

## GFASC –Missionary Year – Reflection 1



Clelian  
**MISSIONARY**  
YEAR

To Love Is Our Mission!

### **TO LOVE IS OUR MISSION**

*“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature”  
(Mark 16: 15)*

The Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are dedicating the year 2020 to its missions, with the slogan **“To Love is our Mission” – Clelian Missionary Year.**

United with the Congregation, GFASC will prepare reflections on the importance of mission in the life of every Christian.

Mother Clelia, with her charism, is bringing the tenderness of the Heart of Jesus to the world through the Apostles and all of us who follow in her footsteps. The theme of the missionary year, **“To Love is our Mission,”** is a challenge for all of us; it is the open door to understanding that only love can transform our hearts.

Each part of the symbol for the year has a particular meaning: the **LOGO** represents the world surrounded by the love of the Sacred Heart and our love; the **HEARTS** of different colors represent the countries of our missions in the various continents; the **CROSS** at the center symbolizes the unity and communication among persons as a sign of the communion between God and humanity. **“TO LOVE IS OUR MISSION”** expresses the essence of the Apostle’s being, sharing the

mission of the first apostles to spread the love of Jesus to the entire world.

We all are invited to begin this mission within our families, with our relatives, with our neighbors, in our parish communities, in our workplaces, in our GFASC groups, in our streets, in our many works of charity—wherever we are, aware that the mission of each one of us is to love.

Our mission is passionate and great. Love is always relevant; it never grows old and is the deepest longing of the human heart.

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**MOTHER CLELIA: THE TRUE  
MISSIONARY WHO IMPELS US TO  
LOVE**

***(From “Diary of Mother Clelia  
Merloni” Nicola Gori)***

Christ is in love with His creatures and has placed no limits on His tenderness toward them (p. 49).

Jesus asked her to show patience and tenderness toward whoever would come in contact with her, beginning with those closest to her (p. 60).

Furthermore, she felt within her the pressing need not only to love the Heart of Christ, but also to ensure that others love Him. Her zeal to reciprocate such great love consumed her and gave her no rest. She had ever before her Jesus’ request: “Make everyone know that I hunger, I thirst, and I die from my desire to be accepted by my creatures.” These words were etched firmly in her soul and gave her no possibility of escape. Jesus pleaded with her, wanted her to know His desire to be loved by His brothers and sisters. (p. 65)

I think that I lack zeal, but that which I can't do by means of zealous activity, I am totally disposed to do by means of prayer and sacrifice in union with the infinite merits of the most precious Blood of Jesus and with my daily prayer to obtain great zeal for the Glory of God. (p. 164)

I will try harder each day to give You new evidence of my love (p. 209).

If I loved my neighbor a little more sincerely, that love would make me flexible and strong enough to bear the defects of others and to be indulgent in forgiving them; with these virtues I would not let myself be overcome by anger. (p. 221)

### **MOTHER CLELIA**

"I most warmly recommend that you have a bit of zeal for the glory of God, because it is impossible to love God and yet make no effort to promote His glory, just as it is impossible for a daughter to be indifferent about upholding her father's honor, or not to feel sad because of injustices that come his way, or not to rejoice when honors are bestowed on him. When divine love is truly in the heart, there rises a great desire to see God known, love, and served, a profound sorrow for offenses committed against this good God, and an ardent zeal to lead back to Him the sinners who have abandoned Him." (*Spiritual Anthology*, p. 165)

### **POPE FRANCIS**

"I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a

mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love."  
*(Message for World Mission Day 2019)*

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**Pledge:** We are invited to journey as families, with our gaze always on Jesus, our companion. In Him and thanks to Him, we wish to draw the wisdom of heart that will teach us to bring to today's world the beauty of the Gospel: to help us to live and realize in our everyday actions all that the Lord Jesus calls us to do.

**I want to be a missionary where I am:**

- I will value the good in every person and generously share my own gifts.
  
  - I will perform small acts of love toward my neighbor, especially my family members.
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***Let us pray with Mother Clelia***

*O my God, You who have chosen me as an object of your special tenderness, in the name of Jesus I thank You!*

*O my God, who even when I would offend You, You did not cease to do good for me, in the name of Jesus.... I thank You!*

*O my God, who gave me a sound intellect, a right attitude, a loving heart, in the name of Jesus I thank You!*

*(Diary of Mother Clelia, pp. 220-221)*

