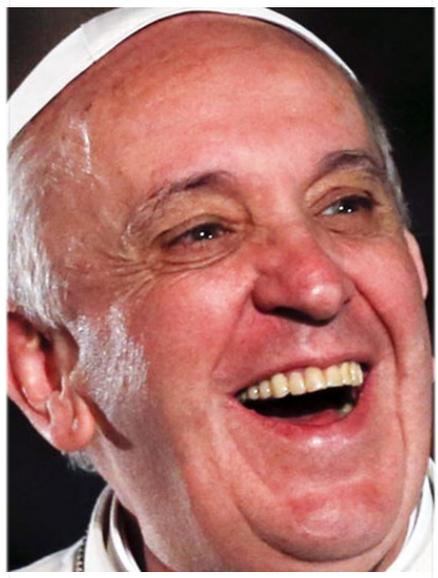


# Living the Mission as One Community

## Reflection #3-Relationships, Identity, and Communication



Christian Life  
Community  
CANADA

### Gratitude

*At the center of your Ignatian spirituality is this desire to be contemplatives in action. Contemplation and action, the two dimensions together: because we can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ, and we know that Christ is wounded in the hungry, the uneducated, the discarded, the old, the sick, the imprisoned, in all the vulnerable human flesh.*

*I thank you for your dedication and love for the Church and our brethren, and I encourage you to continue making Christ present in your surroundings, giving apostolic meaning to all your*

*occupations.* Pope Francis writing to the CLC World Assembly Argentina, 2018

*To be guided by a Christian way of life, with a strong spiritual life and working for the Kingdom, means letting oneself be shaped by the love of Jesus, having his same sentiments (see Phil 2: 5), asking oneself continuously: What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ? (see Sp. Ex. 53).*

## About Christian Life Community-Canada

Christian Life Communities (CLC) consists of small groups of people (6 – 10 people) who are striving for a deeper spirituality that helps them find God in all things. Each local CLC community belongs to a regional, national and international community of Christian men and women, young and old, of all social conditions, who have a desire to find the voice of God in and through the ordinary events of each day. The spirituality of CLC is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and is the specific source of its charisma. Members focus on increasing their awareness of being created and loved by God, as well as fostering their desire to work as a companion of Jesus to continue his mission in the world...CLC Canada Web Site <http://www.christianlifecommunity.ca>

## CLC members, individually and in groups responded to 4 questions

1. What is your current sense of CLC members' sense of identity vis-à-vis the local communities, the regional level, national level, and as members of one World body? Do you view it as problematic? Why or why not?
2. Has our regional organization influenced your sense of identity as a CLC member? If so how?
3. How can we foster a sense of national unity?
4. How effectively is CLC communicating with its membership? How could it be improved?

### From the Working Group-Key Common Themes Noticed

- Members desire regular and prayerful communication from National General Council (GC), particularly the fruits of our GC meetings and an annual year-end President's report.
- Be mindful of the language used in communication. ie. more inviting, rather than 'should'.
- Use and modify the National website and 'Update' more fully to connect members across Canada in practical and inspiring ways. ie. news of groups/members, more formation content, celebrate milestones and key events.
- Perhaps not surprisingly, most members feel the strongest sense of identity at the local and regional level, and less as a national and world body (although this varies). At the same time, there is a desire to get to know members in other communities and build relationships. For example, there is a great interest in 'twinning' of CLC communities in Canada and/or the World.
- Increase awareness of and connections to World CLC, through story-sharing, greater promotion of world documents (through group guides), delegates sharing their World Assembly experience, etc.

- **Be diligent in offering and living the Spiritual Exercises, as these are critical to our way of life.**
- **Hold regular national gatherings which include face-to-face and online.**
- **Utilize technology more effectively. Technology can help with our formation needs nationwide and help build a stronger sense of unity through more frequent connections.**
- **We can enhance our identity as a national body by having regular connections/visits [face-to-face and other] from National President, GC members and Ecclesial Assistants at regional gatherings; and promote national assemblies participation amongst membership.**
- **Create a blog.**
- **Have better and equal formation across Canada. ie. create a standard CLC package.**
- **Suggest to local CLCs to review the National and World mission statements at meetings.**
- **Emphasize the importance of group guides, group contacts and regional reps to share and help process information between the World, Canada and regional CLCs.**

## **We are Taking Action:**

- The Working Group compiled the responses to Theme 3 and provided a de-identified copy to General Council for their prayer and review.
- Over the Labour Day long weekend 2018, General Council discussed, prayed with and reflected on the theme 3 feedback for over two hours in its face-to-face meeting. The GC was encouraged to consider tackling fewer actions, better and then, the Council brainstormed priority areas for action based on the feedback received. The Working Group also shared with GC which themes/priority areas we had identified from members' responses.
- General Council will be revisiting the responses to finalize areas for action and these will be shared with you.

The Working Group will continue to provide CLC members with summaries of each theme over the coming months. We also hope to give a final presentation at the National Assembly in 2019.

**Ad majorem Dei gloriam!**

**The CLC National Evaluation Working Group**

*Jane Abernethy-Parker, Ruth Chipman, Trevor Scott, SJ and Leanne Salel*