



Colloquy



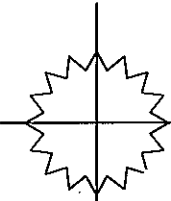
“The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Then Mary said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Luke 1: 28,38

Hail Mary full of grace. Queen of Heaven. Mother Mary. She has many honored titles and roles in our Christian heritage. But none quite as significant as her role in the acceptance of the mysterious message from the angel Gabriel, namely that she would give birth and become the mother of Jesus - God made human!

Originally in Hebrew, Spirit – *ruach* – is feminine. Indeed, the spirit of every human life comes to Earth through the body of a women. In Mary’s case, she is the bearer of the Word of God through the Holy Spirit, and brings forth the Son of God in her humanness for all humanity. Her *yes* is essential to our on-going dialogue with God, and to the event of the Incarnation and our journey in Christ. Upon hearing Gabriel’s message from God, Mary was commissioned. And she accepted her vocation for all eternity. In her acceptance of Gabriel’s message, Mary no longer lived her Jewish faith in the comfort of a closeted privacy, but became a true visible witness -

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a witness at a time when women had little or no access to scriptures or the synagogue. After saying *yes*, nothing would remain the same as it was.

Needless to say, given her young age, Mary's act of acceptance and service took extraordinary courage, reflecting the ultimate purity of heart that was prepared to humbly risk and sacrifice everything beyond our imagination, demonstrating a profound love for creation and an immense hope in the human family to share God's love.

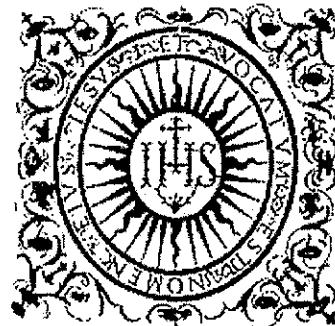
The words of Mary in the New Testament are few, yet powerful. And even when not heard from, we know she remains a constant presence in the life of Jesus. After Jesus was born, legend has it that Mary may have later had more children and that she became widowed when Joseph died from an unknown illness. In any case, after Jesus' violent death on the cross, we do know through the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and related texts, that Mary remained present to the Apostles and many disciples, setting an example and a course of encouragement to the early Christian community.*

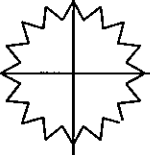
The life of Mary and her spiritual presence also played a significant role and inspiration in the life and works of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This Christmas my hope is that the CLC charism of Ignatian Spirituality will ignite a deeper understanding of Mary's constant presence and encouragement in our CLC communities, and that she will continue to inspire the hearts of all CLC members to discern and willingly respond to God's call in their lives.

**Peace and many blessings,
Leo J. Deveau
Editor**

*For further reading and reference on the various sources on the life of Mary see the writings of A.J. MAAS (transcribed by Michael T. Barrett) at:
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15464b.htm>

Right, is an early version of the seal of the Society of Jesus, recently uncovered on a wall in Rome in what was St. Ignatius's office by Fr. Tom Lucas, S.J. In the center are the three letters "IHS" which are the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek. Around the perimeter is the Latin phrase taken from the vulgate: "... and His name was called Jesus." (Luke 2:21) This is the last line of the gospel reading used on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the Giving of the Name of Jesus, which is the titular feast of the Society of Jesus.

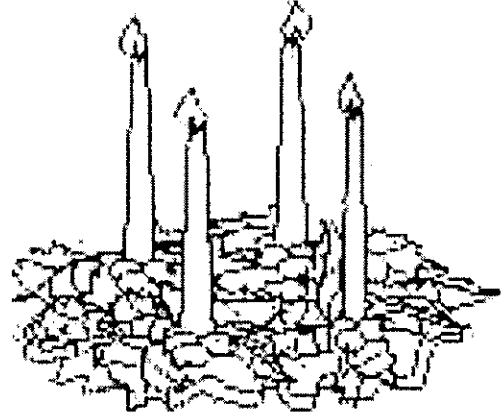




A word from our Atlantic CLC Regional Ecclesial Assistant...

Dear fellow CLC members:

By the time you receive this issue of Colloquy, Advent will be nearly ended and the approaching feasts of the birth of the Saviour, his Epiphany to the three Magi from the East, and his Baptism in the Jordan will be upon us before we know it.



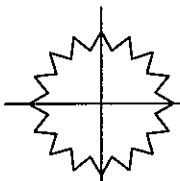
I hope you have had a blessed fall in your respective communities. For myself, I have been involved in a number of meetings this fall: Our Regional Council meeting in September in Pictou and our ExCo meeting in Halifax were both rich moments for us. We have our new Coordinator, Gilles Michaud, guiding us well. Clarence DeSchiffart has been ably filling in for John Sumarah as Atlantic rep to the National, and Pam Daigle, replacing Colleen Sumarah, as chair of the Formation committee. I have also been part of the Formation Committee with Pam and Yves Daigle and Pat Lawson. We had a packed one day meeting reflecting on last year's formation program of Group Guides and looking forward to this year. This day was followed by a Group Guide workshop with the new guides from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Also a packed and grace-filled weekend.

And our local group Truth Given/Anawim has been alive with news and projects from John and Colleen Sumarah in Nairobi. I found it very consoling that our local CLC took seriously the common apostolic service which is such an essential part of our CLC way of life, in working with John and Colleen in raising funds for a school in Nairobi.

With the beginnings of the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality: a Jesuit Initiative in Atlantic Canada, I have been able to share with the other two Jesuits the many years of CLC existence in the Atlantic Provinces. Some of you kindly sent me replies to the questions we had sent you. I - we - are grateful and they will be all part of the ongoing mission and vision and goals of this new adventure of developing the Ignatian charism already present in the Atlantic Provinces. I will try to keep you abreast of new developments with the Centre

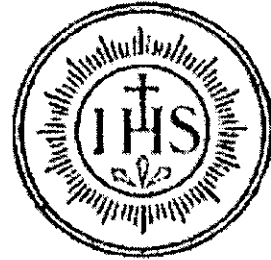
Let me wish each and all the blessings of the Ever-Youthful God, revealed in the newborn Child of Bethlehem. May the grace of this season lead us all more deeply to know the Word made flesh for us, to love him more deeply and to follow Him more closely.

**Your brother in Christ,
Charles P sj**

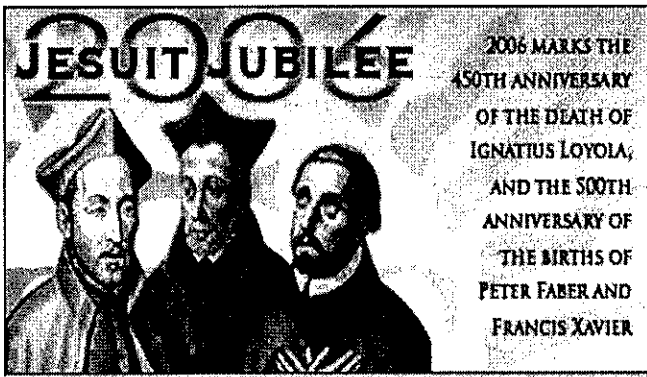


Letter from Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ in Rome

To the World Christian Life Community



It is a real joy to share with all the members of the Christian Life Community the celebration of the birth of Saint Ignatius into heaven 450 years ago, and the birth into the world of Saint Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber exactly five centuries ago. Nearly everywhere in the world Jesuits are preparing to celebrate these first companions with all sorts of festivities and initiatives. Above all we have a great desire to draw forth a renewal of apostolic momentum from this source of spirituality which we hold in common with the CLC almost from our first origins. Even today the holiness of these first three Jesuits marks our life and yours.



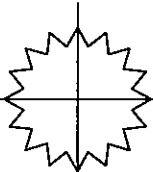
Indeed it was as a lay person that Ignatius, the pilgrim, began to share the experience of the Spiritual Exercises as an authentic way to God, with so many lay people whom he met along the road. Thanks to this venture of Ignatius, so many men and women have discovered what the Lord wanted for them and what He wishes to build with them for the true life of the world. The CLC and the Jesuits are well aware that the Spiritual Exercises continue to

enrich their communities with an undeniable spiritual force and with the gift of prayerful discernment to answer every time afresh the questions put Ignatius: what am I doing for Christ, what must I do for Christ?

This is where Saint Francis Xavier comes into the picture. When making the Spiritual Exercises with Ignatius he did not remain deaf to the call of this Lord who went from town to town, from house to house, to announce the Good News. Seeing Francis Xavier, in his turn, crossing the roads of Asia as far as the gates of China, we are urged, personally and as a community to continue the mission of the Lord among the men and women of our time who live around or with us. Let us thank the Lord that the CLC has never abandoned a missionary responsibility at the heart of everyday life, in work and leisure, in joys and sorrows, in the celebration of our faith and in the promotion of peace and justice; on the contrary it has become more aware of this responsibility.

There is where we will meet Blessed Father Faber, perhaps less known to us but greatly appreciated by Ignatius who considered him to be the greatest expert in the Spiritual Exercises. Francis Xavier valued him as a great friend. When we see Peter Faber crossing the Europe of his day we discover the prime importance of spiritual accompaniment, person to person, heart to heart. When visiting a town or a village he looked for personal contact,

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meeting in the Lord, in order to fulfill the apostolic desire which Ignatius expressed as 'helping people' to personally encounter this Lord who has called them to life and who will be there to welcome them for ever in a new heaven and a new earth. Our culture has made us very sensitive to everything which is visible and spectacular. It takes courage to believe in the apostolic fruitfulness of the mission of encounter and sharing, listening and advising, accompanying and 'conversing' as the first Jesuits expressed themselves. However, this is where true Christian life can grow and become the communion of the Church.

Without doubt, CLC and the Society of Jesus, in the spirit of Ignatius, Francis and Peter Faber, are living in a communion of prayer and work. However we must thank the Lord of the vineyard for the grace which is proper to the CLC. It is as 'Christi fideles laici,' fully integrated into lay life, that they are given the responsibility of announcing the good news to all their neighbours and those close to them. It is a grace of the Church of our day to see the flowing of so many church based movements; strengthened by a secular experience, the CLC takes its full place within this birth of so many spiritual and apostolic forms within which the vocation and mission of Christian lay faithful expressed themselves. Saint Ignatius never wanted to found a third order, but already in his time, he favoured associations of the faithful who, themselves, wanted to live the experience of the Spiritual Exercises and to give to that a communitarian form according to the needs of the Church in the world.

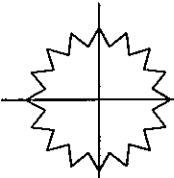
On the threshold of the jubilee year, which will begin on 3rd December in Navarre, I was happy to share with all of you how the example of Saint Ignatius, Saint Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber continues to inspire CLC and the Jesuits. I thank you for your union in the joy of this common celebration 'ad maiorem Dei gloriam.'

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Peter-Hans Klovenbach, SJ
Superior General.
Rome, November, 2005.

New Centre for Ignatian Spirituality officially opens in Halifax

On December 3rd, as part of the celebration of the Jesuit Jubilee year, the Jesuit community of Halifax and their many friends gathered to celebrate at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Halifax, and to officially announce the opening of their new *Centre for Ignatian Spirituality: A Jesuit initiative for Atlantic Canada* (mentioned in Fr. Charlie's message above, p.3). The Centre will be located at the St. Patrick's Rectory, 2267 Brunswick Street, in Halifax. The space has been rented out to the Jesuits by the Archdiocese of Halifax. It will house the offices, resources and meeting place for the Centre's programs and activities. Atlantic CLC members will be updated on further developments that the Centre will be undertaking.



An update from CLC Canada...

Dear CLC Canada Members, Greetings and Peace in our Lord Jesus Christ:

We wanted to greet you to give you a brief update regarding the recent North American CLC conference that was held in Chicago October 9-11, 2005. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as members of CLC communities from across CLC Canada, CVX Canada and CLC USA. We were also blessed to have in attendance 2 representatives from CLC Mexico as observers during this conference.



The grace we sought and continue to seek is *"To deepen our ability to discern and respond as the North American Region to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit"*. As a result of this conference a number of recommendations were made by those in attendance to advance towards this grace. One of the ways in which we hope to realize our ability to respond is a growing awareness of our need to recognize the sign of the times is in how we utilize our personal and corporate use of water.

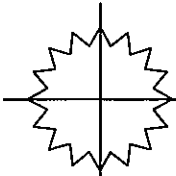
Below (p.7) is a revised Awareness Exercise of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, with a focus on water. We are offering this as a *'suggestion'* for use during Thursdays as you pray your awareness examen. We would be interested in hearing how the Trinity speaks to you through this prayer. Please feel free to use it if you feel a stirring towards that.

The North American CLC Region is still discerning who will be the representatives from the 3 National CLC communities. Peter Chouinard (CLC Canada President) and Ruth Chipman (CLC Prairies Regional Representative) have graciously discerned to accept this role for CLC Canada. The members from CVX Canada and CLC USA should be finalized and announced by year-end.

Other recommendations from the conference are around sharing mutual beneficial formation materials, ways to learn from our cultural differences and agreeing to seek out funding to move forward with these goals.

On other water issues it was recommended we make ourselves aware of other organizations that are working on water issues and link onto their websites with our own CLC Canada website as well as writing letters to government ministers and others regarding the basic human rights to water and urging action on a moratorium on issuing any further bottled water permits. We will bring you more information as this committee comes together in the New Year. From our homes to yours, we wish you a peaceful and restful Advent and the joy of recognizing Jesus as He comes.

Peace, Peter Chouinard & Kati Gumbmann, CLC Canada Co-President(s)



AWARENESS EXERCISE of Saint Ignatius Loyola (with a focus on Water)

PURPOSE

This short prayer exercise helps us increase our sensitivity to the Trinity working in creation and provides a means for responding to the Trinity's presence. The exercise deepens our awareness of the Holy Spirit, the "Power that prompts creation onward" in our lives, the lives of other animate beings and in matter itself. The awareness examen helps us share our spiritual life with others. In this way friendships are strengthened and we can work together for the "restoration of the peace of creation".



THANKSGIVING

I begin by placing myself in the presence of the three persons of the Trinity. I look over my week and see where I need to be thankful. How have I used water this week? How has it refreshed me? Given me life? Blessed me, my family and friends? I let the Holy Spirit show me how I have been given the gift of water. I thank God for this gift.



ASK FOR LIGHT

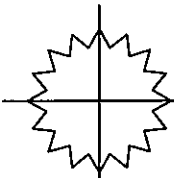
I pray for enlightenment from God, not from my own analysis of the past week. I ask the Holy Spirit to show me what I need to see.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

I take time to recall the use of water by me, by my family, and by my community in the past week. I remember how it sustains the trees, microbes, animals, the whole web of life. I recall what I have read or seen in the media about the use and abuse of water in the world. As I examine these experiences I recall my interior moods, feelings, and urges. Where have I experienced consolation, that is, an increase in peace, a feeling of being close to God, a turning outward towards harmony with creation? Where have I experienced desolation, that is, a feeling of isolation, being far away from God, a turning inward, away from Earth's community of life? With the help of the Holy Spirit, I ask:

- How is God calling me to respect, love and protect water?
- How have I responded?
- Is the Holy Spirit inviting me to conversion?
- Do I need to take action?

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THE GIFTS OF SORROW, FORGIVENESS, AND GRATITUDE

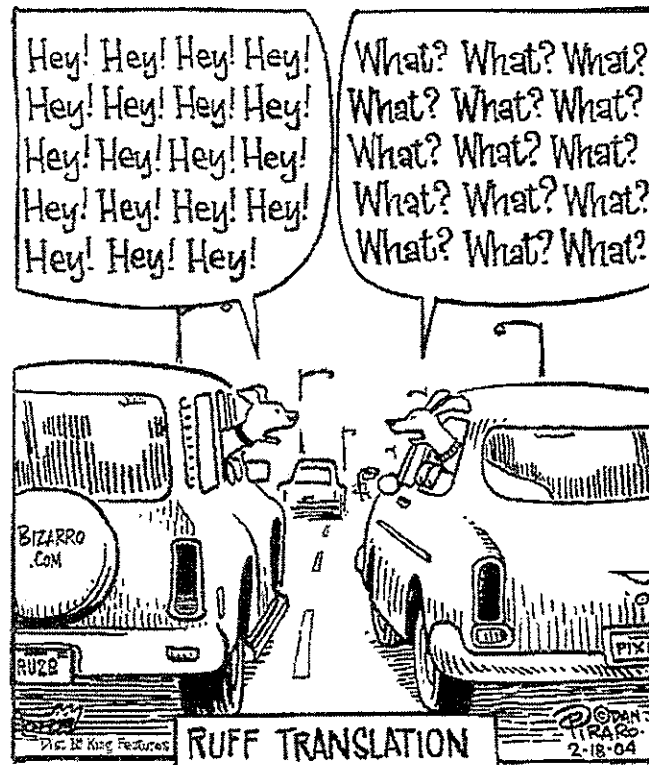
With my new awareness I speak to God, seeking forgiveness for the times when I did not respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. I seek the gift of sorrow for times when I wasted water. I thank God for those moments when I was aware that I owe my life to the daily gift of clean water. I thank God for those moments when I have been at one with water and the Earth.

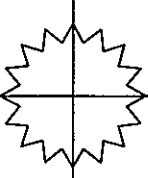
GUIDANCE FOR TOMORROW

I humbly ask God for my water needs in the coming week. I ask God to provide clean, cheap water for Earth's humanity and life. I ask for insight and energy to do what I can to preserve and honor Earth's waters. I close with a prayer.



BIZARRO





As reported in the fall issue of *Colloquy*, the Atlantic CLC Regional Council Executive organized a retreat last May for interested CLC members at the Stella Maris Retreat Centre in Pictou, Nova Scotia. Below is a reflection by Wanda Campbell, from Charis CLC, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, on her experience at the retreat.

Seven Wonders of a Spirit-Filled Retreat

By Wanda Campbell, Charis CLC.

Silence: Not having read the fine print on the brochure I wasn't aware till I arrived that the retreat would be a silent one. Except for communal worship and discussions with our spiritual directors the days would pass in silence, including mealtimes. This was a bit of a shock, but I found it to be one of the most rewarding aspects of the retreat, because as Joan Chittister says in a little book entitled *The Illuminated Life* which I found in the lounge, "Silence is that place just before the voice of God."

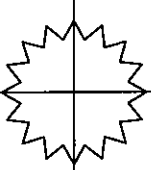
Simplicity: Along with the power of silence to clear the clutter from one's mind, there was a simplicity of purpose to the retreat. The goals, the schedule, even the furnishings were simple to allow one to pray and enter God's presence without distraction. The lives of so many of us demand that we be Marthas preoccupied with domestic and daily details, but these were Mary days when our only task was to listen and learn.

Solitude: Though communal worship was very meaningful, and I appreciated the experience of a denominational tradition different than my own, it was the time spent alone that allowed me to really face myself and God, to discern what was troubling me, the things that required gratitude and celebration and the things that required action. Alone, one cannot avoid the complicated work of sorting out one's soul before God.

Spiritual Direction: The heart of the retreat was undoubtedly the time spent with a spiritual director. The sensitivity and discernment of an experienced director is truly an inspiration. How a person who had never met me could lead me to scriptures and prayers that spoke so exactly to my personal situations and challenges took my breath away and was clearly the work of the Spirit.

Specificity: I was astonished by the specificity with which God regularly answers our needs. The whole retreat was a reminder of how carefully God guides us, if we only have eyes to see. Our God is not some vague distant force, but rather a friend who knows us better than we know ourselves and who challenges us to live up to the best in us because he loves us completely.

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Setting: Water has always been a spiritual place for me, and Pictou is surrounded by water. You can walk in almost any direction from Stella Maris, Star of the Sea, and find yourself on a scenic shore ideal for rest and reflection, and a serious hike will take you as far as Seaview Point from where you can see the ocean complete with sail boats. I also saw many beautiful birds of land and sea including a magnificent pair of nesting eagles.

Surprise: In many ways the retreat was not at all what I expected, but exactly what I needed. I am glad that I serve a God who is full of surprises, unexpected delights and connections that keep me intrigued and amazed. As a child, I had a tree outside my window with leaves that unfolded every spring with a delightful spicy fragrance. I had never been able to find that tree again, but on the last day in Pictou, I was led through the spring rain to a particularly beautiful spot sprinkled with daffodils where "my" tree was growing within reach. I took some leaves home to my local gardening centre to discover that the name of the tree is Miracle Poplar. How lovely is that?

ATTENTION ALL CLC MEMBERS

Consider a 4-Day Directed Retreat (in silence):

Wednesday evening Aug.16 –to- Sunday noon Aug 20/06

Maximum of 16 retreatants ...

A few spaces available (if needed)

for those only able to arrive for the weekend

(Friday evening -to-Sunday noon)

Personal prayer time in silence; daily meeting with a director;

communal morning and evening prayer

(with spiritual conversation in small groups);

brief inputs related to our CLC way of life.

Fr.Charles Pottie (Pâté) sj, Pam Daigle

and two other directors will guide these days of prayer.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$50.00 (payable to *CLC Atlantic*)

for the 4 -Day: with \$175.00 upon arrival;

Weekend only: \$125.00 upon arrival.

(Fees cover the cost of retreatant room & board, and team expenses).

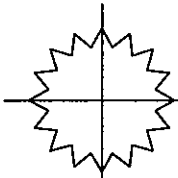
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 30th, 2006.

Your cheque should be made out to *Atlantic CLC* and mailed to:

Claude Jean

215 Rue Notre Dame,

Atholville, N.B. E3N 4T1



From Earthen Vessels CLC: A process of prayer and discernment for addressing desolation within community...

Greetings and Blessings to all our CLC sisters and brothers within the Atlantic CLC:

As we begin this 'new year', we want to share with you a gift that the Holy Spirit called forth, gave voice to and shaped within our community over the past year. Co-labouring with the Trinity in our midst to bring this gift to birth was a key formative experience for our community. We are speaking of the development of our *Agere Contra Plan*, (i.e. a planned way of proceeding in addressing desolation within our community).

The development of this plan was the most formative experience we have had as a community in coming to a better understanding of communal desolation and community dynamics, particularly those which seek to move us away from God's presence and each other. We literally spent months in prayer, reflection & study in developing our document. We have a deep awareness that this development was Spirit centered and led. We share our experience and our 'living' document with you trusting that the Holy Spirit will continue to shape and use this gift for 'the greater good' within our own community and within our family of CLC communities.

ACTION -REACTION

Name Felt Sense of Desolation. Then, individually take responsibility to name during appropriation or evaluation. (As soon as we have a sense of what seems to be a negative movement within our community, take responsibility to bring this forward, into the light, in an honest but gentle & loving way).

Prayer.

Each person prays with named desolation before next meeting seeking:

- 1) **Awareness & insight re the individual and/or communal experience of the named desolation;**
- 2) **Clarification as to whether this is an individual or communal desolation experience**

(Become reflectively aware: bring the experience clearly and explicitly into focus. Be attentive to any ways that this movement may resonate with our known pattern of communal desolation)

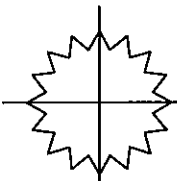
Serious Conversation at next meeting. (Awareness's & insights to identify desolation, and naming it as *individual* or *communal* desolation).

THE AGERE CONTRA PLAN

IGNATIAN RULE(S):

Rule 12 [325]...*The evil spirit often acts like a spoiled child ...so our tactics must include firmness in dealing with the evil spirit in our lives.*

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Rule 13 [326]...*the evil spirit often acts in order to keep his own suggestions & temptations secret, & our tactics must be to bring out into the light of day such suggestions & temptations...*

Rule 14 [327]... *The evil spirit can work like a shrewd army commander who carefully maps out the tactics of attack at weak points of the defense. ...Weakness is found in 2 ways: A) the weakness of fragility or unpreparedness, and B) the weakness of complacent strength which is pride. The attacks come against us at both points of weakness- the second far more serious and devastating in its effect upon us so that it is a more favoured tactic of the evil spirit.*

SCRIPTURE

"Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, & they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him."

If Desolation, DO NOT make changes (Once communal spiritual desolation is recognized and named, resist any suggestion or impulse to change a prior decision or make new decisions).

Changing ourselves against the desolation

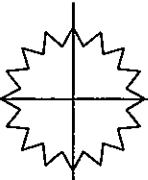
A) Immediate Preparation:

- Together name the grace to seek as a community in acting against this particular desolation
- Recalling our love for one another, remind each other of the need for openness and honesty in our Serious Conversation as we seek to act against this desolation.
- Name our individual awareness of personal fears which would prevent us from speaking openly and honestly.
- Consider the need for our group Guide as part of the Process.
- Make a commitment to bring the matter to serious conversation at the next communal gathering

Trust that, as we have seized the initiative with God, God with us will turn the apparent desolating situation into an occasion for the greater praise and service of God. Commit to a maximum of 2 weeks between meetings as we move through our Agere Contra Plan.

Rule 5 [318]...*When we find ourselves weighed down by a certain desolation, we should not try to change a previous decision or to come to a new decision. The reason is that in desolation, the evil spirit is making an attempt to obstruct the good direction of our life or to change it, and so we would be thwarted from the gentle lead of God and what is more conducive to our own salvation. As a result, at a time of desolation, we hold fast to the decision which guided us during the time before the desolation came on us.*

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Rule 6 [319]... *Although we should not try to make new decisions at a time of desolation, we should not just sit back and do nothing. We are meant to fight off whatever is making us less than we should be. And so we might try to intensify our prayer, we might take on some penance, or we might make a closer examination of ourselves and our life of faith.*

Rule 7 [320]... *Oftentimes in desolation, we feel that God has left us to fend for ourselves. By faith, we know that he is always with us in the strength o& power of his grace but at the time of apparent abandonment we are little aware of his care and concern.*

Rule 11[324]... *If we are afflicted by desolation, we should take some consolation in knowing that God's grace is always sufficient to follow the way of the Lord.*

He said to them: "What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?" They stopped; their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him: "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days."

B) Communal Preparation for Serious Conversation - Prayer:

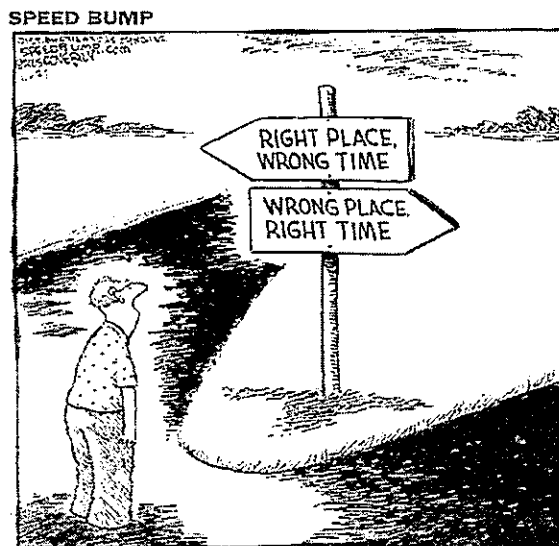
... within the context of prayer (the named grace and appropriate Scripture) pray to know God's will in this concrete situation, particularly asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us in uncovering anything that would desire us to name & explore.

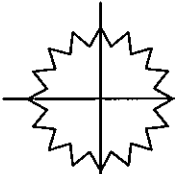
Examination

"Much Examination." In great love and patience, first through personal reflection & then serious conversation, seek a clear and accurate grasp of:

- a) What is presently going on in the conscious life of our community?
- b) What led up to it?
- c) Where is it moving us?
- d) What light is thrown on it by past experiences?

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Meditation

Recall God's words to us in Scripture and our graced history, pondering on them and applying them to our present situation.

Penance

Consider what penance we might take on as individuals or as community

Rule 6 [319]... *We are meant to fight off whatever is making us less than we should be. And so, we might try to intensify our prayer...*

Rule 8 [321]... *the important attitude to nourish at a time of desolation is patience. Patience can mitigate the frustration, dryness, or emptiness of the desolation period and so allow us to live through it a little less painfully. We should try to recall that everything has its time and consolation has been ours in the past and will be God's gift in the future. Patience should mark even the efforts we undertake to work against the desolation which afflicts us.*

Rule 6 [319]... *We are meant to fight off whatever is making us less than we should be. And so, ...we might make a closer examination of ourselves and our life of faith.*

Rule 6 [319]... *We are meant to fight off whatever is making us less than we should be. And so... we might take on some penance...*

He asked: "What things?" They answered, "All about Jesus of Nazareth who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have now gone by since it all happened and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb in the early morning and when they could not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing." Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into His glory?' Then, starting with Moses & going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the Scriptures that were about himself.

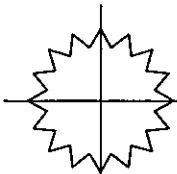
Communal Serious Conversation

(Focus on questions for examination as above). Each person will be invited to bring a symbol representing the image of our communal desolation for him/her. These symbols will be placed in the centre of our gathering space.

Thanksgiving

When the gift of God's consolation breaks through our desolation, let us savor the grace given and consider how the Trinity may desire us to use this gift in a future time of desolation.

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Rule 10 [323]...When we are enjoying a consolation period, we should use foresight and savor the strength of such a period against the time when we may no longer find ourselves in consolation.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, "It is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; but he had vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other: "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized him at the breaking of bread.

**Submitted by Betty Poley
on behalf of Earthen Vessels CLC
Saint John, New Brunswick.**

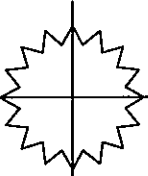


A conference announcement

Canada-Wide Catholic Youth Ministry Conference for Adults

February 10, 11, & 12, 2006,
Hamilton Convention Centre,
Ontario.

For details see www.cyo.on.ca
or
email: peter.rosser@cyo.on.ca.



AASEA Fall Conference 2006 – All CLCers are WELCOME !

The Atlantic Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate (AASEA) will hold its annual AASEA Fall Conference Sept. 15-17, 2006 at Villa Madonna Retreat House in Saint John, N.B. Virginia Varley, CSJ, former director of Loyola House, Guelph, Ontario, will offer a series of presentations on the Theology of the Spiritual Exercises.

The AASEA, like CLC, is rooted in Ignatian spirituality as a 'way of life'. Its members are trained as companions of beginners in prayer and as directors of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. While the annual AASEA Fall Conference is especially designed for the ongoing formation of its own members, others who would benefit from the Conference theme (personally or in their ministry) are welcome to attend if space permits.

Our CLC General Principle # 5 states - " ... Amongst these universal sources, we especially treasure the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as the specific source and the characteristic instrument of our spirituality..." The 2006 AASEA Conference theme: The Theology of the Spiritual Exercises, will open up this treasure for many of us in the Atlantic area. This conference may be of particular interest to CLC group guides; however, all CLC members are welcome to apply.

AASEA Fall Conference brochures (with registration forms) are expected to begin circulating in May 2006. In recent years, the cost has been \$ 50.00 registration and \$ 120.00 upon arrival. Those interested in receiving an AASEA brochure in May are asked to give their names to Fr. Charles Pottie sj by April 30, 2006. This request may come through your CLC Community Contact Person or personal e-mail to: charles.pate@ns.sympatico.ca

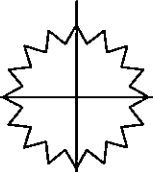
Mission statement of the Atlantic Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate (AASEA)

We are people, who by grace, have experienced God's love.

As an association of men and women, we are a pilgrim people participating in the mission of Jesus Christ, being formed in Ignatian Spirituality as a way of life, we are concerned with the support and on-going formation of our members and those we accompany on their life's journey to God.

To this end we commit ourselves...

•To deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ in our daily life •To prayerful attentiveness to the signs of the times •To individual and communal discernment •To develop formation processes that our members might prepare for • Deepen and adapt the Ignatian Exercises to the spiritual hunger and varying needs of individuals and groups in the Atlantic area • To promote an increase of lay involvement and leadership in the Mission of our Association • To promote the gifts we have to offer the local Church.



Poem by Julia Bourque from Fredericton CLC.

Julie writes: "On November 18, 19 and 20, 2005 I attended the AASEA retreat at Villa Madonna in St John N.B. I felt inspired to write this poem about water. Usually writing doesn't come easy to me but at the retreat the words were flowing and I wrote everything as it came to me."

WATER, A GIFT, A RIGHT, A COMMODITY

Oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and streams
Babbling brooks, water falls, puddles, wells and pools
Geysers, clouds and rain torrents
Currents and waves, drip, drip, drip
Glaciers and ponds, hot springs, cool springs, juices, ice

Who will give me water for my tears?
Who will provide water for my precious cargo? Dehydrated womb
Who will provide water for my blistered hands and feet?
My tongue is cleaving to my palate. Thirst
Who will provide water for my pussed pimples, for my sweat?

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink.
Contaminated, dehydrated, salty
dirty, murky, mineral
Gurgles, spittle
Who hears my cry? I have no tears left.

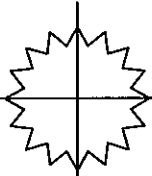
Lines and lines of bottled water,
Profit margins, stocks and bonds, truck loads,
Warehouses full.
Soft and hard, clear and fresh
Who will buy my water?

Soaked, drenched, down pour
Going under, swimming
How will I get across?
Where will I go for a cruise?
Mirror image, glass full or half empty

Water, a gift, a right a commodity

Baptism, Holy, shared and poured
Come bathe in my pool.

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Come and get the water of Life, refresh yourself
Pool of miracles, well of salvation

Here, let me wash your feet

Millions of snowflakes falling, glistening and not two the same
Snow angles, foot prints to follow, season of hope
Frozen breath, storms, ice pellets and snow banks, slippery, thawed
Smiles on children's faces, skating, sliding, building snowmen
Curses from grumpy old folks, chilled to the bones

Flushed down, sewers, gutters, lagoons
Muddy trenches, face down, drowning, sinking down below
Foggy night, sandy desserts
Dams, submerged land once fertile
Obstructions in my path, lack of water

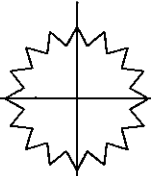
Open the flood gate, widen the canal, built a power plant
Irrigation, heavy water, nuclear waste
Floating, drifting, message in a bottle, tossed overboard
Lost at sea, watery grave, tidal wave,
Boat wrecks, desperate families waiting, hoping

Parched land, cracked, wilted green
Merciful gift from heaven, drizzle, rain, coming down
Renewing, refreshing, life giving
Renewed resources millions of years old
Thankful hearts, dancing, quenched

Drunken stupor, bloated, swollen,
Caffeinated, decaffeinated, coolers
Spirited water, tea, Coca Cola
Can I offer you something to drink?
Something hot, something cold?

Water fountains, washing machines,
Golden faucets, whirlpool bath, hot shower, sauna
Which one to choose?
Water bills, hydro bills
Which one to pay?

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Luxurious eau de toilette, bubble bath, dish water
Soapy water, boiled, distilled, potable, deep, shallow
Come fill your bucket, come fill your jar
All this for you at no cost
Gift from the Creator, oasis, clear blue

Douse the fire, put out the flame
Rinse your hair, sprinkle the kids,
Cool your drink, hose down the lawn
Bucket empty, well dried up
Desperation, smelly arm pits

Water, a gift, a right, a commodity

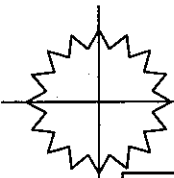


Fr. Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga, SJ, a Chilean Jesuit priest who lived from 1901 to 1952, was canonized on October 23, 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI.

In a letter to Jesuits around the world, Fr. General Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, said "Those who knew him, as well as those who made an in-depth study of his life, have not hesitated to say that he was truly "in love with Christ". This undoubtedly constitutes the core of his life as a young student, as a Jesuit and as a priest. From this love of Christ springs the distinctive manner of his behavior and way of dealing with people."

In his letter, Fr. Kolvenbach also offered the following analysis of Hurtado. It is a beautiful tribute to a man who lived a beautiful life. "Father Hurtado was truly a contemplative in action, to whom the hours spent in conversing with the Lord gave strength and the ability to find God in the world around him, to be His instrument, to do His will, working and operating as if everything depended on him, but deeply aware that in fact everything depended on God. Some words of the Lord were particularly dear to him and he repeated them often: 'Remain in me as I remain in you... whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.' (Jn. 15, 4 and 5). These words were the lamplight that guided his entire priestly life."

More at: <http://www.jesuits.org.za/hurtado.htm>



Letters to God...

(Submitted by Jocelyn Weirathmueller, Fredericton CLC). More in the next issue!

Dear God:

Are you really invisible, or is that just a trick?

Lucy

Dear God:

I want to be just like my daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over.

Sam

Dear God:

Did you mean for the Giraffe to look like that, or was it a mistake?

Norma

Dear God:

I keep waiting for Spring, but it never came yet. Don't forget.

Mark

Dear God:

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now?

Jane

Source: <http://my.homewithgod.com/mkcahy/humor/kidletters.html>

Have you paid your CLC Member fees yet?

If not, this is a friendly reminder to please do so before year end. The modest \$35. membership fee allows Atlantic CLC to support the many important initiatives related to our CLC mission in the region and across the country.

If individuals would like to send more than \$35.00, they should specify where they want the extra funds to go: Regional, National or World (and there is also the John English Fund). Tax receipts are also available upon request. Members should make their membership cheque out to *Atlantic CLC* and forward it to: **Claude Jean, 215, rue Notre-Dame, Atholville, N.B. E3N 4T1.**

The next issue of *Colloquy* will come out on Holy Week, April 10th. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS WILL BE MARCH 26th.**

Please consider submitting recent community CLC news, reflections, or reviews to share with your fellow CLC members across the region.

Don't forget to check our CLC Canada web site at:
<http://www.jesuits.ca/clc>