

# Update

Christian Life Community Canada



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Dear Friends in the Lord,

Greetings to all of you! Let us together rejoice in the miracle of another spring and in the grace of the Spirit who is calling us to live the CLC Way of Life. We have so much to be grateful for!

On March 26 we celebrated the CLC World Day of Prayer. As we remember the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our General Principles this year, the World ExCo has invited us to reflect on the General Principles and on how we live out the dream to "consecrate ourselves with greater simplicity and effectiveness in the service of God and humanity in the modern world."

We are aware that we are placed in this world with specific graces and for a unique purpose and that our responsibilities are awesome and enormous (Preamble). While we struggle with various challenges, we continue to contribute our gifts and talents to answer the needs of our times. The General Principles help us to listen to the whisper of the Spirit to live Our Way of Life by the *spirit of the Gospel and the interior law of love*.

As every year on this day CLC groups have gathered in local communities and taken part in the WAVE of PRAYER across Canada as we remember in a special way that CLC is an international organization. What a grace to be united in prayer and celebration as one World Community!

A few weeks ago we celebrated the Passover of our Lord. And once again we were invited to identify with Jesus' Passover from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from sin to grace, from death to life, from the old way of life to the new way of life. Easter is not an ending, but the beginning of an unending story. What began in Galilee is still happening today: the Risen Lord is with us, through each other, his Word, his body and blood, his Spirit.

*The tomb could not hold the Son of God.  
 But our hearts can.*

May God's unconditional love as manifested in the cross and resurrection of Christ give us strength, peace, joy and hope.

- Kati  
 National President

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"Update" Newsletter is published by CLC Canada twice a year, in the Spring and the Fall. To have an article published about your community please contact clccanada@jesuits.ca



### CLC CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL 2006-2007

National President: Kati Gumbmann  
 National Ecclesial Assistant: Fr. Charles Pottic-Pâté, SJ  
 National Executive Assistant: Marilyn Heaton

Atlantic Regional Rep.: John Sumarah  
 Central Regional Rep.: Maria Brown  
 Prairies Regional Rep.: Ruth Chipman  
 Rockies Regional Rep.: Dan Clarke

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## SIGNS OF “SPRING” ACROSS CANADA

A weekend Group Guide Course was hosted by Peter and Elaine Regan-Nightingale in the Prairies Region. Members of the Rockies could not attend due to bad weather but will gather for a weekend the end of April.

Gilles Michaud, who has attended the IFE in Rome (November 25 – December 2, 2006), will soon lead one or more National Leadership Encounters for CLC Canada. More details on times and locations will be made available as soon as possible.

Thanks to all the communities who submitted their thoughts/suggestions for the revision of our Phase I Manual. The team is working hard to consolidate the suggestions received.

Several new groups are meeting in the Atlantic, Central and Rockies Region – they are currently discerning their commitment to journey the CLC Way of Life. Prairies Region will be hosting “Come and See” events over the next few weeks.

Communities throughout Canada have received a copy of the Constitution for the Christian Life Community Canada. It is our hope that your community will take the time and effort to examine, consider and discern the proposed changes and forward suggestions for amendment by fall. Delegates to our next National Assembly will pass those changes in 2009 in Guelph.

Our enthusiastic web master Geraldine is doing a wonderful job of updating our web site – please check the CLC web site on a regular basis and let us know what you think about the site.

Jesuit/CLC collaboration continues: Fr. Jean-Marc Laporte, SJ visited Winnipeg and we had an opportunity to meet and share our vision of a closer working relationship with the Society of Jesus.

Three of our regions are preparing for a late summer/fall Regional Assembly: Please keep our Atlantic, Central and Prairies region in your prayers.

Soon we shall see a number of significant changes at the National and Regional level:

We had several nominations for President(s) Elect – thanks to the eight communities who forwarded names. Some of our nominees are still prayerfully discerning if the Spirit is calling them at this time to say *Yes* to take on the National leadership. The process should be finished by the Feast of St. Ignatius and our President(s) Elect will attend the next General Council Meeting in Winnipeg, September 2007. He/she/they will become President(s) the following fall (2008), and I will be assisting as Past President until 2009.

Three of our Regions are going through a process of change and we hope to be able to welcome a new Regional Rep for the Central, the Prairies and the Rockies Region by July 31. Their term of office will begin at the Fall General Council Meeting.

We will have a special segment in our fall issue of *Update* where we introduce our President(s) Elect and our three new Regional Reps and their vision for CLC Canada.

- Kati Gumbmann

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**A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL CLC ECCLESIAL ASSISTANT**  
**Father Charles Pottie-Pâté, SJ**

Dear friends of CLC Canada:

**Christ is risen. Alleluia.**

**Christ is truly risen. Alleluia.**

This was the most ancient greeting among Christians (and still is for Eastern rite Christians) for this great feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. It expresses the deepest meaning of this season. I want to wish you all the deep joy and peace of the Risen Christ.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, sj, great poet of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century began one of his poems with:

*“As kingfishers catch fire, as dragonflies draw flame.....myself it speaks and spells, Crying: What I do is me: for that I came....”* It is a poem about the presence of the Risen Christ playing in all creation and in the beauty of human faces in praise to the Father. The butterfly, is for me, a powerful image of the resurrection - from the tomb of the cocoon comes this new amazing creature...

This feast is all about our transformation in Christ, in his dying and rising. Every experience of our lives is touched by this Paschal mystery. We have all been aware of Barbara Peloso and her amazing healing over the past weeks. Truly a “resurrection story”. Each of us and in our communities could relate others, perhaps not as dramatic but still revealing the meaning of this Mystery.

I have been reading the homilies of Karl Rahner, sj this past Lent and Triduum and now Easter. I want to share a paragraph from one of them that speaks to me, and I hope to you, of what we believe, hope and love in the Mystery of the Risen Christ.

“Christ in his Spirit is installed already in the centre of all things as its authentic and true essence and heart: - in the expectation of all creatures for a share in the transfiguration of the body of Christ; - in tears as the hidden jubilation; - in beggars to whom we give as the eternal wealth in which we will share; - in our impotence as the power of God; - in the ‘folly of the Cross’ as wisdom; - in death as the life no longer threatened by death; - in the wretched defeats of his servants as the victory that is God’s alone; - even in the midst of sin as the ready mercy of eternal love even to the end of the world. - He is even present in the indifference and unreceptivity of many for our message in order to discipline us, his useless servants, for our lukewarmness, or to let us share in his lack of success by which he redeemed the world. - He is with us like the day’s light and the air we do not notice....in our sacraments, even when they no longer *seem* to harbor any strength in them...” (*Our Easter Faith* from *The Great Church Year*)

HE IS RISEN AND WE WITH HIM. ALLELUIA. May His joy fill our hearts this Easter Season.

- Your brother in the Risen Christ,

Charles P., sj

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FROM CENTRAL REGION  
A CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLC 1978-2006

In 1978 the original members of Our Lady of Lourdes came together under the direction of Helen Drago. We were offered the opportunity of exploring the CLC Way of Life by using the formation process of small group approach based on Ignatian spirituality. Eleven persons made the decision to attend weekly meetings led by Helen having received her formation in the first CLC group initiated by Fr. John English. After a year the whole group made the decision to make the Spiritual Exercises and following this the decision was made to federate with the new National CLC.

The community continued over the years with some changes including the addition of our new pastor Fr. Gus Smith and Shirley and Bob Gatchene. In the early 90's the Lord called home three of our faithful and much-loved members, Lou Drago, Marianne Schneider and Irvin Plomske. Their loss was deeply felt. Others over the years were forced to retire due to ill health. Later John Floyd joined us. John is no longer with us due to a serious stroke he suffered in 2001 which necessitated his having to be admitted to a local Nursing Home. He does join us occasionally for our celebrations through the service of Mobility Plus.

Though a more "mature group" we love to celebrate and enjoy our more "social" events - a vital dimension in the life of any community. Often we would be joined by the other local communities. Some special occasions involved at the National Level when some of us attended the ordination of Fr. Fogarty's ordination on May 30, 1998 in Toronto; attending Graydon Nicholas' Honorary Degree at Laurier where he gave the keynote address; and the 20th Convocation at Regis College where Fr. John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Sacred Letters on November 21, 1988. In addition we entertained some of the members of World CLC among whom were Mary Nolan from Australia, who sat in on one of our meetings, Brendan McLoughlan from Ireland and Jose Gsell from France to name a few.

Included in our journey were many contributions to the life and management of the National Community. In 1984 Helen & Shirley were part of a team who were responsible for the first of three Manuals that made up our formation sought after around the world and used to this day. Jean Floyd served as editor of our Newsletter and later as National Coordinator. Deserving honorable mention here too, are the memorable SOP's!! Jean and Bob & Shirley served as presidents of the National CLC.

Throughout these years the call to mission both locally and worldwide challenged us and we strived to respond to the Call to Build the Kingdom. Just a few examples of the communal response to the Common Mission were writing the political prisoners through Development & Peace campaigns; joining a response to stop the return of an El Salvador man to certain death; helping with resettlement during the refugee crisis from Vietnam and later El Salvador. As a response to World CLC Day of Prayer in 1991 we submitted pleas in response to the Citizen's Forum on Native People.

Our journey as been long. God and His beloved Son have blessed us! There have been many consolations and desolations along the way but we saw and shared them both each meeting in the Awareness Examen. Now this year we had to face the fact that the end of the journey was near due to declining membership through ill health or other commitments. Again the Awareness Examen was call into play and brought us to the painful, yet blessed, decision because it allowed us to see how the Lord walked with us during these nearly 30 years. Therefore, as of the Fall of this year Our Lady of Lourdes CLC prayed in gratitude for the consolation and blessings of our journey. Jean went to Fruitful Garden and Helen retired. We are all grateful to Helen for her "yes" to the Lord's call in 1978! Deo Gratias!

- Jean Floyd

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Keep this date....

**OUR VISION, OUR DREAM.....**

Unpacking the gift that is contained in the CLC General Principles

**Central Regional Assembly**

**September 21-23, 2007**

**Loyola House, Guelph, ON**

**Spend the weekend with your CLC sisters and brothers;  
Enjoy Southern Ontario's beautiful scenery on the 640 acres  
of farmland that surround Loyola House.**

**Program and details to follow**

**[www.loyolahouse.ca](http://www.loyolahouse.ca)**

## World Day of Prayer Rockies Region

The Lethbridge and area communities met on World Day of Prayer at St. Martha's Church for an afternoon of prayer and socializing.

Don and Jackie Mattern led us in an hour of Taize prayer. We reviewed the "40 years of General Principles" material provided by Graydon Nicholas for the World Day of Prayer. During the prayer time we were invited to reflect on the grace suggested in the article: "...to respond to the constant urgings of the Holy Spirit calling us to live our lives from the positive faith vision of the preamble of the General Principles".

Following the prayer time we gathered for and enjoyed a most delicious pot-luck dinner in the KC Hall.

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## A REPORT FROM PRAIRIES REGION

By Ruth Chipman

Possibly the coldest January days saw a fire kindled in the Prairie Region at the Group Guide Workshop facilitated by Peter and Elaine Nightingale. Unfortunately bad driving conditions kept Rockies members at home. Prairie members have been given a wealth of resources with which to grow CLC on the Prairies. We are deeply grateful to Atlantic Canada for sharing their group guide resources with us and to Peter and Elaine's leadership in moving us forward.

Regional activities have brought members together at Immaculate Conception Drop In Centre where a Sunday lunch is provided to 300 of Winnipeg's most marginalized citizens. Members have also supported the newly initiated Ignatian Lay Volunteer Program. Ignatian Lay Volunteers are placed in a variety of social justice activities and supported by monthly community meetings and three retreats.

The Lake Winnipeg Information project continues to be a regional priority. In this election year both federal and provincial funds have been promised. The largest challenge will be engaging the United States on this issue as the downstream activities of the Americans contributes to more than 50% of the nutrient loading damaging the lake.

**Diakonia** continues to focus on the communal Spiritual Exercises directed by Fr. Charles Pottie, S.J.

**The Friends of Jesus** continue to move through John English's book, *Spiritual Intimacy and Community* and have worked extensively on their history line.

**Metanoia** continues formation work in Manual II.

**Koinonia** has supported several member discernments.

A series of Come & See events are being planned for May & June. As well as modeling a CLC meeting, Come & See plans include a **Finding God in the Dark** evening featuring the movie *Whale Rider* and community action at the Immaculate Conception Drop In Centre.

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## ACHIEVING PEACE By Sharon Baker

The majority of us desire peace. We pray for peace. We march for peace. Maybe it is time we took some action regarding ourselves to achieve the peace we desire. We make choices and, for the most part because we are unaware of it, we choose out of disordered desires caused by our self-centredness. We want control. We want things to go our way. Perhaps, we need to wake up to the fact that it is exactly these things that are not conducive to peace.

Whether we are willing to accept it or not we are all connected to one another. The root of our connectedness is GOD. He created each of us. In this, we are brothers and sisters. And, because Christ lives in each of us, through the Holy Spirit, we are one in Him and therefore what one of us does affects others. Have you ever noticed that negative energy breeds negative energy? On the other hand, positive energy breeds positive energy. From this it follows that if we put more time and energy into loving our neighbour as ourselves we would achieve the peace we desire because we love. It is a fact that love breeds joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness, and self-control - very positive energy. And I am not talking about what we have been led to believe is love by our society. That is not love. That is desire, control, possessiveness, manipulation, and fear - all negative energy. The moment we become aware of our self-centredness and the disordered desires within us that lead to it and come to terms with the unrealistic expectation we have of others to make us happy we begin to see that we spend an inordinate amount of time and energy looking outside of ourselves to other people for love. And, it begins to dawn on us where real unconditional love exists. It lives inside each and every one of us waiting to be discovered in, with, and through Christ. It is His love that fills us, consumes us, and spills over from us to others. When we discover Him and His love we begin to lose

our self-centredness and we simply love. And this achieves what only real love can achieve - PEACE!

"Unrealistic!" some may say. "Impossible!" Only if we choose for it to be. We only have to look at Jesus' life in Scripture and observe His example of love to know that it is His love that brings peace. And we are all capable of loving as He does because He lives in each of us. So, perhaps each day in a prayerful manner with Christ, and with a genuine desire for peace, it would be good to take an honest and loving look at ourselves, our actions, our

expectations of others. This may help us to see where we have been self-centred, demanding, controlling, towards our neighbour.

Have we made assumptions, and/or misperceptions, wrong judgements? We need to ask Jesus to help us to change this behaviour, to help us to love as He does. It is only with Him we can do this. I believe that step by step we have the capacity to grow to love unconditionally. If each of us did this imagine what the outcome would be - PEACE!

*"...clothe yourselves with love  
which binds everything together in harmony."  
Colossians 3:14*

## Prairie Region World Day of Prayer

Fr. Charles led us through the Morning Prayer of the Church.

The afternoon began with Prayer with our Lady. In anticipating the Feast of the Annunciation we were aware of our Lady's intercession as we read and reflected on each sentence of the preamble.

Our hearts burned as we were moved by the spirit of the Gospel and the interior law of love inscribed anew in our hearts.

- Generosity lavished on us, God's love for us.
- Nuances, differing expressions and clarity.
- So rich, nothing is insignificant. Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Holy Spirit moving us in all our particular circumstances. We meet here.
- Sense of hope and gratitude, common thread is the Holy Spirit working for unity.
- Felt the love the Trinity has for us. Yearning, heart burning for unity is love.
- In Him, with Him, through Him. Giving back what God has given me.
- Like DNA, guiding us. That's our identity in Christ. Uniqueness of each personal vocation, forming deeper community.
- Each of us working with Jesus, together, nice image.
- Hope-nothing is impossible with God.
- Emphasis on the history, witnesses, the Holy Spirit moving through lay people.
- Our responsibility for future generations, to be instruments.
- Awareness of the community of the Trinity. Compassion for humankind. Community around us now. Power of the Holy Spirit working.

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## Mother Teresa: In The Name Of God's Poor

The Roman Catholic nun dedicates her life to humanitarian efforts,  
particularly ministering to the poor.  
A new DVD on Mother Teresa with Olivia Hussey  
is now available.

Agnes Gonxha (future Mother Teresa of Calcutta) attended the first four years of school at Sacred Heart Church, where instruction was in Albanian. Her older brother Lazar said, "Gonxha means a flower, and we thought of her as a rosebud. As a child, she was plump, round and tidy. She was sensitive and a little too serious for her age."

Pivotal to the life of Agnes Gonxha, and to her emergence as Mother Teresa, was an organization introduced into Sacred Heart Parish by the Jesuit pastor Fr. Jambrenkovic,

**the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

(as the **pre-Christian Life Community** was called).

The sodality brought to young people the words of St. Ignatius Loyola, "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?"

One of the aims of the sodality was to involve young people in serving Christ in his poor. They also learned about the lives of saints and missionaries. One of the missions of special interest was in the Indian state of Bengal. Agnes Gonxha became engrossed in the work of the mission. By the age of 18, she was burning to go to Bengal.

*Where is Christ calling us as CLC members to serve Him in His poor?*

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## "Pray As You Go"

**Dear CLC:**

*Just wanted to bring to your attention a new Jesuit web-site based in London England entitled "pray as you go". This offers a 10 minute prayer session using music, a reading from scripture, and some questions for reflection.*

*The sessions in MP3 format can be down loaded from the web site, or subscribed to as a "podcast" both options being free of charge. Using this technology people can find a moment of prayer and reflection*



*while they commute to work or even while walking the dog!*

*Pray as you go can be found at: [www.pray-as-you-go.org](http://www.pray-as-you-go.org)*

*- Michael Stogre, SJ*

## What is the Solidarity Fund?

In CLC Canada we have three Solidarity Funds:

### ***World Solidarity Fund:***

A fund administered by the World Secretariat. The fund is created by donations from countries around the world to help delegates who need financial assistance to attend the World Assembly.

### ***Canadian World Delegate Solidarity Fund:***

This fund is set up to cover the travel costs of Canadian delegates to the World Assembly (presently we have \$ 4,000 set aside for this purpose)

### ***National Solidarity Fund:***

This fund is set up to support communities in CLC Canada who otherwise would not be able to send a delegate to the National Assembly

*To donate to any of these funds, please send your donation to  
CLC Canada  
c/o Marilyn Heaton  
1120 30 Street South  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8*

**PROGRESSIO**  
Publication of the World  
Christian Life Community

**A beautiful glossy  
magazine with a  
wealth of information  
and  
reflective material  
for all CLC members**

**ADDRESS  
CHANGE?**

*Have you moved,  
changed telephone  
number  
or e-mail?*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ August 17-19, 2007—Atlantic Regional Assembly
- ◆ September 21-23, 2007—Central Regional Assembly
- ◆ September-October, 2007—Visit to Canada by Alberto Brito SJ  
(World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant)  
Toronto: September 27-October 4; Winnipeg: October 8-11; Halifax: October 11-15
- ◆ October 26-28, 2007—Prairie Regional Assembly
- ◆ August 12-21, 2008—World Assembly, Fatima, Portugal
- ◆ April 23-26, 2009—National Assembly, Loyola House, Guelph, ON



Are you looking for  
THE PERFECT GIFT  
to give to a  
loved one?

Why not consider a donation  
in his/her name to the

**JOHN ENGLISH  
FOUNDER'S FUND**

Please contact Marilyn for more information  
[clccanada@jesuits.ca](mailto:clccanada@jesuits.ca)

For Father John's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, CLC Canada General Council established a fund to recognize the founding role played by him. His efforts, when he gathered a small group made up of four couples to begin a special journey of life with lay people in the first CLC community in Canada, grew to encompass communities across the country with affiliation to the World Christian Life Community. The fund is intended to give financial assistance to initiatives which would help the growth of CLC Canada at the local, regional or national levels. At present there is \$4,749.02 in the account. Donations are gratefully accepted at anytime. Please mark your cheque

"JJE Fund" and send it to:

CLC Canada

1120 - 30 Street South, Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8

### Have you made your donation to CLC Canada ?

Remember, our fiscal year end is now December 31. Your donations will be assigned to the year in which they are received unless you state otherwise on your cheque.

Please send your donation to:

CLC Canada  
c/o Marilyn Heaton