

# Update

## Christian Life Community Canada



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Dear CLC sisters and brothers across Canada,

Gone are the lazy days of summer and most of us are back into our "old" routines. While days are getting shorter and leaves are turning colour, fall wind has brought a lot of fresh energy to CLC Canada:



During our recent National General Council Meeting in Winnipeg, September 28 – 30, we welcomed and sent our President Elect Ruth Chipman, and our newly elected Regional Representatives Mary Balfe (Central), Sharon Baker (Prairies) and Don Mattern (Rockies); and with great appreciation we said fare-well to our past Regional Reps (Ruth Chipman and Maria Brown) who were able to join us for the weekend. We all missed Dan Clarke (Rockies) who forwarded his regrets due to illness.

The grace we sought for the weekend was to *become more aware of the graces given to each of us so that filled with gratitude we may offer those gifts to build up the kingdom of God in our service of CLC Canada.* While tackling a full agenda, our time together allowed us to get to know each other and to embrace the various gifts each of the members of General Council had to contribute to the meeting and will be able to bring to CLC Canada for the greater glory of God during their term of service.

With grateful hearts we listened to the movements of the Spirit in our communities in CLC Canada and to the reports from the Atlantic and Central Regional Assemblies.

Formation, communication structures, regional, national and world priorities, communal, spiritual and apostolic concerns, and ongoing governance items were also part of the agenda.

Fr. Alberto Brito's visit to Canada this fall was another breath of fresh air and well received by all whom he was able to visit. His love and energy for CLC touched all of our hearts and his visit strengthened our understanding of being part of one World Community. We sure are all Friends in the Lord, rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, each of us at a different place on our CLC and life journey.

Let us continue to pray for each other and to seek God's presence in all aspects of our life. Let us humbly accept Christ's invitation to change this world into His loving kingdom as we become more of a discerning community in mission - one apostolic body.

Peace,  
 Kati  
 National President



Dear Lord.



You have no hands but our hands to do your work today;  
 You have no feet but our feet to lead us in your way.  
 You have no tongue but our tongues to tell all you lived and died;  
 You have no help but our help to bring us to your side.



Jack Campbell, SJ

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"Update" Newsletter is published by CLC Canada twice a year, in the Spring and the Fall. To have an article published about your community please contact clccanada@jesuits.ca



#### CLC CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL 2007-2008

National President:	Kati Gumbmann	Atlantic Regional Rep.:	John Sumarah
National President-Elect:	Ruth Chipman	Central Regional Rep.:	Mary Balfe
National Ecclesial Assistant:	Fr. Charles Pottie-Pâté, SJ	Prairies Regional Rep.:	Sharon Baker
National Executive Assistant:	Marilynn Heaton	Rockies Regional Rep.:	Don Mattern

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL CLC ECCLESIAL ASSISTANT

### Father Charles Pottie-Pâté, SJ

Dear Friends of CLC Canada,

It is good to sit down and share some of the wonderful things that have been happening since our last issue of Update.

I trust all of you had a restful summer. Out here in the Prairies we were still meeting even in July. And I gather in the Atlantic and Central Regions you were in the midst of preparations for the Regional Assemblies in August (Atlantic) and September (Central).

One of the joys of being National Ecclesial Assistant is to be able to attend the Regional Assemblies. So this year 2007, there happened to be three of them. I attended two of them so far - the Atlantic in mid-August in PEI and the Central in third week of September. The third one, the Prairies Region, will take place November 2-4.

After two wonderful weeks by the ocean outside Halifax, I went with Earl Smith, sj and Jane A-Parker to PEI where the welcoming spirit of PEI'ers was as warm as usual. The weekend, with over 70 present, was a great celebration and reiteration of the three basic pillars of CLC. Lois Campbell used the image of a flower: roots (Ignatian prayer and the Exercises), stem (faith-discerning community) and flower (apostolic mission and action). The rhythm of presentation, personal prayer and then sharing in small groups worked very effectively. On Saturday evening we had a great fun evening with the surprise visit of a young franco-phone barbershop quartet to delight us all. Not to speak of the sharing of musical and artistic gifts of our own members! The climax of the weekend was the Sunday Eucharist with a good number taking temporary commitment, a few permanent commitment and a reaffirmation of many of the earliest members to the CLC way of life. Strong witness to all of us of the grace given to live this way of life. I left with a deep sense of gratitude for the continued graced history in the Atlantic region. I continued to New Brunswick to visit some of our members there.

In mid-September I went to the Central Region Assembly in Guelph. I was particularly happy to be there since I got to meet a number of members whose name I had heard over the years but had never met, and to meet all the present members as well. The theme and sharings on the General Principles was very life-giving. These Principles are so packed with profound truth and orientations for the CLC way of life. This event was especially blessed by the presence of a newly formed young professionals group who brought a new vitality to us, with their presence and

their artistic gifts. On Sunday, we were blessed to have Fr. Jean-Marc Laporte, provincial of the Jesuits, with us to preside at the Eucharist. This showed his concern that the CLC and SJ's continue to work and collaborate together in the mission of Christ.

The following weekend, September 28-30, we had our General Council meeting, with both the outgoing and incoming reps from Central, Prairies and Rockies regions. It was a packed weekend but grace-filled for all of us.



October's gift was the visit of Fr. Alberto Brito, world vice-ecclesial assistant, to three regions of Canada. In another part of this issue of Update you will see articulated the graces of this visit for us. I was particularly delighted to be able to chat a good deal with him and take him around to various people and groups in Winnipeg. The vitality and diversity of CLC around the world came home to me even more strikingly because of his presence with us.

My most recent activity was a visit to our group on Vancouver Island, Emmaus community (part of the Rockies region, which includes Alberta and British Columbia). They have been involved with CLC for over 20 years and I was touched by their fidelity to the CLC way of life and their desire to find God's will for them for the future.

We are blessed in Canada with vibrant CLC groups and our involvement in many apostolic actions. I feel humbled by the dedication and enthusiasm of our CLC people wherever I have met them in all the regions of Canada and I pray that God may continue to guide, deepen and strengthen us in all the dimensions of Christian Life Community.

Your brother in Christ,

Charles P, sj

## Father ALBERTO BRITO, SJ visits CANADA

### World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant for CLC

**Father Alberto Brito, sj** - the delegate of Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, sj, World Ecclesial Assistant - visited Canada from September 27 to October 15, 2007, visiting three regions of CLC Canada: Atlantic, Central and Prairies Regions. Time did not allow him to visit the Rockies Region (Alberta and British Columbia). This summary of impressions and reflections received from the different regions by the Regional Reps is given here in the hope that in sharing these all of us (even those in the Rockies Region who were not able to meet him) will remember with gratitude what we received through his visit among us, and that this will inspire us to continue to move forward in living our CLC way of life to the full.

### Atlantic Region

**Themes** - Authentic CLC spirituality is:

Relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, discerned community action (to be sent like Jesus by the Father), all so-called 'Holy Desires' are authenticated by loving action.

Any spirituality that does not have a movement to loving action is NOT of God's Spirit. Authentic Love of God is given expression of itself in good works.

Where is the fruit? **God is with us. Therefore, God is with me!** God saves us. God saves me as a member of God's family. There is no one person without an 'us'! Groups that live alone die alone.

CLC World is not out there in Rome or in a distant country. We are CLC world.

**Strength of CLC Canada** - Many members of CLC Canada have a good grasp of the Spiritual Exercises. This is a strength of CLC Canada.



### Need for growth -

1. Group discernment is something that requires greater focus. Discerned sending is critical. Discerned mission requires a great focus. Members within the same local community might have a very different apostolate but are they sent? This is the key.
2. Clearer definitions around apostolate outreach need to be made. What is Mission? To have a Mission is NOT activity. To have a Mission is to be sent!

### Central Region

**Some lasting impressions of Fr. Alberto:**

This is an Ignatian person. His prayer and his action are inseparable. He wanted to visit us and he did so, and this was submitting to the divine will and the incarnation of that will and becoming a part of Christ. For him, prayer that is not also action is not Ignatian Spirituality, but a kind of spiritualism. Mission for him is planetary. Christian Life Community, for him, is a world community that prays and acts globally with Ignatian partners.



**Some graces received:** The generosity to go to people when they don't come to me. The magnanimity to look to a bigger horizon, to accept the invitation to play a part in the future of the planet. The desire to attain the love of God by caring for people without becoming co-dependent. To care for the world by working internationally in partnership with other CLCers preparing the way for them and following up their work across the globe. Finding ways of getting organized to make workable global partnerships with Jesuits and others. To make commitments to evangelization as well as to "dialogue" in meeting others who do not share our way of life. To make commitments to find ways to get involved with CLC on other continents in work such as Refugee Services, Catholic Education in Latin America and Africa and Asia. ...cont.

## Father ALBERTO BRITO, SJ visits CANADA—Cont.

### Central Region - Cont.

To care for North America by making commitments to visit and share with CLC in the U.S.A., and to learn enough French and promote the use of translation services to mesh our apostolates with those of CVX Canada. To facilitate linkages with World by teaming up with other North Americans in our relations with World CLC. To care for Canada and be prepared to spend three weeks meeting members face-to-face, to travel long distances to visit other regions, to trust I will be given the energy and stamina to keep up a demanding schedule, and by my example to influence others to do the same. To provide opportunities to meet and start to get to know all communities in my region and all of their members. To carry the real presence with me by not being too busy for CLC, and by believing that "we can do it." To pay the price gladly. To have freedom to move on from the things that I love where I feel comfortable to the more challenging invitations that Christ gives me. To start a new life by joining others in becoming aware of the desolation that we have experienced so that we can now turn to consolation reaching out rather than turning in on ourselves.

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From Father Brito's visit with the *Northern Lights at the Anishnabe Centre* on Anderson Lake, we are left with the memory of a soft-spoken, gentle and down to earth leader who had power-filled responses to our questions. While he apologized for his "not good English", our thoughts were on our non-existent Portuguese; he did well! He wondered if all our meetings were conducted after a pot-luck dinner as he enjoyed several home-cooked dishes that were new to him. Since then, he has been affectionately referred to as "Father Burrito".

Father Brito was very clear to the group about our Apostolic Mission as we had been feeling intimidated about our responsibility to regional, national and international levels of CLC. "Be who you are, where you are," he said, and added, "Family should have top priority, professional life second, and then CLC." When asked if we could continue by ourselves with local missions only, he responded, "To live alone is to die alone. Yes, help each other and local causes you have discerned as worthy, but also look outward to the greater community. Many far-reaching projects have begun from one small idea. There is nothing more spiritual than an idea leading to action." He followed with an example of a successful project to educate children in Africa.

We asked where we should look for a program of Scripture to study after completing the Spiritual Exercises. He recommended the Acts of the Apostles. "See how the disciples worked things out." When asked how important the Daily Examen was, the reply was mighty. "It is very, very, very important." Not only must we pray, but we must follow with discernment and always work at improving our personal relationship with the Lord



### Prairie Region

**Apostolic mission based on 3 pillars:** Personal relationship with the Lord is mirrored in the quality of our alliances and relationships. We are our alliances. Our relationship with Christ pushes us to respond – like Moses God hears the cry of His people and impels us to act on their behalf. Discerning communities are out-reaching communities, aware of the needs of the people around them, able to discern the more urgent, the universal, the greatest need. We are to live as one who is sent (balance & motivation). Martha-Mary Action-prayer To be contemplatives in action – the Mary dimension pushes us into action – a tremendous spiritual move from desire to action. We are called to be on mission in our families, professional life, socially, politically. Coherence – our fruits, our acts attract others, not words. Coherence makes us visible as CLC. World Assembly - examining ourselves, our coherence from the point of view of the Spiritual Exercises – the 3 kinds of persons.

**Graces received:** A sense of vitality and diversity of CLC throughout the world, as Fr. Alberto described these groups; his humility and attention to others; in his way of sharing with us he clearly valued others' experience of CLC; his gracious welcoming of each new person he met; his passion for CLC in which he has been involved for 32 years; his encouragement towards action that will draw others to CLC; commitment to apostolic action is confirmation of authentic CLC; felt gratitude for the gift of inspiration received as I heard him share the stories of CLC communities who were active in various apostolic works in other countries and who made a huge difference in improving the wellbeing of the people; felt a greater desire to give more of myself even if only in little ways in order to actively help others, especially those in greater need and to join the community in doing apostolic works.

From St. Paul's High School: Last Tuesday Fr. Brito was able to meet the Youth CLC faculty group guides before participating in a Grade 10 Youth CLC group meeting. Both Fr. Brito and Fr. Potti joined in sharing of prayer, of highs and lows, and even of a few cookies. From there both Jesuits had lunch with Fr. Fogarty SJ, President of St. Paul's, Mr. Tom Lussier, Principal, and Ray Comeault, Youth CLC coordinator of St. Paul's High School. Here Fr. Brito recognized the value of faith sharing and challenged us to develop Youth CLC into more of a program, whereby guides would get considerable training and whereby students would be even better equipped to make the best possible life decisions as they march toward university life, a career, and then a family.

## Meet EMMAUS Community Rockies Region

### The Life Cycle Continues

*By Sue Rambow*

Emmaus community sends greetings to all CLC members. Our community is situated in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, B.C. At this time we have seven members. Our journey together began more than 30 years ago however it is exactly 22 years since we became a covenant community, sharing property in common and with a preferential option for those poor and marginalized in society.

In the past few years, with the advent of retirement, grandchildren, elder care, and all our apostolic outreach activities, we have felt increasing desolation around the demands on our lives and our tiredness. At the same time we still felt the need to belong to CLC. How to do this? Seeking direction we wrote to Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate who immediately responded by offering to come and guide our group for a weekend of discernment and prayer. Such is the gift of CLC



that we could be offered direction and guidance in our time of need!

In our opening session we shared Jeremiah 29 (build houses, settle down...) which precipitated sharing of our graced history as a community. The celebration of Eucharist that followed was a time of deep consolation, a focal point of thanksgiving and celebration of all that we have lived. We were able to recognize how our collective story as Emmaus Community is so much more than the sum of our individual parts. It was a beautiful sensitive, intimate liturgy. The reading of Philippians 3 was a life giving word.

Next gathering was a dinner with drop in visits from some members of our outreach prayer group. Fr. Charles managed to be flexible in handling the drop in visitations and he took time to share about the CLC way of life with some of these visitors. Saturday was a time of examining the three dimensions of our CLC way of life. As a group we recognized that we needed to refocus more particularly on discerning together our apostolic service in the community. Consequently we have decided to meet together more regularly on the first Monday of each month. This way we can as a group reflect on our own needs and energies at this time in our lives and help each other to pray and discern how best our gifts can be exercised, and to what extent! We also felt a call to re-examine the use of our gifts in companioning others in prayer and the exercises.

As our name 'Emmaus' suggests, we gathered together talking about all that had happened. Then Jesus led us to recognize him in our midst and consolation flowed. Praise God. Thank you Fr. Charles for your loving presence and guidance. We were truly blessed.

### Makeover Wish for CLC Couple

As usual we see again that truly God is not outdone in generosity! This past summer two of our CLCs - Andre and Mary-Catherine Ruel - were the recipients of a \$25,000 makeover of their home in Courtenay, B.C. This was as a result of a letter forwarded to the television show "Makeover Wish", by their daughter-in-law who spoke of the generous carpenter, Andre, who did work for every one else, and of his patient wife who waited for work that never got done at home! Actually they both have spent literally hundreds of hours helping build the new extension on the L'Arche home here in Courtenay. Both Andre and Mary-Catherine are known for their hospitality to a multitude of people who have shared their home over the years and for their numerous other outreaches to students, to people who are marginalized, to refugees and to those who are developmentally challenged. We celebrate with joy this recognition of two special community members.

The new Makeover Wish season began October 1. The episode about Ruels aired on October 22 at 8:30 Pacific Time on HGTV.

It's a great episode - really fun to watch.



## The Threads of Love Community, Taber, AB Rockies Region

*By Correne Kostersky*

Our community, the Threads of Love, continued to meet through the summer. We had just completed the book 'Love, A Guide for Prayer' in June so we decided not to start a new book at that time because some of our members would be away some weeks this summer. We decided to just dwell on the Daily Mass readings and each week the leader chose to focus on a couple of the readings from that day or the past week.

Three of our members assisted at the CLC booth at the Air Show in July. As well this summer, our group (mostly the men) constructed a deck for a member who has her mother living with her. Her mom is unable to negotiate stairs very well and so our fellows built a deck into which was incorporated a wheelchair lift. It was a great time of work and fellowship together and has enabled more freedom for the dear lady.

Five of our seven members were away for a time. When they returned we began 'Forgiveness, A Guide For Prayer'.

During a brainstorming session we recalled all that we have been involved with since last year at this time:

1. Held a CLC Information Night which 20 parishioners attended.
2. Started three new CLC groups which eventually evolved into two.
3. Hosted the Rockies Region New Year's Sunday Mass and Pot-Luck on January 7, 2007.
4. Passed around a purse during our Lenten meetings and divided the donations between Fr. Pottie, CCO Kelly Boyco, and our parish's World Youth Days group.
5. We took on the task of decorating our church for the Holy Thursday celebration.
6. We support CCO Kelly Boyco monthly.
7. Built a deck for a friend.
8. Had a summer Pot-Luck gathering for all Taber CLC members on July 8, 2007.
9. Three members volunteered at the Airshow.

## 'Northern Lights' of Manitoulin Island Central Region

Our community encompasses members from all 'corners' of the Island, from the far west, Silver Water and Gore Bay, to South Baymouth in the south, and Little Current in the north, as well as members in the Birch Island/Anderson Lake, Espanola area. We meet weekly on Sunday evenings at Our Lady of Canada, Mindemoya, the most central parish for the greatest number of members. We all travel from 25 minutes to 60 minutes, one way.

Our unique CLC membership includes three couples and three singles whose careers have been in engineering, the auto industry, senior's care, civil service, chemistry, secretarial/accounting, teaching, and a law practice that is presently active. Now our engineer has become a priest!

Our missions range from preparation of children for the Sacraments of Initiation, lectors, music ministry, DOS (Diocesan Order of Service - presiders of communion services in the absence of priests), bringing communion to shut-ins, law 'ministry', parish council representatives, recent strong community support where municipal justice was lacking, knitting hats and mittens for Christmas baskets given out at Christmas through the Manitoulin Help Center, fund raising efforts in parishes, palliative care ministry, ongoing restoration of a heritage apple orchard, municipal councilor, marketplace ministry, President of the Diocesan Council for Development and Peace, annual ecumenical activity in the local 'Journey to Bethlehem,' carpentry in the making of a butcher block for the cook at Anishinabe Centre, board members of Anishinabe Centre, Regional Rep. for Central Region, Papineau Fund (providing emergency money for people in crisis - board member), planning retreats at Anishinabe Spiritual Center, a priest, and all the work a priest does! And as a community we have made the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, completing them in June/July 2007. We are presently deepening our understanding of the Nairobi Recommendations to discern, send, support and evaluate our

mission. We are indebted to Fr. Mike Stogre, our brilliant Guide who generously keeps us 'current' with books and articles galore.

**Here is the poem composed in reaction to Day 5 of Week 12 of the Spiritual Exercises subtitled "Bid me come to you on the water, Lord."**

*Faith*

*When the wind is a-blowin'  
Are you quiet or a wailer?  
When the boat is a-rockin'  
Are you the stalwart sailor?*

*Would your faith in the Saviour  
Let you walk across the sea?  
Or would you even doubt in  
Him?  
and...what about me?*

*Do you have the courage  
To win the fight you're losing  
Or to fight for the right  
Though the effort seems too  
trying?*

*Peggy Noble*

★ ★ ★



## CENTRAL REGION ASSEMBLY

### September 21-23, 2007 at Loyola House, Guelph, ON

We came with fresh hope, carrying in our hearts the grace “for enthusiasm and guidance of the Spirit that we may remain faithful to the church, and to the CLC ‘way of life’”. This grace marked the start of Central Region’s Assembly celebrating “Our Vision - Our Dream 40 years of General Principles”, on September 21-23 at Loyola House Guelph, Ontario.

For two nights and three days adults and a handful of young people gathered with the vision and purpose to create a new mandate that will guide the CLC Central Region for the next few years. Young and mature members were all eager and excited to see each other and to meet new CLC formed communities in the Central Region. The ambiance of friendship, love, hope and peace were manifested in one another and permeated the whole place throughout that weekend.

Building Dispositions was our theme for Friday night. We were blessed with the presence of Leah Michaud, Secretary of World ExCo who guided us through “Why we need to know our General Principles?” As well, she walked us through the beginning of the General Principles 450 years ago. She said that the General Principles are the guiding principles of our ‘way of life’ as CLC. They encapsulate, and reflect the rich history of our past, and underline who we are in the world. She added that the Spirit that shaped the Marian Congregation 450 years ago continues to guide the unfolding and understanding of what it means to be CLC today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The General Principles framed our specific CLC identity, and the three pillars or characteristics of CLC: Spirituality, Community and Mission also shaped



our Common Mission and our Constitution. We hold in one hand our Common Mission and in the other hand our Charism. These bring fullness to who we are as CLC. The General Principles point us towards the future. The CLC way of life impels



us to move forward to new horizons according to the greatest need in the world. The mission to labor with Christ continues. We have the necessary tools to embrace the MAGIS working for unity, peace, justice, liberty and dignity of all creation. Authentic people live the General Principles. When members make a commitment to CLC they make a commitment to the ‘way of life’ that is framed by the General Principles.

As the evening progressed we revisited our 2005 Mission Statement “Growing out of our CLC Charism the Central Regional Assembly of 2005 will continue to offer the gifts of Ignatian Spirituality in Adult Faith Formation” ably guided by our Facilitators for the weekend: Fr. JP Horrigan s.j., Daphne Stockman, Central Region Formation Coordinator and Susan Tomenson, Central Region Historian. We shared in the large group how we made this mission real in our life:

1. by encouraging communities to pray and to make the Spiritual Exercises
2. by offering the Awareness Exam to a charismatic prayer group
3. giving a week of directed prayer to an ecumenical group
4. a new CLC group was formed where shared scripture prayer and awareness is taking root
5. a presentation of the Ignatian experience was given.

....cont.

## CENTRAL REGION ASSEMBLY - Cont.

6. from a parish mission CLC groups were formed
7. working with non CLC groups and a non-Christian group, the gift of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round sharing was evident
8. helping with adult faith formation
9. working with elderly – Catholic hospital
10. inviting other Christian denominations to participate
11. sharing the scriptures
12. opening a house for an orientation evening for CLC
13. commitment to try CLC
14. using Ignatian tools from Altantic to assist other groups
15. a camp for interfaith, using the tools of Discernment

“Our Vision, Our Dream” gathered us Saturday as we started the day reflecting on the heart of the General Principles, its preamble. We witnessed the Preamble performed as a dramatic dance by the Fishers CLC of Toronto (Young Professionals). This was a very moving presentation that became the



catalyst that centered and energized all of us to a lively participation in our small group sharing that followed.

We were engaged as we walked through the History of Grace for the Central Region. Louis Paulussen, the second founder of Sodality/CLC was quoted as saying “little by little we begin to discern more clearly the excellent aspects of our General Principles.” To display the richness of our graced history the community of Northern Lights, Manitoulin Island prepared 45 banners that

surrounded our assembly. Small groups formed, and were assigned to tackle General Principles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 by sharing what was inspiring, and what was challenging, as we reflected on our experience with these General Principles.

In the afternoon, after celebrating the Eucharist, and nourished by the presence of the Lord, we moved on to General Principle #8, CLC in Mission. A clear understanding of the meaning of ‘a community of apostles’ compared to the ‘Apostolic Body’ to which we are called was presented. Mary Balfe, Peter Peloso, and Magee McGuire shared their experiences of discernment in their call to live the Common Mission, within the Apostolic Body.

Sunday began with private prayer/reflection on the theme of “Helping to build a revitalized world of love in Central Region Canada.” Groups presented three or four prioritized challenges that we use as a focus as a region in the context of the General Principles.

The assembly unanimously acclaimed the mandate from the Central Region Assembly: “To continue as a discerning Apostolic Body, eager to communicate our vision, by supporting youth through peace and justice for the planet.”

The assembly was a success, thanks in big part to the Assembly Coordinator, Alice Reid, the work of the Organizing Committee, Companions of Jesus CLC of Kitchener/Waterloo, which was responsible for the logistics and the Central Region Executive Council which was responsible for the program. Together they made this event one of the best in Central Region.

We came with the grace in our hearts and we left filled with joy as the Trinity once again reaffirmed Our Vision, Our Dream, the CLC General Principles and “way of life”.

*By Cheche Lisondra, Fishers CLC Toronto  
& Mary Lou Gonzales, The Upper Room CLC Toronto*

**To View a Creative Presentation of the Assembly  
by Jewel David of CLC Fishers:**

**Google Search:**

**YouTube/Search:**

**Assembly CLC/Click: assembly Guelph 07**

**ENJOY!**



# Welcome!

## to our PRESIDENT-ELECT & new REGIONAL REPS

### President-Elect Ruth Chipman

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ruth cherishes her prairie roots. Her greatest gift has been family. She and her sister Barbara were lovingly brought up in a faith filled home and church community. Vivian, Ruth's mom, continues to be an inspiration and a source of strength and support. The joy of family life continued with marriage to Stephen and the arrival of three wonderful sons and assorted pets. Other significant influences have been a career with Air Canada and community volunteer work.



CLC has deepened the connection between faith and action for Ruth. She has served as her community's facilitator, the Prairie Regional Representative to General Council and a group guide as well as a member of the Leadership/Formation Working Group. Preparing for and participating in the CLC North American Conference in Chicago has been a highlight. Being with so many committed "contemplatives in action" has encouraged Ruth to explore Christ's option for the poor as a service coordinator at one of Winnipeg's soup kitchens. She is also involved in local water issues as they relate to the critical state of Lake Winnipeg. Active in parish life, Ruth is part of the Spiritual Director's community at St. Ignatius, serves on the Jesuit Vocation Committee, the Archdiocese Catholic Educational Council and is part of the coordinating team for the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Program.

**CLC Vision: With Christ in Mission – Love ought to show itself in deeds over and above words. [230]**

CLC Canada throughout its history has been blessed with many generous and gifted individuals who have worked very hard to support and make concrete the dream that is CLC. Together, we share an optimistic vision of a "just and peaceful world, if only on a distant horizon." Across Canada we see that regions are maturing and developing new capacities, supporting members in their work of building a just and peaceful world. The Nairobi World Assembly encouraged us all to direct efforts towards transforming CLC groups, communities, regions and nationals into discerning apostolic bodies. Nationally, we have collaborated to bring our CLC group guide process across Canada. This year, throughout North America and around the world, CLC will be focused on leadership formation - another obvious opportunity for collaboration. Each opportunity we take to dialogue or build community strengthens and transforms our

capacity to work with Christ as a discerning apostolic body. These themes translate into five key goals for CLC Canada:

- Developing collaborative relationships with CLC U.S.A. and CVX Quebec.
- Improving and integrating communication across Canada.
- Supporting on-going group guide & leadership formation.
- Continuing to support relationships within the Ignatian family.
- Developing a comprehensive stewardship process.

*For God so loved the world he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17.*

### Rockies Regional Rep. Don Mattern

Wife: Jackie Mattern  
Home: Lethbridge, Alberta  
Employment: Retired in 2006  
Jackie's Employment: Executive Director  
CLC Member: Don, Lamplighters Community since 1997;  
Jackie, Lamplighters Community since 2003



Other Apostolic Activity: Both are team members of RCIA in our parish; both in 1st year formation for the Permanent Deaconate Program

#### Hopes & Dreams for Rockies Region

Over the next two years:

- \* I would hope that the two groups that are now in phase I formation would go on to become member communities.
- \* I would like to see an increase in the number of group guides and those who are willing to become more involved in the life of the region by participating in a leadership formation seminar.
- \* Our ideal would be to have every member of every community complete the Spiritual Exercises. I'm not sure how practical or achievable that goal is over a two year time frame but I think we can still pursue it as an objective. If nothing else, promoting this objective often will keep it as a major focus for all regional members.
- \* I also hope to have 2 or 3 formal regional activities each year for the next two years.
- \* I would like to raise the profile of the Rockies Region within CLC Canada by having a greater presence on the web site and our activities published in the semi-annual Update.

## New REGIONAL REPS - Cont.

### Prairies Regional Rep. Sharon Baker

By the grace of God, I was born in 1955 on Grandmanan Island, New Brunswick. I grew up in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba with three brothers and three sisters. I moved to Winnipeg on my own in my late teens working mainly in the health care field, becoming an LPN in 1982, a few months before I got married to Stewart on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We now have two grown children: Sean and Amanda. In January of 1984, I was baptized in an Anglican Church, with our son Sean, who was only a few months old. I worked until 2002, leaving my career because of a condition known as cervical dystonia. Much healing has taken place since then and I am presently going through a Vocational Rehab program so as to possibly go back to work.



Through a series of events in the fall of 1997 I walked into a Catholic Church for the first time and felt deeply that I had come home; it was where I belonged. My life since then has taken a dramatic turn for the better despite the many challenges I encountered. I entered an RCIA program and was confirmed a Catholic at Easter Vigil 1999. I then moved into the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Upon completion of the Spiritual Exercises, I heard about, and felt drawn to CLC. My community, Friends of Jesus, has been in formation for almost six years.

Early July 2006, I received the nomination for CLC Prairie Region Rep. "Why me Lord?" was my immediate response. An intense discernment process began that included my community and my Spiritual Director and upon receiving many confirmations, I said 'Yes'. I am involved in my Parish, St. Ignatius, and I also do some volunteer work outside of the parish. One of my favorite pastimes is to bake and then share the fruit of my labor with friends. As a result, I have been nicknamed 'the baker lady'.

### *CLC Vision (written August 18, 2006):*

In my opinion CLC is very much Holy Spirit led. Its rich history and spirituality lead me to believe this. Because the CLCs around me are quite young and not as well established as others are, I have often envisioned it as a large tree that needs its roots nourished and strengthened so that it can continue to endure and not topple over when the inevitable storms hit.

With this image in mind my vision for CLC, especially CLC Prairie Region, is for us to work together as one community (one body) sharing gifts we have been given, loving, encouraging, supporting, helping, and teaching one another, learning together, overcoming obstacles and conflict together, making full use of Ignatian Spirituality, the greatest gift given to us that we share that allows for an openness to the Holy Spirit's action in our midst, uniting us, making us one in mind, heart and desire to serve Christ and not ourselves. In this CLC will undoubtedly continue to grow. This growth will affect all we discern to do in a very positive manner and, ultimately, all those around us. We will become deeply rooted and grounded.

### **My dreams for Prairie Region:**

1. Group Guide and Leadership training that will hopefully encompass conflict resolution and the Enneagram/Myers Briggs and that will allow for growth of CLC.
2. Deeper grounding, for some of us, in Ignatian Spirituality and especially individual and communal discernment.
3. There is a richness of information that older CLCs have that can be shared with younger CLCs and incorporated in a way that suits a particular area. I feel this sharing needs to be encouraged and welcomed.
4. Bringing CLC to communities outside of Winnipeg.
5. Forming relationships/collaborating with other organizations and with other CLCs.

Because of my love for Christ and my commitment to serving Him, I offer all the gifts I have been given to do my part in CLC.



## New REGIONAL REPS - Cont.

### Central Regional Rep. Mary Balfe

#### Moments in Time

I have been asked to write a short personal history to introduce myself to you. I was raised in Northern Ontario in a family of faith in the Anglican communion, my father being 'a man of the cloth.' Attending high school and Teacher's College I began a career in teaching primary grades. I soon married my Catholic high school sweetheart and moved to Waterloo, Ontario in 1972 to begin our family.



My husband Tom, was an auto worker, sometimes on three shifts. Family life with our four children was something I treasured as I stayed home to make our nest. I was a regular volunteer and partook of some part-time studies at the University through the years, especially interested in spirituality and religion. My life was pretty ordinary until I entered the sphere of St. Ignatius in 1977 as a member of one of the first CLC communities initiated by John English. I remained in CLC in those formative years and then felt called to learn about the Charismatic Renewal. I discovered that the gifts of Pentecost were quite real and to regard them with holy reverence and careful discernment. To my dismay and great gratitude, the gifts I was learning about served my family at a time of great need. God indeed was going before me.

In 1991 we moved to our summer cottage on Manitoulin Island in order that my husband could return to study in the north. While on the Island I was introduced to the native communities and taught in some very challenging yet rewarding situations. Called to serve our Church, I gathered together with numerous parishioners from all over the Sault Dioceses to study for three years, one weekend a month. This study prepared us for The Diocesan Order of Service (DOS), a mandated position to serve as needed in our parishes. Tom and I returned to Waterloo for five years when I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as chaplain for three high schools. While in Waterloo I joined one of many small faith communities from my old parish and found faithful CLC members Lois and Kuruvila Zachariah at work.

Retirement in 2003 brought us back to the Island, where we presently serve in our tiny parish and at times at the Anishanabe Retreat Center run by the Jesuit fathers.

#### CLC Moments in Time

At the age of 27, while expecting our fourth child, I was invited (a non Catholic) to "learn how to pray" by Barbara Paleczny and Art Walters...and I did under the watchful eye of Patricia Mansfield, a Sister of Notre Dame, and my CLC 'no name' community of five women. I made a shift in my expression of faith to Catholicism at 31. It happened when I was making the Exercises in 1981, a mother of four boys - 2, 4, 6 and 8. I had absolutely no intention of this happening but a loving Spirit of conviction led me to this decision....and Our Lady of Sorrows had a quiet presence in a medallion given to me by my father when I was just eight years old. Barbara Peloso was my guide on this journey in faith.

As my spiritual life developed with experience another shift took place and I was back to working full time leaving me wanting for the joys and collaborative efforts of Christian community.

Then came the blow....we would move to Manitoulin Island in 1991 (a four column discernment made with initial help from Lois and Kuruvila Zachariah). This remains the hardest thing I have ever done. In 2001, after spending time as a high school chaplain and knowing within myself the Ignatian process as pivotal and precious in my life I applied to Guelph to take the Retreat Director's Workshop. It was two years later that I was sitting with nine possible members of a CLC community as we entered the orientation process with Elaine and Peter Nightingale. Fr. Bert Folliot trusted his instinct and gathered us together from all corners of the Island. Can you imagine my utter amazement, my yearning to be with people of prayerful hope and action and vision? God was going before me.

Our Northern Lights community is in the early stages of formation with our guide Fr. Mike Stogre. We struggle as most do with issues and time constraints and contemplative constipation as we make the Exercises, and all the while God is going before us. Our community is very blessed and gifted abundantly.

As beautiful as Manitoulin is with all her limestone shores, crashing waves and sunset vistas, the oasis for me is CLC.



## Dreams and Vision vs. Obstacles and Antidotes

By Mary Balfe

As I attempt to enter the mystery of how the Trinity has called me at this time to “the mission of Jesus” for Central Region my heart is full of gratitude to serve in this capacity. The focus of my dreams and visions for Central come to me in the desire for Healthy Communities, Formation of our Apostolic Body in Central, and our connection with the entire Body of Christ in the World. In all of this I see the importance of recognizing the obstacles that will be experienced uniquely to our situation and the use of powerful antidotes.

### Healthy Reconciled Communities: “A Community of Love in Central”

My CLC community experienced Communal Reconciliation with the help and direction of Manual 1 where we were asked to go to one another and ask forgiveness, to bring clarity to issues. This was a ‘whispering’ healing time that was empowering with the Love of Christ. I continue to experience that harmony comes to the community in honesty and humility. I believe we need this regularly to heed the scripture in asking forgiveness, to look to one another as better than we are...to be peacemakers ourselves. This *in itself* empowers the Trinity’s work among us like nothing else can. “They will know us by our Love.” (John 13: 31-35).

To personally evaluate our own standards is important. The continued effort to be prayerful and discerning of our mission within our communities draws us toward an aspiring World Apostolic Body. As we rejoice in God’s love for our giftedness we will want to humbly retreat annually to collaborate with Jesus, in community or individually. Questions arise: How am I more than a participant in a lovely faith sharing group? How do I contribute to the Apostolic Body of Christ before me? How is the Spirit calling me? Do I see my thoughts and actions being transformed? Have I responded generously to the financial needs of our Christian Life Communities? Do I even know how our gifts of money are used? What do I find hard to listen to? In what areas of my life does Jesus want me to seek freedom?

### Intentional Travel: “A Community of Love in Central”

My community is the farthest distance from everyone in the Central Region and I long to see and hear your voices again. WE ARE CHURCH! There is nothing I have done in my whole life that speaks more to me of Church than the CLC. It is a means of living out my baptism in community, being in Love with Jesus Christ and the Gospel and desiring to hear His voice in community...in all the World. I have often said to my husband that I would like a “Spanish Villa,” and wouldn’t you know Ignatius was Spanish. I wanted to be able to go to a place that was new to me, a place where God was welcome, a place of color and joy and celebration *and* rest, to see God’s face in culture and people. I am now thinking that each of our homes throughout the World CLC is a “Spanish Villa” *for others*...if we want them to be.

As I visit the Central Region Communities over the next few years I imagine I will stay in ‘Spanish Villas’! In these ‘villas’ we will encourage one another and we will explore the many gifts, talents and missions of our communities, all the while being formed in Ignatian Spirituality, witness and leadership...*for others*. Perhaps you can see your home as a welcoming ‘Spanish Villa’, a home where Ignatius lives and breathes his spirituality and the CLC Charism, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are aspiring, remember.... and while we travel why not have a *CLCWorld* bumper sticker!

I learned for the first time when I was mandated at the Central Assembly and draped with an Indian sari that Canada is twinned with India. What you don’t know is that when I was eight years old I wanted to be a missionary in India. Jesus remembered and nearly 50 years later is calling me outward. Jesus is calling *us* outward in anyway we can...e-mails, attachments, photos, shared Apostolic Mission, shared joys and grief, shared financial assistance, a World CLC loving one another across time and space ‘in an instant’. I look forward to the time when the Trinity will help this unfold maturely and permanently, in each Canadian Christian Life Community, and in each World Community. Imagine the ‘messenger’ in your community sharing with you a recent message from a ‘Spanish Villa’ in India.

### Obstacles:

Of course there are obstacles. My own attitude, evident in willfulness versus commitment to Jesus’ Mission, will get in the way of the Spirit. What do you see as the obstacles to your walking with Jesus in mission? Let us share the observance and experience of the obstacles before us so we can “be” with one another, and *for one another...for Jesus’ sake*.

### Antidotes:

Let us be a community of Christians marked humbly through “Prayer and Fasting” one day each week in solidarity with our communities in Central, in all of Canada and the whole World. “*That the World may be One.*” A specific prayer/scripture could be composed for all of us to pray. Could all the members in Central Region offer this? Could CLC Canada offer this? Could 35,000 CLC members throughout the World offer this once a week? Imagine that. My husband and I are going to start at home on Fridays the traditional day of fasting in our Mother Church. We will offer our prayers and fasting for the workers of Peace and Justice for the Planet and the transformation of minds and hearts of those at war with one another. Will you join us?

These are my dreams and vision for Central Region and the World. They are full of prayerful hope for CLC and “the mission for Jesus” within the Apostolic Body of Christ, the Church.

May the Peace+ of Christ be with us!

## Atlantic Formation Encounter By Gilles Michaud

This past weekend was our first National Leadership Formation Encounter for CLC Canada. Lois Campbell came from Pittsburgh to assist in facilitating the session. She did a marvellous job in her presentations which really enhanced the entire resource training material presented during the three days. The formation modules, previously discerned by the formation committee, were the main focus of our material given in the formation sessions (letter of invitation included). I also include the report sent by Guy Maginzi (World Ex. Secretary) who attended the Formation Encounter in Montreal to keep you informed on the results of the CLC formation sessions as we continue to progress in this important project.

At the Atlantic Formation Encounter there were 25 persons that participated in the process. The event took place at the Spirituality Center in beautiful Pictou, NS. The CLC members came from NB, NS, and PEI. They were active group leaders along with some that were considering being leaders. All gratefully acknowledged that

the formation sessions were very helpful and will greatly improve their skills in their role as Group Leaders. In our evaluation they have also given us some valuable insights on how to do things in a better way as we begin preparing to move our Formation Encounters west ward.

Lois left this morning and before going I asked her if there would be a possibility of her helping me to facilitate the session that **WE ARE CONSIDERING** for the Prairie and Rockies Regions. She said that she would be available. The possible dates for her are:

Jan. 2008 weekend, 11 to 13 and 25 to 27  
Feb 2008 weekend, 8 to 10  
Apr 2008 weekend, 11 to 12  
(4 to 6 Apr. is booked for the Central)  
May is wide open at this time.

I am offering this added information as another option regarding the planning of the Formation Encounter for Winnipeg.

Peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

## A Message from GUY MAGINZI World CLC ExCo Secretary

### 1. Leadership Encounter in Montréal.

I had the chance to attend a formation session organized in Montreal during the Canadian thanksgiving week (Friday 5 to Sunday 07 October). Originally these dates were booked for a North American Encounter which was cancelled as you know. The session was entitled "le leadership de service de la CVX" (CLC serving leadership) and facilitated by Gilles Michaud, Lucille Madore (President of CVX Canada) and Roch Lapalme, a young French Canadian Jesuit.

Our prayers, sharing and discussions were inspired by presentations on the following topics:

- Our charism, a spiritual identity, by Gilles Michaud
- Group guide and group coordinator roles, by Roch Lapalme SJ

- CLC history and evolution, by Gilles Michaud
- Ignatian pedagogy, by Lucille Madore
- CLC formation steps, by Gilles Michaud and Roch Lapalme SJ
- Personal and communal discernment, by Gilles Michaud and Roch Lapalme SJ
- Apostolic mission: discern-send-support-evaluate, by Lucille Madore and Gilles Michaud.

The opportunity to talk about the next World Assembly had been given to me the last day. I basically shared about the process (as envisioned so far), and insisted on the need to involve the community in the preparation process (and not only leave it to the National leadership or delegates), on solidarity funds, and discernment for nomination of World ExCo candidates. [Photos](#)

....cont.

## Comments/Impressions

Participants represented all local groups, including pre-communities. This is a clear sign of community's interest to the session. Different perspectives could be brought to our prayers and discussions, making the session very rich.

The last formation session for the community took place long time ago. Therefore, this session was an adequate response to a real need. In addition, it also helped participants to get a better knowledge of the national community and its current development stage.

The content was excellent. It allowed needs and challenges of the national Community to emerge, and also the direction the World Community is taking. Gilles did a tremendous job for the preparation, and I appreciated particularly how he involved Lucille and Roch.

The involvement of Roch Lapalme in CVX Canada is a very good point for the community, and also for the collaboration with the Society of Jesus. I see it as an additional sign of improvement in CLC-SJ collaboration in that part of the world.

Alberto's presence was very much appreciated, especially his sharing at the end of the meeting as an external loving voice.

## 2. Geneva WG meeting in Rome

Last Tuesday, Roswitha Cooper, Uta Sievers, Mikaela Hillerstrom, Goran Künher and I gathered for the first time to share about our contribution in the Geneva UN Working group. You will get the minutes as soon as they are ready.

## 3. Forum of Catholic organizations.

This morning I attend an informal meeting of Catholic organisation with headquarters in Rome to prepare the Forum which will take place from November 30 to December 02, 2007. The presence of two members of the steering committee (Mrs. Fermina Alvarez Alonso of Secretariat of State and Mr. Alberto Piatti, managing Director of AVSI) allowed a good sharing and mutual clarifications.

Mrs. Alvarez committee asked me to facilitate one English working group during the Forum. I agreed, although I wished to work with the French group.

I met for the first time in that meeting, Fr .Peter Balleis, a German Jesuit who will take over next Thursday from Luis Magrina as International Director of JRS.

## 4. Other news

Alberto attended the Eurolink meeting which took place last week end in Rome. I could not as I landed in Rome only Sunday early in the afternoon.

In mid November I will be out of Rome for about one week. I will be visiting CLC Luxembourg and Germany. So, I will meet Daniela in Aachen. I renounced to go to Belgium, as envisioned, because of time constraints.

## [Photos Fr. Kolvenbach](#)

*Guy Maginzi*

## What is the Solidarity Fund?

In CLC Canada we have three Solidarity Funds:

### ***World Solidarity Fund:***

A fund administered by the World Secretariat. The fund is created by donations from countries around the world to help delegates who need financial assistance to attend the World Assembly.

### ***Canadian World Delegate Solidarity Fund:***

This fund is set up to cover the travel costs of Canadian delegates to the World Assembly (presently we have \$ 4,000 set aside for this purpose)

### ***National Solidarity Fund:***

This fund is set up to support communities in CLC Canada who otherwise would not be able to send a delegate to the National Assembly

*To donate to any of these funds, please send your donation to:  
CLC Canada, 1120 30 Street South, Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8*

## OUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES to CLC

Dear members of CLC Canada,

Once again we are appealing to you to consider **financially supporting** the needs of our **Regional, National and World Community**. Many thanks for your continued generosity over the past years.

Let's remember *that financial awareness and its responsibilities are an integral part of the CLC vocation and that all members are to support the financial obligations of the CLC mission (Gn 33).*

Yes, we are a lay world community responsible for our own organization and well being, meaning that we have only what we ourselves contribute whether in time, resources or money. It is you and I – WE – called by God to be engaged in mission with the Son.

As an Ignatian layperson we are following a special vocation from our Creator. In answering this call there is a commitment to our *Way of Life* which includes certain responsibilities on the part of each member. And if your situation permits, we hope you will be able to forward a minimum contribution of \$25 a year to support CLC Canada (plus \$10 which will be returned to your region for regional needs). Because CLC Canada is a charitable organization we are asking for a donation and do not charge membership fees or dues but have to rely on your generosity.

For the current fiscal year many of our CLC members have responded with full payment of donation (and many have given a very generous donation well above the suggested amount); while others after prayerful discernment had difficulty in paying their annual donation but have sent an amount within their present capacity. Thank you!

Your donations have been used in a very responsible way. A year-end financial statement and the budget for 2008 will be sent to all of you in the early New Year. If you do have any questions/concerns about those documents, please do not hesitate to contact us.

To keep the CLC myth alive in Canada requires much

creativity. Although we are constantly using modern technology (e-mail, conference calls, base camp...) it is also important for members of General Council to meet at least once a year face to face (which we did this year once again after not being able to do so last fall). This is a costly effort but be assured that all CLC representatives flew economy and tried to get the best deal they could.

As you know, CLC Canada is part of an international community endeavoring to proliferate and support CLC around the globe. We financially support the World Secretariat (by annual dues) which is a network source to some 50+ countries. This office, among many other initiatives, supports CLC formation in less affluent countries. It is inspiring to recognize our relationship in a global network of Spirit led CLC.

In 2008, delegates from around the world will be meeting in Fátima, Portugal for the 15<sup>th</sup> CLC General Assembly. It is the hope that each National Community will be represented by three delegates. Because of a variety of economic and social reasons, some national communities will not be able to meet this commitment. Yet is it important that all voices from the World CLC will be heard in the decision making process at the General Assembly.

Being aware that we are part of the World Community, CLC Canada has set aside funds to support travel expenses for delegates who would otherwise not be able to attend the Assembly. Your additional individual/communal support/donations to the **Solidarity Fund** to whatever degree, would be very much appreciated. Because we all are members of the World Christian Life Community we all share in the responsibility and participation of discerning the will of God for us in these days.

On behalf of our National Community I thank you for your support. May God bless you as you continue your spiritual journey on our Way of Life.

Yours in Christ,  
Kati

### ADDRESS CHANGE?

Have you moved, changed telephone number or e-mail?

If so, please let us know at [clccanada@jesuits.ca](mailto:clccanada@jesuits.ca) so we can keep our directory current.  
Thanks!

Remember to check the CLC web site  
[www.jesuits.ca/clc/](http://www.jesuits.ca/clc/)  
on a regular basis and let us know what you think about the site.

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