



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 28, 2009

Contact: Bro. Rene Lepage, Secretary

626-289-2009

Web sites: [www.claretian.com](http://www.claretian.com)

---

## **Fr. Josep Abella, C.M.F., re-elected Superior General of Claretian Congregation for the next six years**

ROME--The Congregation of Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretian Missionaries), presently gathered in Rome celebrating their XXIV General Chapter as of August 11th, have re-elected Rev. Josep M. Abella Batlle, as the Superior General of the Congregation for the next six years.

“I am sincerely grateful for the trust that the members of Chapter have shown to me and I hope that both they and all of you will accompany me during this new six-year term with your prayers, your brotherly love and your understanding,” said Fr. Abella. “I repeat what I told you six years ago when I was entrusted with this responsibility for the first time: you can count on my time, my energy and everything that I can give of myself in the coming years.”

Fr. Abella was born on November 3, 1949 in Lleida, Spain. He was professed on August 22, 1966 and sent to Japan in 1969, still being a seminarian. He was later ordained to the priesthood on July 12, 1975. Besides his presbyteral studies he has also extensively studied the Japanese language and culture. He was coordinator of the Diocesan Animation Team for six years for the Archdiocese of Osaka and also did pastoral parish work, pastoral youth education and lay formation.

Fr. Abella has been a General Consultor for the Claretian Missionaries and General Prefect of Ministry over a 12 year period. He has also assumed the role of religious advisor of the Lay Claretian movement. He was first elected Superior General of the Congregation in 2003 and now re-elected in 2009 for a new term of six years. He assumes the role of Superior General as 12th in succession to that of the founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret.

The Claretians are a Roman Catholic religious community of priests and brothers in more than 60 countries on six continents. Their ministries are devoted to social concerns and issues of justice and peace in parishes, foreign missions, and publishing.

Claretian Missionaries-Western Province, Inc.

414 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776 ~ Tel: 626-289-2009 ~ Fax: 626-289-2222 ~ [usawestprov@earthlink.net](mailto:usawestprov@earthlink.net)