

**Summary of CLC Central Assembly
September 13-15, 2013
Manresa Retreat Centre, Pickering, Ontario**

Theme: Rekindle the Grace of 2010: Christ Has Been Born

The Assembly was held as part of the CLC's celebration of its 3rd anniversary of the Common Apostolic Mission for the people of Haiti. The purpose was to revisit and reflect on the 2010 assembly, and to determine where God is leading us now.

PARTICIPANTS:

City of God	Tom Goettler, Dorothy Goettler, Magee McGuire
Companions	Fr. JP Horrigan, Pandora Khor, Peter Nightingale, Elaine Regan-Nightingale
Companions of Jesus	Christa Streicher
Companions Upper Room	Kyoko Leung
CVX French Canada	Dominique Cyr
Embraced in Divine Love	Margie Gillis, Phyla James, Fred Lawler
Fidelis	Fran Morrison, Michelle Willoughby
Fishers	Jewel Laciste
Fruitful Garden	Mary Stevens
Holy Ground	Peter Peloso, Barbara, Peloso
Joyful Seekers	Jim Scherer
Northern Lights	Mary Balfe, Tom Balfe
Burlington	Julie Dwyer-Young
Ottawa	John Sumarah
Our Lady of the Way	Tony Salvosa, Yvonne Stewart, Rev. Ken Sylvan
Pilgrims on a Journey	Adrienne De Schutter, Tarcia Gerwing
Rooted in Christ	Daphne Stockman
Roses of Mary Toronto	Laarni Muya
Spring of Living Water	Judith DeWitt, Lidvina Yoon
Upper Room	Sylvia MacInnis
The Oratory	Tim Thomas
Vine Community	Margaret Kim, Clara Ye
EA	JP Horrigan
Guest	Fr. Mario Serrano
Facilitator	Jack Milan

Friday, September 13, 2013

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Adrienne De Schutter, Coordinator of Communities, convened the program at 7:15pm, welcomed everyone present and reviewed the purpose of the assembly. Introductions were done and special mention was made of Fr. Mario Serrano, who had been invited to share his accomplishments and other

projects being undertaken at Centro Bono a Jesuit Social Agency in the Dominican Republic of which he is the Director.

Judith De Witt, Central Rep to National, read a letter of greeting from Fr. Charles Pate, CLC National Ecclesiastical Assistant wishing us God's guidance in our deliberations. She went through the housekeeping rules for the benefit of the assembly.

OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer session was facilitated by Margie Gilles, who led the assembly in song with "Open My Eyes Lord" while displaying a slide of two women depicting the *visitation*.

OUR PERSONAL GRACED HISTORY:

Facilitated by Jack Milan, the assembly was divided into 7 groups to enable sharing of personal graced experiences that led us each to be where we were in CLC at that point in time. The following is a combination of comments as a result of the group sharing, in response to the question "What impressed me as I listened to the others?"

- God's presence in everyone's life. God is with everyone and everywhere in their lives
- God speaks to each one of us in the way that we hear
- God is everywhere; he answers our prayers in the way he feels fit
- Trust in God working in our lives
- God uses many different ways and we do not know how we will touch each other
- The transforming power of God's presence in our life
- The wonderful tapestry of experiences
- God has arranged things so that paths have crossed tonight for His greater glory.

Saturday, September 14, 2013

OPENING:

The day convened with opening remarks by Adrienne. Margie led the opening prayers referencing Deuteronomy 1:29-31 in comparison with our individual journey to date.

OUR COMMUNAL GRACED HISTORY:

Jack facilitated a brainstorming session to identify what actions were taken and to evaluate the events in the history of the Common Apostolic Mission of CLC Central to date. For a full record of this session, refer to Appendix One at the end of this document.

These events revealed a great sense of commitment overall, the positives (and negatives) realized by sharing of experiences in relation to the mission for the poor of Haiti. Members noted this had been a prophetic call for CLC Central.

One participant observed "*I saw that mission **IS** possible for CLC. That CLC can work in collaboration with others and through this mission members are becoming more faithful, committed and engaged. There have been many fruits resulting from this mission. This is how God works – it is clearly the work of the divine*"

Although some newer members felt lost and had many questions about the communal mission, it emphasized the need for better communication. Overall, there was a sense of accomplishment and success in this venture although it was still in its infancy.

THE AFTERNOON INCLUDED A SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS:

- Review of the original 2010 communal discernment by Mary Balfe
- World Assembly presentation by Mary Balfe
- Overview of poverty in Hispaniola – Fr. JP Horrigan
- 2011 insertion trip by Adrienne De Schutter
- 2012 insertion trip by Jewel Laciste
- 2013 Retreat for pre-CVX in Haiti by Leanne Salel
- Overview of Centro Bono by Fr. Mario Serrano
- Lessons learned from 4% Campaign by Fr. Mario Serrano

LEBANON ASSEMBLY 2013:

Mary, CLC English Canada National Co-President, gave an overview of the **16th World Assembly Lebanon 2013**, which she attended together with YOUNG Adult, Leanne Salel and Elaine Regan-Nightingale, and thanked everyone for their prayers while they were away. She highlighted the following:

- Celebration of the 450th jubilee year of Ignatian lay communities;
- There was a great diversity of nations and culture that was recognized and celebrated at the assembly;
- New communities were welcomed from Botswana, Guatemala and Lithuania
- CLC is an apostolic organization for lay members, and there are different levels at which they can participate:
 - Performance of daily activities on a personal level whether at home, in family or otherwise
 - Institutional presence as a body
 - Engagement in international action

In order to make it all worthwhile, members must live their Ignatian lay vocation in daily life.

CONTEXT FOR POVERTY AMONG HAITIANS:

Fr. JP clarified the confusion being caused by negative media around the destruction of Haiti – he explained that most damage was in the city of Port au Prince and as such the infrastructure to run the country was no longer there. CLC has been supporting the poor Haitians who have migrated to the Dominican Republic looking for jobs. Adrienne talked about the energy derived from the Insertion trip to Hispaniola (including both the Dominican Republic and Haiti). She discussed support for the school in La Cienauga (the Swamp) and the group from Belgium with whom there is collaboration for funding of the school. CLC is contributing to a wholistic approach and is helping to fund, teachers, psychologists and nutrition this year.

Leanne Salel joined the assembly by Skype and shared her reflection of her trip to Haiti with Giles for the formation of a pre-CLC group among youth in Haiti. She recommended that we continue this dialogue with the youth and ask them to identify any needs for support. Haiti's wish to become part of the World CVX-CLC community would be an exciting project and one of the issues would be to determine who would godparent it. Leanne recently moved to BC and is hoping to get involved with a new Vancouver CLC.

HELPING HAITIANS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

Fr. Mario described his role as Director, Centro Bono in the Dominican Republic. Besides being coordinator for the 4 Centros Bonos in the Dominican Republic, he deals with social and political issues and development of the pastoral and spiritual branch in the country; training of leaders and investment of time in youth through training and organizing networks, lobbying and advocacy.

Fr. Mario walked through his strategies for successfully carrying out a campaign for 4% of the country's GNP for education. This was an entitlement for the people that had not been provided by the government in the past.

Currently, his priorities are:

- Tax Justice – analyze budget and educate people
- Haitian Migrants – poorest in the country; campaign for hospitality; agreement for new management of migrants; Dominicans of Haitian descendants
- Environment and Mining – water sources are being confiscated because of mining being undertaken by two international companies

In conclusion, he advised us to:

- Focus on the structures: the greater need, the more universal good
- Build bridges and develop networks
- Look for inspiration, hope and strength through contact with the poor
- Empower the weak, work with and not for them

Sunday, September 15, 2013

OPENING:

Margie led the opening prayers and set the tone for the morning by asking people to breakdown the walls that divide us and proclaim the joy.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE REGION:

Resulting from the brainstorming session, it was determined that a working group should be set up to discuss the suggestions brought forward and to decide on the next steps to be taken in addressing the requirements of the Common Apostolic Mission. (*See the details of the brainstorm sessions in Appendix Two at the end of this document*).

CLOSING MASS:

The closing mass was officiated by Father JP Horrigan and included the inauguration of new members of CREXCO (Central Region Executive Committee), namely:

- Magee McGuire, Central Region Representative to National
- Elaine Regan Nightingale, Formation Representative
- Phyola James, Central Region Secretary

The search continues for new a Coordinator of Communities/Project Lead for Common Apostolic Mission and Treasurer for Central Region. *Note: since the assembly, Phyola has also withdrawn her name as secretary due to other commitments.*

CLC Central Assembly September 13-15, 2013

BRAINSTORM SESSION

APPENDIX ONE: SATURDAY MORNING EVALUATING OUR COMMON APOSTOLIC MISSION FOR HAITIANS		
VERBS REPRESENTING ACTIONS DONE IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON APOSTOLIC MISSION		
praying signing petitions collaborating emailing making friends making phone calls translating coordinating planning celebrating	discussing evaluating tabulating data reporting travelling letter writing article writing reading fund raising	business transacting donating educating researching supporting imaging connecting giving talks recruiting insertion trip
TIMELINE AND EVALUATION OF EVENTS		
<p>POSITIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cluster meetings – sharing of experiences - Yard sale – when people hear our story, experience commitment, they are generous - CLC/CVX had joint mission – shows that it is possible to act across cultural lines in common mission - Sharing of story in relation to mission encourages others - creating unity to make world community - In face of donor fatigue there is still energy – we are based on something strong – GOD. - Pope Francis is a model for CLC – evangelization - CVX Dominican Republic ??? about Mission (another way to communicate in the region with sisters – sharing of the story encourages others – we are creating community; signs of our success - We have just scratched the surface – can only get better - Very transformative when anybody visited Haiti and shared their experiences, call for a simpler lifestyle; it helps the whole group if just one member visits and shares <p><u>Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Leanne and Giles went to Port au Prince retreats o June – Garage sale raised \$1,100- 3-cluster event in Kitchener in the rain (Telling the story and getting the support – sort stuff together. People were energized – it really mattered) o November – Rooted in Christ CLC group sold wreaths etc. for Christmas were motivated by pictures from Haiti – compassion stirred by images which were powerful - 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jan 2011 – first joint CLC/CVX insertion trip to Hispaniola – 9 persons – our eyes were opened; that experience enthused/energized other groups to get involved o Young people of Toronto organised sale of donut and coffee after mass, once a month, in collaboration with the Toronto groups to raise money for Haiti o A young woman made soup and was willing to go on subway – shows commitment and sacrifice 		

- We had people acting on site for the first time
- JP travelled to the Dominican Republic – makes it personal, not just a theoretical good idea to offer monetary support
- Ovaminte – inspired the cooperative to pay a living wage to women to send their children to school
- Bernard, Andree; Leanne joined CVX Canada – formed bridge between CLC and CVX on Haitian Mission (LeeAnne, Beth in East and West)
- October 2011 – 4% Education – World CLC/CVX responds with political pressure – the law states that the DR government should invest 4% in Education. Organizations got together to apply political pressure and they got the 4%
- 2010 –
 - JP, Mary met with Michael Churney
 - Spring 2010 – Council says Yes to CBX Canada (preceded Michael Churney’s comment).

NEGATIVES

- Members quit because of communal mission –
 - felt suffocated by corporate mission; time would be taken from their own prayer life experience in their own group by admitting others into their boundaries
 - resistance out of fear that ministries may be watered down (fear of fatigue, lack of clarity; fear of all or nothing;
 - people are comfortable with Jesus and their message but uncomfortable with people telling how to lead their group;
 - people do not want to relinquish their individuality for collective action
 - people in CLC choose it because of the individual nature of the CLC journey
 - need for ongoing education – people have to know the context

Any effective communication is difficult if not done face to face. Education is an enormous task and is difficult and not rewarding – you can’t motivate the unmotivated.

We should use a different type of communication – more pictures and less text; adjusting down expectation. We need to clarify the Common Mission

- Negative media – funds not getting through – doubt because of negative news
- Discouragement – we are part of a larger system of forces; common mission is very messy;
- We cannot fix the tragedy - helplessness in the face of suffering; call to Ignatian tool – evaluation

APPENDIX TWO: MOVING FORWARD – SUNDAY MORNING

RESPONSES TO “OUR HISTORY SAYS TO ME THAT...”:

- there is energy in taking risk
- shifting our focus – growing like we are hatching
- there are more positives than negatives (even in negatives there are positives)
- CAM has been successful because we can see we are being transformed
- we thought we chose mission but we were chosen for the mission
- we brought our 5 loaves so let God multiply
- had we said no, we would have missed source of grace
- power in large collaboration, especially 4% campaign
- we responded to Mary’s invitation and did what Jesus told us to do (Cana wedding)
- when we say “yes”, God surprises

- still need to move Mt. Everest to conquer
- evidence of empowerment of people of Haiti
- prayers, interiority Ignatian tools and collaborative action for the reign of Christ
- there is so much more going on than we were aware of
- this was a response to a prophetic call;
- 2nd week graces – working with Haitians outside of Haiti; 3rd week graces – working with people in Haiti; Christ on the cross – go to Haiti;
- Central Region is growing up – “growing” more than “giving” and more than persons are receiving;
- CLC’s visibility is in Mission.

RESPONSES TO “OUR HISTORY SAYS TO ME THAT WE NEED TO...”:

- risk the suffering that comes with disappointment and setbacks;
- continue to support Haiti, not for all communities, but for those who choose;
- pick up the experience of the 3rd week of the Spiritual Exercises, integrate with G.P. 8 and the call to evangelization re have an integrated approach – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts;
- need to have a good plan for communication;
- continue to build and foster collaboration and partnerships;
- celebrate our 40th anniversary by being a contemplative region in action pre-CLC in Port au Prince and in the Swamp School;
- carry insights and grace from our prophetic call back to our communities;
- work with the new communities to educate around C.A.M.;
- continue to support financially in the short term but be present in the long term – charity and justice;
- encourage each community to have members make an insertion trip as a means of communicating the Common Apostolic Mission back home;
- pass on Fr. Mario’s information we got last night;
- link up with D&P on a deeper level;
- collaborate with other allied organizations – we are small;
- strike a working group to bring all of these strategies forward and develop;
- encourage social media networking with young people;
- encourage seeing the larger picture and interconnections;
- focus - DSSE;
- commit to ongoing formation in 3 pillars of CLC as inter-related and equally important;
- evaluate, discern and decide about our Haitian mission before taking on the international mining issue, or any other – focus;
- clarify “Mission Project” vs “Mission” given to us in Jesus;
- encourage communities to explore the four “Stages of Growth” document re Common Mission;
- set realistic expectations and goals based on members’ ability and availability to participate;
- form CLC coalition around our apostolic mission by asking CLC Canada to discern whether they will adopt a Haitian apostolate and ? central region to approach other nationals and find a unifying issue re Haiti;
- form a working group for CAM in the region.