

# Update

## Christian Life Community Canada

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April 2002

Greetings to CLCers across Canada and to our friends in other parts of the world...

Blessings to you all as we continue to savour the Joy of the Easter promise and the Hope that this engenders - hope which is so badly desired in our troubled world. As we rejoice in the miracle of another beautiful Spring season, we offer thanks for the signs of new birth in Christian Life Community in Canada and also throughout the sixty member countries of our world. We have indeed been blessed by God!

There are many reasons for gratitude: we have prayerfully sought a new direction for our communities, and you can see the results of your input into the Action Plan for CLC Canada described in this issue. This has been heralded as a Renewal, but is in reality simply a reinforcing of our Ignatian tradition and roots. Communities are encouraged to read the Action Plan, pray over and discuss it in community meetings and give us suggestions on how it might be implemented in their area. We are always eager to have your thoughts.

There are a number of exciting events taking place in Canada this year: World Youth Days Celebrations and ANIA a 5-day Ignatian pilgrimage for world youth which precedes it. (Details of these events are found within this issue). The Atlantic Region is preparing for their Regional Assembly in August in Truro, NS. Our first North American Conference in many years is taking place in Guelph, ON in September. Delegates from the four national communities in North America will attend, pray and discern our common needs and goals. CLC Canada's delegates will be our General Council, which will ensure that all our regions are represented.

The World Secretariat reports on the regional conferences taking place worldwide, where countries gather to work together towards a mission which affects their particular area. We are fortunate that Gilles and Leah Michaud of the World Secretariat have agreed to attend our North American Conference and will share what is happening on the world scene with delegates.

We bid a warm welcome to Jean Marc Laporte, sj, newly appointed Jesuit Provincial for Upper Canada province. We send best wishes to David Nazar, sj, for the future and thank him for his efforts on behalf of CLC Canada during his time in office.

May God continue to bless us all.

Elaine and Fran

+Dear CLC National Membership,

Greetings from Winnipeg!

I am slowly learning to better articulate for myself my role as National Ecclesial Assistant.



At the most recent meeting of our General Council the place of **St. Ignatius** in CLC was spotlighted. His autobiography foretells our own story in this sense: his account of himself before God, largely as a **lay** person struggling in, with, through his daily life circumstances is a record of his discerned path whereby he received 'the graces of life' to follow the Lord Jesus on Mission. Could we hope or desire to do less?

Let us therefore, whenever possible learn from Ignatius. Why not read his story? It is our pleasure and privilege to be CLC members to follow the example of St. Ignatius, and in this way grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus. We are an Ignatian Christian Community rooted in the life experiences of St. Ignatius. His **Spiritual Exercises** are "our" special way of prayer.

The account of the life of Ignatius is a short read, less than 100 pages and is not hard to understand. It is also a long read in that it requires much reflection. In it can be found many significant teachings about how we might become better disciples and loving friends of and in the Lord!

To everyone I offer a prayer and blessings! I invite everyone to grow in the Lord as Christians formed in the ways of St. Ignatius

Earl Smith, sj  
Ecclesial Assistant CLC Canada

### Books about St. Ignatius Loyola

- 1) *The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola*, by John C. Olin., Harper and Row (Paperback) Published by Fordham, New York, 1993 (113 pp) \$17.50  
(Ignatius account up to the time he becomes General.)  
ISBN082321480X
- 2) *St. Ignatius Loyola, Personal Writings* (Paperback) published by Penguin Classics, London, (Toronto), 1996. \$19.99  
ISBN0140433856

**CHALLENGES** - There is an ever increasing need for General Council, ExCo and Regional Executives to use the latest technology to keep in touch with local communities as the Renewal of CLC Canada progresses and Regionalization is more developed. As the cost of flights increase, we must be innovative in the scheduling of our National and Regional Meetings so that distance and economy do not become a hindrance in our effectiveness in carrying out the work that the Spirit is calling CLC Canada to do. General Council strongly supported the goal of holding only one General Council Meeting per year with other teleconferencing calls in between.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR CLC CANADA**

**Recommendations** by General Council members after visitation of local communities, regional reports, prayer and discernment in the National Meetings in November 2001 and March 2002 - based on the General Principles, "the Common Mission from Itaici in 1998", the CLC Charism accepted by the delegates from all the Nationals at Itaici (document is available from General Councillors and was published as Supplement #56, Progressio, December 2001) and the "Canadian Common Mission" unanimously accepted by the delegates at our National Assembly in 1999:

- that The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, "the specific source" of our CLC Spirituality, be pre-formation for NEW communities;
- that Spiritual Directors who were trained in the past be encouraged to update their skills in Ignatian spiritual direction;
- that we in CLC find ways to **PROMOTE** direction especially of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius throughout Canada;
- that all members, young and old, be familiar with The Life of St. Ignatius and use Ignatian tools regularly, both individually and communally;
- that **ALL** in our CLC membership be encouraged to take an active part in formation and leadership at local, regional and national levels;
- that our communities strive to be truly "*DISCERNING APOSTOLIC COMMUNITIES IN ACTION*".

### **Background**

In Jan 2001, communities were asked to evaluate their use of time in local meetings to determine where their focus was. They reported a widespread need for communities to schedule sufficient time for the three important CLC components in each meeting: Prayer/Sharing, Discernment/Apostolic Action, and Evaluation

General Council spent their last weekend meeting praying and reflecting on the above feedback, asking the Spirit for direction. There was a deep sense of gratitude for all that has been gifted to CLC Canada. We recall that when CLC communities were formed in the 70s members were encouraged to take the Spiritual Exercises at the end of their first year. In the next decades many new communities followed the same format but chose a longer pre-formation process, which has postponed the experience of the Spiritual Exercises. In some cases communities have chosen to use other formation materials (sometimes non-Ignatian). Thus, in some communities our Ignatian charism has been lost or diluted.

Where is the Spirit in CLC Canada? Where is the "energy"?

*The energy is found in the communities who have had the Spiritual Exercises early in formation and are regularly using Ignatian tools to assist in individual and communal decision-making. Such people are secure and knowledgeable in our spirituality. For them CLC is a "Way of Life". Let's not be Ignatian-like. Let's **BE** Ignatius in our CLC Communities and, God willing, in our parishes.*

Thus a **Renewal of CLC Canada**...

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*Since "The Spiritual Exercises can be adapted to each retreatant, taking into consideration age, maturity, education, potential and talents" (Annotation 18 Sp.Exx) it is possible for ALL CLC members to participate in the renewal of CLC Canada*

## ***Greetings from Leah & Gilles Michaud of the CLC World Secretariat on World CLC Day - 25 March, 2002***

These past 2 months have just flown by with many visits from our Canadian relatives and two meetings here in Rome: **The World Ex Co** (which will be reported in Projects 119) and the **Jesuit/Lay Ignatian Consultation** (to be reported in the next issue of the Review of Ignatian Spirituality). From the latter meeting there is great hope that we are moving closer to a CLC/Jesuit partnership of discerning apostolic mission.

We are happy to hear that CLC Canada has been undergoing a process of re-visioning. A similar process is happening throughout the entire world community. It seems that we are moving from a community of apostles to a discerning "*Apostolic Community*". CLC Canada is right on when you say that a greater emphasis should be made to have national CLC communities offer individuals or groups the Ignatian Exercises. (A most important component of the CLC Charism, along with community and mission).

In our time at the secretariat Leah and I have come to appreciate the value of the Canadian CLC formation materials which we consider the most effective means to discern the CLC vocation. Many thanks to our CLC mentor **John English sj** and others in their determination to make this formation process available to developing CLC groups. It is good to know that it is now being used in many other parts of the world. Another Canadian gift for the world community will be the upcoming Progressio Supplement: "*Twenty-four Spiritual Exercises for the New Story of Universal Communion*" by **Lois and Kuruvila Zachariah and John English, sj** which, along with the "*The CLC Charism*", published this past year, could play a significant part in the upcoming World Assembly.

### **Collaboration on Regional/Continental Levels**

- Asia-Pacific are developing a common vision from the region based on their journey since the World Assembly in Itaiçi, Brazil.
- English speaking Africa (which includes Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Sudan and South Africa) are sharing ways to become a more effective and apostolic body.
- Syria, Lebanon and Egypt's goal: better communication in the Middle East.
- CLC in Europe, which has been organized for many years, has embraced two mission projects: **Forced Migration and Young People**.
- Latin America has successfully established the **MAGIS** Formation course and is now working toward a common mission project for member countries.
- Similarly, the North American Conference, spearheaded and planned by CLC Canada, will enhance communication among the nationals attending: CLC USA, the **VCCt** (Vietnamese Companions of Christ), **CVX** Canada and CLC Canada. This gathering in September in Guelph, ON will also provide an opportunity to discern and address the common needs in the region representatives from CLC.

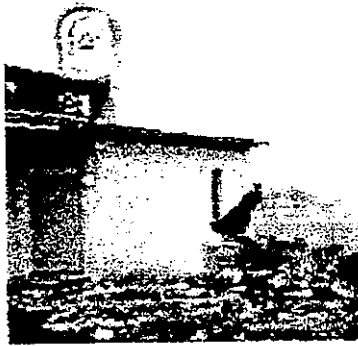
*We offer prayers of gratitude aware of how the Spirit not only leads and guides CLC but also waits patiently for our creative and radical response!*

### **14th World CLC Assembly**

July 30 - August 8, 2003, Nairobi, Kenya

**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*



Loyola House, Guelph

## NORTH AMERICAN CLC CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2002

LOYOLA HOUSE, GUELPH CENTRE OF SPIRITUALITY,  
GUELPH, ONTARIO

Theme: 'COME AND SEE' (John 1: 35-42)

In the CLC World Report in this issue we learn of the continental gatherings of CLC communities around the world. The last time our North American CLC communities met together was in Montreal in 1984. Our gathering this year will be facilitated by our own Jack Milan, MSW. We are delighted that Gilles and Leah Michaud will join us for this event. Leah is the North American representative on the World Ex Co.

### Purpose of National Conference:

That delegates of the four national CLC communities in North America come together:

- To communicate, understand and support each other.
- To establish a new sense of community.
- To discern how the Holy Spirit wishes us to journey in the light of the Common Mission, Itaiçi 1998 (Where do we, the Four Nationals of North America, go from September 2002?)

Please pray for the successful outcome of this gathering.

North American Conference  
Central Region CLCers, Families and  
Friends  
are invited to an evening

**Social**  
Saturday, September 14, 2002  
Loyola House, Guelph, ON

Eucharist at 5.45 p.m. in the Chapel  
followed by a Barbecue picnic supper

An opportunity to meet with the delegates  
attending the Conference from other national  
communities and to have fun together.

Please mark your calendar  
More info to follow

## **CLC Canada National Assembly**

**Spring? Summer? Fall? 2004**

### Where?

**Would your community/area like to host our next  
National Assembly? Contact your Regional Rep for more information**

## **Family CLC, PEI**

*The Family CLC comprises five couples, one single parent and fifteen children with one more due in a month. The children range in age from twelve years down. Because all families are busy they meet once a month, for an afternoon and early evening.*

*Each meeting they do a family fun thing - which runs the gamut from a car rally to scavenger hunts, to sleigh rides. Then they have faith-sharing for the adults and a learning activity for the children centering on how they experience God in their lives. Then the whole community comes together and has a combined faith sharing which is followed by a pot luck supper and more family activities.*

*For resource materials the community is using the Phase I manual with added bits of information where applicable. They are finding that the older children are asking for deeper sharing, so they are considering separating the children by age groups.*

*(Submitted by Bill Costain, Family CLC Group Guide: member of Ixthus CLC community, PEI)*



### **Couple receives special Peace Medal for contribution to their community**

A Summerside, PEI, couple, **Maureen and Rick Brennan** was awarded the **2001 YMCA Peace Medal**. The medal recognizes the unassuming efforts of the recipients in contributing to the well-being and peace of the community. They both come from large families, Rick from a family of 16 and Maureen from a family of 11 "What better conditions are there to learn about peace and relationships than from a family," said the award committee co-chairperson, Cathy Montgomery, in announcing the award.

Their skills for nurturing others had a solid beginning: Rick was a scout leader and hockey coach and taught religious classes. Maureen volunteered time with L'Arche, a group home for handicapped adults, directed local choirs and provided piano lessons on a volunteer basis before they decided, in 1993, to move to Jamaica, with their two children.

While in Jamaica Rick taught in a local community and Maureen assisted with music programs. In addition, they adopted a little girl, Shaneigh, before returning to PEI.

In 1999, the Brennans were the coordinators for the St. Paul's Kosovo Refugee Host committee in Summerside. This group hosted 21 refugees and made a two-year commitment to help them get settled.

Currently, they are members of a Christian Life Community called **Ixthus** and the new **Family CLC....** Clearly, they are CLC members to be proud of!







## ANIA 2002.

ANIA 2002 is a 5-day pilgrimage that will be held a week before World Youth Day in Toronto. Spiritual animators (at least 150 participating Jesuit and CLC lay volunteers) will be directing participants through the various themes based upon the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario is the site where the early Jesuits Jean de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and their companions lived and ministered to the Wyandotte First Nations People. Each day groups will be travelling to the various sites where these Jesuits lived and witnessed the Gospel. The youth will have a chance to reflect and further deepen their experience of God's Presence in history past and present.

We will be gathering with other young people from Asia, Africa, Europe and the United States. Jesuit novices and seminarians along with CLC leaders will be present and helping out in making this event possible.

### KEY TO PHOTOGRAPH PAGE

1. St. Ignatius Parish, Winnipeg, MB -Monday evening CLC
2. Anawim CLC, Nelson, BC
3. Regional Core Group, Lethbridge, AB
4. Julie Dwyer-Young, N.C.C.
5. Atlantic Regional Meeting
6. Hamilton/Brantford CLC Gathering for Earl Smith, sj
7. A Christmas picture of John English, sj
8. Greetings to a new Dad -Dale Swirsky, Winnipeg, MB
9. Sandy Matos, hostess for Kitchener-Waterloo, ON Gathering for Earl Smith, sj
10. Greg deGroot Majetti & Bob Gatchene, at above event
11. Presidents visit to Ubi Caritas CLC, Brantford, ON
12. Our Lady of the Way CLC, Pickering, ON welcomes our Ecclesial Assistant Earl Smith, sj during his Ontario visit.

### INTERESTING WEBSITES

#### CLC NEWS

World CLC

[www.cvx-c.net](http://www.cvx-c.net)

US CLC:

[www.clc-usa.org](http://www.clc-usa.org)

#### PRAYER RESOURCES

[www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry](http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry)

[www.jesuit.ie/prayer/index.htm](http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer/index.htm)

Any other interesting websites?  
Please let us know.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

#### December 2000 - Annual Jesuit Provincial/CLC Presidents Meeting

*Thanked the Society of Jesus in Upper Canada for making CLC a top priority and David Nazar, SJ, for his support for CLC during his term of office, during which time.*

- Annual Provincial/CLC Presidents Meeting has been established
- Appointment of the National Ecclesial Assistant and 2 additional Regional Ecclesial Assistants - in the Atlantic Region and in the Calgary/Lethbridge area
- David Nazar gladly agreed to the permanent change of our National Office's postal address to that of the Provincial Offices - **1325 Bay St., Toronto, ON M5R 2C4** and agreed to share the Jesuit website with CLC Canada. He also encouraged the use of the Provincial Offices for CLC gatherings and that space be made available in the library for CLC promotional and formation materials.

*The Provincial assured the Presidents that he will pass on the hopes and dreams of CLC Canada for more Jesuit/CLC Collaboration to his successor*

- Encouraged and participated in Aboriginal Wave of Prayer across Canada on December 12 and Interfaith Assisi Days of Prayer on December 14 and January 24
- Visited "Sprouting Seeds" and "Friends on the Journey" CLC Communities in Kitchener

**CLC Canada** welcomes **Jean-Marc Laporte, sj**, recently appointed Jesuit Provincial, and **Philip Shano, sj**, Socius (his Assistant). We say au revoir and God Bless to **David Nazar, sj**, the current Provincial.

# **WANTED**

## **National Community Coordinator**

*A person to succeed Julie Dwyer-Young who has been our NCC for the past number of years and who now wishes to pursue other areas of Service to CLC.*

- Role of **NCC** is a **KEY** position in our General Council:
- NCC is the "**face and voice**" of **CLC Canada** through telephone, email and personal interaction,
- A strong **commitment** to the **CLC Way of Life** is, therefore, absolutely vital.

### **CLC Canada provides**

- An hourly wage.
- Answering service to monitor telephone calls (the timing of response to which is determined by the NCC).
- Transportation costs to and from General Council meetings
- For a complete list of the tasks undertaken by the National Community Coordinator please contact one of the following:

Julie Dwyer-Young at email: [clcofcan@bserv.com](mailto:clcofcan@bserv.com)

Fran Morrison at: [hugh@retirees.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:hugh@retirees.uwaterloo.ca) Elaine Regan: [ereg@istar.ca](mailto:ereg@istar.ca)

**We ask all communities to take this National need to prayer and to call forth those members who have the required skills.**

In this issue we welcome into our readership all the Jesuit Residences in Canada and the other National CLCs in North America.

### **A REMINDER.....**

*Our annual Membership Donation letter request is enclosed with this issue of UPDATE along with an addressed return envelope. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please note that our Mailing Address has changed:*

#### **National Address:**

**Christian Life Community Canada  
Jesuits of Upper Canada  
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TORONTO, ON, M5R 2C4**

Email remains at:

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**Ph: (905) 527 2695**

### **General Council membership 2002**

<b>Presidents</b>	<b>Fran Morrison: Waterloo, ON</b> <b>Elaine Regan: Toronto, ON.</b>
<b>Presidents-Elect:</b>	<b>Kati Gumbmann, Winnipeg, MB.</b> <b>Graydon Nicholas, Fredericton, NB.</b>
<b>National Community Coordinator:</b>	<b>Julie Dwyer-Young, Burlington, ON.</b>
<b>Atlantic Region Rep</b>	<b>Nora Jean, Atholville, NB.</b>
<b>Central Region Rep:</b>	<b>Carol McKerral, Thunder Bay, ON.</b>
<b>Prairies Region Rep:</b>	<b>Vacant.</b>
<b>Rockies Region Rep:</b>	<b>Marilynn Heaton, Lethbridge, AB</b>
<b>National Eccles. Asst.:</b>	<b>Earl Smith, sj, Winnipeg, MB</b>
<b>National Eccles. Asst.</b>	
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>John English, sj, Winnipeg, MB</b>

*"God's presence is not fully discerned at the time when it is upon us, but afterwards, when we look back on what is gone and over"*

**John Henry Newman**

Please pray for Linda & Ray Blackmore whose foster son, Joshua died in an apartment fire recently in New Brunswick.