

"Now on the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away."

John 20:1

Just as Jesus promised, three days after the Temple was destroyed He would rebuild it. The events of that day over 2000 years ago continue to fill human kind with hope and belief in the resurrection of life after death. Countless generations have passed on their faith from father and mother to sons and daughters. Families have been and continue to be the cornerstone of the faith we cherish.

How has this extraordinary belief and faith manifested itself in our lives? As we live our every day lives at home with our families, with our neighbors, at our places of work, our places of worship, at our schools and universities, we are called by our baptism to be witnesses of all that we have come to believe.

Our charism, as CLC members is to invite Jesus into every aspect of our lives and to invite the Trinity into our life discernments as we journey towards our own resurrection. Part of this formation is the recognition that on the journey we will have our own crosses to carry. One gift of CLC is that our families have grown to include men and woman from all walks of life who share the desire to live the resurrection through the gift of the Nairobi World CLC Assembly D.S.S.E. (Discern, Send, Support, Evaluate) Just as Jesus lived in a family and formed a community of followers we too are members of a world wide community who are with Him on the road. As we continue to uncover all that the Father has in store for us, we too must have faith that the stones that block our paths to Jesus will be revealed through the discernments we enter into in our lives.

Resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith given to us through Jesus' yes to the Father; ..."Still, Your will be done, not mine." Luke 22: 42. As we prepare to approach both the cross, the resurrection and to celebrate Easter 2008 let us be mindful of the stones we need to let go of so we may be free to follow as Jesus leads.

Colloguy – Spring 2008

Early Christians struggled in many ways during and after Jesus died and was resurrected. Today, Christians the world over continue to struggle while continually building on the Good News Jesus proclaimed. With spring come new life and new hope as the days get longer and the weather warmer. With this comes a renewed strength and spirit that puts a spring in our steps and refreshes our zeal for life.

As Jack Milan states in *A Spirituality for These Times*, there is yet another stance which Christians take, it is a stance of affirmation of the basic goodness of the world and of hearing the Lord calling from deep within it to join Him in fashioning its history. For these Christians the challenge is to penetrate the culture and to join the Holy Trinity there, creating and redeeming from within.

Let us continue to discover all that Jesus taught and left for us as gifts on our journey; gifts of love and peace, gifts of family and friends. Let us reach out this year with a boldness of heart to be all that we are called to be.

There is much happening in CLC this calendar year. Preparations are under way for the 2008 World CLC Assembly in Fatima this August (www.fatima2008.org) as well as the beginning preparations for CLC Canada's Assembly in Guelph, Ontario in 2009. These assemblies bring our World CLC and National CLC families together to reflect, discern and build on the principals of CLC. Our own Atlantic CLC Assembly in Charlottetown PEI last August brought many of us together for similar experiences.

May we continue to grow in our CLC relationships as we live out our discerned calls within Christian Life Communities. Happy Easter!

Peter Chouinard
Colloquy Editor

This issue's highlights: Atlantic CLC Regional Coordinator News; Regional Representative Update; CLC Atlantic and CLC Canada Ecclesial Assistant Updates; Meet your new Atlantic CLC Exco; CLC Atlantic Community News; Atlantic CLC Upcoming Retreats; Atlantic CLC Treasurer's Report; Up Coming CLC Assembly Dates.

Assembly Dates:

CLC World Assembly – Fatima, Portugal – August 12 – 21/08

CLC Canada National Assembly – Loyola House, Guelph, Ontario April 23 – 26/09

Atlantic CLC Ecclesial Assistant reflection...

Are we hungry?

This autumn's **Leadership Formation Weekend** gave CLC'ers from across the Maritimes a taste for varied latent graces revealed for our renewal and rediscovery as a community of Ignatian 'friends in the Lord'. [To each member in the community is given a leadership role to play. Note: 1Cor12] Our sharing of the Pictou weekend graces is a clear communal priority like no other time in our CLC history. Let us praise God and continue to beg that **our hunger** for resources, which allows us to discern, send, support, and evaluate the use of our leadership gifts, **continue to grow!** We have been given a wonderful recipe resource CD by Gilles Michaud care of CLC World (Roma) and now is the time for us to learn how best to cook from it so to taste and savor the nutritional graces of God. Perhaps you have heard the quote of the French gourmet, Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, (1755-1826), who wrote "Cooking is the most ancient of the arts, for Adam was born hungry." Do we hunger for delicious food at God's cooking school of prayerful discernment? Already we are able to notice some signs of graces that have begun to slowly cook and await our attention. Leadership in Atlantic Canada is being refreshed, renewed and expanded and not just at the Executive Council level! The Lord has begun to serve 'the first fruits of the Leadership Formation material.' Now is the time to prayerfully consider with other community members the service to which God is calling 'US'. There is a practical way(s) for everyone to do his/her part. Participation in your local community's discernment for John Sumarah's successor as Regional Representative is a critical way each of us is enabled to take more responsibility for leadership here in the Maritimes! It is also good for us to remain prayerfully mindful of this summer's World Assembly in Portugal. Access to documents in preparation for this event is possible online! (CLC Canada website) In this way we prepare to enjoy the feast of graces to be given over the next few years and beyond by our Eternal Chief who is Christ the Lord.

Father Earl Smith, S.J
(A salivating ecclesial assistant)



CLC Community News...



Lin Blackwood (River of Life CLC) presents an anniversary cake to a surprised Yves Daigle (Living Water CLC) and Pam Daigle. (River of Life CLC) Congratulations Yves and Pam!



Catherine Gallant (Companions on the Way CLC, Charlottetown PEI) and husband Mike Gallant mourn the loss of their son Robert who went to be with Our Loving Creator on January 21, 2008 after a long and brave battle with cancer. He will be deeply missed by his wife and 4 children. Please join us in prayers of support for Catherine and her family as they remember their beloved Robert in this life. Trusting in the hope of the resurrection they place all of their strength and hope in Jesus.

Companions on the Way CLC

Remember "Before"

Today is a beautiful day. First snow always delights me.
Though there is lots to shovel, there's a dancing place in my spirit.
"Snow Day" brings up the child within me and I remember "before."
When He created me, we were one. I am made of Him.
I am not Him, but we are not separate.
He and I are consumed in each other.
Before He created me, I felt His presence. He sealed it deep within me.
It was more than delight. It was an infinite, indescribable "knowing" that would never leave my being.

I remember Him telling me I must leave this place of wondrous union, to be born.
I was afraid I might forget this love-song, this completeness from which I came.
He assured me this would not be, for He had sealed within me the remembering place.
When I became hungry, lonely-longing, I was to be silent.
He would take me to that place and we would remember together.
I have felt Him forever and so, I can return to where He put me.
I can desire what He desires and dream what He dreams for His creation.
I can do it in the joy of remembering "before".

Corinne Osborne, Potter's Clay CLC

A Lenten Reflection

“Awakened”

Abundant pardon, abundant life.
All is forgiven, all is given.
All is for the One who gives.
Heaven on earth, now in this time and place.

Awakened to my complicity,
awakened to my need for Your vision,
awakened to my need for Your mercy,
awakened to my need to act in faith,
to do something now for the Kingdom.

Sinfulness awakens my need
For Your mercy and pardon.
Your mercy and pardon awakens
my desire to better love and serve You.
And the cycle of death, resurrection
and new life continues.

Deep sorrow for my sinfulness
for my complicity with sinfulness.
Deep gratitude for Your mercy and love,
every moment of every day.
For Your understanding and compassion -
beyond my comprehension, but surely needed
to lift me from my sorry state.
To move, to act in accordance
with Your will.

And Jesus came to bring life
to take away the sin, the blindness so
that I may see, that I may live God's vision
for humanity, that all may be one.

This idealism, this faith vision,
directs me, sustains me,
motivates me and gives me life.

I weep and weep
from the depths of my being,
there where I meet humanity
in all its pain, there where I meet You, God,
in all Your love and forgiveness,
there where I am called - I cannot deny it.
You beckoning, inviting, calling,
feeling the sorrow, the shame, the grief,
holding the vision, the hope, the possibilities.
Is this what You see and feel?

How to hold all of humanity,
all of our sinfulness, how to pardon
and forgive the atrocities.
What do You see? How do You see?
That awareness keeps calling me
back to the vision.

My complicity, my responsibility
overwhelms me. I am brought to my knees.
How could I, how dare I do as I do?
Forgive me and help me.
I have nowhere to turn but to You.
You are the only source of faith,
hope and love for me. I offer You my need,
my desperate need to be forgiven,
loved and shown the way.

John Sumarah, Truth Given CLC

Book Review: *Etty: The Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941-1943* (Novalis)

The published parts of the wartime diaries of Etty Hillesum have already become a classic of 20th century spirituality. Etty's story is one of fearless, passionate commitment to intellectual integrity, moral beauty and finally to a mystical encounter with 'the God within'. What is so striking about Etty's spirituality is not only that it embraced so many elements besides the Jewish tradition but that it courageously clung to a faith in the goodness of humanity even on the road to Auschwitz. These diaries and letters are a font of comfort and courage in our own terrifying age. Jean Vanier has referred to Etty in many of his writings. She was a person who discovered beauty amidst atrocity.

Submitted by: Gertrude Mooney, Saint John CLC Group II

Sending Prayer

SETON'S JOY CLC

Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia

Sending Prayer

To be offered after the Awareness Exercise at each CLC Weekly Meeting ...

All stand around Prayer Table

Opening Prayer: (Leader)

“Incarnate God, we know that your Spirit is a Spirit of Love which embraces all. In imitation of Jesus during his earthly life, help us to willingly reach out to others even when it is inconvenient or difficult. Teach us to imitate your goodness in welcoming all, and to show great gentleness, compassion and respect, especially to the poor. Fill us with the knowledge that in serving those in greatest need we are serving you.”¹

- *Members are invited to mention their ministry ...*
- *We remember also the ministries of those who are absent ...*

Prayer of those being sent ...

Be with us loving God, to strengthen us and guide us.
Keep your hand on us as we minister to those whom you place in our care.
Jesus, our Light, shine through us.

Invocation of the Saints ...

St. Elizabeth Seton, pray for us

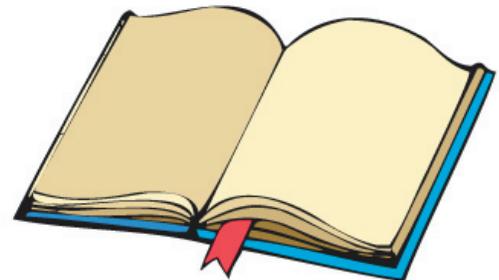
Prayers for the intercession of other Saints may be added...

Our Father ...

Blessing: (Leader – making a sign of the cross)

May Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
bless us and keep us until we meet again. Amen!

Close with a Sign of Peace!



¹ Judith Metz SC, *A Retreat with Elizabeth Seton – Meeting Our Grace*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1999, pg 74.

Colloguy – Spring 2008

A Book Review - *Discovering Your Personal Vocation*, Herbert Alphonso, SJ Subtitle: *The Search for Meaning through the Spiritual Exercises*

The Linns (Dennis, Sheila & Matthew sj) introduction to *Discovering Your Personal Vocation* offers us the following statement which really holds the essence of this little gem of a book: “During the centuries since St. Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, they have become the most widely used process for discernment in the Christian world. Yet, the genius of the Exercises is often not fully appreciated. Many people are under the impression that what the Exercises help us to discern is our state in life or other major decisions. ...Herbert Alphonso’s [belief is] that the true purpose of the Exercises is to help us remember our real name, or ‘personal vocation’.”

The author himself states, “What I have characterized as the single greatest grace of my life is that ...[in my annual eight-day retreat in 1965]...I discerned my truest and deepest ‘self’, and the unrepeatable uniqueness God has given to me in ‘calling me by name’. And I have come to realize that the discernment of that truest and deepest self is the authentic, the most profound and radical meaning of the Election that is the goal of the Ignatian Exercises. This truest and deepest self, this God-given uniqueness, I call the ‘personal vocation’. Besides, my own personal experience and my ministry of the Spirit have taught me that the deepest transformation in any person’s life takes place in the living out of this very personal vocation.”

The incredible genius of Herbert Alphonso is that, in the very few pages of this book, he is able to unpack the meaning of this “single greatest grace of my life” in a ‘simple’, easily read, yet profound approach. I found myself drawn deeply into his own journey of revelation as well as into the stories of others which he so effectively uses to bring his message to life. I developed a deep longing to continue my ongoing discernment of my own truest and deepest self, and to know to a new depth the unrepeatable uniqueness that God has given to me in calling me by name.

Alphonso, himself, clearly identifies with the reality of the busyness of all ‘active apostles’ when he says, ‘we are all yearning for unity and integration...so many things to do ...with a wish to be doing only one thing in depth’. Through the personal story of a brother Jesuit, the author effectively illustrates how embracing one’s personal vocation brings about unity and integration...at the heart of a whole life precisely because it is the unique God-given meaning in life. For nothing so unifies and integrates in depth as meaning: we spontaneously shed what is meaningless, to remain with and interiorize and assimilate what is meaningful.” This unique God-given meaning transforms one’s whole Christian life into “...a maturing, profoundly interpersonal love relationship between Christ Jesus and me – one opening out, surely, onto my social responsibilities and commitments in Christian witness and mission”. Out of that unified and integrated self, we then live our lives doing only ‘the one thing’ in depth, in the midst of the many things of the active apostolate.

The author’s entire discussion is rooted in his belief that “...the only thing that would be proportionate to the deep and demanding dynamics of the Exercises would be the taking

Colloguy – Spring 2008

hold of one's whole and entire life – the totality of it – to turn it over to God. This is what a 'conversion' is in its profound biblical sense – a metanoia, a change of direction...For the authentic meaning of 'Election' in the process and dynamics of the Ignatian Exercises is a becoming aware in growing inner freedom of God's personal design or plan for me, so that I can accept it profoundly in my life to live it out faithfully and generously. And what, I ask, is most radically, even more radically than my state of life – God's personal plan and design for me if not my God-given uniqueness, my deepest and truest self, my personal vocation?"

This is an important book for those of us who claim the Spiritual Exercises as the source of our spirituality. It also challenges those of us who accompany others in their journey through the Spiritual Exercises to ponder more deeply Ignatius' meaning of 'Election'. Alphonso extends a compelling invitation to us to look at the Election prayerfully with new eyes, hearts and minds.

My expectation is that many readers will find, as I did, that, in the words of Alphonso, the discovery of [our] personal vocation will in fact "...become for [us] the secret of unity and integration at the heart of [our] entire lives...not merely the secret of our prayer, but the secret of our apostolate as well, of all our relationships ...indeed of our relaxation and recreation."

Betty Poley, Earthen Vessel

Truth Given

This past year our community assisted Leo and Kathy Deveau in an important discernment regarding a move to Regina. A commissioning ceremony for them in December included the three CLC groups in the Valley, NS. The remaining five members of Truth Given are committed to carrying on the journey and to our communal mission, namely: "As a CLC group we are called to a ministry of leadership in the area of spirituality and justice using the Ignatian Charism lived in the CLC experience." A number of people in the area have expressed interest in learning more about CLC and Truth Given will sponsor a Come and See Program in the next few weeks with a view to starting another CLC group. Clarence DeSchiffart is Chair of Formation for the Region, and John, the Atlantic Rep. Colleen is leading a CLC group through the Spiritual Exercises and John another group.

Saint John CLC Group II

In January/07 we were blessed to have five people come to a six week 'come and see' and as a result three of those have continued on in community. Our community has recently completed our Graced History Line and is in the process of discernment around choosing a community name. We are an ecumenical community of six. We gather every 2nd Tuesday at St. Vincent's Convent and are in the middle of the Phase 1 CLC Manual. While relatively new as a community of six, several of our members have been gathering together since late 1999 when the AASEA offered the Spiritual Exercises in the Saint John area. We are continuing to discover where God is calling us as we move forward. Happy Easter everyone!

Meet your new Atlantic Region Exco Team...



John Sumarah
Regional Representative



Gilles Michaud
Regional Coordinator



Clarence DeSchiffart
Formation Committee Chair



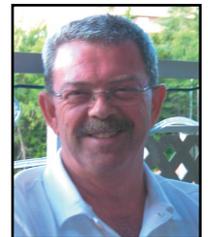
Fr. Earl Smith, sj
Ecclesial Assistant



Jim Doyle
Secretary



Yves Daigle
Treasurer



Peter Chouinard
Colloquy Editor

John Sumarah Truth Given CLC, Wolfville, N.S.

John is a member of Truth Given CLC and has been involved with CLC since 1992. He has been a Group Leader, a Group Guide, Workshop Presenter and a National Rep for the Atlantic Region. He was a Canadian delegate at the CLC World Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. He also spent 5 months as part of a CLC group in Nairobi. He spent three months in Wales making and studying the Spiritual Exercises at St. Beuno's Spirituality Centre.

He is presently leading an Ecumenical CLC Group through the Spiritual Exercises using the Phase 3 Manual for CLC. He also provides spiritual direction for a number of people. Outside of CLC John works fulltime at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia as a Full Professor with primary responsibilities for teaching graduate students interested in counseling. He is a registered psychologist with a private practice.

With Colleen they have a 28 year daughter who married last year and recently returned to Nova Scotia after spending 5 years in other countries.

Gilles Michaud Ixtus CLC, Summerside, P.E.I.

I was born in Sudbury Ontario, on the 13 Dec., 1936. After completing my education at the Collège Sacré-Coeur, a Jesuit institute, I began a career in the Canadian Air Force. Leah and I married in 1960 and as my work required of me we travelled and lived in many parts of Canada. As time went on in our married life we were graced with three children, Dianne (deceased), Joanne, and Richard. In 1986 we made a decision to take the option of an early retirement. With that, we decided that we would deepen our roots in the Prince Edward Island red soil.

My middle age along with an early retirement allowed me to begin pursuing another career by developing and managing several micro cooperative businesses such as; craft sales and marketing, organic farming and marketing, funeral home and services, an aboriginal business enterprise. During those years I pursued an Ignatian Spirituality formation mostly through the Guelph, Loyola Spirituality Center. At one of those formation sessions I was introduced to CLC. My epiphany inspired me to begin forming a small faith group in PEI, now known as IXTHUS.

Meet your new Atlantic Region Exco Team...

As my CLC journey continued to mature so did my commitment to serve in other roles at the National and International levels. In 2003 after completing a 5 year term as the CLC World Executive Secretary in Rome, Italy Leah and I returned to PEI.

Since our return, we have continued to serve in several other capacities in CLC and in the church. I am now ending a 3 year term as Atlantic Regional Coordinator. At the National level I continue to serve as the National Coordinator of the Leadership Formation Working Group. As Ignatian Spiritual Guides Leah and I serve in the capacity of retreat and formation guides in the two PEI Spirituality Centers in Charlottetown and Summerside.

Clarence De Schiffart Truth Given CLC, Wolfville N.S.

CLC History

- Member of Truth Given, Wolfville, Nova Scotia (1991 – present)
- Served as Regional Representative (replacement for one year) (2005)
- Serving as chair of the Regional Formation Committee (2007 – 2009)
- Member of Provincial and National assemblies in 1990's

Personal Mission:

- A call to serve and be of direct service through hands-on opportunity to those who are disadvantaged and less fortunate
- A call to influence those wish to deepen their relationship with the Trinity

CLC Truth Given Mission

- As a CLC group we are called to a ministry of leadership in the area of spirituality and justice using the Ignatian Charism lived in the CLC experience.

Education

- Masters of Education (Counseling)
- Bachelor of Education, (Outdoor & Experiential Learning)
- Bachelor of Science (Recreation)

Interests/Hobbies:

- Working with disadvantaged (e.g. prison ministry)
- Outdoor activities: camping, kayaking, hiking, swimming, snowshoeing, x-country skiing
- Spending time with family.

Father Earl Smith, S.J. Atlantic CLC Ecclesial Assistant, Halifax, N.S.

Earl was born in Halifax on May 7, 1956. His Father, Gerald V. Smith, (d.1981) is a Haligonian. His Mother, Margaret Mary Burke, is a native of River Bourgeois, C.B. Earl has 3 brothers and a sister. He has 10 nieces and nephews.

Early education in Nova Scotia at:

- Oxford St. School for 10 years,
- St. Patrick's High School for 3 years
- St. Mary's University for 3 years.

Significant Religious dates:

- Entered the Society of Jesus on August 27, 1977
- Professed First Vows on December 25, 1979
- Ordained a priest in Toronto on May 30, 1987
- Tertianship, Northern Ireland, 1993-94
- Final Profession April 21, 1995.

Academic Credentials:

- Bachelor of Arts (Sociology) '77, St. Mary's University
- Philosophy Studies, University of Detroit '80
- Philosophy Studies, Loyola University Chicago '80-'82
- Masters of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago '80-'82
- Masters of Divinity (and)
- Bachelor of Sacred Theology '87, Regis College, University of Toronto
- Masters of Sacred Theology (STM) '88, U. of Toronto
- Masters of Pastoral Counseling, Loyola University of Chicago '97

Meet your new Atlantic Region Exco Team...

CLC History

- National CLC Ecclesial Assistant from 2003 – 2007
- Atlantic CLC Ecclesial Assistant 2007 - present
- Group Guide for two communities in the Halifax region, 1 in Lower Sackville and 1 in formation

Jim Doyle

Companions on the Way CLC, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

I came forth from my mother's womb on June 29, 1950 (Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I was the firstborn to James and Joy who returned to Ottawa with 4 children in 1955. In true Irish Catholic fashion, 6 more were added to the brood before my father was called from this life on Dec 20, 1965 ... I was 15. As the oldest, I had experienced the full range of joys and sorrows that attend a family in daily want of life's basic needs while savoring the simplest of pleasures. The scourge of addiction that preceded my father's death had left its scars in the hearts of us all. Yet, there was so much love, laughter and fun among my siblings and blessed mother ...and always this comforting presence that all will be well.

My adolescence fully emerged in the tumult of the 60s where 'Peace' and 'Love' were the watchwords. I was involved in athletics and thoroughly enjoyed my studies. I abandoned the church with its "shoulds, oughts and musts" yet I did not abandon the deeper search for who I was. Life was good now. I was free to go my own way under the banner of false freedom, "Indulge myself, throw down my cross and follow my own heart". I loved and supported my blessed mother and siblings in their daily struggles as best I could while simultaneously tasting the many delights the world had to offer. After a couple of years at university, the noise and activity in the family home forced me to satisfy a deep longing within to go west and find solitude.

For most of the 70s decade, I lived and worked in Alberta and BC with trips within Canada and the USA. I spent a lot of time in the mountains ... I loved it there. I worked hard, read voraciously; wrote; socialized much; had failed relationships; and life threatening moments. The net of self-indulgence slowly tightened around me and all my twisting and

flailing and feeble attempts to break free came to naught. The despair deepened, hope was dying, and my dreams were in ashes. I was powerless to effect a change in my way of being.

In Kelowna BC in November, 1980, from somewhere deep within, came the anguished cry of my spirit "Help me, God!" In an instant, the risen Lord came to my rescue. He touched me, raised me up and removed the net that had entangled me for years. The unspeakable joy that filled my being was so real, so honest and so pure. I can never forget that moment. Tears of intense joy intermingled with tears of intense sorrow flowed out of me for what seemed like hours...pure love. In true freedom from bondage and slavery, He led me out of Egypt and called me to the desert where he nursed me back to health on the manna of the Eucharist. I surrendered myself, and what a comforting presence He was. Finally, real "Peace' and Love."

From that day forward, I sought only to "deny myself, take up my cross, and follow Him" and miracles happened. I was called to PEI in July, 1981. I met my beautiful wife Mary a month later and we married in July, 1982 ... a very happy day in my life. I now had a vocation. I continued my education and devoted my life to Mary and our four wonderful children. Through the years Egypt haunted and tormented me, idols edged their way into my personal and family life, and childhood remnants interfered in relationships. I knew He was shining light on my shadow and, in His compassion, wanted to heal and form me in His painfully slow, sure manner. I learned patience. The Master taught me to listen and to wait. I made a personal vow of "stability" that I would never, under any circumstances, leave this family that He had gifted me with.

For 20+ years, my hunger to experience His mystery led me to the ongoing study and regular practice of meditation and lectio divina in solitude. I have read extensively on Benedictine, Cistercian and Carthusian spiritualities; studied Buddhism; and read many spiritual classics. I consider 12-Step Spirituality to be one of the truly great gifts of the Lord to humanity in the 20th century ... His desire to free his children from bondage knows no bounds. For the last 5 years, I have delved into the riches of Ignatian spirituality and related Jesuit writing.

Meet your new Atlantic Region Exco Team...

I was introduced to CLC in December 2002 by way of my wife (God Bless Her). The desire to live a lay community life was always there and now, I realized, it might become a reality. Our mutual commitments to each other, to our charism and to reach out to our broken world in mission appealed to me. Moreover, the Ignatian focus on freedom resonated within me. The Spiritual Exercises deepened the love and understanding in my relationships with myself, my wife, my children, other creatures but especially the Trinity. I come as I am in my imperfection, weakness and frailty and I am welcomed ... for love is there.

At the end of the day, I sit in joy-filled gratitude for; "He has done great things for me and holy is His name."

Yves Daigle **Living Water CLC, Fredericton, N.B.**

Being part of CLC for the last 4 years, I have been blessed with being at gatherings with most of you through assemblies, St. Ignatius' day celebrations, workshops and retreats. I am a member and facilitator of Living Water CLC which meets in Fredericton. Both retired teachers, my wife, Pam, and I have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren, all living in the area which is a great gift and a blessing to us.

Upon hearing that it would be necessary to find a replacement for Kathy Deveau, I felt a call to pray and discern to see if God wanted me to serve the CLC community in this role. With the help of my community, it became clear that I was to offer whatever gifts I have to serve all of us.

Growing in inner freedom would be a good way to describe my spiritual journey so far. Although I have been part of different ministries over many years: catechetics, parish council, Scripture studies, adult education, Marriage Encounter, charismatic Renewal, it all seemed to come together and have greater meaning after becoming part of CLC and making the Spiritual Exercises. So I strive to live that discerning way of life asking myself where and how God is asking me to serve. The why is simple: For His greater glory.

Peter Chouinard **Earthen Vessel CLC, Saint John, N.B.**

I was born in Saint John N.B. October 2, 1949. One of 4 children, we grew up with a French, Irish and Scottish influence. My formal education was at our local public schools with some courses taken at Carleton University in Ottawa and UNBSJ.

My career spanned many different jobs including time with Revenue Canada, The Royal Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. Notably my most cherished time working was with my father in the cabinet trade. I am presently employed at Kent Building Supply. Terri and I were married in 1970 and we have been graced with two wonderful children, Sarah Elizabeth (33) and Jonathan Peter. (26) Terri and I lived and travelled in PEI, Ottawa and Fredericton NB before resettling in our home town of Saint John N.B.

We were invited to a 6 week CLC "Come and See" in 1999 and have been members of CLC ever since. I completed the Spiritual Exercises in Annotation 19 in 2000, Terri in 1998. We are both members of Earthen Vessel CLC, a group of nine. I am a past Atlantic Regional Coordinator and spent a year as President (elect) of CLC Canada prior to leaving that position around the time of my father's death. During that time I was one of the representatives of CLC Canada at the North America CLC Assembly in Chicago, Ill.

I am currently a CLC group guide as well as Contact Person with Terri for Earthen Vessel. My role as Colloquy Editor and Communications Director for the Atlantic CLC is new and a gift opportunity for me as I continue to grow in my awareness of who God is calling me to be.



2008 Atlantic Retreat Dates

Easter Triduum Retreat

March 20-22

Summerside P.E.I. - St. M. Bourgeois Centre – The retreat begins Thursday after supper until Saturday mid-evening with the Easter Vigil. This is a silent retreat outside communal prayer times. There will be an opportunity for participants to receive private spiritual conversation. Fr. Earl Smith, S.J. (Director) Please contact Gilles Michaud @ 902-621-0601 or leagil@isn.net regarding application.

April 18-20

Pictou N.S. - Stella Maris Retreat House - This is a silent directed retreat given by the Jesuits of Halifax. It runs from 8:00 PM Friday until Sunday after lunch. The cost is \$200.00. Fifteen places are available. Father Earl Smith, S.J. is the contact at 902-425-6093 or at esmith@jesuits.ca

August 22-27

Pictou N.S. - Stella Maris Retreat House - This is a silent directed retreat given by the Jesuits of Halifax. Participants might choose to come for the weekend or stay for a period of five days. The cost is TBA. Fifteen places are available. Father Earl Smith, S.J. is the contact at 902-425-6093 or esmith@jesuits.ca

June 16-22nd

Saint John N.B. - Villa Madonna - Silent Directed Retreat.
Directors are AASEA personal along with Fr. Leach and Deacon Dan Kelly, Jesuits of Halifax. Doug Hubbard is the contact person at 506-738-2043 or hubfam@nbnet.nb.ca

June 26-29th

Potter's Clay CLC Saint John N.B. - have scheduled a retreat with Father Earl Smith, S.J. Details are not yet released. Other locale community retreats might still be visible. Contact Fr. Earl at esmith@jesuits.ca

Note

I am very excited that these retreat options have been established to accommodate what is a perceived interest and need among our Atlantic CLC membership. Allow me to remind 'us' that retreat encounters with the Lord provides a critical means for us to more fully focus and embrace our CLC way of life. Be assured of my continued interest in supporting CLC in this manner of formation.

Fr. Earl Smith, S.J.
Atlantic CLC Ecclesial Assistant

NB CLC Leaders Day

On January 5, 2008, seventeen group guides, facilitators and contact persons who lead New Brunswick's seven CLC communities met in Saint John for a day of prayer, formation and dreaming. Terri and Peter Chouinard led us in a deeply grounding meditation, sharing and prayer ritual around the offering of our gifts as CLC leaders. Pam Daigle, Joan Myers and Betty Poley facilitated group processes throughout the day which deepened the understanding of our NB CLC graced history and our ongoing formation journey. In addition, greater clarity was brought to the significance to all three leadership roles in moving our CLC groups towards apostolic community.

A highlight of the day was our conversation around Projects 125, an article which challenged us to 'imbed mission' in all parts of our meeting structure. Many insights were gained. Especially key was how to better focus the sharing questions in the rounds of Part I and how to listen to what is heard as a bridge to Part II. We also processed our experience of the Leadership Formation Event held in Pictou in October 2007. From this, emerged a desire to gather twice a year as a community of NB CLC leaders for support and ongoing formation. We want to continue unpacking the formation tools that were presented to us by Gilles and Lois, especially two: the Awareness Wheel and the Ladder of Inference. These we hope to practice with each other at our next N.B. Leaders' Meeting in order to feel more equipped in using these instruments with the groups we lead.

Pat Lawson and Yves Daigle brought our day to closure with the DVD, *The Geese*, and the song, *We Are Standing On The Shoulders Of The Ones Who Came Before Us*. In our evaluation of the day we noted a great communal energy and affirmation of who we are - men and women longing to live more deeply our CLC charism, leaders willing to grow in the knowledge and skills we need, whether beginners or elders. We left with the image of the V formation of geese imbedded in our communal psyche and the following encouraging words to us from the Trinity ... "What a delightful gaggle of geese you are to Me...see, I am lifting you higher than you thought you could ever fly..."

Note: The following comments are the fruit of some who attended this workshop...

A blessed person is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, whatever they do will prosper. Ps.1:3. My experience at the NBCLC Leaders Training Day made me feel like a tree with roots tapped into the mighty river of Ignatian Spirituality from which the principles and practice of the CLC charism flow. From the finest detail of individually wrapped gift boxes for our meditation, to the expansive dreaming and planning for future CLC members, the fruit from the day was like manna for the mission. The agenda was crisp, the conversation deep, the training practical and the vision generous. I went in humility to the training event to get my "new facilitator" feet wet and I left fully soaked in a fresh expression of Christian community that flows from prayer and is oriented in mission.

**Ruth Coleman, Co-Facilitator
Saint John CLC Group II**

NB CLC Leaders Day

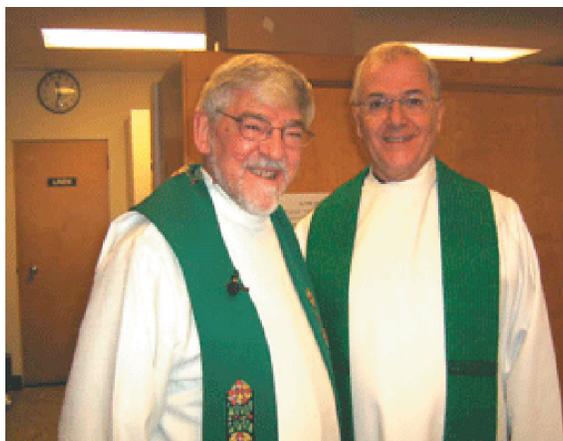
My image for the day was of a loving Father gathering his children in the middle of a beautiful garden to lovingly nurture, guide, support and teach them in His ways to build His Kingdom.

**Geraldine Tingley, Facilitator
Potter's Clay CLC, Saint John**

I experienced a growth process with the other members of the NB Group Guides that met in Saint John on January 5th, 2008. This process is reflected in scripture in Acts 2:14-18, when Peter described the importance of the Holy Spirit in our mission as Group Guides. I sensed that our community was gathered to learn together and to share our desire to be of service to our CLC communities.

I enjoyed the collegiately of other Group Guides as we struggled and got excited at what is possible in the various parts of our CLC meetings. I hope that we continue to meet in the future so that our shared experiences can be an inspiration for each other and allow the Holy Spirit [Pentecost] to use the graces to guide our communities in improved ways. I am grateful of those who led us that day and wish that all of the Atlantic Group Guides could have been present for greater enrichment.

**Graydon Nicholas,
River of Life CLC, New Brunswick**



Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, sj – National Ecclesial Assistant with Fr. Alberto Brito, sj, during a visit to Winnipeg this past fall.

Fr. Alberto Brito, sj, shares his gift of Ignatian Spirituality and CLC with Francois Thebeau, Our Lady's Circle CLC, Nackawic N.B.



CLC Atlantic

A few words from the Atlantic Regional Coordinator...

Dear Companions, as I write I am reminded that we are about to enter the beginning of the season of lent and Easter. My 40 day pilgrimage will begin with this prayer:

“Dear God, I know that every journey begins with a first step. Be with me today as I take another step in my Lenten journey. I began this journey with the signs of ashes on my forehead, reminding me that this is no ordinary walk. Today, I move one step nearer to the promise of your light. Today, with your help, I will find new meaning in the EASTER that awaits us all... Amen”

This prayer has inspired me to reflect on our own CLC spirituality as we continue to mature and move nearer to the promise of light taking us into the depths of God’s mystery.

Looking back to this past year, I have taken the time to review regional grace filled activities such as Regional Council Meetings, Regional Assembly and the Atlantic Leadership Formation Encounter. Included in this review and examen I also include our local group meetings, all these encounters have provided us with opportunities to “Listen Deeply to God”. As a Community we listened and we have heard; “Do not be afraid, I am with you. I love you”. Always incorporating within those moments we entered into a discernment mode we collectively prepared to hear God in the depths of our soul and thus found the strength to take another step as we develop as a “Discerning Apostolic Body”.

On 26 Jan, 2008 the newly formed regional ExCo met at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Halifax. We began our day in a posture of meditative prayer moving us into a stage of spiritual conversation around the following questions:

- What do you admire most about Jesus as a leader?
- What strength/shortcomings do I/we bring to CLC?
- What brought me to CLC?
- What is my dream, desire for CLC; regional, national and the world?

We shared and respectfully listened to each other as we prepared for to the next phase in our agenda, prioritizing and beginning the implementation process around the recommendations discerned in the several CLC gatherings in 2007 (see appendix, recommendations). As an executive body we will continue to deal with each of the recommendations this coming year. As we do so we will present a report on our deliberations and tentative decisions for confirmation by the CLC group representative at our next Regional Council meeting.

Our Spring Council meeting will take place at the usual place, the Spirituality Center in Pictou N.S. on April 25-26, 2008. Further details on the program will soon be sent to all local group contacts. You are reminded to continue with your prayer support for the World CLC Assembly and especially for our delegates; Ruth Chipman, Mary Balfe, Fr. Charles Pottie SJ and Peter Chouinard as the substitute, should the need arise.

Gilles Michaud, Atlantic Regional CLC Coordinator

CLC Atlantic

A Word for Colloquy from John Sumarah, Atlantic Representative on the General Council

The General Council met in person in Winnipeg in September 2007. This was such a grace-filled weekend welcoming new members and saying farewell to others. The New Council consists of Kati Gumbmann, President, Ruth Chipman, President-elect, Charles Pate sj, Ecclesial Assistant, Marilyn Heaton, Executive Assistant, Mary Balfe, Central Region, Sharon Baker, Prairies, Don Mattern, Rockies and I. While a more formal report will be given at the Region Council in April I want, through this newsletter, to share only a few highlights of the Council's work.

The first thing to note is that we have Regions for good reasons. While we share common concerns we are also at different stages of development and I am learning that while our country is large and wide, CLC is a wonderful example of diverse regions with common ground. CLC has a way of uniting people and Regions. We listen well to each other and we care about what is happening in each other's Region. We also learn from each other and share what we have learned as we journey through CLC. Every agenda is full. We have been working on the constitution as our organization has evolved over the years and we need a constitutional framework to help with its vision, processes and procedures. Hopefully, the revised constitution will be ratified at our next National Assembly in 2009. We have a Leadership and Formation Working Team which is offering workshops across CLC Canada. The workshops as well as the revision of our formation manuals will assist all of us to better understand CLC and its apostolic thrust.

We are still learning ways to incorporate all that was appropriated from the World Assembly in Nairobi. While the words "discern, send, support and evaluate" are known by many CLC'ers the applications vary from group to group and area to area. This apostolic emphasis, along with our spirituality and emphasis on community building, more clearly defines us as CLC. In the "old days" we used to say that we are "discerning communities of apostolic service." I think we are now beginning to understand what we meant by that "mouth full"!

The Council is preparing for the World Assembly in Fatima and CLC Canada will be well represented by Ruth Chipman, Mary Balfe and Charles Pâté'. Pray for them as they prepare to listen and participate at the world level and bring home to us the "good" news from the Assembly.

The process involved in the selection of the next Atlantic Representative is well underway. Leadership abounds in our Region and we are blessed to have so many competent and spiritually motivated people. For my part I am grateful for all that I have learned during my term and hope that I have represented the Region reasonably well at the National level.

Peace and prayers, John

CLC Atlantic



Those in attendance at the fall Atlantic CLC Regional Council meeting (Nov 30 - Dec1) lay hands on Leo & Kathy Deveau in a blessing ceremony as they prepare to leave on their journey

SHARING OUR RESOURCES: YEARLY DONATIONS

First, a big thank you for the generosity of so many of you for your gift of money in the past years which allows all of us to serve more fully in advancing the Kingdom of God as we live the CLC way of life. Over the years we have become more aware of the need to share our talents, our gifts and our resources.

This is evidenced by how some communities financially assist some of their members allowing them to attend our Regional Council meetings, our Formation Events or the Assembly. For example, many local CLC community members throw money into a pot whenever they meet that allows the contact person and maybe one other person (the facilitator, in some cases) to attend the Regional Council meetings without putting undue financial burdens on those individuals. I've even heard of some individuals who have picked up the whole tab for someone else to be able to participate in these gatherings.

The sharing of our financial resources make it possible for those in positions of responsibility to meet as an Executive Council as well as the leadership of each communities to gather for on-going formation. Our yearly suggested contributions of \$25. to CLC Canada and \$10. to CLC Atlantic allows the respective serving bodies to carry on the work of CLC. Of course contributions may exceed the basic \$35. For example, if you give \$50. - \$25 would be for CLC Canada, \$10. for CLC Atlantic Then you have to indicate where you would want the extra \$15. to be applied. It could be the John English Founder's Fund, the World Solidarity fund, the Canadian World Delegate Solidarity Fund, the National Solidarity Fund or back to our own Region.

Over the past few years there has been a bit of confusion as to where we should be directing our donations. If you will permit me, I'd like to bring a bit of clarity to the issues of where and when to send donations. We know the why and each of us have to discern the how much. Here's what would be helpful to ensure that our resources are well managed and accurate records are kept.

1. Suggested minimum donation: \$35.
2. Extra donation designated to one of the funds mentioned above.
3. Cheques made payable to CLC Canada (not CLC Atlantic). CLC Canada issues the tax receipts for the whole amount donated and sends us a rebate of \$10. for each member who makes a minimum \$35. donation.

CLC Atlantic

4. Cheques to be sent to the CLC Atlantic treasurer who will record them and forward them to CLC Canada.
5. In the past most of us have donated in the fall of the year. You may certainly continue to do so but CLC Canada's fiscal year was changed in 2006 to start January 1 instead of Sept. 1 and they have requested (and we also recommend) that donations be made in the first part of the year, preferably before the end of June...but they leave it up to each individual or community to decide. The funds donated in a particular year are for use during that year.
6. Some communities made it the responsibility of the contact person or a designated person to collect the donations and sent them on. In some cases cash has been collected or cheques covering all the members of that community has been forwarded. Whether individual cheques or a covering cheque, we would ask that the form supplied by CLC Canada be used (or at least a list of the names and addresses and the amount donated) to ensure proper credit for each member donor and to facilitate the distribution of Income Tax receipts.

NOTE: The form says to send the donations to CLC Canada but remember to send them to the Atlantic treasurer instead who in turn will send them to CLC Canada.

I hope this helps to clarify some of the confusion of the past. If there are any questions or comments please feel free to contact me

- E-mail: daigleyp@nb.sympatico.ca
- Phone: 1-506-738-8875
- Address: 102 Woolastook Dr., Grand Bay-Westfield, NB, E5K 1S4

Yves Daigle
Treasurer CLC Atlantic



CLC Canada Ecclesial Assistant ...

Dear CLC Friends...

It is always a joy for me to greet you and offer a few words as the National Ecclesial Assistant. In the winter issue of Update I gave an update of some of my activities in the past year. One of the highlights of this past year was the experience of attending the Atlantic Regional Assembly in PEI last August. The vitality of CLC in this region is something that I continue to carry with me as NEA, since part of my heart is still "attached" to this region - this is, after all, where I was first immersed in CLC after my return to Canada. I can assure you that the western regions where we find CLC are a gift to me as well, since my coming here, almost two years now. As NEA I see CLC in a wider perspective and this is no small gift. I'm made aware of the rich diversity we have across Canada. Besides the involvement in the National ExCo, my time with the Prairies and Rockies regions keeps me quite busy. Regina and Thunder Bay areas are showing promise for new CLC groups. This means visiting them

CLC Atlantic

and encouraging them. I had the opportunity to visit the Atlantic region for 4 days in February, working with Pam and Yves Daigle on the Revision of Manual I. We worked hard for 3 full days but the environment and the sharing with good friends there made it a delight....The work on the Manual I revision and preparations for the World Assembly will keep me well occupied in the next few months.

Let me finish by wishing you all the grace of this season - Christ is risen! As one author put it; "Practice resurrection!" May we live this in all we say and do!

Your brother in Christ,
Charles.

Attendee's at the Atlantic CLC Leader's Formation Encounter, Pictou N.S. October 28-30/08.



Front row left to right:
Geraldine Tingley, Charlena Keenan- Bourque, Jocelyn Weirathmueller, Pat Lawson, Dorie McDermott and Bob McDermott.
Second row left to right:
Betty Poley, Joan Myers, Leah Michaud, Jane Abernathy-Parker, Lois Campbell, Presenter (CLC USA), Fr. Earl Smith, sj, and Rick Brennan.
Back row left to right:
Peter Chouinard, Terri Chouinard, Jim Doyle, Graydon Nicholas, Yves Daigle, Pam Daigle, Francois Thebeau, Gilles Michaud, Presenter, Bill Costain, Beulah Costain and Linda Adams

Note:

The next issue of the Colloquy will go to print in the early fall of 2008 and the deadline for submissions will be November 23rd. This will leave an opportunity for news from our Fall Atlantic CLC Council meeting to be included. (October 24-25 in Pictou NS.)

I would appreciate any and all submissions and invite feedback from all CLC communities.

Peter