



CLC Canada

Celebrates St. Ignatius *Celebrates Commitment*



Fatima World Assembly Outdoor Mass August 2008

Commitment often is the path less travelled. Contemporary culture values limits and boundaries that can prevent us from sharing the most profound human experiences that come with commitment.

In CLC, the model of Christ's and Mary's commitment inspires and challenges us deeply. St. Ignatius invites us to examine each day; *What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ?*

Over the weeks and months to come we'll share and celebrate commitment stories. We'll examine commitment from individual and community perspectives. How does our sense and experience of commitment affect our CLC way of life? How important is commitment in living our mission?

In this newsletter, with delight and gratitude, we introduce CLC Canada's Presidents Elect, Mary Balfe and Peter Chouinard. We'll also update you on CLC Canada's support for North American apostolic action for Haiti.

General Council will be meeting in October. Proposed agenda items and other practical considerations are included on the last page of this newsletter.

Thanks so very much for supporting the mission of CLC through your generous donations. If you have not yet sent your donation, please send it along as soon as possible. Your discerned contribution supporting your vocational call to CLC is vital to support the larger CLC and our work.

Ruth Chipman - President

Dear friends,

Celebrating the feast of St. Ignatius as CLC members is becoming a wonderful tradition across Canada. It deepens our bonds of collaboration with the Society of Jesus. This year, I will be celebrating it in the Spirit with you all at our Jesuit community at Boston College.

As we read below, two of our "top" items this past year have been commitment to the CLC way of life and our desire to respond effectively to helping the Haitian people reconstruct their country after the devastating earthquake last January. In the Prairies region we had several people make public commitment to this way of life. And I believe that other regions at their Assemblies will also have this commitment ritual.

This is very heartening for the growth of CLC as an apostolic body. It has likewise been encouraging to hear the steps being taken to collaborate in our response to Haiti. May the intercession of St. Ignatius continue to "ignite the flame of God's love" in our common Mission with Christ.

We extend our sincerest condolences to all members who have lost family members and friends. We pray that your loved ones rest in the fullness of God's peace.

Happy Feast of St. Ignatius to all.

Charles Pottie Paté, SJ
National Ecclesial Assistant

INTRODUCING CLC CANADA'S PRESIDENTS ELECT

A few words about Mary Balfe

I first met Mary when she, her husband Tom, and I were billeted together for a Leadership and Formation Encounter in Toronto in 2007. At that time I recall being impressed with Mary's great caring, creativity, inclusiveness and openness. In the last year or so, I have had the opportunity to work more closely with Mary and through this time of mentoring have found all of those things to be true – and much more.

Mary brings incredible passion and commitment to her involvement in CLC. She is motivated by a deep spirituality and a powerful vision of the contribution that CLC can make (in her words) "to spread the love for Jesus in the mission of "the emerging church"". She is tireless in her commitment and gives generously to this work. CLC Central has been very fortunate to have had Mary as their Regional Representative these past three years and I know in working with her partner President (elect) Peter Chouinard,

Mary will be a true blessing to CLC Canada as well. Congratulations Mary and we look forward to continuing to work with you in this new capacity.

Adrienne De Schutter,
Coordinator of Communities (Elect)
CLC Central Region

Mary Balfe (center kneeling) with Central Regional Council



Peter Chouinard; Hopes & Dreams for CLC Canada

Peter's desire is to see CLC Canada's gifts and energy utilized effectively from coast to coast. He would encourage the growth of CLC in areas where we are not presently represented, and encourage and foster growth in leadership formation and discernment processes across Canada.

He hopes that our CLC Canada General Council would come together annually for a face-to-face Council meeting without the worry of financials; and also to incorporate a time of prayer and fellowship separate from the Council business to allow and welcome opportunities of bonding and identifying areas where the Blessed Trinity would desire our

General Council to lead us across our country. In a way, an annual General Council 'retreat' where an extended period of silence and an opportunity to 'listen' to the stirrings of God in our hearts would be possible.

Peter hopes that this retreat would allow General Council to 'brainstorm', share together for the council to hear and understand God's desire for CLC in Canada; to better equip General Council to be a prophetic voice to our CLC members across Canada; to 'uncover' the mission(s) The Trinity desires the General Council to peruse. He looks forward to opportunities to vision with our grass roots communities across the country. Peter envisions working closely with our National

Representatives and our National Ecclesial Assistant.



Peter Chouinard (center standing) with Atlantic ExCo

Peter would encourage the continuing inclusion and formation of Ecumenical Christian Life Communities for all those who desire to journey in bringing God into all aspects of their lives. He would encourage the use and expansion of our National website inviting all CLC members to become aware of this vital asset and the opportunities it provides.

CLC NORTH AMERICAN APOSTOLIC ACTION-HAITI

On January 13, 2010 CLC Canada encouraged members to respond immediately and generously to the critical and urgent needs of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. Prayer and reflection surfaced more questions. Could we, together as a national community, animate and engage a response that would enable us to;

- sustain Haiti's redevelopment over the long term?
- develop a response that would be consistent with our CLC Canada Common Mission?
- engage in effective collaboration with CVX, CLC USA and the Society of Jesus?

In the weeks that followed the devastating earthquake members were invited to follow Christ more nearly through the reality of human suffering. Our World Day of Prayer focussed on Project 144 *Who are the Poor* and the visceral images of Haiti struggling to rise from the rubble. Across Canada there has been concrete signs of an expansion and deepening of the Ignatian dynamic of prayer, reflection, action, evaluation, communal discernment.

Combining the spiritual, social and intellectual dimensions of mission discernment brings with it tensions and resistances . We have been challenged to live our CLC way of life more deeply, to discern more clearly, to love more dearly. Following is a letter from Gilles Beauchemin SJ updating us on events and actions in Haiti. (translated from French by CLC member Andrée Richard) On page 6 you'll find links to resources forwarded by members.

Dear friends and benefactors,

I have been back in Canada since June 8th and would like to share quickly with you what I have been living in Haiti for the past three months, to you who have shown great compassion when the earthquake happened in Haiti on January 12, 2010. I would like to thank you very much for all the different ways of support you have offered me. Today, in the name of the Haitian people who benefited from your donations and prayers, I come to thank you.

I had arrived in Port-au-Prince last September and had shared with you how the general situation in Haiti had improved in my Christmas letter. No major drama or catastrophes and the international



newspapers hardly spoke of Haiti anymore.. How happy I was. I had compared it to a falling tree creating a great turmoil and a growing forest not making a noise. At the time Haiti was living a new birth, without making noise, silent and full of hope.

Alas! On January 12 at 16:57pm, there was the terrible earthquake. For over 30 seconds, the town of Port-au-Prince and its surroundings lived the catastrophe. The seismic magnitude was of 7.3 and caused more than 220,000 deaths, one million people without housing, throwing the country into complete disorganization.. You probably remember the terrible images seen day after day on television and filling every newspapers. The world population was profoundly shook up and showed great generosity in coming to the aid of the Haitian population.

At the time of the earthquake, I was in Canada for a two week stay that extended to two months. Like you, I saw on television the National Palace crumble, the cathedral crumble and unsupportable images of people pinned under the rubble of edifices and of cadavers thrown into a common grave.. Like you, in Montreal I saw all that: but in Montreal also, I witnessed your great generosity. I received a great number of spontaneous donations. I was totally moved by it.

CLC NORTH AMERICA APOSTOLIC ACTION FOR HAITI

I was able to return in Haiti on March 10 with the first civil airplane from Montreal to Port-au-Prince. None of the Jesuit's residences had crumbled. No Jesuit companion had died. Only one was badly hurt when the wall of a house had fallen on his car. From my first day back, I listened and questioned every member of the house on what they had experienced on the day of the quake. All, without exception, Jesuits or young Haitians living with us (novices), all expressed having been at death's door and stayed profoundly marked by it.

Where they had been, they had felt the earth shake really hard around them, houses where falling down, people from under the rubble where crying for help and dead people were everywhere. The following days were terrible, apocalyptic scenes: house rubble had made the street impassible. On the ground, bodies everywhere. Some dead, others badly hurt, sinister cries coming from the rubble, parents wailing in front of their dead children or searching for the missing ones.

All spoke of the insupportable reality, the smell of dead bodies still under the rubble as well as those being thrown into open graves. Here and there, one could hear religious hymns to God, to Jesus, by people shouting their distress and supplications and amidst all of it it seemed some of them were singing gratefully to God for being still alive.. the young people of the house repeatedly said to me "it's a good thing you have not lived this, it was so terrible". Me, at the same time in Montreal, I was sad not to be with them.

I was back in Haiti on March 10, two months after the quake. Our house did not crumble but has many fissures on it. The house is not deemed dangerous by the engineers. We can be inside and work during the day, but until it is repaired, nobody wants to sleep in it at night in fear of a repeat of the past experience.. everyone sleeps outside in the garden under tents. We have the Jesuits, the novices, the family of an employee, a neighbor with its three tenants whose house crumbled down. Personally, after a few nights under a tent and having not lived the quake, I decided to go sleep in the house. Communal life in the house

is about the same as what it was before the quake, except for our novices, who instead of going to teach in a school in a poor area (no classes for nearly three months), go to help in a refugee camp to take care of children to provide games, fun things to do as well as provide some French classes.



What I saw in the city the day of my arrival really shook me up. Crumbled buildings, and others that were being torn down. But most of all, the encampments! everywhere in the city, camps were erected filling in empty spaces and even whole streets. They are made of ten, hundred or thousands of tents or structures built with whatever old planks, tarps and tin one can find.. Families who had lost their homes and all of their possessions had come together in these areas during the days following the quake.

At the heart of the town, surrounding the National Palace, there is a great park (Champs de Mars) filled with monuments. It was what was most beautiful and precious in Port-au-Prince. This park is now filled with thousands of tents and tarps. Every corner is filled with families and their children. The sight of the immense encampment made me feel really sad. I asked myself, how long will these people have to live in these dire conditions? living under the sun as well as the rain? There are international organizations like the Red Cross, Oxfam, Unicef and others bringing help, food, water and better hygienic conditions, but where is the dignity of the human person in these places where violence and promiscuity is all too present?

CLC CANADA NORTH AMERICAN ACTION FOR HAITI

Closer to us, in front of our door, part of the street has been overtaken by a small camp of about twenty families. I was able to see a little more closely the life in these encampments. The shelters serve as a sleeping place and storage area and the street is where the kitchen is, the laundry room and the playground for the children. A really special social life but lived in misery, insecurity, without personal space and with minimal hygienic conditions. Twice I saw food distribution. From three in the early morning, people started to line up to receive a food portion under the watchful eyes of the military officers implementing order: a line up made of three or four lines of people staying very close to each other as not to loose their place slowly move forward. At 8:15am, three food trucks were discharged.

These scenes moved me greatly in seeing how hunger made people to live as they were. Since, this type of distribution has stopped in front of our house and has gone back to a more normal way of distribution being provided by small commerce around the neighborhood. One day the polices told all the families on my street they had to go . The next day in the afternoon, everyone was gone. The street had been cleaned and cars were circulating on it again. But where have all these families gone to? Another place? Other camps?

In town, we are not seeing much building happening, we are still at the 'demolition' stage. We need to know that many houses have been built with two or tree stories with cement blocks as walls and cement slabs as floors in between stories. Demolition is done by hand and takes many days to accomplish. The debris are disposed of onto the street. The first sector of re-construction has been the schools. In March, in a few weeks, some wood buildings were erected and classes started again. Other schools have started under great tents. This was the first sign of going back to a normal way of life. We were filled with great joy to see the children circulating in the city in their school uniforms.

We can ask the question; how long will it take for the situation to come back to normal in Haiti? It will take four to five years, we are told by the international organizations.

It's true the work is gigantic because of the complete devastation. The difficulties are found in all aspects: political, economic, humanitarian and social.

Of the first order, the need was to attend to the



urgent needs of food, water, taking care of the injured, followed by providing shelter. Tents and tarps were furnished but these are temporary and are not protective against heavy rains. After a few months the material tear up and structures fail.. There is a need of better shelter, but where to build them? how to build them? and how to accomplish this for 500,000 people? The job is enormous and will not be done soon.

Immediately after the quake, the Jesuits in Haiti got together to respond to the needs of the population. With the help of Jesuits from the Dominican Republic and help by the Dominican "ong", materials of first necessity (food water, tents, tarps as well as medical supplies) were able to go to the population of about ten sectors of newly formed camps. Volunteers helped in organizing these growing camps and took care of their immediate needs. This urgent care lasted about two months.

At the same time, two Jesuit organizations were deployed. One, to take care of the injured and refugees(Refugees services) and the other to take care of the children (Faith and Joy). These two organizations, from the beginning, worked alongside of others in the camps, more specifically to help families and frail people: mothers, children, handicaps,etc. Rapidly, the need to come to the help

CLC NORTH AMERICAN ACTION FOR HAITI

of children without schooling became apparent. Faith and Joy quickly send help to bring children together, providing balls to play with and keeping them busy. When classes in the city were ready to start, the same organization got tents ready to be able to provide schooling in the camps. Teachers, without employment due to the crumbled schools, were employed by Faith and Joy after a formation period. Children in these schools are at the primary level. They all need schooling materials.

Collaborating with PAM (Worldwide Food Program), food is also given to the children. Another sector was open by Faith and Joy: professional formation to respond to the country's need to rebuild housing.

Young people between the ages of 18-25 are offered a formation in brick laying as well as carpentry. Under the watchful eye of the teacher (American volunteer), the carpentry apprentices learned they skills while repairing the Jesuits houses! They also learned to built small chairs for the children in the schools. Others, learned to built large sections of wood panels to be used to erect schools in the refugee camps. These newly formed young people will then be able to find employment once re-construction of buildings starts.

Dear friends, you have been generous in all your donations to help Haiti in this hard time. This is how the money has been put to use. The greatest amount was used to repair or re-construct the houses of five of our employees affected by the quake. Their houses were damaged or completely destroyed and these families are still living under tents. For another six families, we purchased tents and tarps of good quality made to resist heavy rain. Other monies were given to families to make it possible for their children to go to school: 15 children at the primary, and secondary levels are able to attend. The money has payed for the school uniforms, entrance and exams fees and other expenses. Finally, a brother and a sister with chronic tuberculosis are being sustained with food and medications. In their name, I thank you very much.

After living in Haiti for the past three months, I was

able to assess the disaster effect. Rebuilding will happen at a very slow pace. However, encouraging signs are present, showing up little by little. Small commerce along the street are starting up again, schools are opened and children are in their uniforms. I am very touched by the ability of the



Haitian people to rebound quickly. They are telling me, they are finding their strength in prayers. A strange force emerging in the midst of misery, a willingness to live knowing God is present. Any financial aid they receive is bringing them a small light. They are praying for you, benefactors, without knowing you, as you, not knowing them, you have helped them. I am still really worried thinking about the upcoming summer season, the cyclone period, where they will have to suffer the water, the mud, the wind, the mosquitoes, skin diseases and the rest... they are present in my prayers: it is my way of helping them. Pray also for the Haitian people. My return to Haiti is expected to be Sept. 1st 2010. Regards. Be assured of my prayers for all of you. Till next time!

Gilles Beauchemin s.j.
la Maison Bellarmin (for the summer)

Resource Links

[http://www.democracynow.org/2010/2/10/
killing_the_dream_excerpt_of_documentary](http://www.democracynow.org/2010/2/10/killing_the_dream_excerpt_of_documentary)

<http://www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/>

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/haiti/>

project-jacmel/

<http://www.jrs.net/>

CANADA'S TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION-WINNIPEG JUNE 2010

Our relationship with Aboriginal people has suffered as a result of the injustices and abuse experienced by Aboriginals in the Indian Residential Schools (IRS) that were run by Christian Churches on behalf of the federal government. These schools officially began in 1879. It is felt that healing and repairing this relationship in a holistic way will require education, awareness, and increased understanding of the impacts still being felt by everyone.

To help to facilitate this process of healing and reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was formed. The TRC builds upon the "Statement of Reconciliation" dated January 7, 1998 and the principles developed by the Working Group on Truth and Reconciliation and of the Exploratory Dialogues (1998-1999). The TRC's 5 year mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The Commission will document the truth as stories of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the IRS experience are listened to.

It is felt that reconciliation will be an ongoing individual and collective process, and will require commitment from all those affected including First

Nations, Inuit and Métis former IRS students, their families, communities, religious entities, former school employees, government and the people of Canada.

The first TRC National Event took place at The Forks in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 16 to 19. Several CLC members were able to attend separate events and found the experience spiritually moving.

"Hearing the stories of families whose children died at the schools is painful. In the Education tent, survivors were invited to post comments under the headings; "I remember, I believe, I hope." Those headings struck me as very "Ignatian" and a vital part of our way of life. The Commission listened deeply to each sharing, one lasted 7 hours. You can sense that all who hear the survivor stories listen at the heart level, much like the spiritual listening that takes place in CLC groups." Ruth Chipman, member of Koinonia, CLC Prairie Region

Inuvik, Atlantic Canada, British Columbia, Quebec, Alberta, and Saskatchewan will also see National events sometime over the next 5 years. The closing event will take place in Ottawa.

By Sharon B. Prairie Region Representative

www.trc.ca www.irss.ca/history.html

CLC CANADA'S REVISED FORMATION MANUAL I

Come and See

(SECOND PRINTING) IS NOW AVAILABLE.

THIS WONDERFUL RESOURCE IS \$25 CANADIAN

PLEASE CONTACT BARBARA PELOSO FOR ORDERING & SHIPPING

DETAILS PPELOSO@COGECO.CA

A sample session can be found on our National Web Site

www.jesuits.ca/clc



Sincere thanks to Atlantic Region for sharing their CLC resources developed over a number of years.

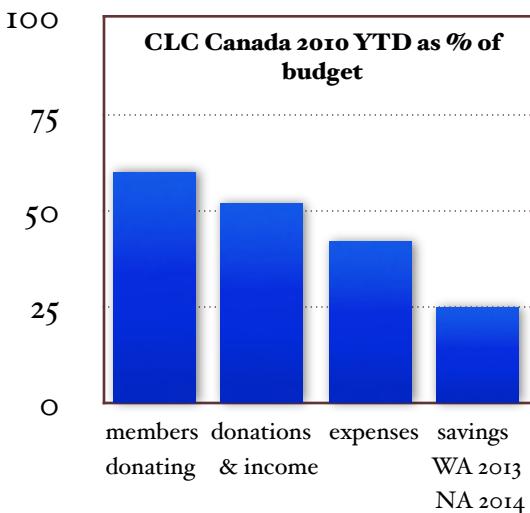
This outstanding resource can be found on the National web site, www.jesuits.ca/clc under Atlantic Region - Formation.

The Atlantic resource includes;

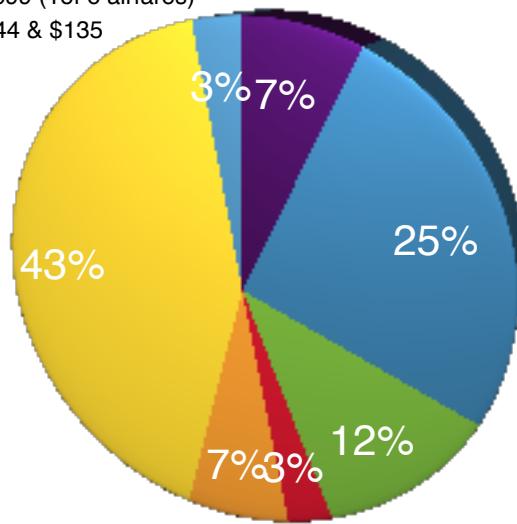
1. CLC Apostolate
2. CLC World Documents
3. CLC Formation
4. CLC Group Resources
5. CLC Power Point resources

6. CLC Processes and Tools.

7. CLC Structure
8. Prayer-Miscellaneous
9. Spiritual Exercises



- National Ecclesial Assistant \$392
- National Executive Assistant \$1,440
- General Council Meeting \$699 (1of 6 airfares)
- Office Supplies&Postage \$44 & \$135
- Formation(Manuals) \$422
- Dues Rome \$2,482
- Bank Charges\$5
- Conferences-CCCB\$187



Members donating 60%

Projected 2010 expenses \$19,780

Donations & income \$11,795

Expenses \$8,684

World Assembly GIC \$2000

National Assembly GIC \$2000

GIC-Feb 2011 \$7,000

General Council FALL AGENDA

Calendar

- Atlantic Assembly - August 20-22, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Central Assembly - September 17-19, Pickering, Ontario
- CVX Assembly - October 8-10, Montreal, Quebec
- General Council Meeting- October 22-24, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Jesuits of English Canada -Province Congress, July 27-31, 2011
- Ignatian Spirituality Conference-July 2011, St. Louis

- Friday; 2009-10 reflection, welcoming new General Council members, Regional Assembly updates.
- Saturday; Regional reports, ExCo reports, constitution, formation, 2011 budget inputs, North American Apostolic Action for Haiti. Social evening. Sunday; planning, evaluation, appropriation, liturgy & sending.

Focus

- What regional discernments are taking place?
- Regional plans for increasing the visibility of CLC and increasing membership especially among young people.
- Supporting members in moving towards temporary/permanent commitment.
- Regional formation plans.
- Leadership Formation encounter modules offered this year.
- How does the region support the development of Ignatian Spirituality both within CLC and in the wider community?
- What current group/regional Apostolic initiatives are connected or networking with others in/beyond CLC?
- What type of support is needed to move on these priorities?

Communal Apostolic Discernment Input

- What do you see now, one year after Guelph and two years after Fatima, as the 3 or 4 signs and directions for CLC Canada? Please share your responses with your regional representative.