

Update

November 2010

ADVENT GREETINGS

*Times are nightfall, look, their light grows less;
The times are winter, watch, a world undone:*

Gerard Manley Hopkins



We can look back over 2010 and see a messy, complicated year with a World suffering and groaning and we can quickly lose hope. In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, specifically the Contemplation on the Incarnation, we imagine the Trinity acting; “Let us work the redemption of the whole human race.” This love breaks through quietly, humbly. In responding to the love that loved us first and always we commit ourselves, as members of Christian Life Community, to visibly and actively walk the way of love that transforms the whole of creation.

This edition of the UPDATE begins the process of highlighting commitment in our CLC way of life. Examples of commitment and perseverance abound throughout CLC but highlighting the work of our Group Guides seems a wonderful place to begin expressing gratitude for those who work so hard and generously supporting growth and development in our community.

We also celebrate Central Region’s discerned action for our Haitian sisters and brothers. Beginning with the 2010 World Day of Prayer, Central Region engaged in a thorough communal discernment which was confirmed in their September Regional Assembly. We are all invited and encouraged to support this apostolic initiative detailed here in the UPDATE.

Advent blessings to each of you, your loved ones and those your hearts are missing.

On behalf of CLC Canada
Ruth Chipman - President



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CHARLES OUR NATIONAL ECCLESIAL ASSISTANT

Advent-Christmas 2010

Dear CLC friends,

I am presently reading a book entitled *God is. My Search for Faith in a Secular World*, written by the well-known Maritime novelist David Adams Richards. In the first part of his book, he says: "... *whenever we do seek Him, in whatever way, no matter how thickly veiled to us who it is we seek, we are, as He [Jesus] asks us to be, little children. And any hope or wish for the better of others, for our relatives or friends, or ourselves, is done in this way, like children... And to have faith is to be like a child, for faith is never determined by ourselves but by something outside of ourselves. And so we come to that Something like a child.*" These childlike qualities are a sense of awe and wonder, trusting of another, playful, dependent on others....



Nativity by Rembrandt

The words of this author have stayed with me the past few weeks as I enter into the season of Advent-Christmas..... Isaiah also tells us, in his vision of the peaceful kingdom, that "*the wolf shall live with the lamb.... and a little child shall lead them.*" (Is.11:1-11) As I watched my brother Ken diminish in his human capacities with the onset of Alzheimer's disease, he became more and more like a child, utterly dependent and trusting of others. Could this season of Advent-Christmas be a time to become more child-like, in imitation of the One who became a "simple, tender Babe" (R. Southwell, SJ) to win us over by his amazing love? Even as we await the coming of this same Babe, now dead and risen, in his glory, could our hearts not retain this child-like wonder and trust and openness?

May the One who came among us as a child, who still comes in many ways awaiting our child-like trust, and who will come in His glory to fill our child-like wonder and trust with utter joy – May this Lord Jesus give each of you His own peace and joy during these festive days.

Your brother in Christ,
Charles

TO HAVE FAITH IS TO BE LIKE A CHILD...

“GROUP GUIDING IN CLC CANADA”

With this issue of the **UPDATE** CLC Canada wanted to express our gratitude for the wonderful gifts that our Group Guides in CLC Canada bring to each of the communities that they are called to journey with. Across this great land God has gifted and inspired the hearts of many CLC members who have **discerned** the call to the guiding ministry, who have been **sent** by their communities, **supported** along their journey by their local Christian Life Community's, their regional governance bodies and CLC Canada General Council and they are **evaluated** by their regional peer support groups and in their local Christian Life Communities. **(D.S.S.E.)**

Across Canada our way of proceeding with Group Guides is grounded in the Spiritual Exercises. In CLC Canada, our hope is to have every new CLC community formed with a trained Group Guide assigned by their region's governing body. The Group Guide is mandated by each Region and exercises their ministry within their Christian Life Community according to its guidelines.

As we are all aware, the role of the Group Guide is critical to the development of the CLC way of life although a new CLC member might ask; "What is a Group Guide and what value do they bring to a community?" Briefly then, let us recall what a Group Guide is and does...

The Guide is a **co-discerner** and best exercises this role **OUTSIDE of the community they are guiding** - looking in. That is, the Guide sits on the fringe discerning the movement of spirits of the community. A Group Guide is one who is "steeped" in CLC Spirituality as a way of life, a keeper of the vision and one who has a clear idea of the community's goals and is able to assist the community in reaching them.

The Guide is also grounded in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, has a basic grasp of its structure and dynamics, is able to discern spirits in personal and communal contexts, and understands the discernment processes which lead to good apostolic decisions. The CLC Guide is a 'student' of the historical and evolving documents of CLC formation and growth and is open to developing the skills needed to apply them. Gathering with other Group Guides whenever possible for peer support and ongoing formation is part of their commitment.

The Group Guide should not belong to the community. This is necessary so that the Group Guide can remain objective and continue as a constant presence over time in order to be effective in the service they are asked to provide. A Group Guide, in essence, operates like a Spiritual Director of a group. In the same way that a spiritual director helps individuals recognize their desires and hopes with regard to the Lord, to make these known to the Lord and to put themselves into a receptive position so that the Lord's response may be heard, so too does a CLC Guide do that for an apostolic community. In this way the Group Guide helps a community discern what personal and communal interchanges are leading them towards the Lord and to decide what to do about that discernment. The Guide must always ensure that the community continues to move beyond itself and does not turn within and want to remain there.

In the initial stages of a new community's development the Guide will need to assume the role of Facilitator/Coordinator until that role can be called forth. Then, the Guide 'mentors' the new Facilitator/Coordinator into their role and continues to offer support. During this phase, the Guide begins to withdraw gradually from constant attendance at the community meeting, maintaining an adequate presence needed for the stage of the group's development. The Group Guide may need to be more frequently present as the community works through parts of the Phase II Manual or whenever communal discernment processes are part of the community's agenda.

What are our guides saying about their experiences? Following are a few comments received from our guides across Canada...

THE GUIDE ENSURES THAT THE COMMUNITY MOVES BEYOND
ITSELF...

“What has been your experience of guiding a Christian Life Community?”

“It is simply a blessing for me. When God with great mercy filled my heart with His love, I wanted to share that with others so much and CLC provided me an opportunity to do it with freedom. Guiding has offered me such wonderful opportunities to return that love with joy and energy. This has encouraged me tremendously.”

“I am grateful for the privilege to journey with others but I must also say that it is also a tremendous challenge to guide especially when you are guiding more than one community with each at different stages of development. By reviewing the community’s grace, content and dynamics for each community prior to their gathering, I am able, with God’s grace, to recognize the movement of spirits within the community.”

*“It will be 10 years this year since I stepped out in faith to become a CLC group guide. In July, 1999, deeply in love with Jesus, I asked Him on day 4 of my 8-day retreat: “Is there anything You would like me to do for You, Jesus?” In my heart, I was surprised to hear the words: ‘**Make guides.**’ Three months later, I received a phone call from John English asking me to attend a weekend in Nova Scotia with 8 others from the Atlantic area. I asked him what its purpose was. His response: ‘**to make guides!**’ Following that weekend, I sent a letter to 10 individuals whom I had accompanied through the Spiritual Exercises and invited them to a CLC exploratory journey. I did not feel very confident or equipped, but like Abraham, I was willing to set out on the journey. Living the Exercises communally in our CLC way of life may be even prophetic in our time. In 1970, Fr. English was quoted as saying: “We need 1000 spiritual directors of the Exercises”. In 1999, after laboring with CLC and the Communal Life Institute, he said: “We need 1000 spiritual directors of groups!” I think I now understand his heart and his vision.”*

“For me, the experience of being guide in our CLC groups (I have had three such experiences) has been most of all a humbling one. To be witness to the workings of God’s action in the communal life and discernments of mission in a group is akin to being a spiritual accompanist to an individual going through the Exercises. One hears, notices and tries to articulate the various movements of God’s Spirit going on in the group, and so hopefully giving them encouragement to continue to move forward in trust with the Lord and with one another in apostolic service. The other experience of being group guide is in leading the group in the making of the Spiritual Exercises. This is a more intense but richly consoling task. What happens is that the members of the group are empowered to assist and guide each other in the unfolding of the dynamics of the Exercises with each other. “Guiding” in the CLC way of proceeding is always trying to let the Holy Spirit be the real Guide for our ongoing discernments and choices.”

“Our role as Group Guides is to be one who ‘is able to help put to words the voice of the Holy Spirit at first hidden and later brought to the surface of a Group’s consciousness’. The focus of a good Group Guide is to listen and annunciate the impulse of the Holy Spirit as spoken in the deep desires of a group’s members, often around the call to ministry.”

In Atlantic Canada there are currently eleven Group Guides with another in training. In Central Canada there are six group guides trained prior to 2003 with another twenty participating as leaders or guides in training. In the Prairies region there are currently two trained Group Guides and in the Rockies Region there are three Group Guides. All of these CLC members give freely and generously from their discerned mission calls and bring so much combined wisdom and grace to the community’s they guide that God is able to use them freely as instruments of His love for those they gather with.

“Group Guiding in CLC Canada” (Cont.)

Across Canada, training for Guides continues and has in many areas expanded to include other CLC leaders including community Coordinators. Three region in Canada have well developed Group Guide Peer Support Groups that enable the guides to gather together to support and evaluate each other on the way. Through the gift of technology many of our Group Guides are able to connect via the internet which has had a tremendous positive impact on the growth of our communities and thus a need for more well trained and generous guides.

Group Guides can and should be invited occasionally to facilitate days of reflection to help the community they guide (or another community) identify where they are communally on their spiritual journey. These have proven to be extremely beneficial to the communities which have experienced these reflection days.

So, by way of a thank you to all of our Group Guides who give tirelessly to their mission call, join with us on General Council to remember them in prayer. As St. Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5: 11-12; **“Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, as you are doing now. Brothers and sisters, I want you to be thankful to those who labor among you, who lead you in the way of the Lord.”**

CLC Canada is relatively young, growing strong and supported in our development by the World CLC. We are so grateful for those who have labored on our behalf before us and led the way. From Fr. John English to all of the other giving and faithful Jesuits, Religious and lay men and women whom God called to the CLC way of living.



Note: We were unable to obtain photos of all of the Group Guides in Canada but here are some you may recognize.



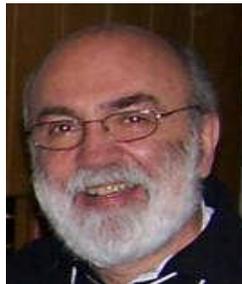
Fr. Earl Smith, sj



Pam Daigle



Betty Poley



John Sumarah



Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, sj



Barb Peloso



Ruth Chipman



Graydon Nicholas



Coleen Sumarah



Fr. Larry Kroker, sj



Peter Chouinard



Margaret Melanson



Bill Costain



Gilles Michaud



Clarence deSchiffart



Ruth Coleman (Guide in Training)

So it is with grateful hearts that we collectively say to all of our Group Guides, **“THANK YOU.”**

Peter Chouinard

CENTRAL REGION BEHOLDS A 'TRIUMPH OF GRACE' - Mapping the Uncharted Path of Common Apostolic Mission

From the time the earth quaked in Haiti January 12, 2010 and the world cried for every kind of help on behalf of Haitians, Central members, like everyone else who paid attention to the news were alerted with a marked empathy and deep concern. However CLCer's would ask : What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?

World CLC executive contacted CVX French Canada and CLC English Canada through president Ruth Chipman to ask if there might be collaborative support in collaboration with French Canada and French Jesuits who were presently working in Haiti joined by some Canadian novices. **Following the request came Projects #144** asking us around the world to contemplate "who are the poor? And how do we identify CLC with the poor? Tarcia Gerwing and Fr. Bill Ryan led a number of us through awareness of personal spiritual poverty and launched us into Love in Truth...Caritas in Veritate for our World Day of Prayer. We emerged that Passion Sunday with deeper personal reflection and stirred enthusiasm for action and tongues of fire placed on a bare cross, as our concrete sign of annunciation.

Already a friendly relationship had been developing with Sam Loutfi and Lucille Medore of CVX French Canada through the World Assembly in Fatima 2008 and keeping in touch occasionally by e-mail. Our national assembly in April 2009 opened an opportunity for a French speaking member of Central, Andree Richard, to meet Sam and be invited to speak to the CVX assembly in the Fall of 2009.

Mysteriously Bernard Kenol, a resident Haitian in Toronto had approached Peter Nightingale a few years ago regarding CLC. Looking back we are grateful for this glimmer of the Spirit hidden quietly, even though nothing transpired in terms of community at the time....

Our Council (one member from each community represented) gathered to explore, research and listen and collaborate with one another through: a photo presentation given by a chaplain from a Catholic high school who made the trip to Haiti within four months of the tragedy, a Skype call with Sam Loutfi, small group dynamics and a discerned consensus of the Council. We heard the evident desire of French Canada to reach out to Haitians and further to that, the desire to work collaboratively was alive in our conversation. **Arising from this committed Council of May 2010 and led by 2 elders, Peter Peloso and Peter Nightingale was a proposal to actively respond in collaboration with CVX and others to the needs of Haitians.** With a collective discerned voice we had stepped out on the water.....we were keeping our eyes on Christ.

Central was approaching the Fall 2010 assembly through regular organizing committee meetings and process planning meetings with Adrienne De Schutter, Mary Balfe, Peter Peloso and assembly facilitator, Jack Milan, of Guelph. As we all know this undertaking takes committed time and focussed energy and prayer on the part of the community members, for the forward movement of the Region. Gratitude goes to Suzanne Coulson and Andree Richard for chairing the assembly sub-committees and all those who shared the responsibility with them.



"Stepping stones" to navigate the flood...with the Jesuits (Fe y Alegria + Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Services) and CLC Central Canada we CAN find some "stepping stones" to a better future for our sisters and brothers who live and play in these "streets"

“ WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR CHRIST? WHAT AM I DOING FOR CHRIST?
WHAT WILL I DO FOR CHRIST? ”

Central Region Beholds a 'Triumph of Grace' - Cont.

How could the Trinity be so generous as to give a fleeting image in prayer of the **Black Madonna of Montserrat** as we were praying about responding to a Haitian mission? Upon repetition, this image of Mary revealed confirmation of our blessed history as a region emerging with desire: in the 2007 assembly mandate to act for justice and peace for our planet, in our present proposed desire and assembly theme for 'the tree that bears fruit' in a common apostolic mission and in a reminder of St. Ignatius' permanent commitment to the mission of Christ.

Jack Milan, dedicated to prayer in preparation for our assembly, led Central members creatively and skillfully using Ignatian processes of communal apostolic discernment (CAD) to come face to face with a looming decision to make not as individuals, but as a family of communities, our region-----_____ to risk the unknown in this prophetic invitation___to step further out onto the water. And so it came to pass that on September 19, 2010 the church of Central Region discerned a common apostolic mission with a 'communion of hearts, proclaiming 'YES' with Mary our model of mission.

We had hoped that Sam Louffi, representing CVX French Canada would be able to attend our assembly and we in turn attend theirs, but pressing CVX matters needing prompt attention came first. Now the uncharted path is opening for collaboration once again. We pray that our relationship will continue to grow and flourish with other CLC's, as well as bringing hope and new life for Haitians.



THE SWAMP (in Spanish Cienaga) is a Haitian slum in Santo Domingo. They are ALL migrants from Haiti. Virtually 100% are undocumented - therefore cannot be officially admitted to school. CLC hires two women to teach them—one school of twenty in the morning, one school of twenty in the afternoon. We also help pay the rent for the little room where the 40 kids study. Both boys and girls study...but if resources are stretched girls come first.

Our E.A., Fr. J.P. Horrigan made a trip to Hispanola in the late summer, the Spirit leading him to some of the deepest needs among Haitian poor in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. **A schoolhouse for undocumented children was closing due to lack of funds in a slum known as The Swamp.** As well, he met with **Haitian women on their border** who have developed cooperatives as a means of **selling their jewellery**. Making these direct contacts has allowed **Central executive to make our first order of jewellery, whose sales will not only honour the work of the women but the proceeds we receive will go directly back into the schoolhouse mission.**

These steps supporting Haitians have re-ignited a fire in Central to invite each member not present at the assembly, to respond with a 'communion of hearts' within their community....to the prophetic and uncharted path of apostolic common mission. **Two working groups, Laying the Foundation and Liaison and Goal Setting are in process of being set up to see the project go forward** in the short term (4-6 months) and longer term (6-10 months) with members contacted to discern their role as we go forward.

Our formation team are formulating a strategic, expansive plan with mission as the prime purpose of CLC existence, implementing the Spiritual Exercises, Awareness Examen and Ignatian tools of discernment, and most especially communal discernment to support our way of life within communities. **A FAQ sheet and a 10 minute survey have been launched by e-mail through Adrienne De Schutter our coordinator of communities**, in order to support the regions' members in welcoming and discerning their role in this mission with a common thrust yet multiple manifestations.

Central Region Beholds a 'Triumph of Grace' - Cont.

In order to develop relationships with our partners at the schoolhouse, the Domay cooperatives and the SJ's with whom we collaborate, we are planning an insertion experience for the Winter of 2011. CLC members of Central will have criteria to respond to as ambassadors for the mission.

The uncharted path to become ONE in Christ for Haitians in order to effect change for the sake of the Kingdom, is in it's infancy. This reminds me of a comment by Jack Milan said at the closing of the assembly.... "the baby Jesus has just been born." And in response we can say "Joy to the World! The Lord has Come!"

We welcome any CLC members across Canada who may hear the call the serve through this outreach or for purchase of jewellery to contact Andree Richard Regional Rep (elect). andreerichard_8@hotmail.com

The link below gives us an idea of the SJ Mission - Faith and Joy schools in Port au Prince....the eventual dream from the The Swamp...Jesuit Refugee Services(JRS) USA – Faith and Joy School Port au Prince
<https://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&shva=1#inbox/12c4ba5eb13505bc>



Open ditch with raw sewage in Cienega where the kids supported by CLC Central live.



CLC CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS Winnipeg-October 22-24

In carrying out National and World CLC priorities and recommendations, General Council has followed a process of encouraging dialogue and gathering input. National newsletters have focussed on CLC Canada's history, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, Ignatian mission, financial co-responsibility and commitment. CLC's General Council is a rich and sometimes challenging national process of reuniting, reconnecting and restoring our life in the Spirit. It is a work constantly in progress as together we discern and deepen our responses to God's mission.

On June 30th, General Council's proposed agenda was circulated along with a reflection & evaluation adapted from a Progressio article by Edith Schuller, CLC Luxembourg. Regional Representatives and the National Ecclesial Assistant were also invited to provide updates from the Atlantic, Central and CVX Assemblies. The Feast of St. Ignatius National newsletter invited all members to reflect on General Council agenda items including the "3 or 4 signs and directions for CLC Canada." From this data and input the grace and goals of General Council's meeting were established.

Meeting Highlights

General Council met in the Holy Names House of Peace in downtown Winnipeg. Among several outreach actions the House of Peace provides shelter residence for homeless, immigrant and refugee women. A resident of the shelter, Anya, a young journalist from Somalia, briefly shared her amazing story with General Council following lunch on Saturday. General Council and members of Prairie Region also shared a warm evening of fellowship and fun. Thank you Prairie Region for the wonderful hosting and hospitality.

CLC Canada General Council Highlights (Cont.)

- Central Region's discerned Haitian mission was wholeheartedly affirmed, supported and celebrated by General Council. Mary Balfe and Andrée Richard, representing this ground breaking mission, were blessed and "sent" in the closing liturgy. The President, on behalf of CLC Canada, will support and forward this mission on to World ExCo and Maricio Lopez, CLC's World Apostolic Initiatives & Advocacy Coordinator.
- Finances - General Council heard the need to further clarify financial reporting to support member discernment. ExCo will report on this by November 30th. A final draft 2011 budget was reviewed for approval by General Council.
- Past President/Elder & Young Adult support for General Council. ExCo will continue to dialogue with these valued members of our National Body working towards their inclusion in our General Council process.
- Formation - Action in 2010/11 will specifically focus on Group Guide development and Manual II revision.
- Governance - Our constitution amendment process will also include documenting changes that have occurred to the 1995 ratified constitution.
- Relationships, communication, leadership and discernment were also topics around which General Council shared in a very open and generous way.

General Council will meet again via Skype and will plan a face to face meeting in the Fall of 2011 at which time Council hopes to be able to include representatives from our "Elders" and "Young Adults."

Ruth Chipman,
CLC Canada-President

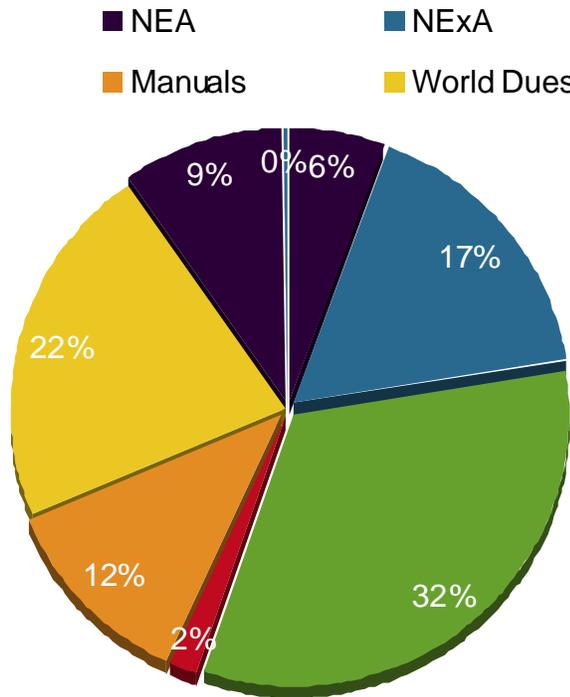


CLC CANADA CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP

Pam Nowina, Central Region, and Peter Chouinard, Atlantic Region, have taken on the responsibility of guiding CLC Canada's constitution amendment process. Pam and Peter bring significant skills and experience to this work and we are very grateful for their generous service. This Spring the Constitution Working Group will initiate a national process to seek member input on suggested amendments to our constitution. The goal of this work is to develop support from all communities and provide a final draft of an amended constitution by April 2013 for adoption at our 2014 National Assembly.

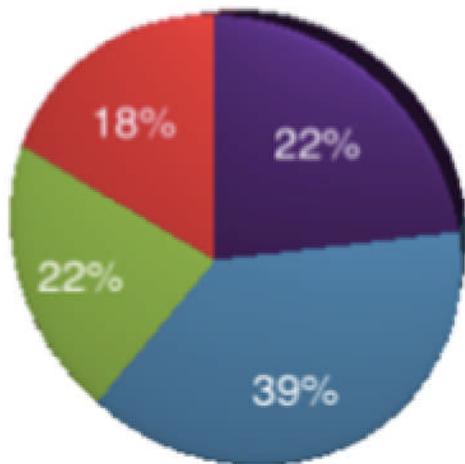
Again our thanks to Pam and Peter.

CLC CANADA FINANCIAL CHARTS (January-October, 2010)



**January 1 - October 31, 2010
Expenses**

- National Ecclesial Assistant - \$627.
- National Executive Assistant - \$1,920.
- General Council Meeting - \$3,744.
(includes 6 airfares)
- Office Supplies & Postage - \$185.
- Formation - Manuals - \$1,317.
- Dues to Rome - \$2,482.
- Other Travel - M. Balfe-Atlantic Assembly
& A. de Schutter-CCCB Forum
\$1,050.
- Bank Charges- \$44.



**January 1 - October 31, 2010
National Donations**

- Atlantic Region - \$2,115. (68 people)
- Central Region - \$3,825. (59 people)
- Prairie Region - \$2,136. (17 people)
- Rockies Region \$1,760. (24 people)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ April 29-May 1, 2011—Prairie Region Assembly
St. Benedict's Retreat Centre, Winnipeg
- ◆ July 27-31, 2011—Jesuit Provincial Congress
celebrating the 400th anniversary of Jesuit arrival in Canada
with Father General Adolfo Nicolas

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.

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.



Please send your donation to:
CLC Canada
1120 30 Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8

Telephone: 403-328-3612

E-mail: clccanada@jesuits.ca

A receipt will be issued for tax purposes.

Your donation must be deposited into the CLC bank account by December 31 if you wish to claim it on your tax receipt this year.

Thank you for your donation!

Charitable Reg. #140958943RR0001

Enclosed is my **Donation of:**

\$ _____ **National Donation** and \$ _____ for _____ **Region**

Besides my donation to CLC Canada I would like to contribute to

\$ _____ the **John English Founder's Fund** \$ _____ **World Solidarity Fund**

\$ _____ **Cdn. World Delegate Solidarity Fund** \$ _____ **National Solidarity Fund**

The suggested yearly donation to be paid by the end of June (to coincide with the anniversary of death of Father John English), is **\$70 per person** (\$50 to CLC National, \$20 goes back to your Region).

We depend on your generosity to meet our financial commitments!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____
Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____
E-mail _____