



# Project of the VOCATIONAL PROMOTION

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## **I. INTRODUCTION to the PLAN.**

- The departing point is to be very aware that the vocation, as much the life and the faith, is a gratuitous gift of God. We only can help to make it conscious and to accompany the journey of deepening and answer.

- Jesus invites us to pray for the vocations: "The harvest is much... you request to the owner of the harvest shipment workers" Mt. 9,37.

- The Church needs this Pastoral. "The vocational dimension is essential and innate to the pastoral of the Church, that is to say, to its life and its mission... In fact the call of the Church to communicate the faith, is based on the theology of the pastoral vocational... (Apostolic Exhortation of J P II *Pastores Dabo Vobis*).
- As baptized and especially as religious and pastoral agents, "we should pray and be committed in a careful promotion and selection of vocations... The best recommendation in the Institute and the most effective invitation to follow the religious life are the testimony of our personal and community life" (Missionary Constitutions Claretianas 74).
- It is necessary to take conscience that ALL pastoral activity is vocational. "The whole pastoral, and in particular the one of the youth.
- There cannot be true Pastoral Vocational if it isn't connected to the process of education of the young ones, and even pastoral of the families. The goal of the catechesis is to grow in the knowledge of God and in the personal relationship with Him.
- In the education of the CHRISTIAN FAITH we should integrate the "Plan of Vocational promotion" and mission of the claretians: "In imitation of the Apostles to work until death in teaching all creature the Good News of the Gospel (María Antonia Paris)... The apostle has apostolic zeal, wants and strive by all possible means that God may be always known, loved and served... " (S. Antonio M. Claret).

## II. Plan

Ones we know that there are young people who feel the call to become claretian and join the Congregation, we esteem necessary to think about the Vocational Prom. for this concrete situation.

When planning the activities we need to keep in mind at least three aspects:

- \* The background - ecclesial and congregacional.
- \* The cultural reality and particularly of the youth (age, place of where they are, family and religious context, etc.)
- \* Practical aspects of times and places to facilitate the participation in the meetings or interviews.

### 1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

**To help to discover and to accompany the processes of growth  
in the vocational path of the young ones so that they respond to the personal vocation  
and mission that God has for each one.**

### 2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- 1) to help the young ones to recognize their vocation like person and Christian
- 2) to accompany the processes of faith that helps them to grow in their Christian vocation
- 3) to give them elements so that they discern their religious vocation
- 4) to accompany in their process those who feel called to the claretian vocation
- 5) to accompany this process until the person makes a free and conscious decision.

### 3. CRITERIAS OF the Vocational PROMOTION:

- ✿ The authentic vocational promotion has origin in the conviction that ALL PERSON is an original gift of God for the world and the Church and wait to be discovered or developed.
- ✿ It is necessary to elaborate a systematic plan of personal accompaniment that responds to the reality and necessities.
- ✿ To introduce the person by the process of internalising and deepening of the own personal identity to discern the will of God about her life. To make grow the personal integration in the dimension of her woman being.
- ✿ To work with insistence on the aspects of relationship and affectivity: capacity of mature human relationships, with the other sex too. Integration of feelings and affective experiences.
- ✿ To deepen the Christian dimension of their life. To strengthen the Faith like personal response to God who comes out to welcome us.
- ✿ To take care from the beginning about the listening to the Word of God to facilitate them the deep experience of God.
- ✿ To propose the commitment and pastoral service in their parish communities as an element of vocational discernment for our apostolic and missionary charism.
- ✿ To make a serious and critic selection of vocations. It is specially important to clarify their motivations.
- ✿ The way of the Vocational Promotion is a long process! It is necessary to accompany him with patience and ecclesial sense, without accelerating and burning stages.

### 4. MEANS THAT we CONSIDER IMPORTANT for this pastoral:

- a. the Accompaniment through the personal relationship
- b. the Encounters or group meetings: days of reflection
- c. materials to read, to pray and to work.
- d. to motivate them to and to demand them serious and consistent apostolic experiences.

### 5. ORIENTATIONS TO PREPARE THE ENCOUNTERS

We propose some orientations, activities and concrete contents. We suggest as the most important thing that the leader dedicates time to deepen the material; with that knowledge he or she will discover ideas and possibilities that adapted to the group will work.

**We suggest**

## 1. Explanation of the session:

Suggestions of the steps to follow in the Encounter. The process of the session, personal work or of group, other activities;

And contents - Written description of the themes to be presented on the encounters

## 2. Draft of personal work

A questionnaire for the participants in the encounter, with the orientations.

## 3. Suggestions for prayer

We should not develop any Encounter without some moments dedicated to the prayer. In this section suggestions are given to prepare it.

## 4. Materials

The audiovisual material is very pedagogic for the work with young. There are proposals and suggestions as a help for the presentation, deepening or complementation of the topic.

## 5. Documentation

Articles. Ecclesial or congregational documents that enlarge the possibilities for the development of the topic.

**II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENCOUNTERS.****I - ENCOUNTER - The call to the life - personal vocation****Objectives to reach:**

- To internalize the presence of God in their life
- To provide them some instruments to discover the sense of their life
- To discover, or at least reflect, on the "election and the mission" that God has created for each one.

## 1. Knowing one another - presentations.

We have already identified the young ones we know and we have accompanied personally during some time and we see the convenience of inviting them to participate in an encounter.

We have invited them to share this day to pray, to learn, to know one another, to share experiences; and to discover the vocation that God has for each one of us.

- Each participant's presentation:

Who are you?: short personal history, current situation: personal projects (work, family, studies), pastorals, social commitments .....

Why you are here? What do you look for? Experiences that have brought you here, motivations...

- Brief presentation. Who are the Claretian Missionary?

Brief presentation of the Congregation:

History, places where we are and mission that we live...  
 Organization of the Congregation and Claretian. Family  
 Charism: presentation of the essential elements.

(There are also materials that can help in it.)

## 2. Methodology and activities

- Create atmosphere of trust and happiness - with a lot of freedom of participation.
- Offer the internalizing reflection so that the young can deepen their personal reality

Do not forget a moment of the prayer on the Word of God.

Insist from the beginning on the importance of the community dimension: by dialogues, the communication and interpersonal relationship

- Possible activities:
  - Questionnaire and dynamics for the personal reflection and the work of groups
  - pictures o imagines
  - Work suggestions and materials for the youth to prepare the next encounter.
- Visual material
  - Map: "where we are and what we do."
  - Audiovisual of the Congregation. (slides, video)

## 3. Moment of prayer

### 4. Personal work

A questionnaire for the participants with the orientations, readings, work to propose,

### 5. Documentation

Ecclesial or congregacional documents.

## **Subsidies**

### 1. BRIEF PRESENTATION of THE Christian SENSE OF THE EXISTENCE

Prepare a brief introductory chat that prepares and illuminates the personal reflection. Some ideas can be presented:

To start from the idea that it is not a case that I live, rather God has given me life and all life is vocation. God pronounces my name and He calls me to exist.

Discover the call of God, the Name which He calls me with, is to discover my personal vocation. "The Lord gives me a hearing of disciple and the capacity to hear his voice."

**God...**

" has given me the existence like an unique and unrepeatable being...

" has given me an original name...

" has given me life and being. A life and the being to be configured in a original-unrepeatable way...

" The call and the name He has given are my BEING and my MISSION...

" has made me "the reflect of one of his Son's aspect" and this reflect is my identity that identify me.

" That call - that name- is my source, my well. The more I drink from it, more I will be myself...

**By my part I have to:**

" listen, to discover, to respond welcoming this personal vocation as the only possibility I have of being myself because that personal vocation gives me "identity" and it unifies my interior world; it gives sense to my life and becomes the strength to carry out the mission

**2. EXERCISE OF PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

Select among the suggestions for work the one more suitable to the group .

Atmosphere: the silence and soft music can help to dedicate a while to think and to pray with the draft for the personal work

We can offer several exercises, and see before hand, which are more appropriate for the concrete encounter we are carrying out and which can be left for personal work as preparation of the next encounter.

**First step:** To make the assigned exercise in writing and answer the questions.

**Second step:** to take it for the prayer to see if the light of God confirms me in what I discover or not.

**Third step:** to make a synthesis of the feelings and ideas that I have experienced while making the exercises.

**3. Visual material**

It can be very useful the exercise of the "Photo-word" for the moment of Sharing. It consists on the following thing: the leader or the participants select pictures, of similar size and format, of significant, symbolic meaning: through them they can express the feelings or ideas that they have discovered in the personal reflection that I have made. We can expose some pictures and live them to be chosen .

**Example:**

- a. the pictures are placed in the floor so that they can pick them easily
- b. put instrumental music that helps to the reflection while all in silence go around looking at the pictures. Looking for the one that expresses better what they have to share: What does this picture express about who you are?
- c. after few minutes, (5 or 6) of music, each one picks up the selected picture. It can happen that more than one want to use the same picture to be presented, but no problem.
- d. each one with the picture expresses what she has reflected.

**4. Personal work**

**For the personal reflection**

1. How the Lord has called me through my history? Which Word of God, event, person, experience have made me sensitive to the Lord's call?

2. Make silence and meditate on: WHO I am NOW and HERE.

- Score in a paper the things that I am aware in my present time.

- Review MY HISTORY of life as a history of SALVATION... The most significant events. Enumerate them.

- Take notes of things that I am discovering

- Do I accept WHO I am...?

- How the prayer and personal relation with Jesus help me to accept my life?

- Which things are more difficult to accept in my life? What does make me proud of main and happy?

- How do I believe that God accepts me?

The leader of the Encounter will select the exercises that he or she believes more convenient

**FIRST EXERCISE:**

What or who spontaneously attracts me, call my attention in the life?

- identify 4 or 5 things, which spontaneously I desire more

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- go through analyzing each one of them thinking and feeling why I am attracted by these things.

Which of those things I feel deeper in me?

**How do I experience God in those things?**

**SECOND EXERCISE:**

We don't live alone in this world. How do I live the relationships with others?

With which type of persons I feel more comfortable?

Make a list of your friends.

Why they are your friends, what do you like of each one of them?

Do I have more friends boys or girls?

When I don't know the people in the school, work, neighbourhood..., do I begin the conversation and easily approach them?

Do I like to work or to study alone or in group? Why?

**How do the people that I know speak to me about God? What do I discover through them about God?**

**THIRD EXERCISE:**

What experiences do I consider the most important in my life...?

- Recall 3 or 4 experiences that you have lived and you consider very important for your life.

What has changed in my life after these experiences and what have I learned d in those experiences?

**How did God call me and work in me in those experiences?**

**FOURTH EXERCISE:**

What has helped me to overcome problems, difficulties, crisis...?

Identify the things that helped you more: people, feelings, words, situations, attitudes...

Why do I believe that that thing, person... helped me to overcome and to go ahead? What does give me strength?

**How do I discover the vocation of God in those experiences?**

**FIFTH EXERCISE:**

Which are my favourite biblical texts?

- Identify 4 or 5 favourite biblical texts.

Is there any relation among them?

- Try to describe each one of them and see why I am attached to them. What do I feel God speak to me in each one of these texts?

**How does the Lord call me through His Word?**

*After my reflection and prayer I try to discover which is my vocation and personal mission.*

## 5. Documentation

Ecclesial or congregational documents that enlarge the possibilities for the development the topic.

## II ENCOUNTER: THE VOCATION TO THE FAITH

### I. Presentation of the Encounter.

Brief description of the Encounter in group.:

### **GOD CALLS US TO LIVE A FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM.**

#### ***Objectives:***

- To deepen the meaning of the faith as personal relationship with God.
- The Christian faith has the centre God the Father of Jesus from Nazareth.
- Purification of some images of God.

#### 1. Development of the session:

Suggestions for the work and process of the session, personal work and in a group, other activities; schedule of the activities.

#### 2. Contents

Written description of the content that will be communicated. – it can be something like this:

We are the people of faith. And it is out of the faith that we illuminate the whole sense of the life and the personal vocation to which God calls us.

#### SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAITH:

I believe that I have faith. Why?

From whom I have received the faith?

What is the faith for me? How would it describe it?

Do I believe in something or in somebody? How do I differentiate it?

Have I felt the personal call to the faith? In what experiences have I felt it?

How would I describe that call?

#### MATERIALS TO WORK:

**The biblical texts** are presented down or others that the leader feels opportune. They can be selected to make exercises or to meditate on them, to pray with them until the next encounter. It is useful that the texts selected to work individually during the encounter and others for the time after the meeting.

#### **Biblical texts to meditate:**

There are texts that speak about the call of God, of the election, of his tenderness and love towards us.

Read the texts slowly and try to deepen that God realizes what that Word says. Dedicate enough time to each one of the texts, "to test" the call God makes me through them.

Genesis: 12, 1-4. 17, 15-16. Call of Abram and Sara: new name and mission...  
 Exodus: 3, 2-10... compassion of God and Mission of Moses... 33, 12-17... 34, 6-9... Numbers: 6, 24-27 blessing of God..  
 Deuteronomy: 7, 7-9  
 I Samuel: 2, 1-10, song of Ana. 3, 1-10...  
 God calls us in the night... 16, 6-7... 12-13. Election of David: God always chooses the small one ..  
 Isaiah: 35, 1-7, (especially the 4)  
     41, mainly the verses: 8.10.13.14-20; 42, 6-7  
     43, 1-7; ; 45, 1-4; 49, 1-6. the 14 and mainly 15 16. 61, 1-11  
 Jeremiah: 1, 4-8; 10, 23; 15, 16. 20-21; 17, 7-10; 18, 1-6 ...20, 7-12... 31, 1-9. 31 - 34; Ezekiel: 2,1-2. 5-8; 16,1-8; 36, 24-28; 37,1-14. the strength of God calls to the life from the death.  
 Hosea: 2, 21-22; 11, 1-9  
 Miqueas: 6, 8  
 Sofonia: 3, 14-17  
 Zacaria: 2, 14-16  
 Ester: 14, 1-19  
 Wisdom: 6, 11-20; 9, 9-18.  
 Psalms 18, 23(22), 27 (26) 40 (39) 86 (85) 89 (88), 103 (102) 139 (138)

Identify the texts of the New Testament that tell me about the call.

## PRESENTATION OF SOME VOCATIONAL TESTIMONIES

### THE VOCATION IN THE BIBLE:

Old Testament  
 New testament

The Christian vocation: THE Following of JESUS

- Who is Jesus: what does he teach me to believe and to do?

## MATERIALS TO READ AND TO WORK.

Texts for personal reflection:

1 Thym 2, 5  
 Rm 6, 3 // 8, 29  
 Gal 3, 27  
 Eph 4, 12  
 Jer 31, 31-34  
 Ez 11, 17-20  
 Ez 36, 24-28

## FOR THE REFLECTION ON THE TEXTS

Questions to help to read and understand the text a little and then to see what does it tell me and what can say to God...

## III ENCOUNTER: THE CLARETIAN VOCATION

Objectives:

- mutual acknowledge .
- That know the Congregation.

- To introduce in the spirituality and apostolate characteristic of the Congregation.

SOME QUESTIONS on the way

**For the young ones:**

Do you believe that you have qualities for the religious life ? Write them down.

What is for you the religious life?

What do you expect from it ones you join?

Why do you want to be a religious? Make a list of all motives that move you to become religious.

For what purpose do you want to be a religious? Make a list: I Want to be religious for ... Make a list as long as you can.

What do you know about the Claretians? History, mission, where are they, what do they do?

What do you like more in the Claretians?

What do you like less in the Claretians?

**For who accompanies her:**

Try to help her to discover the real motivations. Look if by her side there is the experience of God: Does Jesus appear in it? Not only in her words rather in her actions. Is there sincerity and transparency in her communication?

Criteria to accept young ones to the first formation stages

- That she has participated in this process to know her and to know us. She may offer certain guarantee of continuity in the vocational path.
- Although the accompaniment begins 2 or 3 years before, it is convenient that the girls is at least 18 years old when she begin the Aspirancy.
- she has finished the studies that facilitate the access to the university or equivalent.
- knowledge of the English language.
- That she has begun the experience of prayer,
- normal relationship with the persons of the same and the other sex.
- some apostolic commitment although it is small.

## **Subsidies**

1. Presentation of the Congregation
2. Vocational experience in Bible
3. History of the Foundation – draft
4. Prayers and suggestions

*General Prefecture of Formation*