

Ever Hear of Christian Life Community (CLC)?

Christian Life Community, commonly called “CLC,” is an official lay association of the Catholic Church. CLC has a rich, 500-year history, reaching back to St. Ignatius of Loyola, forming adults in prayer, community, service and mission. Although its origins are in the Roman Catholic tradition, CLC’s way of life is also open to members of other Christian traditions.

The spirituality of CLC is rooted in the gospel and the life of the church. It is also inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which is the specific source of its charism. As members, we form small communities of 6-8 people, and meet regularly—weekly or bi-weekly—in order to share our lives of prayer and apostolic mission. In Canada, there are four “regions” of CLC English Canada: the Atlantic, Central, Prairie and Rockies/BC. Quebec has it’s own National and it is called *Communauté de vie chrétienne*, or CVX. Formation in the CLC way of life takes place within communities, with the leadership of trained guides [lay and Jesuit], and with the counsel of an Ecclesial Assistant, often a Jesuit priest, providing an umbrella of support that enables communities to stay true to their Ignatian roots and charism.

Although we meet in small local communities, we are connected to all CLC groups--currently in more than 66 countries around the world--by our common charism and our shared desire to live our lives as companions of Jesus, called to be one apostolic body continuing his mission in the world. Our specific areas of service in this mission are as diverse as we are. To name a few, some of us work directly with the marginalized of our own cities; some work for social justice for Aboriginal Canadians; some support refugees and other new Canadians; some champion environmental causes. Recently some have been called to (common apostolic mission) support of the suffering people of Haiti.

In our CLC communities, and through our connections to the wider CLC body, we focus on increasing our awareness of being created and loved by God; of finding God in all things and fostering our desire to work with Jesus for the fulfillment of his mission in our world. We do this through the practice of regular prayer, and through individual and communal discernment, so that we can discover how God speaks to us, and calls each of us to participate in the grand mission and adventure of Christ.

Contributed by Mariette Ternowski in collaboration. Printed in The New Wine Press, December 2010 and the Prairie Messenger, January 12, 2011.
CLC Canada Website: www.ChristianLifeCommunity.ca