

Update

Christian Life Community Canada



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Greetings from the Presidents and Past President,

I have been asked to write this message on behalf of Kati, Peter and myself. I began my term as President, with Kati, two and one half years ago. I could have lingered on to March 2006 however, as a result of prayer, I suggested that I was prepared to relinquish my responsibilities at our General Council meeting in Toronto this past September. General Council respected my discernment and hence, my term as Past President has begun. I have great confidence in Kati and Peter as they continue the stewardship of our national CLC.

I am once again an Elder as provided in our Constitution. I have been drawn to this special passage from 1 Timothy 4:14 which states:

You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not let it lie unused.

We are placed in this world with specific graces and for unique purposes. The responsibilities that are part of our CLC are enormous and awesome. We contribute our talents and gifts for the common good of our families in our CLC communities. We need to pause and listen to what God is trying to reveal to us in silence [Psalm 46:10]. The challenge that emerged from Nairobi was that we *discern, send, support and evaluate*. General Council has tried to put that action into practise. The fulfillment of the Nairobi formula has become part of our General Principles and Charism. We live out these guidelines in various ways across this great land. We struggle with mandates, missions, and contemplative actions.

As we enter the Holy Season of Advent when the liturgical year begins anew let us prepare ourselves to be ready to celebrate the moment when Jesus became one of us. We are touched by the gentle teachings and examples of how we co-labour with Jesus to make real the Kingdom on earth. We are inspired by the spiritual experiences of one another that are shared in our CLCs. It is most important that we strive to do a silent retreat each year to renew our commitment to Jesus.

This last message from me would not be complete if I did not express my gratitude to you for your prayers and sacrifices for our CLC. We are a specially graced national community. We must continue to journey together in our Emmaus walk as Jesus matches us step for step. Let us welcome Jesus to open up Scripture to us so "that our hearts will burn" and we not wait for the breaking of bread. Let us walk together with Jesus as he made his final journey into Jerusalem and the crowds waved him on not realizing what was to unfold. We know the story. We should strive to tell the story of the Resurrection and live the Beatitudes.

I have renewed my involvement with the CCCB on the Aboriginal Council. I hope and encourage you to participate on the National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal People on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We wish each of you Blessings of Christmas. Perhaps our paths will cross again in the future. Continue to support our Presidents, General Council and one another.

- Graydon, Kati, Peter

FALL ISSUE NOVEMBER 2005

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



CLC CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL 2005-2006

National Presidents: Peter Chouinard Kati Gumbmann	Atlantic Regional Rep.: Clarence DeSchiffart
Past-President: Graydon Nicholas	Central Regional Rep.: Maria Brown
National Ecclesial Assistant: Fr. Earl Smith, SJ	Prairies Regional Rep.: Ruth Chipman
National Executive Assistant: Marilyn Heaton	Rockies Regional Rep.: Dan Clarke

LETTERS OF ST. IGNATIUS

Dear CLC Friends:

The Woodstock Theological Center Library has published *Selected Letters of St. Ignatius* on a website listed below. This website could interest our CLC membership as we grow more knowledgeable of St. Ignatius Loyola, our Spiritual Father in the Lord. Lately, I've begun to read a few of these letters written on a wide variety of themes including a letter written On the Gift of Tears.

Ignatius wrote this brief letter in 1553 to a fellow Jesuit, Father Nicholas Goudanus of Netherlands. Father Goudanus was known to be a man of great charity with zeal for the making of God's Kingdom on earth. He asked Ignatius about the spiritual benefits inherent in the gift of tears. Ignatius answers his request with praise while prompting him to realize the true value of this gift must be understood in terms of our compassionate service of God, especially in the service of those who suffer life's miseries. Tears that tenderize a hardened heart (which is not the

case of Father Goudanus) can be useful and give reason for gratitude.

The response of St. Ignatius is of great interest to me since this grace was exercised by the saint throughout much of life and at critical times in his making crucial apostolate discernments. Also, the gift has been more in use by me since my retreat this summer. It is a gift that needs to be better understood and wisely exercised by me. Clearly 'tears' is not an essential gift in the service of God, as the Spirit does not give it to everyone truly motivated to actions of generous service.

... the true value of this gift (tears) must be understood in terms of our compassionate service of God, especially in the service of those who suffer life's miseries.

Why not read this or another letter of interest when time allows. The website is:

<http://georgetown.edu.centers/woodstock/ignatius/letters.htm>

Sincerely,
Father Earl Smith, S.J.
Ecclesial Assistant



SPIRITUAL EXERCISES COMMISSION

The Spiritual Exercises, on which Ignatian Spirituality is based, is a top priority of Upper Canada Jesuits.

Last year Father Jean Marc Laporte, S.J., Provincial of Upper Canada Jesuits, established the *Spiritual Exercises Commission* with a mandate to facilitate the spread and influence of the Spiritual Exercises throughout Canada and beyond. Canadian Jesuits and laypersons, whose service to Canada's Church has a special focus on the Spiritual Exercises, serve as members of this Commission. **Elaine Regan-Nightingale** joined the work of the Commission this

September. The choice of Elaine to membership on this Commission clearly underscores the importance and interdependence of Canadian Jesuits on CLC Canada to its vital ministry of the Spiritual Exercises. Two well-known Jesuits to CLC Fathers Pate and Smith are also members.

**The
Spiritual
Exercises
of
St. Ignatius**

The Commission's priorities for the present year is to create a website that consolidates the best materials available on the Spiritual Exercises. Also, it is to discern how best to assist the social justice apostolate through the use of the Spiritual Exercises.



CLC CANADA WEBSITE

<http://www.jesuits.ca/clc/>

Our thanks to Geraldine for the wonderful job she is doing as webmaster for CLC Canada! Why not take the time to check out the improvements! Following is Geraldine's report on changes she's made to the website to date.

Changes that appear on all pages of the website

- ◆ replaced background
- ◆ updated CLC Canada Logo
- ◆ created button link to communities page
- ◆ updated cosmetic look (print color, added lines, spacing etc.)

'Communities' Page has been created

On the 'Front' Page

- ◆ created link to CVX CLC Website & Prairie Website from map
- ◆ added scroll for upcoming events
- ◆ added 'Communities' button link to communities page
- ◆ added flashing "new" to bring attention to 'Communities' button
- ◆ added web master name with link to email

On 'General Council' Page

- ◆ added Peter's name to Presidents
- ◆ created Past President's line and added Graydon

On 'Resources' Page

- ◆ added two powerpoint presentations from North American Conference

On 'History of CLC' Page

- ◆ added a picture of Ignatius of Loyola



Saint John CLC Formation Community II praying with Geraldine in a "sending" ceremony as she accepts the task of being CLC Canada's website coordinator for the next 3 years.

L/R: Corrine Osborne, Gail Hughes, Carole-Anne Holmes-Lauder, Paulette Haines, Margaret Melanson (guide), Robert McDermott, Dorie McDermott, Geraldine Tingley (seated).

On 'Links' Page

- ◆ added link to CLC USA & CVX CLC

On 'Atlantic Region' Page

- ◆ added Atlantic Region Logo
- ◆ created archive
- ◆ updated information

On 'Central Region' Page

- ◆ created archive
- ◆ updated information

- Geraldine Tingley

◆ ◆ ◆

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

THE CLC COOKBOOK PROJECT

Hello CLC Friends,

We, the Friends of Jesus CLC in Winnipeg, Manitoba, would like to inform you that, through our discernment, the Cookbook Project has evolved into a new format that focuses on our intent: To raise money for the Solidarity Fund.



The contact information for the Cookbook Project can be accessed at: www.geocities.com/clcprairieregion/great_recipes.html

We are grateful for the support we received from so many of you. The unique recipes submitted from across Canada will be available through the website. Take the time to check out this new venue.

Blessings and prayers. In Christ,
- Sharon Baker (Friends of Jesus CLC)

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION (Cont.)

DIAKONIA UNDERTAKES JUSTFAITH

“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Diakonia CLC Prairie Region, called to a vocation of service as a community, began the JustFaith program in September <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/justfaith/> JustFaith provides a background in Catholic social teaching and is offered through Micah House, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg’s Catholic Centre for Social Justice <http://www.archwinnipeg.ca/pastoral/justice/index.html>

JustFaith is a spiritual journey sparked by the cry of the poor that calls us to open our hearts and minds through a richness of community life. JustFaith invites us to open our eyes to see the world through the eyes of Jesus, the eyes of the poor.

JustFaith appears to be much influenced by Ignatian thought, spirituality and pedagogy. Tools of the Spiritual Exercises such as principle and foundation, community discernment, the daily awareness examen, four-column method of decision making, etc. support our JustFaith dialogue. We look forward to practicing and honing the process

of experience, action and reflection as a means of social analysis.

We, of Diakonia CLC (Howard R. Engel, Tere Hajzler, Esther G. Juce, Linda Moug, and Michelle St. Croix), undertook a lengthy discernment to determine our participation as a means to prepare us for our apostolic mission. Diakonia and the Prairie Community shared their mutual concern that the significant time commitment could result in a loss of community life. However, we experience confirmation of our decision through a broadening and deepening of our CLC way of life with eight other JustFaith participants. We did not lose each other in this process; we gained a larger sense of community with these eight others and we find great consolation in this. We appreciate the ongoing and active support of our wider regional Prairie CLC community through their regular contact and prayer with us.

Diakonia requests your prayers and hopefulness, confident in faith, that together we are being prepared, in Sister Theresa’s words, to participate in “something beautiful for God.”

- Howard R. Engel with Ruth Chipman

AIDS ANGELS

The Friends of Jesus (Winnipeg) are currently active in promoting the Aids Angels project that began in Canada in 2000 and is now present in several cities.

The project makes small angels from wooden clothes pins and wooden balls that are painted, dressed and then sold prior to Christmas as tree decorations, gift adornments, stocking stuffers, teachers’ gifts, etcetera. Our group personalizes each Angel with various fabrics, ribbon wings, belts and a name that is common in Lesotho.

As a result of the epidemic and famine of 2004, many children are “parenting” their younger siblings and



thus forgo any possible training or educational possibilities.

Our CLC group, in keeping with GP8, exercises an apostolate with the Sisters of the Holy Name who have an active presence in Lesotho, Africa. The funds we raise are channeled through their mission office in Montreal and received by the sisters in Lesotho. This insures that 100% of our proceeds help address the suffering of these AIDS orphans and victims. And, while this is a serious apostolate, much fun and fellowship is enjoyed as we make, dress and market the Angels.

- Norma Steven (The Friends of Jesus, Winnipeg)

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION (Cont.)

ST. AL'S IN AFRICA

CLC National Council Atlantic representative, John Sumarah and his wife Colleen, from CLC Truth Given/Anawim in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, are



John & Colleen Sumarah

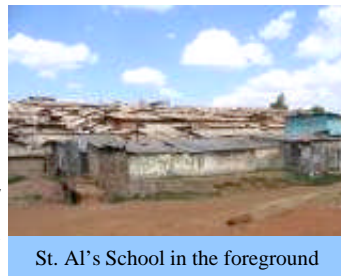
volunteering their skills and talents this fall at the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School in Kibera (a suburb of Nairobi).

The school began last year as a project of CLC Kenya to support the educational needs of AIDS orphans

(children of affected parents, where at least one has died, in many cases both). Last year St. Al's began with 56 students (ages 14-18). This year it is now up to 126 students.

Kibera and other slums in its neighborhood have an estimated population of over 10,000 AIDS orphans of secondary school going age who are not able to continue with education.

CLC Truth Given/Anawim are currently raising funds to support the purchase of textbooks for 'St. Al's.' With John and Colleen on the ground working with CLC Kenya, CLC Truth Given/Anawim wish to invite all members of CLC Canada to consider this worthy grace-filled project of love, solidarity and support.



St. Al's School in the foreground

Cheques* can be made out to:

The St. Al's School Fund and mailed
c/o Leo J. Deveau
9 Chestnut Avenue
Wolfville, N.S.
B4P 1V7

*Upon request, tax receipts can be issued for donations of \$15 or more from CLC Canada.



NEWS FROM AFRICA

October 10, 2005

Family and Friends,

Jumbo (Greetings) from the birthplace of humanity – Africa! We arrived in Nairobi on August 26 and are filled with gratitude for all that has transpired. We spent 12 days in a Guest House and met some wonderful people from all over the world, especially Africa. Our friend, David, who met us at the airport gave us a list of apartments used by employees of Catholic Relief Services. We have a two bedroom serviced apartment and are very pleased with it.

Sheena and Darren are enjoying their studies in psychology and international relations respectively. Lots of interesting discussions about many issues. The majority of students are from Africa so it is great to listen to their interpretation of events and issues. The university is a distance away but is highly regarded here in Kenya so it is worth the travel effort (about 45 minutes each way on a terrible highway).

Colleen and I are very well and have adjusted easily to food and climate. Kenya is at the equator so this time of year is perfect weather-wise. Kenyans are beautiful faith-filled people. Their independence from colonial rule happened in 1963. The government has much

to do from all points of view, education, health, housing, etc. People get discouraged since change is slower than desired. Nairobi has about 2.5 to 3 million people. The discrepancy between the ones who have and have not is as dreadful as in Johannesburg, so safety and security are major issues here. Everybody is affected and foreigners are especially careful. There are car-jackings everyday and of course robberies every minute. We have been advised when and how to travel about.

My first letter to you is focused on St. Al's. I will write about other things at another time. St. Al's was established in January, 2004 to respond to a need to provide secondary education for students living in the slums of Nairobi. The 125 students (14 to 18 years) are the orphans of parents who have died of AIDS. Some live with an uncle or aunt, others with a friend or alone in the slums. Christian Life Community (CLC), a group of volunteers, sponsors and operates the school, located in Kibera, the largest slum in East Africa with at least one million people. CLC envisaged providing a secondary education to students deprived otherwise because of their backgrounds as AIDS orphans.



The tuition, education, school uniforms, food and social programs are provided to the students by 11 dedicated and qualified teachers: 7 fulltime, 3 part-time and 1 volunteer.

The Kibera slum is as old as Nairobi itself and started as an alternative housing dwelling for rural immigrants with low incomes. Kibera covers an area of 550 acres making it the most densely populated informal settlement in sub-Saharan Africa. Over 60% of the population of Kibera is comprised of young people. The vast majority of residents live in abject poverty mostly through unemployment. If a person is fortunate enough to work the daily income does not exceed two dollars. On average 4 to 5 people live in a room less than 3 meters square. The rooms are made of old iron sheets, scrap metal, cartons, mud and polythene. There are no windows and thus no ventilation. Residents have no access to electricity and 65% of the residents have no access to safe water. The lack of sanitation has led to serious health problems including a high risk of typhoid, cholera and tuberculosis. The rate of HIV/AIDS is very high. Crime including theft, prostitution, drug trafficking, smuggling, domestic violence and murder is on the rise.

St. Al's School is essentially four small classrooms, a tiny makeshift lab, a small staff room and a very small administrative office in dilapidated facilities made of mud walls and corrugated iron roofs riddled with holes. Uniforms are provided, as is the practice in all Kenyan schools. Some uniforms are threadbare. Breakfast and lunch are served at the school so that students can concentrate on their school work. St. Al's also provides social programs including clubs and activities, unavailable elsewhere for the students. The school is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day but students come early and stay late since their living conditions at home in the slum are extremely bleak. The school is open to the students on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There are 125 secondary students at St. Al's. (Most Kenyans drop out of school earlier because of lack of student fees.) We have been attending the school several times a week and volunteering for different activities. The most fun is the discussion with the students about topics of their choice. I am so taken by the faces of these students. Many are very bright and simply need guidance and opportunity. There are no discipline problems in the school as all of the students are grateful and aware of the gift that the school brings to them.

Now that we have had a few weeks at the school with several discussions with the head teacher (principal) and deputy principal, it is clear that outside of a new facility which will take major fund raising efforts, the immediate need is for textbooks. At the moment St. Al's has been able only to provide one quarter of the required books. I have contacted our CLC group in Wolfville to see if we can provide textbooks for all of the students. They have so few resources, crowded small rooms, a poor lab for sciences and even chalk is at a premium. December, 2006 will have the first graduating class at St. Al's. I hope that the graduates will have some work or study opportunities. If they score well academically, financing for further study will be a huge challenge. Colleen and I were invited to give a class on interviewing. I can't tell you how much fun we had. While the students are poor materially they are rich with questions and curiosity.

We think of all of you so often and appreciate your prayers for us this year.

I'll write again soon about my impressions of the country and the people.

Blessings on each one of you.

- John Sumarah

AND NEWS FROM JERUSALEM

A Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

- September 6-25, 2005

"The Jesuit Ministry Course 2005"

led by J.P. Horrigan, S.J.

Photo taken on the roof of the hospice where Ignatius Loyola stayed in 1523 when he was a Jerusalem pilgrim. We had our lunch at the Lutheran Hospice. It was very special for us to be in the very place Ignatius was when he was in Jerusalem. In Ignatius' time it was called the 'Hospital of Saint John' - the residence for Pilgrims. Now it is the Lutheran Hospice especially welcoming young people. The emblem of Saint John is still on the door. At this place we prayed together for 'World CLC', and especially for 'CLC Canada'.



J.P. Horrigan, S.J. (Central Region Ecclesial Asst.)
Carmen Hurtubise (Cardoner CLC, Toronto)
Susan Tomenson (Companions CLC, Toronto)

It is a 5-minute walk from the hospice to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the background is the Dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, also known as "The Church of the Resurrection", especially to those of the Eastern Rite. Ignatius spent a lot of time in prayer at this Church.

The steeple in the picture is the "Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church". A wonderful view of the 'old city' can be seen from its tower. It is situated in the 'Old City-Christian Quarter'.

- Susan Tomenson
(Companions, Toronto)

FROM THE REGIONS

Prairie Region Gathering, May 13-15, 2005
St. Paul's High School, Winnipeg



Kati Gumbmann (President)
Ruth Chipman (Prairie Region Rep.)
Fr. Earl Smith, SJ (Ecclesial Asst.)
(Preparing for the concluding Mass)



Steve Chipman (Koinonia)
Ken Butterill (Friends of Jesus)
Chris Butterill (Friends of Jesus)
(The bags held written affirmations of the participants' gifts).

FINDING GOD IN THE DARK

One day this spring as I was browsing in The Prairie Messenger to read the film review section, my eyes were drawn to the book review section. The article that attracted me described the Spiritual Exercises undertaken in a film format. The book is [Finding God In the Dark](#) and is written by two Jesuits, John Pungente and Monty Williams. I had completed the Spiritual Exercises two years ago and been moved by the profound experience of knowing that God's personal love and mercy for me is infinite. I had completed Annotation 19 and was intrigued by this different approach to the Exercises.

The method the authors described involved the viewing of contemporary films and using imagination in order to enter deeply into contemplation. I had cut out the article and actually started talking about it with other people who also like to watch films. I did not buy the book, however and three months went by before the subject of my interest in the book came up again. This time it was in casual conversation with the adult education coordinator at St. Ignatius Church in Winnipeg. The coordinator mentioned that they would be offering this program in the fall and would I be interested in coordinating this? I was definitely interested but at the same time somewhat apprehensive about doing it. Was this what God was asking me to do at this time? How was I supposed to know if it was? I heard myself answering immediately that I would do it. Then not too much time later, I wondered if I had made my decision too hastily.

I do know that God always hears our prayers and I know that he heard mine. You see, many months ago,

I had asked God to use me in whatever capacity he wanted to, specifically in the parish of St. Ignatius. I had no idea of what that would look like but by now, I knew that I could trust God. So here I am facilitating this program that has been creatively thought out and organized for those who are eager to learn about St. Ignatius and to follow into his footsteps by using the medium of media. God has also graciously provided me with an excellent partner who is absolutely thrilled about doing this program.

The book is very clear and easy to follow. We are doing an eight-day retreat, which means that we are viewing a movie every two weeks. In this particular retreat, there are eight movies to watch. Each movie brings us into the theme of the exercises presented by St. Ignatius: the mercy of God, walking with God, a passionate love, and a transforming life. Each retreatant is asked to meditate on the specific theme and then asked to reflect on the questions at the end of each section. Journaling is encouraged. That way retreatants come to the movie prepared and disposed to watch the movie as a contemplative act. After watching the movie together, the group divides into small groups and discusses questions that the authors have suggested in order to further appropriate the contemplative experience.

There are two groups doing this program at St. Ignatius at this time. The response is favorable and people say that they are moved. Discussion is lively. I personally have been stirred into a different dimension and depth and I find that the stories resonate long after the movie is over.

- Mariette Ternowski
(Wednesday Night Group, Winnipeg)

MEET OUR COMMUNITIES

Son Seekers, Coaldale, AB



L/R: Joanne Kubik, Bob Kubik, Janice Pavka, Filomena Laporte-Packer, Dianne Clarke, Chris Adamiak, Pat Theroux, Miles Pavka, Al Theroux. Inset: Dan Clarke

Threads of Love, Taber, AB



L/R: Ray Tymko, Jenny Tymko, Beatrice Ell, Ron Baier, Anita Baier, Annelies Daniels, Art Kostersky, Correne Kostersky. Missing: Joop Daniels

UPPER ROOM CLC, TORONTO

The Upper Room CLC first met September, 2004. Our group of five are all newcomers to Canada from four different countries, yet from our first meeting there has been a spirit of unity.

The only time we could find to meet was Sunday morning at 9:30 and every second Sunday seemed achievable. Four of us have work commitments, some of us into the evening.

Geographically we are quite scattered and most of us without a car so our opportunities to socialize have been limited. Even times to chat after the meeting are cut short because people have to rush to the next Mass.

The few times we have come together, as the Upper Room, to serve the parish community only some have been able to attend. Once we helped out with the after Mass coffee and donuts and in September some of us hosted the potluck dinner for

the CLC General Council members.

Individually, we are involved in the music, reading and Eucharistic ministries and outreach to the needy through St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Francis Table. So a year in, our times together have been brief but our group grows in commitment with each meeting. We trust that with time and discernment our group's mission will become clear.

Changes are afoot. A CLC member is visiting our group to see if she would like to join us and a new guide will take over from Peter Nightingale. Sadly for us Peter needs to move on to bigger things in CLC. We are grateful to Peter for his generosity in sharing his Sunday morning with us and to Peter's wife, Elaine, for sharing Peter. Thanks, Peter, for getting us started and may God lead you in wonderful ways.

- Mary Barber



MEET OUR COMMUNITIES (Cont.)

ROOTED IN CHRIST CLC, MISSISSAUGA

Hello Friends,

This is to introduce to you "Rooted in Christ" CLC, St. Joseph's Parish, Streetsville, Mississauga, way out the west end.

We are a multi-cultural group reflecting the reality of Mississauga: There is Feda/Clara (Egypt), Vicky (Hong Kong), Luz and Bernadette (Philippines), Cynthia (Bombay, India), Anne (U.S./Canada), Daphne (Calcutta, India), Carolyn (Canada) and Susan, our Guide (Canada), but all united as one in Christ and the Maple Leaf.

Our group has grown tremendously during our time together and everyone appreciates the sharing which is very authentic. You will read an account by Vicky on our 'Day of Prayer' which was to experience Ignatian prayer to prepare for the Spiritual Exercises at some stage.

We are happy to be part of the Regional/National Community.

More when we meet.

- Daphne Stockman.

.....

DAY OF PRAYER

On May 14, 2005 I attended a special event organized by the Rooted in Christ CLC group of which I am privileged to be a member. We spent the day learning, praying and reflecting in silence together,

followed by the sharing of the grace/graces discovered through such a process.

At the beginning, I didn't know what to expect, this being my very first spiritual retreat. However, I knew somehow God would take care of things as he always does and he did.

Our 'Day of Prayer' retreat was held at St. Joseph's Parish in Mississauga. I started the day by attending the morning Mass and then joined the rest of my fellow CLC members for coffee/tea. Everyone looked happy and relaxed going into the day's program which flowed through naturally and beautifully. Our Pastor, Fr. Norm Roberts, also joined us in the afternoon to read Is. 43:1-5 and help us reflect.

I found that the silent moments spent in prayer and reflection had helped to connect me with God even more, and the sharing of personal feelings that followed was precious.

Everyone was very open and at ease in sharing, and at the same time, showed a lot of compassion and respect while listening to other fellow CLC members. We all have different journeys but can sure relate to the common experience of joy, pain, losses, hope and dreams among us.

Thank you, dear Lord, for being with us that day. I left with my heart filled with much joy and peace. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Norm Roberts for his continued support to our CLC group and to our group leader, Daphne, for all her time and tireless work in planning this retreat for us and making it happen.

- Vicky Luk (Rooted in Christ CLC, St. Joseph's Parish, Mississauga)



*....We all have
different journeys
but sure can relate
to the common
experience of joy,
pain, losses, hope
and dreams....*

MEET OUR COMMUNITIES (Cont.)



Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Toronto

A delicious pot-luck dinner was prepared by Central Region on Saturday, September 24 for General Council. These photos were taken following the dinner during presentations on the North American Conference given by Elaine Regan-Nightingale, Fran Morrison, Ruth Chipman and Peter Chouinard. Fr. Earl Smith led a prayer service to 'send' them, our National reps, to the conference held in Chicago during Thanksgiving weekend.



Gathering to promote
'PRAY PROGRAM'
in London Diocese



David Rankin, SJ
who hails from Australia
His greatest desire is for the
Spiritual Exercises
to be visible in the
London diocese

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE, Chicago - October 7-9, 2005

LET ANYONE WHO THIRSTS COME TO ME AND DRINK - John 7: 37 October 12, 2005

The North American Regional CLC/CVX meeting hosted by CLC USA at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago provided an oasis experience for 42 CLC members from Alaska to Mexico.

Fran Morrison and Elaine Regan-Nightingale, CLC Canada's North American regional representatives,



*Fran Morrison, Peter Chouinard,
Ruth Chipman, Elaine Regan-Nightingale*

have put untold hours into turning a North American possibility into reality. We can't thank them enough for the patient leadership they exhibited in making it possible for us to have spiritual conversation around the theme of **"Formation For Mission in North America"** and to seek the **Grace through the flow of water and the Holy Spirit – "to deepen our ability to discern and to respond as the North American CLC Region"**.

The surroundings at the Cenacle Center calmed and soothed our souls. The hospitality of CLC USA was outstanding. Tom Bausch, President CLC USA, Lois Campbell, Past President CLC USA and Pat Carter, Conference Facilitator, ensured that the technical aspects of our meeting ran smoothly and kept us on time.

The work schedule was intense and challenging. All members appreciated the fact that a majority of the presentations and meeting resources were available

on the NAC website prior to the meeting. This allowed for individual prayer and reflection before the meeting and enabled us to move more easily to a communal stance during our time together.

CVX, CLC Mexico, CLC USA and CLC Canada contributed reports on the state of formation in their communities. Significantly, each group indicated the need for well-trained guides and voiced their struggles to mature and evolve into Apostolic communities. We would like to draw your attention to the CVX report, which told their formation story in a simple and beautiful way. It will be posted on our national web site at www.jesuits.ca/clc.

The educational component of our time together focused on:

- Our history together as region in a Global Community -Leah Michaud
- Formation stages - Gilles Michaud (with a video provided by Father Ben Urmston, sj)
- Water issues/water action - Julie Dwyer-Young
- Social analysis - Lois & Kuruvila Zachariah
- Privatization of water – Peter Peloso
- World CLC NGO (non government organization) UN water concerns – Marie Schimelfening
- Theological reflection (break outs into individual National CLC communities)
- Youth CLC - Ramon Calzada (California)
- Listener – Barbara Peloso

Our time together in Eucharist was especially rich. We were very grateful to share this time with John LeVecke, sj (CLC USA National Ecclesial Assistant), J.P. Horrigan, sj (CLC Canada Central Region Ecclesial Assistant) and Bernard Belair, sj (CVX Canada Ecclesial Assistant). Members participated in every way possible and there was that sense of the Trinity's presence in the warm intimacy of our small group.

We all made many new friends from across North America. We were especially grateful for the presence of Jose Elizondo and Luis Serra, sj (CLC Mexico National Ecclesial Assistant). Translation into two languages was challenging. It was moving to see the dedication and hard work of CLC members translating for each other. During a break on Saturday evening we were entertained by a member of the Chicago Korean CLC community with some lovely music and a "fan" dance.

Apostolic action

As a way of moving forward on formation and water issues in the North American CLC/CVX communities the following recommendations were made to be brought back to our individual communities for consideration:

That a team of formation representatives from each CLC/CVX National come together to share their resources by the Fall of 2006

That access of the Aruppe fund be considered for updating content and layout of manuals.

That the formation representatives of each national work closely to better prepare their individual Nationals' materials. Note was made that there is a 2007 World meeting on formation.

That the North American CLC/CVX website link be a permanent link to each individual National Communities' website. Maintenance of this site will ensure that 'cross border' action and issues will be upfront for all to see as actions/issues that affect all of us.

That the North American CLC/CVX communities add their voices and apostolic service to work with those already developed social action groups that are striving to have water recognized as a basic human right.

That the North American CLC/CVX communities work towards petitioning their national and local governments to cease the issuance of any further bottling permits to private business until such time as a public debate on the effects that privatization of bottled water is having on our land, on our citizens and on the world is studied and further understood.

That annotation 18 be re-written for the specific use of our CLC/CVX members being able to reflect and pray once a week on the issue of water and it's use (an invitation to do this on Thursdays each week).

Evaluation

The conference was fruitful and provided lots of energy in which the Trinity was present. There were many opportunities to meet and understand others points of view and to learn from many long time dedicated CLC members. (There were six CLC Canada past presidents in attendance).

Coming from this conference are two new videos that are really well done – one for forming youth and the other for adults. Information on how to access these is

as follows:

The Youth video can be obtained by contacting their website at www.GlennProductions.com or www.CLCYYA.ORG (ask for the DVD entitled – Christian Life Community – Forming Men and Women for Others).

The Adult video can be obtained by contacting Fr. Benjamin J. Urmston, sj at urmston@xavier.edu or at www.xu.edu/peace/ben.htm (ask for the VHS on Vision of Hope).

This was a very worthwhile venture for CLC/CVX. For CLC Canada it enabled us to truly see how the Spirit is moving across North America. Issues that affect us in Canada are also impacted in the USA. Formation and water are key elements that affect us both.

CVX Canada has agreed to host a 2007 gathering of the CLC/CVX National communities in Montreal, Quebec (date to be determined) and CLC Mexico has again agreed to send representation. This is seen as very fruitful.

Conclusion

We close with the voices of CLC members sharing their reflections on the following three questions about the North American Conference.

What hopes did we bring with us to the NAC?

We hoped:

To find community and sharing.

To find consensus on wide spread justice issues.

To be able to share openly and honestly on the question of formation, using water as a practical way to model social analysis.

To realize the dream of a solidly established North American Region.

To exchange and receive support on CLC spirituality and Ignatian tools.

To find directing markers towards action.

For movement outwards.

For a shared action plan on commercial water bottling issues.

What "fruit" are we taking home from the NAC?

We received:

A better understanding of formation.

A realization of and appreciation for the subtle cultural differences between regions and a delight in the diversity of people and expression.

An awareness of new and mutual concerns.
 A deepening appreciation of the General Principles.
 Gentleness, peace and strength in collective discernment.
 Awareness of our dependence on the earth's bounty and of water in particular.
 Hope.
 Patience.
 Sensitivity towards water through the Examen as a reminder to keep noticing and learning.
 Fred Leone's book, Journey.
 The dvd – CLC: Forming Men & Women for Others.
 The publication, Water: A Sacred Gift, from Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative.
 Development & Peace – Water for Life - card campaign.

What surprised us about our time together in Chicago?

The mutual concerns regarding formation.
 The desire to share a vision.
 The warmth of CLC members.
 The peace and willingness to listen.
 The synergy as people of diverse gifts and origins shared food and stories.
 The extent of unity we experienced.
 The lack of friction – differences of opinion were

resolved with discussion and prayer.
 The richness and power of the vision of the luminous fish (CVX Power Point presentation).
 The insights and data given by our Mexican visitors.
 The movement towards collaboration.

Your CLC Canada General Council will consider a detailed recommendation of where we sense the Trinity is asking CLC Canada to be looking for the future regarding the North American Conference and your National Representatives will in turn be in touch with you when the discernment is complete.

We hope you will consider attending the next CVX/CLC conference in Montreal, P.Q. in 2007. With our love and thankfulness for your on going prayers and support of our CLC Way of Life we remain,

In Christ's service,

*Peter Chouinard
 CLC Canada
 President*

*Ruth Chipman
 Prairies Region
 National Representative*



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 TO GIVE TO A LOVED ONE?**

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Please contact Marilyn for more information
clccanada@jesuits.ca

JOHN ENGLISH FOUNDER'S FUND –

For Father John's 80th birthday, CLC Canada General Council established a fund to recognize the founding role played by him. His efforts, when he gathered a small group made up of four couples to begin a special journey of life with lay people in the first CLC community in Canada, grew to encompass communities across the country with affiliation to the World Christian Life Community. The fund is intended to give financial assistance to initiatives which would help the growth of CLC Canada at the local, regional or national levels.

At present there is \$3,882.61 in the account. Donations are gratefully accepted at anytime. Please mark your cheque

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clccanada@jesuits.ca
so we can keep our directory
current.
Thanks!

A MESSAGE FROM FR. EARL SMITH, SJ

Dear Membership of CLC Canada:

This message is one of thanksgiving to everyone who has forwarded their annual donations and a word of encouragement to those of us who have not yet managed to do so. Positive and clearly expressed reasons for us to pay our contributions were outlined last spring. The focus of this note is intended to amuse and inspire us to action as required.

Ten factoids to inspire the payment of dues:

Compare \$35 (including \$10 regional fees) to...

- the bi-weekly cost of one gas fill-up
- fees are less than one loonie per week
- our weekly coffee and donut shop visits
- one month's use of Cable TV
- one's month's phone and/or email expenses
- the price of one book or yearly magazine subscription
- one extra special bouquet of flowers for a beloved friend
- two bottles of good wine for a family anniversary
- a pizza and beverage meal cost for a medium size family
- the cost of one medical professional visit

What else can be written to inspire the payment of 'our' annual donations? Who knows but, in truth, that is not our real focus which is to examine the personal reasons many of us have not yet got 'round to forwarding a cheque to

Marilynn Heaton in Lethbridge. It's not likely a reason opposed to self-serving charity. Let it be a positive reason of love for persons (including 'yourself') who wish to support the unavoidable financial side of 'our' chosen CLC way of life.

More than ever the tools of CLC formation as a *Way of Life* are being provided to us at relatively little cost, but at some cost.

In the end, let each of us answer this appeal in good conscience inspired by the axiom 'let each of us do what is within his/her means to forward the common good'. Each of us can do no more. No one is asked to do the impossible. Everyone is invited to respond as God's grace allows.

I am with warm regards to you,

Earl Smith, S.J.

Ecclesial Assistant CLC Canada

esmith@jesuits.ca

Donations can be sent to:
CLC Canada

c/o Marilyn Heaton
1120 - 30 Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8

Receipts for income tax purposes will be sent to you before the end of February, 2006.

The financial statement for the year 2004-2005 (ending August 31, 2005) is available to members of CLC Canada upon request.