

CLUSTERS: CLUSTERS: CLUSTERS

submitted by Peter Peloso

Recently I noticed we had not been seeing many of our CLC members. Our regional meetings happen once a year and are not always well attended. I also notice that some of our members are getting older and perhaps dropping out of CLC. Then there was the issue that we were having difficulty collecting dues and getting volunteers for the executive. I consulted with a few people here, and I decided that I should call our local clusters together to pray, spend time together, and consider our future.

The Clusters, which came together, represent seven communities from our area, as well as a group from Toronto. Again, **our purpose in coming together was simple: to BE community, share the story of our common CLC way of life, and enjoy one another's company.**

We rented space at the retreat house in Guelph and planned our time together from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The agenda was as follows:

- **Mass**
- **A talk by Jack Milan on letters between St. Ignatius and the Jesuits who were out in the mission field**
- **Followed by a brief discussion and lunch**
- **In the afternoon we watched a 30 min. video of John English S.J. conducting a spiritual direction session with one of our members**

We then presented the two following statements:

“Again I say, let us have faith. For I have a suspicion that CLCs are starting down roads that may, after a certain distance, become rugged trails, and after that, broken country, and after that mere wilderness. And then you will have to trust in God and carve a road on which to travel”—Fr. Horatio de la Costa, S.J.

“Traveller, there is no road. You make your road by going”—an old Spanish proverb.

We asked the participants to pray over what surfaced in this material, followed by small group sharing, and a plenary session.

At the final evaluation of the event, **we discovered that our temporary community was in Communal Consolation.**

Jack spoke so convincingly, with dedication and passion, that he became another source of this ongoing conversion.

We know there is evidence that our CLCs are in a period of decline. Therefore, we posed the question—**Is this a good time to review the life, death, and resurrection cycles as taught in our leaders manual?**

One of the main recommendations of the life death resurrection teaching is to review our myth, our original conversion, that time when we experience God’s love perhaps for the first time.

Lidvina Yoon recorded the event.

- Listen to an audio recording of “**Jack Milan’s talk on letters between St. Ignatius and the Jesuits who were out in the mission field**” [CLICK HERE](#)
- Listen to an audio recording **of John English S.J. conducting a spiritual direction session with one of our members** [CLICK HERE](#)