



*“Jesus, your King is born,
Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria”*

One of my favorite Christmas carols is ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime,’ more commonly known as the ‘Huron Carol.’ It was written by the great St. Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649) and much later put to the tune of the French melody, ‘Jesous Ahatonhia’ by H.B. Cabena. It isn’t played very much these days, seemingly lost amongst the more saccharine filled pieces of “... walking in a winter wonderland.” But if you get a chance, listen to the ‘Huron Carol’ carefully. It will magically take you back to that grace-filled time when Brébeuf was ministering to his Huron brothers and sisters.

This beautiful carol contains both the local and global reality of Jesus present to all of us, everywhere and at all times to all men and women. In writing ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime...,’ Brébeuf was following the great vision of his founder, St. Ignatius, to ‘find God in all things.’ Then as now, Ignatius asks us to imagine the scene where the angel approaches Mary: “How would you feel if such a strange experience occurred to you?” As William A. Barry sj, points out in his book *Finding God in All Things* (Ave Maria Press, 1991), “In a real sense God’s plan for the universe depends on this encounter, on the

response of a little slip of a girl... .” Like Ignatius, Barry asks: “Would I say yes to such a request of God to me? Would I want to be able to say yes, even if I was scared of the consequences? One can also imagine the risk God takes in sending the Second Person of the Trinity to become a fetus, how tiny and frail a vessel of our salvation is at this point in time.”

In concluding, Barry points out that each one of us will imagine the scene in a different way as “we ponder the text of Luke and the mystery of God’s action in this world.”

Brébeuf had said ‘yes’ to God and in doing so, he found himself in a new world where he would witness Jesus present in the very reality that he was living with the Huron peoples. In listening to ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime’ we enter into Brebeuf’s response to finding God in all things.

I pray that this mystery will come to you and your CLC community in a very special way this Christmas and that we all can proclaim “Jesus, OUR King is born. In excelsis gloria!”

Leo J. Deveau

This issue's highlights: Family CLC PEI news, p. 4 - Our Lady's Circle CLC N.B. news , p. 6 - Ixthus CLC PEI news , p. 9 - CLC World Assembly planning news, p. 11 – Book reviews p. 15

Message from our new Regional CLC Coordinator



Dear fellow CLC members,

May the peace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and your minds especially during this wonderful Advent and Christmas season. It is with great pleasure and a humble spirit that I write this greeting to you today. My name is Peter Chouinard and I am your new Atlantic CLC Regional Co-ordinator. I wish to ask you for your prayers and support as I begin this new ministry.

Having agreed to answer the call to this service I was most visibly blessed by our Atlantic Eccelestical Representative, Father Charles Pottie-Pate SJ at the Atlantic Regional Council gathering at Bishop Faber MacDonald's October 18-19, 2002. Many of you were present and extended your hands toward me during the beautiful commissioning ceremony. I thank you for your confidence and pray for your support and suggestions during the next two years.

As I take on this role I ask you to join with me in extending to our immediate past Atlantic Regional CLC Co-Ordinator, Colleen Sumarah a special thank you for her vision and dedication as our 1st Atlantic Regional Co-Ordinator. Her passion and love for our Lord and for CLC has enabled me to move forward with a rooted foundation upon which to build. Thank you Colleen.

Those present at the Atlantic Regional CLC Council gathering in October will recall that I asked each individual and community to respond to the needs of CLC in Atlantic Canada by prioritizing the mandate I would follow in order of importance. You have responded and following is the order of priority you have placed on the goals you wish me to pursue on your behalf in the next two years.

- Communication
- On going formation for guides
- Enrichment of CLC Communities
- Visits to CLC Communities by members of the Atlantic CLC Executive
- Youth Outreach
- Financial considerations
- Constitution and Bi-Laws
- Charitable Status

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A reflection from our Atlantic CLC Representative

Dear friends,

We are close to the end of the year and in this time of Advent, we ponder the end of time when Jesus our loving Lord and Savior will come in all his glory to gather us around Him. I imagine the joy on our faces when we see Him face to face, when we look in His loving eyes and find understanding, mercy, kindness and tenderness. I imagine all my brothers and sisters in Christ and all these people of good will looking at each other with renewed love, a love that will last forever and ever just like the love that the persons of the Trinity share with each other.

For this new earth and new heaven to come in its fullness, we have to wait....and waiting is not always easy. Permit me to share with you, my friends what desolation I have been going through this past year. Every year, I start a new journal and on the first page, I write a main grace for the year January the 1st. 2002, I wrote :

“Oh Holy Trinity, come and live within me. I give you my heart, all of my being, all of my life. Make of me a woman according to your will....I desire to be tender and merciful with an acute sense of justice....justice that speaks of peace and mercy for my neighbour. I ask this for your greatest glory and for the salvation of the world.”

The first year of our move to Atholville, N.B. was exciting. We were very busy emptying boxes, renovating our new home, getting to know some people of our community, renewing bonds with some family members. From the very beginning, Claude and I were watching to see if we could begin a CLC in our new area. At some point, we were invited to give an



information night. How excited we were. But it didn't work...most people that came were already part of a Charismatic group. At the same time, our new parish was being renewed with a Parish Pastoral Council. I went to the meeting and was asked to be president of the council. I accepted for two reasons: first because of the Lay formation course I had received in the diocese of Saint John. I felt somewhat equipped to assume that role and second to get to know people so that eventually some would want to journey as a CLC.

Every Pastoral meeting, I have a question for evaluation :

(continued on p. 17)

News from Family CLC on Prince Edward Island

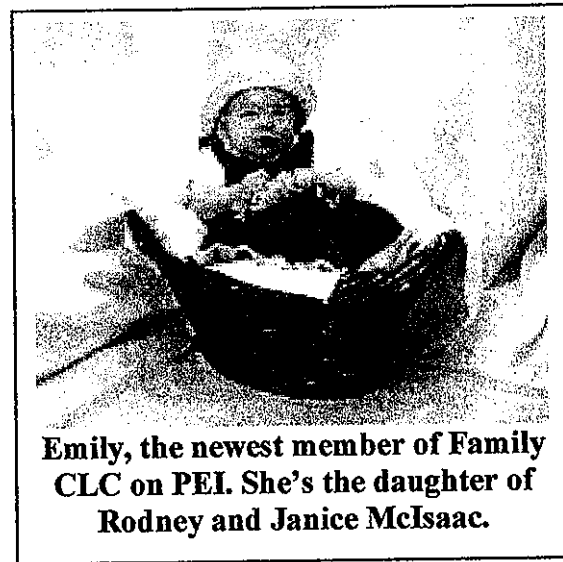


Our Family CLC on PEI Consists of 11 Adults and 16 Children ranging in ages from 6 months to 13 years old.

In alphabetical order we have Rick and Maureen Brennan with their 4 children from oldest to youngest, Matthias, Braeden, Shaneigh and Brohan.

Next we have Dave and Theresa Johnston with Amber, Kristine and Dylan. Then we have Dave and Mar McIsaac with Nicole, Daniel, Kelsey and Jolene.

Next we have Rodney and Janice McIsaac with the newest member to our family CLC, Emily. Now we have Sue Rogers and her son Christopher. Last but not least we have Calvin and Lou-Anne Wolfe with their three children Rebecca, Kurtis and Emily.



Emily, the newest member of Family CLC on PEI. She's the daughter of Rodney and Janice McIsaac.

We have been meeting for 2 years now on a monthly basis. We rotate the meetings from home to home so we can get a better understanding on how and where our families live.

(continued on next page...)

(Family CLC news continued...)

Some times we will meet in a neutral area like a secluded cabin in the woods where the only way in is by horse and sleigh. We always try and make the surroundings fun and welcoming so we can enjoy one another's company to the fullest while in the presence of our savior Jesus Christ.

The format of our monthly gatherings (3rd Sunday of the month) would be as follows: We would gather at 2pm starting with a fun activity, (huge drawing card for the children). Some activities we have incorporated are swimming at the local pool, sleigh rides to the secluded cabin, nature walks along the beach, ball games, car rallies, etc. The host family usually comes up with the idea for the fun activity.

After the fun activity we gather in two groups for scripture and faith sharing. Either one of the parents, or some other

person/persons, have been invited in to coordinate the children's faith sharing time.

The adults meet together with a pre-assigned facilitator (one of the Family CLC adult members). At 4:30 we reconvene with the children where they are given the time to faith share their experiences with the adults. This is always an awesome experience.

After the children have completed their sharing we break for a potluck meal. "Rarely has there been any left overs." After sharing a meal we reconvene so everyone can share what they felt the day meant to them. We then close with a final prayer and wish each other a safe trip home.

Dave Johnston
Family CLC, P.E.I.

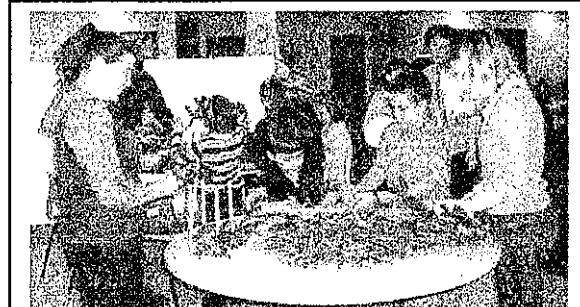


News from Our Lady's Circle CLC

On the first Sunday of Advent each year, Our Lady's Circle CLC sponsor *Family Advent Wreath Making* before Mass. One member of our CLC community makes approximately 40 styrofoam 10" disks with four holes for the Advent candles, another shops for the 120 violet candles and 40 pink candles, another gathers spruce or pine cones, another collects tips from evergreens.

The families gather around tables and make the wreaths. The YOUTH GROUP man the glue-guns to attach the cones. Some years, a 20 minute video might be shown, or someone invited to present on the meaning of Advent, or Advent customs.

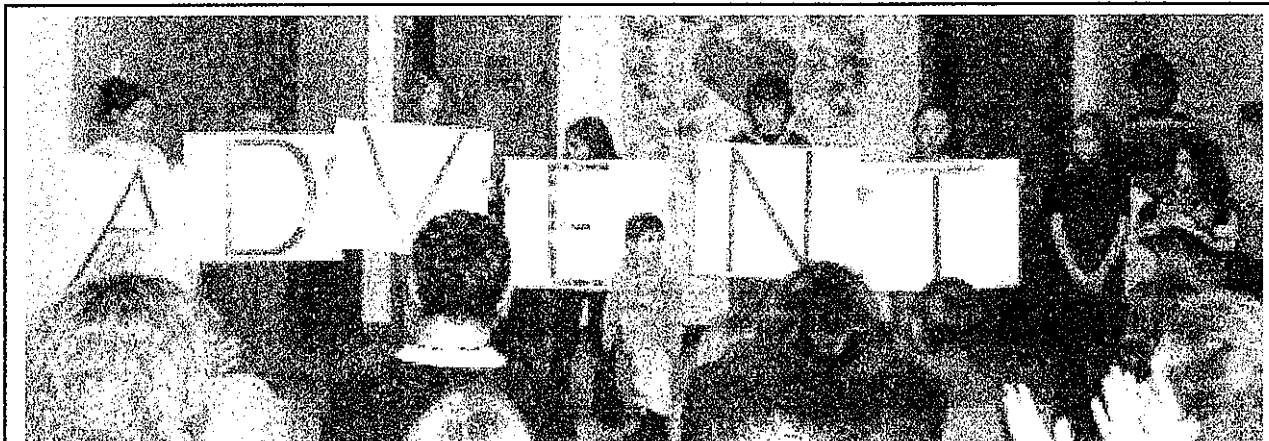
This year the YEAR 5+6 Catechism children presented on how we wait during Advent. In their presentation, they asked the 'audience/faith community' how Sts. Simon and Jude Parishioners prepare for the Reign of Christ. The responses included donating to the local Christmas Daddies campaign with a special collection, sponsoring a sing song with



Advent Wreath making. Sponsored by Our Lady's Circle CLC in Nackawic, New Brunswick.

fruit baskets at the Senior's Complex, collecting for the Food Bank, taking part in the Shoebox Campaign, etc. The Parish Centre is alive with this activity! All join in the clean-up and then the families take the Advent Wreaths with them to Mass where Father blesses them. The families are encouraged to light the wreath with a prayer each day in their 'domestic church'.

Blessings and Happy Adventing from Our Lady's Circle!



Sharing the meaning of Advent – sponsored by Our Lady's Circle CLC in Nackawic, New Brunswick.

Reflection by Pat Lawson from Our Lady's Circle CLC

How fitting that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary should fall in Advent... the season when we pay attention to our 'yes' to God and then wait in joyful hope for His coming yesterday, today and tomorrow! I found the following prayer by Michael Quoist:

"Into her presence the angel came, and said, 'Hail, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee...'. She was much perplexed at hearing him speak so, and cast about in her mind, what she was to make of such a greeting. Then the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; thou hast found favour in the sight of God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call him Jesus. He shall be great, and men will know him for the Son of the Most High; ...nothing can be impossible with God., And Mary said, 'Behold the hand-maid of the Lord; let it be unto me according to thy word.,' (Luke 1:28-32, 37-38, KV)

I am afraid of saying "Yes," Lord. Where will you take me?

"Son, until now you have planned your actions, but I have no need of them. You have asked for my approval. You have asked for my

"We must always remind ourselves that we are pilgrims until we arrive at our heavenly homeland, and we must not let our affections delay us in the roadside inns and lands through which we pass, otherwise we will forget our destination and lose interest in our final goal [Ep. 6:523]."

-St Ignatius of Loyola, on "General directives on maturing spiritually."

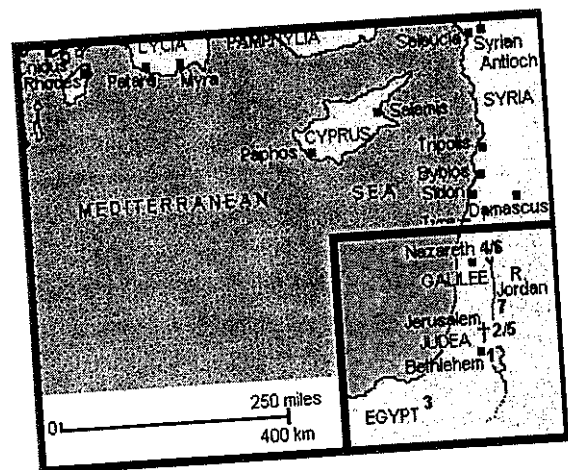
support. You have wanted to interest me in your work. But don't you see, son, that you were reversing the roles? I have watched you, I have seen your good will, and I want more than you now. You will no longer do your own works, but the will of your Father in heaven.

Say "Yes," son.

I need your eyes, as I needed Mary's eyes" to come to earth. For it is I who must do your work. It is I who must live in your family. It is I who must be in your neighborhood, and not you. For it is my look that penetrates, and not yours; my words that carry weight, and not yours; my life that transforms, and not yours. Give all to me. Abandon all to me. I need your "yes" to be united with you and to come down to earth., I need your "yes" to continue saving the world!"

O Lord, I am afraid of your demands but who can resist you? That your Kingdom may come and not mine, that your will may be done and not mine, help me to say "Yes."

Jesus's earthly 'homeland'



Letters to the Editor:

Hi Leo!

Attached is our community submission for the newsletter. Thank you so much for your commitment to producing this excellent means for communicating with each other. Based on the first edition, I can only imagine the commitment and generosity of time and labour that must go into it. I found it very informative and interesting. Above all, I do feel more connected to the other CLC communities who contributed to that edition. Thank you again for your continuing co-labouring with Christ in this wonderful way of building Kingdom.

**Blessings and Peace,
Betty**

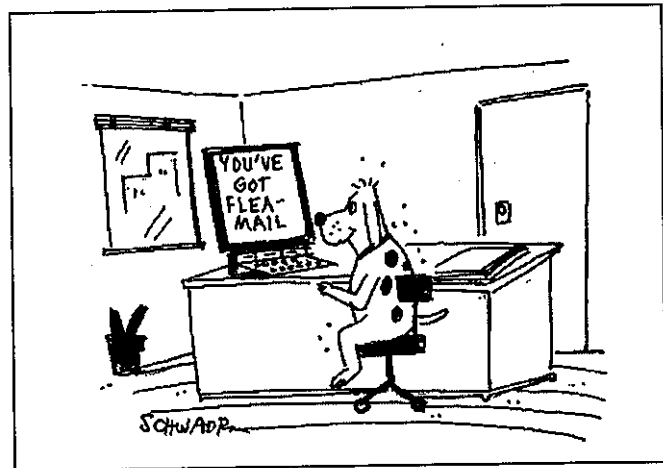
Greetings to the Atlantic Region CLCs,

I just wanted to congratulate you all on your newsletter and the hard work, love and caring that makes it happen. I'll pass the site address(<http://www.glinx.com/~ljdeveau/Colloquy.html>) around so it can be enjoyed by all.

**Peace be with you all,
Maureen Decaire,
CLC, Winnipeg**

All comments, suggestions and 'constructive criticism' on this newsletter are greatly appreciated. Email Leo Deveau at: ljdeveau@chebucto.ns.ca.

Contributions, re. news, articles, reviews, reflections, pictures, etc. are greatly appreciated.



Recent Bestsellers from PW Religion Bookline:

1. *Let's Roll: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage* by Lisa Beamer with Ken Abraham (Tyndale)
2. *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler (Morrow)
3. *A Life God Rewards: Why Everything You Do Today Matters Forever* by Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
4. *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge (Thomas Nelson)
5. *The Prayer of Jabez* by Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
6. *The Remnant* by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins (Tyndale)
7. *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
8. *Bringing Up Boys* by James Dobson (Tyndale)
9. *I Hope You Dance* by Mark D. Sanders and Tia Sillers (Rutledge Hill)
10. *The New Revelations: Conversations with God* by Neale Donald Walsch (Pocket)

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*News on national preparations for the 14th
World CLC General Assembly in Nairobi -
July 30 - August 8, 2003.*

Plans are now in motion to assist local CLC communities to prepare for the 14th World CLC General Assembly. Here in Canada, a National Preparation Team has been established with representatives from all the CLC regions. I was asked to serve as the CLC Atlantic Region rep on this team. The Team will be distributing preparation documents early in the new year to each of the CLC communities in their region. These documents will assist in guiding discernment for input to CLC Canada's contribution to the World Assembly theme and reflection. Below are some excerpts from one of the documents to provide some sense of what CLC communities are being asked.

Leo J. Deveau
Truth Given CLC
Wolfville, N.S.

The CLC World General Assembly theme:

"SENT BY CHRIST, MEMBERS OF ONE BODY"

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Cor. 12:12)

Reflection by Daniela Frank, World CLC ExCo, from Projects No. 118 (October 2002):

The preparations for our next World Assembly in 2003 in Nairobi, have already begun but, at the same time, we continue to deepen what we have received in Itaici with what God has entrusted to us as a World Community. As such, we continue to discover and put into practice "Our Common Mission" in our personal lives and in our local and national groups, so as to become more and more faithful to God's call and to where we are being sent.

To be community in mission means to live mission in community. This is more than a play on words. The relationship between mission and community expresses an important and essential characteristic of our Ignatian identity. With the help of the community, we discern the mission which God entrusts to us. Based on the process of communal discernment and the decision taken, the community sends us, supports us to live this mission, accompanies us and evaluates with us what we live. Thus, we become more and more a community in mission because in and as community, we discover, accept and put our mission into concrete form.

continued on next page...

Through this process, CLC becomes an apostolic body, which responds to God's call and participates in the mission of Jesus Christ in our world. A cornerstone basis and frame work of this communal discernment at all levels is what we received as a World Community in "Our Common Mission" - the document of our World Assembly in Itaici in 1998.

This document reflects a great variety of urgent needs of our world and the possibilities of responding to them according to the desire of our Lord. There is no doubt that none of us will ever be able to live the whole range of possible answers. Exactly because of that, on local, national and regional levels, we are continuously in a common process of discernment and decision making to let God show us how we can participate in "Our Common Mission" in our specific context and live it in our daily lives. Facing the wide range of possibilities, our decisions always result in limitations: to be faithful to the mission received, we have to make options. Restricting ourselves through options, we will be able to take concrete steps. At the same time, we may be confident that an honestly discerned option won't be restrictive but can open us to other possibilities. Nothing could be worse or paralyze us more than avoiding a concrete decision because we are overwhelmed by the variety of needs and possibilities to face them, thinking that we would need to respond to all of them.

Which concrete decisions have we made since Itaici in our local and national communities? Which options have we taken? Which steps have we planned and already put into practice? What makes it difficult for us to live this process? What help would we need to live a process of discernment leading us to more clarity about our "Common Mission"?



St. Ignatius of Loyola

This process of discernment also needs humility - the humility of accepting our limitations, our weaknesses, our fears - and offering them so that they can be used, formed and transformed into instruments at God's service.

"Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were noble of birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'" 1 Cor 1: 26-31

continued on next page...



God is calling us as we are - not as we would like to be. God's image of us might be very different from the one we are dreaming of. God wants to make use of us - as we are - inviting us to acknowledge our own weakness, powerlessness, foolishness so that they may become milestones on our way to and with Him. God opens us to the weak and the powerless in our world so that they might become the gifts that help to transform our hearts towards God and God's love for the world.

The Lord offers us the weak and the powerless in our world to grow in following Him. Are we aware of our own weakness and powerlessness and that they might become the special "treasure" to discover God's presence and will?

Political, social and economic developments also can be perceived as God's invitation to

become more and more open to the reality of poverty, weakness and injustice in our own societies in our world. Are we ready to accept this invitation? How can we help one another to learn to read and understand the signs of the time?

The reality of weakness and powerlessness is also present in our local and national communities. We face limitedness and inability, lack of confidence, anxiety to open ourselves, to share feelings, fears and hopes; to trust and believe that God wants to talk to us through others. God has brought us together to develop and share a common vocation, which implies sharing the responsibility of our mission. God brings us together to challenge and encourage us to be faithful to our vocation, to live deeply our spirituality, i.e. the Spiritual Exercises and to do so in the humble realism of what we are and what we have. We have ideals about how our community should be and, because of the discrepancy between our ideals and the daily reality, we are at risk to mistrust the ideal and restrict our expectations. But it is God who placed us in this community.



The continuous contact between the ideal and the reality (accepting our meagerness), helps us to bring our ideals and plans down to the earth of our daily lives. Our community provides us with a forum from which we can dare to be as we are, as God is present among us. We are invited to learn to let the others be as they are, to trust one another and to trust that God has plans for us. Our community is the place where we listen together, discern God's will and receive the call offered to us. Through the community, God can open us towards the world and to the way of looking at it so 'that the same mind grows in us that was in Christ Jesus' (Phil 1:5). It is the community that sends us to live this mission.

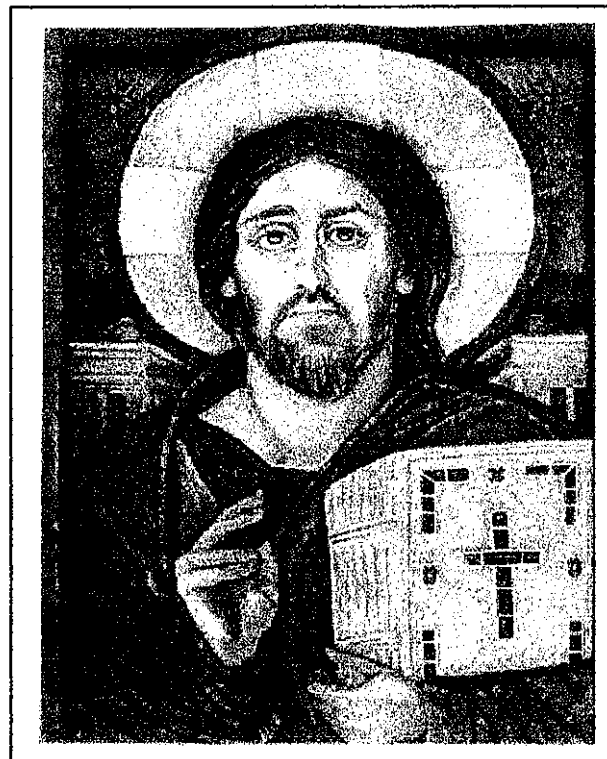
We all know very well that it's not at all easy to live as community in mission. But again and again, we are invited to trust God, to trust one another and to try to take further steps.

What makes the orientation towards mission concrete in our local community? How do we support one another in discovering, discerning and deciding his or her mission? Can we count on one another in this process? How far do we understand this mutual responsibility as a concrete form of living our common mission?

Looking back to earlier experiences: What did I eventually miss in my community in the process of discerning my (our) mission? What has made it difficult for me to open myself and trust the others that through them the Lord wants to speak to me? How would I like them to discern and accompany me in my mission?

What could help us to become more faithful to our vocation as community in mission, rooted in the Spiritual Exercises?

How can we be more concrete in our process of sending individuals and groups in mission?



What could help us to become more faithful to our vocation as community in mission, rooted in the Spiritual Exercises?

How can we be more concrete in our process of sending individuals and groups in mission? Which signs and rituals could be helpful as an expression of our mutual responsibility?

What we live as a World Community, our maturity and our faithfulness to God's will strongly depends on all of us, individually and as local and national groups. Accordingly, our half-heartedness and fear will affect us as community. We are called to live as an apostolic body at God's service and this call is for all of us. To grow in this awareness, we do not depend only on our own strength and wisdom but God counts on our generosity and confidence: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and bless you". (Gen 26:24)



Book Review:

THE COMMON GOOD AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

David Hollenbach SJ, (Cambridge University Press 2002, 286 pages, \$23.00).

A new study revives the ancient tradition of the common good to address contemporary urban and global social divisions. David Hollenbach SJ draws on social analysis, moral philosophy, and theological ethics to chart new directions, arguing that the division between the middle class and the poor in major cities and the challenges of globalisation require a new commitment to the common good.

Accordingly, believers and non-believers must move towards new forms of solidarity.

CHRISTIAN WEB SITES

Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) Founder of the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits)

The Roots of the Society of Jesus at <http://www.jesuit.org/Pages/begin.html>

Winter Issue Meditation:

“When we stop taking God for granted and allow ourselves to be astonished at the unaccountable and priceless reality of God’s love, then all the tidy little compartments of our contractual lives fall apart. When we can’t add it all up, then begins the great spiritual awakening, the start of a mature spirituality.

When we sense that God loves us for nothing, for no reason, we may begin to experience the desire to love God for no reason, neither expecting nor wanting anything in return. This is the beginning of the desire to pray and to worship simply because God is God.

Such a desire goes far beyond our calculations of the shoulds and oughts of contractual obligation and far beyond our needs and self-interest. It is a wanting and a willingness, the beginning of an adult faith in which we become like little children.

This side of the grave, such a desire to love God will surely always be mixed up with some of our human needs and fears. We will always be tempted to break the contract if we don’t seem to be getting anything out of it. We will always be ungrateful.

Nevertheless, even though our desire to love God forever and for free is only intermittent, such moments are the most blessed in our lives. These are the moments of blessing and thanksgiving, the moments when we are set free from captivity to our calculations and cravings.

We worship because we hardly know how to say thanks to the most important reality in our lives – which are unearned, beyond our control, and given to us for free. We worship because we have a sense of having been blessed and, when we worship, our sense of being blessed deepens.

On the one hand, we worship because God is God and, on the other, we worship because we are who we are. We pray with the inexplicable sufferings and burdens in our lives. Sometimes we find the words with which to pray and sometimes we don’t and it is in these moments that we are carried by the prayer of the worshipping community.”

-Mary Jo Leddy, from her new book *Radical Gratitude*, pp.182 (Novalis, 2002). Leddy works with Romero House for Refugees in Toronto.

**Regional CLC Coordinator's message,
continued from page 2.**

A worthy list indeed and one that will require much prayer and discernment as we move forward. Another area of discernment that came out of the October 18-19 gathering was the appointment of an Atlantic Regional CLC Secretary and an Atlantic Regional CLC Treasurer. Both important roles that will require individuals to come forward that will be willing to give of themselves for the advancement of CLC in Atlantic Canada. If you believe you have the skills necessary to take on either of these roles and are hearing a discerned call from God, I invite you to communicate with me at your earliest convenience.

By way of introduction to those of you who do not know me, I have been married to my high school sweetheart Terri for the past 32 years and we have two adult children, Sarah Elizabeth 27 who lives and works in Halifax and Jonathan Peter, 22 an Engineering student in Fredericton. We are members of St. Joseph's Parish in Loch Lomond. Terri and I have both completed the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and have been members of the Come and See CLC since January, 2000.

I invite you all to communicate with me at any time regarding any issue that is important to the future of CLC in Atlantic Canada. You may reach me via email at: terpet@nbnet.nb.ca. I must ask you to identify your message clearly as I only open mail from persons I know. Alternately you may contact me at 1-506-696-7065. We have voice mail so leave a message if you don't reach me at 1st try.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we move forward within our individual communities. I freely volunteer to visit each of your communities during the next

two years and am open to any and all invitations. I will say that my own CLC community was graced by a visit from Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate SJ and Leo Deveau, the Atlantic Regional Formation Director. The visit was a powerful witness of God's love that knows no boundaries. I dedicate myself to work tirelessly on your behalf and commit myself to communicate with you on a regular basis to keep you abreast of developments and movements within our larger Atlantic community but also to invite your input along the way.

Please pray for the grace that we hear God's word in Atlantic Canada as our Lord uses this incredible gift of Christian Life Communities to further build the kingdom of God here on earth.

From Terri and myself, Merry Christmas and blessings on a fruitful and prayerful new year.

**In Christ,
Peter Chouinard,
Atlantic Regional CLC Co-Ordinator
141 Taylor Lake Road
Willow Grove NB
E2S 1P9**



**Atlantic CLC Representative message,
continued from page 3.**

“ How has Jesus been present in our meeting?”
I have tried to clarify this question in many ways but still I only received blank faces for answers.

So we are waiting.....waiting and sometimes, we get discouraged...we feel alone....we miss a community where we could have spiritual conversation... even though Claude and I share with each other. Sometimes, we look at each other and wonder if it is the end of the road for us....maybe God is calling us in some new way...and we keep waiting.

This Advent, my desolation hit its peak or should I say the pit...I felt a lack of energy....unworthy....powerless....struggling with fears, anger and sadness. I wanted to live the life of a hermit.

I didn't know I was so far down until I wrote a letter to Leo Deveau about something and then added that I was feeling alone and wondering if CLC was still for Claude and I. The day after, I received a letter from Leo...as I tried to read the letter, tears came pouring down and my dear Claude silently was waiting for me to speak. Through our conversation, we decided that this was not the time to make a decision to change anything in our life.

In his letter, Leo had suggested that I pray on Mary's expectant feelings of hope. Mary and Joseph had to wait for the Messiah, Jesus to come.....she had been waiting with her people for many years from generation to generation and the waiting wasn't always easy for them...many times the people were in desolation for all kind of reasons.

A woman according to God's will means that I, like Mary, have to embrace the cross and wait ...wait...wait for God's time to reveal Himself today like he did through our dear friend Leo..... and at the end of time.

We are part of a Christian Life Community even when we are geographically at a distance. Thanks be to God!!...Holy is His name!!!

May God visit you to-day through one another during this time of waiting. May He increase our faith and fill us with love for Him and our neighbour.

Nora Jean

Deadline for Spring issue of Colloquy has been changed to MARCH 28th . The issue will be released at Easter, APRIL 21st. See Colloquy web site at: <http://www.glinx.com/~ljdeveau/Colloquy.html>

