



Colloquy

Fall 2008

Newsletter #16



Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. These busy weeks are often known as “the Christmas season.” Our church calendar offers us a wonderful opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ, who is already coming in the power of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, we look ahead, anticipating the glorious coming of the risen Christ.

The words of Advent are “watch and wait.” God is working out our salvation! His reign is drawing near. We are invited to be ready to meet our Savior. This is the season of hope. While our society has made advent a season of indulgence, of consumerism, we can resist the temptation. We can be the bright light that our neighbor so longs to see, the bright light that shines in the darkness.

This past summer our World CLC community met in Fatima, Portugal to be witnesses of that light to each other; Witnesses that embraced our three newest CLC neighbors – Cuba, Hungary and Rwanda into our CLC world community. As our National CLC Team begins the journey of gathering the fruit of this Assembly and discovering how to share that fruit with all of CLC Canada, let’s give thanks for the Good News that will be shared with us.

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all they had done and taught.”
Mark 6:30

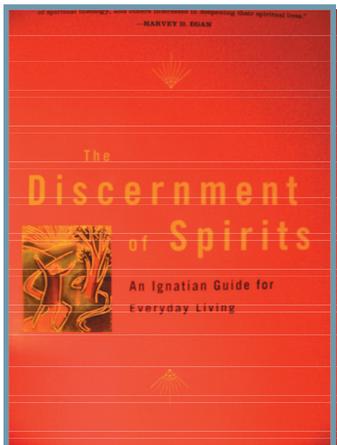
Advent is a wonderful time for us to make all things new in our lives, the time to welcome the coming birth of our Lord. It’s the time to embrace the gift that God is to us and to share that gift with our neighbor. Even as we warm our selves by the coming winter fires, we see the spark of spiritual desire that is being rekindled in us until it bursts into flame. God’s promise of salvation comes to us in this new life.

Our Regional Council meeting on October 31 – Nov 1/08 held in Pictou NS gave us a taste of the Fatima World Assembly message and the blogs on the CLC Canada website are still active (www.fatima2008.org) and full of assembly information. As this next year unfolds and the Fatima message begins to take root, and as we prepare for our CLC Canada National Assembly in Guelph, Ontario, (April 23 – 26/09) we embrace the direction the Holy Spirit calls.

May all of our CLC communities and our families have a watchful Advent, a joyful Christmas and a bright Epiphany. Let us be the shining light that can lead the way to Christ for those who perhaps are struggling to find the way.

Peter Chouinard, Editor

Colloguy – Fall 2008



Fr. Tim Gallagher, OMV – One persons experience...

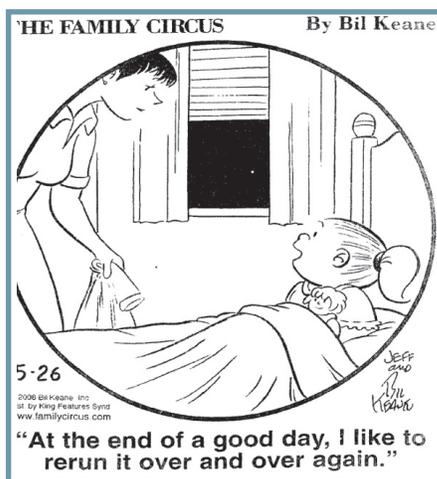
On the weekend of September 12-14th at the Villa Madonna Retreat Center, the AASEA (Atlantic Association of Spiritual Exercises Apostolate) hosted a conference on The Discernment of Spirits: First Week Rules. Father Timothy Gallagher OMV, the author of “The Discernment of Spirits”, was the guest speaker. Father Gallagher’s mannerism exuded humbleness, enthusiasm, gentleness, a great love for Ignatian Spirituality and a deep respect for the dignity for all in attendance.

Father Gallagher pointed out the three key steps of discernment of spirits upon which all of the rules are based. The first step is to be aware of what is spiritually stirring in our hearts. The second step understanding or reflecting on these stirrings, what is from God and what is not. The third is to take action, accepting what is from God and rejecting what is not.

Through the use of many case studies of people who had experienced both desolation and consolation, he was able to bring to life the influence of the good spirits and the bad spirits. We broke into small groups allowing for discussion and questioning. Father Gallagher with great gentleness and respect answered each of our questions. He skillfully pointed out how the rules of discernment aides in making spiritual sense of the experience of each case study, bringing to life not only these case studies but allowing us to recognize ourselves in these stories.

I think it is fair to say all of us left the weekend with a deep respect for Father Gallagher and the gift that the rules of discernment bring to our lives. These rules are a great tool for understanding the movements of our heart and give us, if they are used, a method for developing our awareness and understanding and an aide to taking action.

**Bob McDermott,
Potter’s Clay CLC, N.B.**



“It’s never too early to practice the Examen!”
(cartoon submitted by **Carole-Anne Holmes Lauder, Potter’s Clay CLC**)

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola



Seven New Brunswick CLC groups gather for formation, prayer and to celebrate during the Feast of St. Ignatius - July 31, 2008 – Villa Madonna Retreat Centre, Rothesay, New Brunswick

Front Row – (left to right) Margaret Melanson, Bob McDermott, Joan Myers, Ray Myers, Terri Chouinard, Jocelyn Weirathmueller, Francois Thebeau, Fr. Earl Smith SJ. **Second Row** – Amanda Muise, Betty Poley, Anne Hodd, Shirley McLean, Pat Lawson, Fr. Mike LeBlanc. **Third Row** – Linda Hubbard, Carole-Anne Holmes Lauder, Nora Sullivan O’Toole, Graydon Nicholas, Corrine Osborne, Heather McFarlane, Pam Daigle, Susan Moore, Linda Adams, Patricia Thebeau, Dorie McDermott, Gertrude Mooney. **Fourth Row** - Lynn Basker, David O’Toole, Doug McFarlane, Yves Daigle, Millie DesRoche, Reta Dunlop King, Rick Benson, AASEA, Peter Chouinard, Doug Hubbard (Missing from photo- Pattie Daley, AASEA)

On July 31, 2008, members of seven New Brunswick Christian Life Communities and some friends from the AASEA (Atlantic Association Spiritual Exercises Apostolate) gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), devoted his life in humble service for the greater glory of God. His gift to the Church, the Spiritual Exercises, is of special significance to those who live Ignatian spirituality and its charism of spiritual discernment. Among these are members of Christian Life Community throughout the world.

Our CLC Day of celebration, an afternoon and evening workshop-retreat, was held at Villa Madonna Retreat House in Renforth, N.B. Margaret Melanson, of Earthen Vessel CLC, welcomed the communities from various parts of the Saint John Diocese, Fr. Earl Smith, S.J., the Atlantic Region Ecclesial Assistant from the

Ignatian Spirituality Center in Halifax and other guests and local members of the A.A.S.E.A. Greetings were passed on from the National Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, S.J. to those assembled.

After a brief orientation related to the theme of our day, “towards Apostolic Community: Growing in the Art and Skill of Discernment” we began with a “very moving” communal prayer led by Peter Chouinard (Earthen Vessel CLC). This prayer was based on Scripture, the words of St. Ignatius and General Principle # 8 from the Christian Life Community documents. The ritual movement unfolded with a procession of candles shedding light on an image of Jesus with his arms around the world, on an image of Ignatius with the book of Spiritual Exercises and on the logos for NB CLC, Atlantic CLC, National CLC and World CLC. In prayer, God was

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

praised for sending his Son, sending St. Ignatius and sending Christian Life Communities to be 'on mission with Christ in the world'. This prayer experience, with its strong images, symbols and ritual movement, reinforced our call and desire to live as discerning apostolic communities of love and service.

Following this, table groups of five shared their year's experience of striving to live as apostolic communities - a time of bonding and learning.

Focusing on formation, Betty Poley, Group Guide and member of Earthen Vessel CLC, presented a tool called 'The Awareness Wheel'. (Introduced briefly by Lois Campbell (CLC USA) previously at the Atlantic Region 2007 Assembly in Charlottetown) The diagram of a wheel with five sections – observations, thoughts, feelings, wants, and actions, and the experiential process she used helped participants stretch their concept of interior awareness. This psychological tool was enthusiastically received by all as particularly supportive of the Awareness Examen, an Ignatian Prayer which is so important for our discerning way of life.

Yves Daigle, Living Water CLC, then prepared the group for a time of personal prayer by facilitating guided gospel contemplation with John 13:2-15, inviting Jesus to wash (our) feet so that we, in turn, might take up the towel and water to serve others. As one member commented, "The Gospel Contemplation was deeply profound". An hour of silent retreat followed.

After supper and fellowship, we continued honoring St. Ignatius and his gift of discernment through another presentation led by Pam Daigle, a CLC Elder, Group Guide and member of the River of Life CLC.

She opened up the Examen Prayer, in the context of (Rom. 12: 2) Quoting from Timothy Gallagher's book, "The Discernment of Spirits", Pam explained the difference between psychological, moral and spiritual awareness.

She pointed out that spiritual movements are always related to the life of faith, hope and love! Case studies were used to engage table conversation around this important distinction.

Following this teaching, a new CLC meeting format was introduced. "Imbedding mission in each sharing round" was key to this new approach. Following a guided Awareness Examen on the spiritual movements of our past week, Pam facilitated the table groups in the experience of Part I of a CLC meeting. This was a very fruitful exercise. Those present expressed a desire to begin using this new format in the fall or continue deepening its practice.

Closing Eucharist was con-celebrated with Fr. Smith, sj and Fr. LeBlanc. In his homily, Fr. Mike LeBlanc joyfully told us God is always at work in us, loving us in all our moments - regressing moments as well as forward moments of growth. And he ended by quoting Archbishop Oscar Romero, martyr of El Salvador, "This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capability. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between master builder and the worker. We are the workers, not master builders, ministers, nor messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

In leading an appropriation of graces received during the day and evening sessions, Fr. Smith called forth the many blessings of the day's celebrations from the participants; affirmation, encouragement, humility, peacefulness, understanding, hope and strength to name but a few.

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola / World Assembly

Adding that; "Spiritual awareness is the fabric of Ignatian Spirituality," Fr. Earl further stated, "Prayer and awareness are not about 'me' but about God. " A special 'thank you' was offered to Fr. LeBlanc for his on-going support of CLC. In closing, Peter Chouinard asked all to remember in prayer the World CLC Assembly to be held in Fatima, Portugal and the three representatives from Canada who will be attending.

Also mentioned was the National CLC Assembly which will take place in Guelph, Ontario. April 23 - 26, 2009.

CLC members and guests left in grateful appreciation of the planning and leadership in honouring St. Ignatius of Loyola through celebrating communal prayer, faith sharing, silent retreat time, fellowship, and formation in personal and communal awareness of spiritual movements in the mind and heart.

**Submitted by
Pat Lawson, Our Lady's Circle**



Our Three CLC Canada delegates to the 2008 World Assembly, Fatima, Portugal.

Ruth Chipman, President, CLC Canada, Mary Balfe, National Representative Central Canada, Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, SJ, National Ecclesial Assistant.

Journeying as an Apostolic Body: Our response to this Grace from God – The priorities of the new assembly are now being reviewed by all.

Desire

Free to know, welcome and embrace Your holy desire for one so small in Your vast loving array.

Yes to the past. Yes to the present. Yes to the future. Draw the 'yes' from deep within me that I may see and affirm it for Your glory and honor.

Ordering, disordering. Reordering all, that life may be as You see it for me. You are my greatest desire.

The 'more and the deep' I long for, desire, search for, there where I may find peace and intimacy. Touch me that I may feel, taste and see the wonders You are, the wonders You offer. Open my senses, my inner being too, that I may not miss the all that You are.

Author - John Sumarah



Please join with me in congratulating Michelle Mahoney, (Companions on the Way) our new National Representative, Yves Daigle, (Living Water) our new Regional Coordinator and Bob McDermott, (Potter's Clay) our new Treasurer. We thank you for your offer of service to our regional community.



Community News

"I came across the following article a couple of months ago and I am pleased to share its Ignatian richness with our regional community via the Colloquy."

Jim Doyle, Companions on the Way CLC, Charlottetown, PEI

Enlightenment

A favorite saying of mine, from Zen Buddhism, runs like this; "before enlightenment-chopping wood, carrying water; ah, but after enlightenment-Examen." chopping wood, carrying water."

Life is hard. We fail often. Any mountain top experience worth its salt must take into account life in the desert below. But in our daily life we feel so small and incapable of making things right. The persistence of social injustice weighs us down. Our own persistent failings cut us deeply.

In many ways we rebel against our sense of powerlessness and imperfection. We want to believe that with a little more effort we can get it right. We cling to illusions of control and competence. Sometimes we really believe that we have it figured out, that we know the right answers, and only struggle with why others cannot understand us.

"How I wish," says the Lord in the 81st Psalm, "my people would listen to me and follow my way ... In short order would I resolve their problems and overcome their distress ... I would feed them with bread made of finest wheat and cover it with honey drawn from the rock." If only we could give over in trust, life would be easy and light.

I think we want that lightness of spirit. We hope to realize it in mission, as companions. Perhaps that is why we are here. But, it is so hard for us to believe that we are given authority, just as we are, and that trustful surrender, in full awareness of our sinfulness, is the way to peace. Only in trustful surrender are we able finally to see what is really happening in our ordinary lives, to appreciate the epic, heroic story that is being played out even now around us and in us. "

Paul N. Duckro, PHD, The Examen



At our year end retreat, facilitated by Fr. Earl Smith, SJ, we deepened our communal heart by sharing our personal stories in a sacred and spirit led retreat. There was a deepening of communal gifts to humbly share with each other in this sacred space.

In the spirit of the Trinity, Potter's Clay, the following speaks into our retreat experience...

"We are being led by the Spirit in many hidden ways to enter into the life of the Trinity. When we disclose something of ourselves to another in trust and love, we share in God's revelation onto

the beloved Son. When we listen with loving attention to another who speaks from the heart of what is deepest, we understand a little more the Son's listening attention to His 'Abba'."

Jesuit author unknown

Community News

Living Water CLC of Fredericton N.B. and Our Lady's Circle CLC from Nackawic N.B. share spiritual Conversation, serious conversation and celebrates together at the Home of Greta Grondin in New Maryland, N.B.

"WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED..."

On May 7th/08, Our Lady's Circle CLC, Nackawic joined Living Water CLC, Fredericton at the home of Greta Grodin for an evening of sharing, formation and celebration. In preparing for the gathering of the two CLC's, all were given Luke 5: 1-11 and the grace to pray - 'a deeper desire to follow Jesus as members of Christian Life Community'.



After a welcome by Jocelyn Weirathmueller, 'how we come' sharing and the gathering song "Follow Me to the Sea", Yves Daigle led the 18 of us in the Gospel contemplation. (Luke 5: 1-11) We then broke into four groups and shared in sacred talking and listening, re-gathering with the song "Here We are Lord". Upon reflection on the spiritual conversation, JoAnne and Tim McWade remembered "being warmed by their (OLC) sharing and the acceptance of our (LW) sharing" and "being remembered from a previous (PEI Atlantic) gathering".

After a short break, we gathered again as one body and Pam Daigle led us in formation deepening our understanding and wisdom of the CSA (Communal, Spiritual and Apostolic mission) format of our meetings and also fleshed out and deepened our living the DSSE of Christian Life Community. Again we broke into four groups, each group to discuss one of the aspects of discern, send, support, evaluate then gathered again in the large group to share key points of our discussions. Lynn Basker of LW commented that the process "was very useful in helping us digest and come to an understanding of DSSE".

Following appropriation of the graces which gifted us through the experience of our two communities being one, and evaluation of what helped us live in unity of love that evening, the Group Guides Graydon Nicholas and Pam Daigle shed light on how God was moving us during the evening. Closing prayer of gratitude was led by Francois Thebeau with many petitions for those we held dear in our hearts.

A delicious social followed as the two communities continued to experience oneness through Jesus, with Church, in Christian Life Community. When asked to reflect on their memories of that special gathering, Jocelyn Weirathmueller submitted the following which captures the feeling of the experience:

"Here were two groups, some members of whom did not know each other, and yet I experienced a very strong sense of community. Sharing in the small groups was marked by a deep degree of openness that seemed so natural in the strong spirit of trust that embraced us all.

I felt that we were enriched not only by the shared prayers, the shared experiences, the formative portion which allowed each member to experience living out a concept of the DSSE, the easy flow of the meeting, etc., but too by the presence of each person in the gathering. Even George and Julia Bourque who couldn't be with us were very much with us as we carried them and their difficulties from the heavy flooding in prayer.

Community News

Each community met their match in being communities of celebration as we continued the celebration of being with each other with a bountiful feast. Even recipes were shared!

There had been previously spoken desires for twinning. This meeting certainly was fruit of this desire. And, as the meeting ended, and people were getting ready to leave, one could hear once more, spoken desires: to meet regularly as a large community and to plan for a communal retreat. How much more CLC can this be - together growing and being enriched as community; and together growing and deepening our relationship with our Lord - so that we each might better participate in the building of His Kingdom. All for God's greater glory and our eternal salvation!"

...Jocelyn



Companions on the Way, Charlottetown

Pictured in the photograph "under the trees" from left to the right Jim Doyle, Doreen Reid, Michelle Mahoney, Julia Donahoe, Catherine Gallant, Mary Curtis, Mary Doyle, and Grant Curtis. Missing from the photo is Helen Green.

It was a beautiful summer day around the Feast of St. Ignatius on July 27th when "Companions on the Way" gathered for a summer social. Grant

and Mary Curtis opened not only their home but also their hearts to celebrate with one another while catching up on past events. It was enriching and most enjoyable sharing stories and breaking bread together.

Sr. Regina McQuaid who had journeyed with us in the past joined us from Summerside. It was a day of many blessings filled not only with good food and wine but good company. It was a day that the Lord hath made and we were glad and rejoiced in it!

All for Jesus, Mary Doyle

DANGEROUS 5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE "MUG" CAKE

If you have grand children they will love this!

- 4 tablespoons cake flour
(That's plain flour, not self rising)
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons baking cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (Optional)
- A small splash of vanilla
- 1 coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to the large mug and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in

the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips. (If using) and vanilla and mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and then tip over onto a plate if desired. EAT! (This can serve two if you want to feel slightly more virtuous!) And why is this the most dangerous chocolate cake recipe in the world? Because now you are only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake any time of the day or night!

Pat Lawson, Our Lady's Circle

National Representatives / Regional Council

Outgoing National Representative...

My time as Regional Representative has ended. Michelle Mahoney's time has begun. I offer below a short prayer of gratitude and support. We do not know in advance, thank God, what is involved in our "yes," simply that we are prompted to say "yes." Our trust is that we will be given the grace at the moment we are in need of it, and the discernment with others on how to proceed. CLC, as with the Christian Church of which it is part, is "the slow work of God" (Teilhard de Chardin).

For my part, I have been called to contribute to Group Guide formation in Nova Scotia and I will continue my work in Spiritual Direction.

Peace and prayers, John

Our new National Representative

Last year a call went out for a National Representative as John Sumarah was completing his term in this role. I knew that I was being nudged by the Spirit and let my name stand for nomination. Nudge turned into 'push' when I realized that I was the only one out of 11 who let my name stand. I took the decision to my community, Companions on the Way who generously helped me to discern. Low and behold, here I am: discerned, supported and sent- first by my Community, then Nationally and now Regionally since our last council meeting. So far, I feel like Samuel- I don't know how to go out or come in. It is a transitional phase and at times, I feel overwhelmed. I believe that the Lord is transforming me and furthermore, transforming Atlantic CLC and CLC Canada as we move forward with new Leadership and the Fatima World Priorities. It tells me that CLC is truly alive and well, since nothing 'alive' ever stands still.

After our Regional Council Meeting, I was able to put it in better perspective, thanks to Joan Myers. She spoke in her reflection (at that beautifully prepared Lay Eucharistic service) about the call to be 'bridge' and what that might mean. Since then I have spent time reflecting on that as my hope in this new role. I am called to be a 'bridge' between the Regional and the National. I will do my best to bring the concerns of the Region to the National and the concerns of the National to the Region. I know it will be okay because I have the Love of the Lord and the Wisdom of our Elders behind me as I am 'pushed' forward. Rest assured that you are all in my prayers as you bring God's Kingdom to our broken world. I ask you to please remember me in yours.

Blessings and Peace, Michelle Mahoney

Fall Regional Council Meeting

Stella Maris House of Hospitality, Pictou N.S. - October 31, 2008

Our fall Regional Council meeting was attended by 10 Atlantic CLC communities in attendance. (19 attendees) A full and fruitful agenda unfolded with a wonderful sense of Atlantic hospitality and generous hearts as we shared together our on going communal growth and formation and our communal and apostolic hearts. We give thanks to God our Father for the generous hearts of our outgoing CLC Leaders – John Sumarah, our past National Representative and Gilles Michaud, our Past Regional Coordinator. We as well celebrate and give thanks for our incoming Leaders – Michelle Mahoney, National Representative, Yves Daigle, Regional Coordinator and Bob McDermott, Regional Treasurer. We offer our prayers and support as you begin your new journeys in service to our community.

Regional Council / CLC Formation Manuals

Fall Regional Council Meeting

Stella Maris House of Hospitality, Pictou N.S. - October 31, 2008



Pictures top to bottom left to right...

1) Fall environment created by the attendees on Friday evening; 2) After a full evening, the attendees gather for a social in the Stella Maris kitchen; 3) Jane Abernethy-Parker and Yves Daigle present a thank you gift of flowers to Sister Marie and Sister Joan for their welcoming and dedicated service; 4) Regional Discernment Process draft document; 5) Out going Regional coordinator Gilles Michaud, Ixthus CLC, PEI receives a gift of gratitude from our incoming Regional Coordinator Yves Daigle; 6) Our new Regional Coordinator, Yves Daigle, Living Water CLC, N.B. and our new National Representative Michelle Mahoney, Companions on the Way CLC, PEI, gracefully embrace our communal sending and blessing prayer during their commissioning; 7) Out going Contact Person of Ixthus CLC, PEI, David McIsaac says a fond farewell as he is replaced by incoming Contact Person, Maureen Brennan;

REPORT ON THE REVISION OF CLC FORMATION MANUALS

In April 2008, following the three National LFE's, (Leader's Formation Encounters) and after talking to several CLC Group Leaders we became aware that the revision of Manual 1 was badly needed but it was not advancing as had been planned. We decided that new members on the revision team were needed to move the project ahead. The present Revision Team is composed of Barbara Peloso, Fr. Charles Pottie SJ and Gilles Michaud as Coordinator.

The Revision Team has now completed the first draft of Manual 1. At present the entire draft copy is being evaluated by 3 CLC groups.

It is anticipated that the evaluation phase of

Manual I will be completed at the end of Dec. 2008. The Revision Team will look at all the evaluation data that has been provided by those CLC Groups and incorporate all recommendations that would meet our criteria.

When this phase is completed the final draft of the revised Manual I will be sent to our President (Ruth Chipman). The National General Council will then assess the content of the final draft and decide on how the Formation Manual is to be put at the disposal of all CLC members.

It is anticipated that we will then move forward in the revision of Manual II when approved by the National GC. Once again, I will ask for the

CLC Formation Manuals / Regional Coordinators

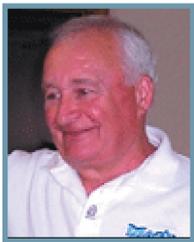
assistance of CLC members that have had experience in Guiding Groups through Manual II.

As we complete the revision of Manual II we will proceed in the same manner with the revision of Manual III. While doing the Revision Project I have noticed that our Formation Material for CLC Leaders would also need to be updated. Therefore I will be recommending to GC that the Leaders Manual be reviewed with the objective of it also

being revised. This is much needed since there are a number of helpful formation documents and articles pertaining to Group Leadership that have surfaced during these past years and should be at the disposal of CLC Group Leaders.

Respectfully submitted
Gilles Michaud, National Coordinator
Leadership Formation Working Group

Outgoing Regional Coordinator's Report



Gilles Michaud
Regional Coordinator

This will be my last report as the Regional Coordinator so please allow me this opportunity to be verbose.

As I reflect over these 4 years of serving you in the capacity of RC I find myself being very grateful for

having had this wonderful and grace filled privilege. I must not neglect to say that there have been challenging moments which brings one to humbly recognize the need for the gifts of others in the Community. For this I am doubly grateful.

My mentorship as RC began in April of 2005 and it began with a very positive experience as I came to realize that I was assisted and influenced by the outgoing RC at that time, Peter Chouinard. I also soon became aware of how I was supported by other talented and gifted members of the Regional ExCo: Ray Myers as Secretary, John Sumarah as NR, Colleen Sumarah as Formation Chair, Claude Jean as Treasurer, Leo Deveau as Colloquy Editor, Fr. Charles Pottie as the Atlantic Region E. A.

As time went on some members were replaced and others were elected to the Regional ExCo: Fr. Earl Smith came all the way from Winnipeg to support us as our new Regional EA, Jim Doyle as Secretary replacing Ray Myers, Clarence DeSchiffart as Formation Chair replacing Colleen, Peter Chouinard as Editor/

Communication replacing Leo Deveau and Yves Daigle as Treasurer replacing Kathy Deveau.

At this present Regional Council meeting we will be saying au revoir to John Sumarah and to myself, Gilles Michaud and welcoming Michelle Mahoney as successor to John as NR and Yves Daigle as newly elected RC. With Yves' changeover on the ExCo from Treasurer to RC we will need to look at electing a new Treasurer. We are fortunate in that Bob McDermott has generously offered to serve in this capacity. If accepted by the Regional Council he has mentioned to me that he is ready to serve in this capacity

In this past 4 years, the Atlantic CLC Region continues to evolve and mature as an Apostolic body, we became aware of how we, as a Regional Council, were being called to be a « Communal Discerning Body » when processing decisions. We proceeded to discern 2 important issues in dealing with our Financial Responsibilities and our CLC Regional Structure and Governance.

Regarding finances we have developed a Budget, thanks to Yves. This has created an atmosphere of transparency. In addition we decided that we should pay for the expenses of ExCo members when attending meetings on our behalf. We were given a grant of \$1,100. from the Jesuit SEE Fund to assist us in the on-going Ignatian formation to help us in implementing on-going formation as stated in our Recommendations.

Regional Coordinators

When challenged to look at our Regional Structure we entered into a Communal Discernment process. We proceeded in these un-chattered waters with trepidation but with the faith of the Trinity being with us in seeking the greater good. Consequently we saw the need to create a working document on a methodology to guide us through the steps of Communal Discernment in the future.

In 2007 we organized the Atlantic Region CLC Assembly that took place on August 17-19 in Charlottetown PEI. From this event emerged our discerned needs and desires for the coming years. The Formation Committee has been instrumental in focusing on the discerned needs as a guidepost to ensure on-going formation and training in our Fall and Spring Council meetings.

In Oct. 2007 we organized an Atlantic Leadership Formation Encounter where 22 CLC Leaders honed their skills as CLC Group Leaders. From this experience we realized that we needed to create a document that would clarify the responsibilities of Group Guides, Coordinators and Contact Persons. As a Regional CLC we continue to work with and support the apostolate of the Jesuits of Halifax and consequently continue to work closely with the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality in Halifax.

The world General Assembly was held in Portugal in August of 2008. Our National delegates were Ruth Chipman from the Prairies Region, Marie Balfe from the Central Region, Fr, Charles Pottie SJ as the National EA. Peter Chouinard from the Atlantic Region was mandated to be a back-up person if needed. Leah Michaud participated as the out-going member the World ExCo. Our CLC Region also financially supported the World Assembly by contributing to the World Solidarity thus assisting delegates from other countries that could not afford to send delegates to the Assembly. The Recommendations from the World the Assembly has in a sense affirmed us in our way of proceeding regarding on-going Leadership

Formation and solidarity with the Jesuits. What we will need to seriously look at is our financial responsibilities and how we are being called to increase our financial support at the level of National and the World.

As a CLC Region we continue to be actively involved in the support of the St Aloysius Gonzaga School for Aids Orphans in Nairobi, Kenya. I would hope that we do not loose sight of this important and much needed mission.

The Fall Regional Council meeting gave me a great sense of a communion. I am very grateful for having been given this privilege to serve as your RC. Your kind words expressed in the card have touched me deeply. The candle holder is a beautiful gift as it sits prominently displayed in my home.

I will not be too far from you as I will continue to serve as the National Coordinator of the Leadership Formation Working Group. One of our main projects, at this time, is the revision of the CLC Formation Manuals and I expect that the first Manual will be available sometime in early 2009.

AMDG, Gilles Michaud

In coming Coordinator's Message



Yves Daigle
Regional Coordinator

I want to express my gratitude for the support and the affirmation I received the weekend of our Regional Council meeting in Pictou. The blessing and sending ritual really gave me a sense and the presence of the Body of Christ. I am certainly standing on the shoulders of those who came before me. Thank you, Gilles and John, for your leadership, your wisdom and your faithfulness as you offered your guidance these past years. You have both added to our rich graced history as we thank God for whom you have been and know will

Regional Coordinators / Treasurer

continue to be for us in whatever way God will call you to serve.

My term as Atlantic treasurer has been a blessing as it has allowed me to serve all of you as a member of the Executive Council by sharing in the collective wisdom of all the members. It was a great formation that helped in the discernment to allow my name to stand for this new role. I'm looking forward to serving in this leadership role for the next 3 years...as Tommy Hunter would say....God willing. There are exciting and challenging times ahead... (Excuse the political type language...I think it's the Obama effect). We are continuing to ponder some documents that will give us clearer directions and guidance in our respective roles as present and future leaders, as well as, in future discernments that we may be called to in our Atlantic Region. Our World Assembly, through the Fatima document, will call us further to ponder how to live more fully as apostolic communities with a call to be prophetic. (I told you these were exciting and challenging times.)

We are also gearing up to participate in our National Assembly in Guelph next April. You are encouraged to begin your serious conversation

in that area... Who will represent your group as a delegate and how that person will be prayerfully and financially supported. More information will be provided in the next while by our National Representative, Michelle Mahoney, through your contact person. Also looming on the next horizon is our own Regional Assembly which is slated to take place in 2010.

Our plate is starting to fill up but I'm sure it will be a feast of graces and blessings for all of us. Thank you for your commitment to the CLC way of life....your commitment to each other on that journey. Thank you to those of you who serve as the leaders of our 13 CLC groups and our 2 groups in formation. Our hope is that all 15 groups would have representation at our next Regional Council Meeting in Pictou, May 22-23/09. In that way we can all be blessed by your presence and the sharing of the lived experiences of your groups. May the prayer of St. Paul to the church in Ephesus as expressed in Eph. 1:16-19 be our prayer to the church of our time.

**Yves Daigle,
CLC Atlantic Regional Coordinator**

In coming Treasurers message



Bob McDermott
Treasurer

Bob McDermott, Potter's Clay CLC, has been confirmed by our Regional Exco after having received confirmation from our local communities. Bob has completed the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and has been a member of CLC

for 5 years. Bob is married to Dorie who is also a member of Potter's Clay.

Bob is a member of St. Joseph's parish and has served in many ministries in his parish community including catechist, confirmation

class, parish counselor, lector, RCIA, and music ministry.

Bob is retired from Aliant. Both Bob and Dorie have acted as co-facilitators of Potter's Clay and are now members of the AASEA and are in a discernment process of possibly becoming spiritual directors.

I look forward to joining our Regional Exco committee and serving as our Treasurer.

Bob McDermott

Note: Bob will be "sent" at our Regional Exco meeting Nov. 29, 2008 in Pictou NS.

Our Jesuit Connection

A few words from our Atlantic Ecclesial Assistant



The Society of Jesus recently concluded its 35th General Congregation in Rome on March 6, 2008 after having completed its first purpose which was the election of 'our' new General Superior, Father Aldo Nicolas, a native of Basque country Spain, and resident of Japan and various Far East Countries since near 1960.* This brief is very limited in its scope of GC #35 coverage. All of GC Thirty-five's degrees are easily accessed and downloaded from the international website which is: www.sjweb.info. The purpose of this page is to highlight a simple, wonderful, basic reality about the nature of CLC as a collaborator with the Society of Jesus.

GC #35 has [only] six Degrees. The sixth is named Collaboration at the Heart of Mission. Jesuits worldwide are now more ably able to recognize the voice of God's Holy Spirit inviting us to 'renew and commit ourselves to apostolic collaboration and the profound sharing of labour for the life of the Church and the transformation of the world.' [GC#35, Doc. 6, #2] Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict says to the Society of Jesus... "The Church needs you," To our collaborators like our CLC members worldwide Jesuits welcome this call to service as 'a call shared by us together.' [Doc. 6, #3]

We Jesuits speak of collaboration in a new and Spirit-led manner. Please God, near totally gone are the days of pseudo-collaboration when lay persons working with Jesuits in schools, parishes or wherever do whatever Jesuits told them to do. Indeed, the way forward is through various means such as our common sharing of graces given through the Spiritual Exercises, professional training, and the use of talents/skills best suited for the good of our 'common missions'. The voice of the Spirit is democratic. God's dynamic apostolic presence is to be brought to heart-felt awareness through various forms of communal discernment to be learnt and practised by Jesuits and their collaborators alike.

All these beautiful words might easily dissolve into a sort of mind-soup of spiritual platitudes about an imagined relationship with CLC, not one that is in fact, real, if not for a read of paragraph #28, Document 6. In it the Society recounts with gratitude how indebted it is to collaborators like Christian Life Communities who because of 'a spiritual bond' are 'more effective in service to the mission of Christ in the world.' In this same paragraph it is written, "...the Christian Life Community has roots that are deep in the charism and history of the Society. We wish to continue to support CLC in its journey towards ever greater apostolic effectiveness and collaboration with the Society."

To these words let us pray to God... 'So be it' and together focus towards the achievement of many missions in, with, though, common graces given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. Earl Smith, SJ
- Amen.

*Please read: G.C. #35, Special Reports, January 29, 2008 – Father General Meets the Press, www.jesuits.ca for more information about this extraordinary Jesuit.

Retreats, Next Issue

2009 AASEA Retreats (Atlantic Association Spiritual Exercises Apostolate)

New Brunswick at the Villa Madonna Retreat Centre – Rothesay NB

June 8-14 (7-Day (6 nights) -Total cost \$500.

Retreat Team - Fr. Bill Brennan, Fr. Earl Smith SJ, Betty Poley, Joan Myers and Charlena Keenan-Bourque.

Nov. 20-22 - Total cost \$185. (Team to be announced)

For more information contact

Doug Hubbard – hubfam@nbnet.nb.ca



Note:

The next issue of the Colloquy will go to print in the early spring of 2009 and the deadline for submissions will be March 20, 2009. This will allow the Colloquy to be completed and sent out in time for Easter. As always, I would appreciate any and all submissions and invite feedback from all CLC communities.

Peter Chouinard, Editor

“No more for now, except that I pray to God, our creator and Redeemer, that He may be pleased to continue His gifts in all of you and increase them, just as He was pleased to give you such great grace in calling you, and in giving you an effective desire by which you could resolve to spend yourselves completely in His service. May you always persevere, growing in His service, with much honor and glory to Him and great benefit to His holy Church.”

From Rome, Yours in Our Lord,
7 May 1547 Ignacio

Upcoming Events, Contacts



“Rejoice for He is born!”

Up Coming Council Events

National Assembly – Guelph, Ontario – April 23-26, 2009
Spring Regional Council Meeting – Pictou, N.S. – May 22-23, 2009
Fall Regional Council Meeting – Summerside, P.E.I. – November 06-07, 2009
Spring Regional Council Meeting – Saint John N.B. – April 16-17, 2010

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