

## **A Portrait of the Rockies Region**

*Leanne Salel, Rockies Regional Representative*

The CLC Rockies Region (comprising BC and Alberta) is one of CLC Canada's smallest regions (24 formal members; 36 with open group and pre-CLC members) yet has been enjoying growth and vibrancy particularly in southern BC. We wish to share this updated portrait of the region with our CLC Canada brothers and sisters.

### ***Celebrating Graced History – Emmaus***

The Emmaus community, the oldest in the Region, is situated in Comox BC and recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. They currently have four members. Member Sue Rambow has recently written a book on the history of the community which is now available [if you are interested in ordering a book please email Rambow.susan@gmail.com]. The charism of Emmaus has been in social justice initiatives and members have been particularly involved with l'Arche and refugee sponsorships.

### ***A Light to our Region –Lighthouse Community***

The Lighthouse community has six members. The community was originally started by Fr. Elton Fernandez and Fr. Charlie is their current guide. They are presently reading together *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. One of their members directed an 8 day retreat in China earlier this year and all are very involved in apostolic activities. They are currently discerning whether they feel called to open up their community to new members.

### ***Celebrating Ecumenism and Welcome – CLC at St. Mark's College***

The CLC community at St. Mark's College is an ecumenical CLC with approximately 11 members. It has also remained an open community. This is a diverse group with both single and married members. The group meets at St. Mark's College, on UBC campus. The community is working through Manual One which is being supplemented with additional Ignatian resources. In January 2016, four members made their temporary commitment and several members of other CLC communities renewed their temporary and/or permanent commitments.

### ***Faithfulness in Community - St. Augustine's CLC***

The St. Augustine's community began as a prayer group and was introduced to Ignatian spirituality by Fr. Fernandez, SJ. There are five members in this community. While several members have recently faced significant health issues, the group continues to meet and pray together. One member even takes a ferry over to Vancouver in order to attend each meeting! They are open to welcoming additional members.

### ***Sharing the Gift of Ignatian Spirituality in BC***

I would like to express my deep appreciation to a number of our CLC members who have been dedicating their time and energy to sharing the rich gift of Ignatian spirituality with others. The following are some examples.

Robert and Theresa Lo, a couple originally from CLC Hong Kong, have been meeting regularly with a group in Richmond for the last year and introducing various aspects of Ignatian spirituality. On the Island, Sue and Ralph Rambow have been offering Ignatian prayer at their church on Thursday evenings and plan to offer Phase 1 of CLC to a group of interested individuals in September. Catherine Kelly, a member of the St. Mark's CLC community, continues to give retreats on Ignatian spirituality in Vancouver throughout the year. These retreats have generated considerable interest in Ignatian spirituality and in CLC. Further, Delma Lobo has been meeting with a group who are praying an online Ignatian retreat together. These are striking examples of members' responding to their individual apostolic calls and a desire to share a spirituality that has borne so much fruit in their own lives.

We are also excited by the work of the Jesuit Spirituality Apostolate of Vancouver (JSAV). This group of lay spiritual directors (including two CLC members), under the direction of Fr. Richard Soo, SJ, offers the Exercises in daily life to interested individuals in Vancouver. Each year, approximately 20 people complete the Exercises. As people do so, they are often interested in finding a community with whom they can continue their Ignatian spiritual journey. At the conclusion of this year's session, retreatants were invited to consider both CLC and a Past Retreatants Group (the latter offered by JSAV).

### ***CLC in Alberta***

While we have no active communities in Alberta at this time, we have some members in Alberta in diaspora. Fr. Charlie Pottie-Paté, our Ecclesiastical Assistant, has been meeting with two "Alumni" groups (individuals who have attended Jesuit schools/universities) – one in Edmonton and one in Calgary – who are interested in gathering together and continuing their formation in Ignatian spirituality.

### ***Priorities, Dreams and Visions for the Region***

As detailed above, there is great interest in Ignatian spirituality and many opportunities for growth. The hope is that we can begin offering guide training by the end of this year for members who discern their call to this leadership role. Another goal is to build a more broadly based regional leadership structure. At this time, our Executive Committee consists solely of the Regional Representative, Ecclesiastical Assistant and Treasurer. To date, we have not had the infrastructure in place to offer regional assemblies or formation opportunities. As the region grows, we would like to develop a formalized formation strategy, a peer support group for guides, and a collaborative model of leadership and strategic planning. Finally, we would also like to assist more of our members to complete the Spiritual Exercises.

### ***Gratitude and Excitement***

As the outgoing regional representative, I want to express my deep gratitude to all of our community members. Their faith, commitment and apostolic initiative have been such an inspiration to me and I am so grateful to be journeying in faith together. I also wish to thank Fr. Charlie for all of his work with and visits to the communities as well as for his guidance and support. Finally, I wish to thank our national General Council for all of their support, their commitment to our region and to helping us meet our discerned dreams and goals. Together I have no doubt that we will continue to set many hearts on fire!