



Christian Life Communities

NEWSLETTER

Second Class Registration 8294

Fall, 1989

THE WORD MADE HISTORY

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem, 'the smallest among the villages of Judah,' surrounded by shepherds and animals. His parents had come to the stable after they fruitlessly knocked on many doors in town. There, in oblivion, the Word was made history in the flesh of the poor.

Jesus was born of Mary in the bosom of a people dominated by the greatest power of that period; If we forget this, the birth of Jesus becomes an abstraction, a mere symbol. Without its historical coordinates, the event loses its significance.

For the Christian, Christmas is recognized as the breaking of God into human history: The birth of smallness and service in the face of the power and arrogance of the great of this world. An arrival accompanied by the smell of the manger."

Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez
Peruvian Theologian

PROFILE OF OUR CO-ORDINATOR

At the Asembly in 1986 through a process of communal discernment and a consensus vote it was decided to hire a part-time co-ordinaotr. The Burlington CLC took on the responsibility of drawing up a proposed operating budget with possible sources of income. Subsequently a goal statement and job description was formulated. The next step was to develop a list of possible candidates, resulting in Jack Milan becoming our first part-time co-ordinator. Jack submitted to the ExCo his terms of employment which were agreed upon by the committee on December 20th, 1986.

Jack has worked diligently and with extraordinary commitment and expertise since that time. He brought with him years of experience in CLC as past president of the U.S. National Community and Consulor for the World CLC. His knowledge and background to this fledgling Canadian National Community was truly a gift, in helping to present policies, develop a constitution, forming of various committees, looking at strengths and weaknesses, working in collaboration with the president/co-president, devloping agendas for ExCo meetings, themes and process for Assemblies and laterly agenda for General Council meetings. He offered much technical assistance to the various committees and to individual communities, as well as week-ends of evaluation and discernment.

In addition, his background in social work, coupled with CLC brought invaluable information, training and clarity to guide courses, workshops and assembly presentations. His immersion on the World Community brought the links we needed.

There were many trials and handicaps Jack was faced with as often happens to those who pioneer the way. Probably the most major of these was the financial. Since we had little or no structure around our payment of dues and it was our sole source of income, there were many months when he did not get paid or it was late. This did not inhibit his service in any way, but did lead to more clear guidelines for a reasonable, fair and workable system of fees for service and prompt payment. This was due, in no small way, to the efforts of the Finance Committee.

As announced at a recent National Assembly, Jack has tendered his resignation to the ExCo effective on or before the 1990 Assembly. He continues to be part of our National Community as a member of his home community, the Gaia CLC, and as an ex officio member of ExCo and, as time permits, will be available for Guide Courses, Workshops, Discernment week-ends.

A committee has been formed to examine the roll of co-ordinator and to assess how our national community can best be served in this capacity in the coming years.

We are deeply grateful to Jack for the generous sharing of his gifts with our National Community over these past years!

REPORT OF FR. JOHN ENGLISH, SJ, ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT
ENGLISH CANADA NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CLC
Since the National Assembly of 1988.

I am a member of the International Team on Formation and have worked through three renditions of a Formation Manual for Group Guides. I am also a member of the National EXCO and Gen.Council. I am on the National Formation Committee whose big chore this year was the new manual of Phase I (completed in August, 1989). Below is a list of my visits and talks on CLC:

Atlantic Provinces

- Oct 7-12 Encouraged establishment of CLC in Halifax
Oct 14-16 Visited Bishop of Moncton. Gave conferences on CLC in Newcastle, Fredericton in NB. Gave a conference on CLC in Antigonish - Glace Bay group of men attended this. Began discussions with Fr. Shea and Duncan MacIsaac on Atlantic Region Assembly in spring of 1989.
Nov 20 In Antigonish, NS D. MacIsaac and I did some initial planning for the Atlantic Region Assembly (June 1989)
22 Visited the bishop of Yarmouth, NS
Mar 9-12 While in Sydney, NS, spoke to a group about CLC. On trip home contacted Eric Duggan (Halifax) about role of my assistant in Atlantic Canada.
Apr 28 Visited Halifax CLC group. Eric Duggan accepted role of my assistant in Atlantic Canada.
Jun 2-4 Attended Atlantic Region Assembly with Jean Floyd and Kuruvila Zacharias

Western Canada

- Oct 24-27 Visited Edmonton and the Drayton Valley, Alta CLC's
Nov 4-7 Conferences on CLC in Lethbridge Alta
8 Talked to people interested in CLC in Saskatoon, Sask
9-10 Attended CASEA meeting in Calgary
14-15 Visited Regina, Sask CLC and talked with potential GGs
16 Visited Winnipeg/ St Boniface people interested in CLC
Nov 29 In Edmonton worked with Frances MacDougall on the manual.
Dec 1 Visited Matsqui, BC CLC
Feb 9-13 In Edmonton worked with Frances MacDougall on the manual. Attended EASEA conference
Jul 9-14 Group Guides Workshop in Edmonton with Frances MacDougall and John Milan
Jul 20-30 While on the coast visited Vancouver, Matsqui, Nanaimo, Courtney BC, CLCs
Aug 9-11 Attended US CLC Convention in Santa Clara, CA
Sep 20-25 Spoke to CLC's in Lethbridge, CSM Sisters in Calgary and about 20 people in High River Alta.

Southern Ontario

- Jan 26 Visited CLC group in Chatham, Ont
Apr 11 Visited Our Lady of the Way CLC in Pickering, Ont
May 1-31 Directed 3 CLCers through Sp. Exx. at Loyola House

Northern Ontario

- Sep 26-30 Group Guides Workshop with John Milan
Oct 1 Meeting with Ottawa CLC
Feb 27 Spoke to Montreal Cursillo about CLC
Feb 12 Attended mini-assembly of CLC's at Pembroke Ont
Feb 13 Spend an evening with CLC group in Ottawa

Europe

- Aug 23 Visited Brendon McLaughlan, World President of CLC
Sep 1-2 While in London I talked with Jenny Bond President of British CLC and with Tim Quinlan, SJ of World EXCO