

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES

U.S. WESTERN PROVINCE

FORMATION HANDBOOK

August 2006



August 22, 2006

Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Claretian Missionary in Formation,

In this Third Millennium of Christianity, more than ever before, God's people are thirsting for the Good News of Jesus Christ, sent by God to announce the promise of a new world, a better world, a world of peace, justice, and love. More than ever before, our world is in need of healing, reconciliation, and respect for the rights of all people, especially the poor, the defenseless, the immigrant, and the marginalized.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II wrote an apostolic exhortation entitled *Pastores Dabo Vobis, I Will Give You Shepherds*. Pope John Paul quotes the Prophet Jeremiah, "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (*Jer.* 3:15), in which God promises his people that he will never leave them without shepherds to gather them together and guide them: "I will set shepherds over them [my people] who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed" (*Jer.* 23:4).

In this, the Twenty-First Century of Christianity, the Claretian Missionaries joyfully and humbly accept the challenge to try to be shepherds, servants of God's Word, priests, brothers, and seminarians striving to build the kind of world that God desires for his people.

We make Mary's prayer, the *Magnificat*, our own, working together so that her dream of a better, more human, more just, and more loving world will come to be born on this planet.

In order to be successful, however, we always need new shepherds, new missionaries, new servants of the Word. And so I thank you, my missionary brothers in formation, for accepting the challenge to be "formed in the Heart of Mary," a heart of tenderness, love, and strength—bringing about a new creation reflecting the image and likeness of God.

On behalf of the Claretian Missionaries, I promise to accompany each of you in our program of formation for missionary life. These years of learning will be very exciting and challenging for you. I wish you every blessing, and I assure you of my prayers as you seek to follow God's call in your life. My sincere hope for you is that, through this program of formation, you will learn the true meaning of being a Missionary Son of Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Your brother in the Lord,

Father Roland Lozano, C.M.F.
Provincial Superior

Claretian Missionaries, Western Province, Inc.

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FORMATION CONVENANT

I, the undersigned, as a student in the formation program of the U.S. Western Province

of the Claretian Missionaries, have read this handbook, understand its contents,

and agree to abide by the policies contained herein:

Student's Signature_____

Date_____

On behalf of the U.S. Western Province of the Claretian Missionaries, I, the undersigned,

have witnessed the above student sign this handbook and will do all that is

possible to accompany him in his formation process:

Provincial Prefect of Formation_____

Date_____

INTRODUCTION

The life of a Claretian Missionary in Formation of the U.S. Western Province is dedicated to growing in communion with the mind and heart of Christ.

We follow our Congregation's Formation of Missionaries

General Plan of Formation

in the preparation and training of our members
for the missionary service of God's Reign.



*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to the captives and new sight to the blind;
to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."*

Luke 4:18-19

Our Fundamental Objective

"The fundamental objective consists of following Jesus Christ the Missionary until we become conformed with Him. In our formation, following Christ as set forth in the Gospel is our supreme rule. All other orientations and norms have meaning insofar as they help and prepare us to follow Christ in a communion of life and to go out into the world to proclaim the Good News to every creature. Our mission and hence the whole formative itinerary that prepares us for it must always spring from a real conformity with Christ the Evangelizer and from a close communion and friendship with Him, so that it will no longer be we who live, but Christ who truly lives in us. In this process,

Mary, the Mother of Jesus and of the Church, the Formatrix of Apostles, plays an essential role. Hence, we commit ourselves to her that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission. Only thus will we be able to become truly missionary men who are on fire with charity and spread its flames wherever we go." (*General Plan of Formation* #13)

Mission and missionary availability are at the heart of our identity as Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Claretian Missionaries, in accord with our *Constitutions* and *Directory*. This requires of our students special attention to the history, charism, documents, and spirituality of our Congregation. Their spiritual life, including a profound intimacy with God's Word, the Eucharist, and diverse forms of personal and communal prayer, should reflect their desire to be in communion at all times with God's will. The call of our students to discipleship—like that of Mary, our Foundress and primary formator—will lead them through a loving and faith-filled life of prayer, community, study, ministry, and solidarity with God's People.

Our students are expected to demonstrate a dynamic and generous commitment to the life and mission of their local student community, our Province, and Congregation. In addition to a faithful dedication to our Claretian Missionary spirituality and identity, students are required to have a passionate love for Christ, a zeal for the service of God's People, especially the poor and marginalized, an awareness and desire to respond to the most urgent needs of the local and universal Church, ecumenical, multicultural, and inter-religious dialogue and collaboration, and participation in local and global efforts to promote justice, peace and the integrity of all creation.

"In our formative itinerary we try to re-create, with the help of the Spirit and as responsible and creative persons, the charism of Claret, persuaded that this will enable us to move forward in missionary community to achieve that personal fullness to which we have been called. Our formation is inspired in a notion of humankind as being open to God, to others and to the world."
(*General Plan of Formation* #15)

Along with the *General Plan of Formation* of our Congregation, we regard with due respect the *Universal Code of Canon Law* of the Church and the *Program of Priestly Formation* as set forth by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States. Claretian students are expected to adhere with all possible care to the norms of formation as set forth in this handbook. Furthermore, they are expected to accept the guidance and direction of their formation superiors in the implementation of the policies, requirements, and expectations as presented in this Formation Handbook, as well as our *Constitutions*, *Directory*, and other Chapter documents and plans of our Province and Congregation. Our goal is to provide a formative experience that will enable our missionaries—disciples of Jesus formed in the Heart of Mary as chaste, poor

and obedient servants of the Word—to be passionately rooted in the cultural contexts and challenges impacting our world and God’s People in this new century of Christianity.

“We are followers of Jesus Christ, consecrated to the Father through the gift of the Spirit. For us, Jesus is the Christ and the Lord to whom we entrust our life. He is the Son and Envoy of the Father, He is Word made flesh of the Virgin Mary, He is the One anointed by the Spirit to bring Good News to the poor, the Prophet powerful in works and words, the One who was obedient even to death and is the Risen One who continues living in the world. We have been granted the grace to represent in the Church his prophetic life, his vocation as herald of the Good News for all human beings, especially for the poor, the addressees and privileged subjects of the Kingdom that He lived and proclaimed.” (*General Plan of Formation #19*)

STAGES OF FORMATION



PRE-NOVITIATE

The life of a Claretian Missionary student is comprised of various stages or steps in discernment and formation for our religious life. The majority of our students have come to know us by experiencing and participating in one of our Claretian ministries. Most have begun a special relationship with us through our Comunidad Claretiana del Tepeyac Discernment Community in Los Angeles, California. These students have committed themselves to a significant period of discernment in this Claretian community for at least six months. Their life in community, personal and communal prayer, work, study, spiritual direction, and ministry have provided them with an experience of our Claretian spirituality and mission while growing in faith as followers of Christ in the spirit of our Founder, Saint Anthony Claret. After the experience, these students have applied for entrance into the formation program that we share with the U.S. Eastern Province of the Claretian Missionaries in Chicago, Illinois.

This first official step in our formation process is admission into the pre-novitiate program which consists of candidacy and postulancy. This is a time of study and reflection while living in community for the purpose of continuing to discern the authenticity of their Claretian vocation. The pre-novitiate program for college level students takes place at the Blessed Philip of Jesus House in Chicago, where they study at a local Catholic university.

The pre-novitiate student is expected to be financially responsible for himself in terms of school tuition, books, personal needs, and living expenses. However, no student will be refused admission into the pre-novitiate program solely for lack of financial resources. Students who may be in need of financial assistance should make this known to the Vocation Director during the application process, and to the Provincial Prefect of Formation when accepted into our Formation Program. Students who are able to continue membership in a health plan should do so during the pre-novitiate period.

Toward the end of the candidacy period, the initial stage of the pre-novitiate program, the student may be admitted into the postulancy period. Those students who enter the Congregation having completed, or are within six months of completing, their undergraduate college degree, including their philosophy requirements, will be considered for postulancy and novitiate. The postulancy stage is a time of specific preparation prior to entrance into the novitiate, the time when the student officially becomes a religious. Students are subject to the norms for the postulancy as described in no. 59 of the *Constitutions*, and Chapter IX, Article 4 of the *Directory*.

NOVIATIE

The Novitiate is the next stage or period of religious formation. During this canonical year, the novice prepares himself for first profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience within the community and through the charism of the Claretian Missionaries.



Postulants who have completed their philosophy and college requirements can apply to the Provincial Superior for admission to the novitiate. The novitiate year, a graced time of deep prayer and reflection, includes study of the history of religious life, the theology of consecrated life, the special history and theology of the Claretian Congregation, the life of St. Anthony Claret, retreats, visits to other Claretian communities, and apostolic and other experiences related to the overall purpose of the novitiate. Please refer to Chapter X of the *Constitutions* and the *Universal Code of Canon Law* of the Church for other requirements related to the novitiate.

MISSIONARIES IN FORMATION

The next phase of the formation process as Claretian Missionaries is the period of temporary profession, or being a Missionary in Formation, as our *Constitutions* and *Directory* refer to this time. Missionaries in Formation are students who, while continuing their study and preparation for perpetual profession and ministry as a Claretian Missionary brother or priest, are initially in a period of temporary profession of the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience.

Students who are professed temporarily or perpetually are subject to the norms regarding vowed life according to the general law of the Church and our particular Claretian legislation. For a description of the norms and goals applicable to this level in formation please refer to Chapter XI of the *Constitutions* and Chapter XI, Article I of the *Directory*.

Missionaries in Formation are in a period of temporary profession for a minimum of three (3) years before applying for perpetual profession. Six months prior to the profession of perpetual vows the student will be asked to engage in a serious review of our Claretian life and charism as expressed through our documents and Congregational history. Furthermore, our Province requires that in the time prior to perpetual profession the student complete a period of counseling with a professional psychological counselor approved by the Formation Team. The sessions with a psychological counselor are confidential in nature, although the student will be asked to release the counselor to prepare a summary report and/or evaluation for review by the Provincial Prefect of Formation and/or the Provincial Superior before promotion to perpetual vows. The purpose of counseling is to help the student with any issues of adjustment which may be outstanding prior to the time of perpetual profession.

Students during this period of formation must complete the requirements for a Master of Divinity Degree, or another professional degree for brother candidates, and further requirements as stated in this Formation Handbook, the Province Plan, and by the Province Formation Team. These requirements will assist the personal growth and development of our students for community life and ministry as a Claretian Missionary. Specific examples include, but are not limited to, a Pastoral Year in one of our communities and apostolates following the second year of theology; study of, and fluency in, Spanish and English; and Clinical Pastoral Education.

FACILITATING COMMUNITY LIFE



The daily life of the formation community enflashes the values and growth experiences which should be part of the life of the student who is preparing for religious life and ministry as a Claretian Missionary brother or priest. Chapter I of our *Constitutions* provides a foundation for the spirit which should mark the character of our common life. Chapter XV of our *Constitutions* and Chapter XV of our *Directory* describe the governance of our local communities, including the formation community. The following features describe our community life:

OUR CLARETIAN MISSIONARY SPIRITUALITY

Chapter V of our *Constitutions* is a very significant and challenging call to growth in our life of prayerful communion with God. One of the unique goals of our formation communities is exposure to the spiritual treasures of the Church and of our Congregation, including the formation



of good habits of prayer and liturgical worship. For these reasons formation communities have as an important part of their daily schedule the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours. The use of the *Spiritual Directory* and other resources of the Congregation and local Church is recommended for the personal and communal life of our Claretian students.

It is also expected that Leccio Divina, faith sharing, the prayer of the Rosary, Eucharistic devotion, meditation, and other forms of prayer that nourish our intimacy with Christ be components of the missionary spirituality of our students at all levels of their formation. To be formed as Sons Mary's Heart is a consistent goal that we share throughout our lives as Claretian Missionaries. As servants of the Word, Mary's model of tenderness and humility offers us an especially strong and prophetic example for our religious life and discipleship today. Our awareness, like Mary, of the cries of the poor and the urgings of the Spirit leads us to follow her example as loving and courageous messengers of life and peace for our world today.

The celebrations of our Founder's Feast Day, the Foundation Day of our Congregation and other Claretian feast days, including the Feast of the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro—the majority being students themselves—provide our students with hope, joy, strength, and perseverance in their vocation and commitment as Claretian Missionaries.

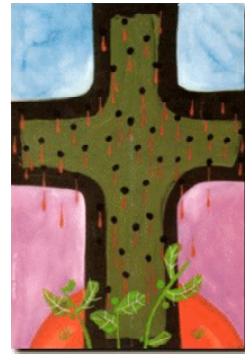
The students, on a rotating basis, should plan and prepare communal prayers and liturgies. These periods of common prayer should familiarize the student with the Sacred Scriptures, Liturgy of the Hours, liturgical seasons of the year, and various methods of prayer which are part of the Church's tradition. These times of common prayer should be marked by an attitude which is joyful in spirit, creative in the use of word, music and art, and inclusive in expression. Regular attendance at the common prayer of the community is required of all our students.

Additionally, all our students are expected to spend time in personal prayer and spiritual reading each day. All students are also required to participate in spiritual direction with a trained spiritual director approved by the local Prefect. Theology level students who are candidates for ordination are required, according to the universal norms of the Church, to have a priest spiritual director.

It is expected that, on a weekly or bi-weekly basis during the academic year, there be a spiritual conference in our formation communities. The conferences should focus on themes related to prayer, issues in religious life, and our Claretian Missionary spirituality and mission. Each semester the formation communities engage in community retreats for personal reflection and renewal, as well as growth in community. Active participation in these retreats, as well as our annual Province Retreat, normally held each year in January, is expected and required of all our students. Exceptions will be made only if there is an academic requirement which conflicts with the date and time of the retreats. In these cases approval must be given by the local Prefect.

OUR COMMUNITY PLANS, SIMPLE LIFESTYLE, AND STEWARDSHIP OF GOODS

The documents of our Congregation remind us of the importance of our simple lifestyle as missionary communities. The XXII General Chapter Document, *In Prophetic Mission*, states that "our personal and community life is...our first prophetic act." We witness the values and teachings of the Gospel as we accept a way of life that truly announces our solidarity with the poor and commitment to God's Reign.



Community Plans or Projects, in accord with our *Directory* (no. 150), enable our formation communities to be faithful to our mission as followers of Christ in the spirit of our Founder. In addition to the prayer life of our formation communities, our meals, meetings and conferences, recreation, projects on behalf of the poor, and house responsibilities and duties should be planned as specific actions that witness to our unique lifestyle and mission as missionaries.

Our Province, through the generosity of benefactors and ministries of our Claretian Missionaries, provides for the needs of our students. In accord with our vows, as well as our desire to live a simple lifestyle as missionaries, we ask our students always to value and respect community property. Our special relationship with the poor calls us to live with deep gratitude and humility.

Caring for and sharing material goods reminds us, too, of the importance of sharing our individual cultures, talents, gifts, and resources on behalf of the needs of the community. In a special way our life in community reflects the radical dimension of the Gospel and the values that should impact our relationships, choices, and commitments as followers of Christ. We find this especially true in our U.S. culture which values personal desires, interests and possessions over that which promotes the needs of the poor and the common good.

Money received from ministry, gifts, donations, etc., should go to the community. In turn, a monthly allowance for personal items and needs is provided for students of our

Province. An exception occurs for students studying outside of the United States. In this case, the policy of the Claretian Missionary Province where the student is temporarily residing is respected and followed for personal needs. Students are always expected to reimburse the local community for personal, long-distance telephone calls.

Professed students are entitled to three weeks of vacation per year. Additionally, the local Prefect may allow extra days during holiday seasons. Each professed student is allowed one annual round-trip home within the United States, paid for by the Province. Professed students from outside the United States can receive a round-trip home every three years. Other vacation or personal recreation expenses are to be paid from the student's own monthly allowance. In addition, any student who will be away from the formation community overnight is expected to receive permission from the local Prefect.

ACADEMICS AND FIELD EDUCATION



COLLEGE LEVEL STUDENTS

1. Students in the undergraduate level of academic formation attend one of the Chicago colleges or universities approved by the Formation Committee of the U.S. Eastern Province and our own Formation Team. Students are expected to fulfill the academic requirements of their respective schools, have an academic advisor, and complete the Bachelor of Arts or Science degree. Brother candidates are also expected to complete the B.A. or B.S. degree. In certain circumstances some other program may be arranged for an individual brother candidate by the Prefect of Formation. Please see the section related to the formation of missionary brothers in the *General Plan of Formation*.
2. Following the norms of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, as approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, priesthood candidates are to complete thirty six (36) units in philosophy. In addition to the philosophy requirements, Claretian undergraduate students should also gain exposure to courses in general psychology, sociology, cultural anthropology, and history among other fields of general education. Brother candidates may elect to major in religious studies, social work, catechesis, youth ministry, missiology, or any

field which may prepare him for his role in the life of the Congregation, as approved by the Provincial Prefect of Formation. Each Claretian student must have his major approved by the local prefect and the Provincial Prefect of Formation. All college level students are required to complete twelve (12) semester units in religious studies as required by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

College level students are expected to maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Each semester the course schedule for the individual student must be approved by the local Prefect before final registration. At the conclusion of each semester, the transcripts of the student are to be submitted to the local Prefect, with a copy to the Provincial Prefect of Formation.

3. All students are required to develop a second or additional language for the purpose of extending missionary life. Claretian students who are not familiar with Spanish are expected to devote at least six (6) months to a study and immersion experience in Mexico or Central America. In addition, some time should be devoted to familiarization with the Latino culture present in the Southwestern U.S.A., and to the practice of the celebration of the sacraments in Spanish. The Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas, provides a mini-pastoral program, as well as other workshops and courses available during summer months.
4. College level students are expected to devote themselves to a variety of field education or pastoral ministry experiences during their years of study, under the guidance of their local Prefect. All students are expected to spend a minimum of three (3) hours in pastoral ministry each week.
5. During summer months and vacations from college, it is recommended that non-professed students live and serve in a Province community and ministry or participate in pastorally oriented courses and/or language studies offered only during the summer months. The program for the student in a summer assignment will be specified in a learning contract to be worked out among himself, the local Prefect, and the local superior of the community where the apostolate is located. The contract will elaborate the ministry goals, objectives, and issues to be addressed during the summer experience, and who will be responsible for the evaluation and supervision of the student.
6. In addition to the summer experiences mentioned in the above paragraph, Claretian students at all levels of formation are required to apply to their local Prefect to participate in summer mission experiences, for example, in Mexico or Central America, or an "urban plunge" experience, etc., depending upon the needs of the particular student.

THEOLOGY LEVEL STUDENTS



1. Priesthood candidates are required to complete the course of graduate level theological studies before ordination. Our students are presently expected to fulfill the requirements of the Master of Divinity degree offered by the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. In addition to the M.Div. degree, a student may petition the Formation Team to obtain the M.Div. and M.A. concurrently. The student is requested in this case to consider the Province Plan and the current pastoral needs of the Province and Congregation. In any case, all ordination requirements, as included in the *Program of Priestly Formation*, specific requirements of the Catholic Theological Union (CTU), and our Claretian Province, can be obtained from the local Prefect.
2. All theology-level students are expected to be involved for a minimum of three (3) hours per week in apostolic experiences. The student will ordinarily follow the guidelines of the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in the matter of field education placements and supervision.
3. Additionally, each professed student will participate in a supervised Pastoral Year—a nine-month experience usually following the second year of theology.
4. Students are required to attend a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course, normally in a hospital setting, and are encouraged to have a foreign mission experience with a Claretian community, normally in Mexico or Central America.
5. Each semester the courses and schedule of the student must be submitted to his local Prefect for approval or changes. At the conclusion of the semester the student's transcript must be submitted to the local Prefect and Provincial Prefect of Formation.
6. Brother candidates are encouraged to study theology on the graduate level. Individual programs can be arranged by the local Prefect and Formation Team.
7. Theology level students who have not yet studied the Spanish language or Latino culture must do so prior to ordination, or perpetual vows for brother candidates.
8. Those who have been ordained to the transitional diaconate, and brothers and priests in their first assignments, are required to participate in a special

program of mentoring. The Provincial Prefect of Formation will facilitate this process and provide the necessary guidelines.

9. Under certain circumstances, and usually after a period of general ministry experience, a Province member who has completed his M.Div. or M.A. and who wishes to seek advanced studies may petition the Formation Team for permission to do so. After consultation with the Formation Team, the request will be referred to the Provincial Council for approval. The Province Plan and specific pastoral needs of the Province and Congregation will be considered.



APPLICATION TO THE NOVITIATE AND TO THE PROFESSION OF VOWS

A student who wishes to apply for entrance into the Novitiate, or to profess first vows, renewal of temporary vows, or perpetual vows is to do so in writing according to the norms given in the *General Plan of Formation*. The letter is to be addressed to the Provincial Superior with a copy to the Provincial Prefect of Formation expressing the specific request and the reasons for the request. The local Prefect will inform the student regarding the proper times for making such requests and will review the request to ensure its proper order.

REGULAR STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Regular student interviews by the local prefect/s will normally take place monthly. The Provincial Prefect of Formation interviews students at least once a semester. The Provincial Superior also interviews our students at the minimum of once a year.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

Our Province formation program is an autonomous program and recognizes the autonomy of the schools and programs which our students attend. The evaluation of our students in matters related to religious formation is the prerogative of the Claretian Missionaries alone. The academic situation of our students in their respective schools is certainly a factor which we will take into account in the overall evaluation of the student. Comments from teachers and supervisors will be given due regard. The local Prefect will meet at least once a semester with the appropriate staff members of

the colleges and Catholic Theological Union (CTU) for dialogue regarding the academic progress of our students.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

Occasionally, for the purpose of better personal adjustment and deeper self-knowledge, a student may need professional psychological counseling or therapy. The local Prefect will keep a list of competent therapists and counselors who may serve the needs of the students. The student himself may initiate the counseling process, though in some cases the Formation Team may request that the student do so. If a student would specifically like to request counseling or therapy he should notify his local Prefect. All consultation with a counselor is confidential in nature; however, a general evaluation regarding the progress or state of the student may be requested of the counselor by the Formation Team. (Please note the requirement of psychological counseling before perpetual vows as addressed in the area entitled Missionaries in Formation under the topic of "Stages of Formation.")



PARTICIPATION IN PROVINCE RETREATS, ASSEMBLIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

Our students, at all levels of formation, are essential to the community life and mission of our Province. Annual retreats and assemblies of the Province are scheduled in January and June to accommodate the academic schedule of our students. Students are required to participate in these important Province events. These and other gatherings of the Province or Congregation, such as our triennial NACLA Missionary Encounters, are opportunities to be embraced for growth in our spiritual life, charism, and universal mission as Claretian Missionaries.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PROVINCES OF THE CONGREGATION

We are committed as a Province to collaboration in formation with other Provinces of the Congregation. We are grateful that this is already taking place in a very substantial way through our participation in the Formation Program of the U.S. Eastern Province, as well as with the Provinces of Mexico and the Philippines. We also look forward to collaboration with the Province of Central America and other

Delegations and Provinces of the Congregation in the future. We are thankful for the hospitality and unique experiences that U.S. Western Province students have enjoyed in the past and look forward to further opportunities in the future. We also welcome students from other Provinces to participate in formation experiences within our Province. We believe that this participation and shared collaboration as a Congregation will provide for academic and apostolic growth for Claretian students and enhance deeply their identity and mission as Claretian Missionaries.

PERSONAL PLAN

Each semester, students are required to prepare a Personal Plan or Project to guide them in diverse areas of their personal life. These areas should include, but are not limited to: prayer and spirituality, academics, community life, apostolate or pastoral ministry, and physical health (including exercise/recreation). The Personal Plan should be reviewed and evaluated regularly, including discussions with the Provincial Prefect of Formation.



JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION AND CROSS-CULTURAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Important to our Claretian identity and charism is our special commitment to providing leadership in the areas of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, as well as cross-cultural and inter-religious Dialogue. Students are asked to take advantage of courses, workshops, and conferences that will assist their development and growth in these important areas of ministry. We urge our students to participate in local, national, and international committees and organizations that promote the mission of our Congregation in bringing about life, justice, and peace for all God's creation.

PERSONAL BEHAVIOR AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

A student's personal behavior should reflect at all times his vocation as a Claretian Missionary student and his love for, and commitment to, his local Claretian Community, Province, and Congregation. He represents the Claretian Missionaries in his classes, apostolate, and other interpersonal relationships. Claretian students are reminded that they are called to live lives of moral integrity which give witness to the Gospel we serve. Therefore, students are bound to the same standards of conduct and

policies in moral and interpersonal matters as are all other Claretian Missionaries of the U.S. Western Province.

Our students are expected to develop a mature, integrated sexuality, and to identify and address challenges in order to maintain a celibate life and healthy intimate relationships. A student who abuses a minor or who is unable to maintain appropriate boundaries with minors or adults will not be permitted to continue with our formation program. Matters regarding other forms of misconduct with regard to persons, substances, property, or finances will be addressed in an appropriate manner.

Our witness to celibacy, poverty, and obedience at all levels of our formation program should be lived out through respectful behavior toward fellow students and superiors. All students should witness Christ's love and generosity in their relationships with other community members, all Claretian Missionaries, fellow classmates, co-workers, and others served in ministry assignments. Our missionaries in formation should also nurture a deep respect for the poor and for the diversity of cultures, races, and languages present in our local communities.



WAIVER OR REVISION OF POLICIES

A student who, for any reason, wishes to have a policy of this Formation Handbook waived must submit a letter of request for change or exception in policy to the Formation Team. This does not apply to specific course offerings or matters of local scheduling or finances, which can be arranged through the local Prefect.

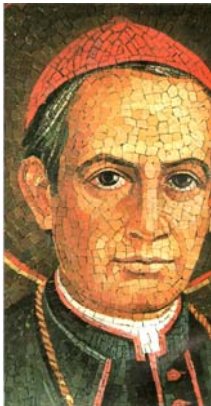
The policies contained in this Handbook are subject to revision from time to time as some requirements may vary or circumstances may change. Students will receive new policies in writing after they have been approved by the Formation Team and Provincial Council. Our *Constitutions* and *Directory*, as well as the *General Plan of Formation*, the *Universal Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church*, and the *Program of Priestly Formation* of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops always remain normative for our formation program.



CONCLUSION

As Claretian Missionaries of the U.S. Western Province, we are eternally grateful to our faithful and loving God, the Heart of Mary, and St. Anthony Claret for the very special gift of your call and vocation as a Claretian Missionary. We hope that these years of formation will be filled with joy, challenge, excitement and, before all else, profound intimacy with Christ, the Evangelizer and Missionary. Your presence with us gives us great hope for the future of our Province and Congregation. We are confident that your vocation will bring Good News of hope and life to God's People.

We urge you to follow the example of our Founder by always being focused on Christ. May your humble service, identification with the poor and oppressed, acceptance of your call to be sent, and willingness to embrace suffering and give your life for others lead you daily to the fulfillment of your mission. Remain close to the Word and God's People, especially the poor, and you will have the strength and courage to live your vocation with Saint Anthony Claret, the Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro, Blessed Andrés Solá, and so many other faithful Claretian Missionaries who have gone before us bearing the cross of discipleship. Your life, now as a student and forever, will be a prophetic witness of God's Reign—bringing new life, peace, justice, and love to all the world!



GOD OF ALL CREATION,

We praise and bless you for having enriched your Church with the way of holiness and apostolate of St. Anthony Mary Claret, our founder and father. We humbly implore you to send new workers to our Congregation and pour fourth your Spirit upon those you have chosen. Strengthen us in our missionary vocation and, impelled by the love of Christ, make us true Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to proclaim to all peoples the Good News of the Kingdom. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



*“A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
is a man on fire with love,
who spreads its flames wherever he goes.
He desires mightily and strives by all means possible
to set everyone on fire with God’s love.
Nothing daunts him: he delights in privations, welcomes work,
embraces sacrifices, smiles at slander,
rejoices in all the torments and sorrows he suffers,
and glories in the cross of Jesus Christ.
His only concern is how he may follow Christ and imitate him
in praying, working, enduring and striving constantly
and solely for the greater glory of God
and the salvation of humankind.”*

—Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
Autobiography, paragraph 494.