions and our collaborators, we have been enriched in such a way that we are poised to proclaim the message of Christ audaciously to the hungry and waiting world.
12. Therefore, after the conversations on issues of interest of all the communities in preparation for the VIII Provincial Chapter, the Pre-Chapter Commission articulates a draft document based on the responses received. Going through the conversations from the communities at different levels, the commission deciphered that a good reflection on life rooted in Christ will spur us to proclaim the message of the Gospel audaciously and therefore makes us work better as missionaries.
13. The Chapter processes already begun, will continue till the final day of the Chapter. However, our VIII Chapter should not be just like any of those Chapters, rather it should be an event that will bring great transformation and renewal in every one of us. In prayer, let us fan the

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<sup>5</sup> The work of Cardinal Aquilino Bocas, *Arraigados y Arriesgados* has inspired the choice of the theme, though the term 'audaces' was preferred by the meeting to *arriesgados*.

flame of love and fraternity as we dream, design, and make commitments for the next six years.

14. The rest of the Chapter process continues intensively with prayers that is said in all the communities and formation houses. Therefore, attached to this letter of convocation is the prayer for the VIII Provincial Chapter.

15. We wish you all happy and brotherly preparation of the Chapter which will hold in Maryland Nekede our mother house as stipulated – 19th-26th June 2022. We rely on the intercession of our Mother Mary and our Founder Saint Anthony Mary Claret for a successful and fraternal synodal encounter for the good of the entire Province of East Nigeria.

Yours in the Heart of Mary,



Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Nwobi, CMF

20th of May 2022.

*Memorial of St. Bernardine of Siena*



## Prayer for the VIII Provincial Chapter

Heavenly Father, you have called us to be witnesses of the Gospel after the manner of our Founder, St Anthony Mary Claret.

We thank you for your abounding love and providence unto our Province.

We thank you for the successes and accomplishments in our Province; we are also sorry for all that we have not been able to manage well.

Send us your Spirit so that we may discern your will for our Province in this VIII Provincial Chapter.

Inspire and direct us that we may chart the way forward for our Province.

Grant us the accompaniment of our Mother Mary and our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret.

We make our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.