



Christian Life Communities



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1986

ENGLISH CANADA

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

On this February day of writing, cold, snow and a seemingly endless winter appear to be our common Canadian experience.

On the other hand, as Canadian CLC'ers we are warmed by our common vision articulated in the Goal Statement (stated elsewhere in this newsletter) which was so labouriously and prayerfully discerned at the Fall '85 Assembly in Guelph, Ontario. We feel that the Goal Statement deserves our prayerful reflection and hope that it will become a source of unity and renewed energy for all of us who have, perhaps, become victims of the Canadian winter "blahs".

Some community representatives at the Assembly expressed feelings of isolation and perceived a need for more communication among CLC's. Your Executive is implementing some of the suggestions made, and Our Lady of Lourdes Waterloo, CLC has agreed to continue producing the well-affirmed Newsletter.

We don't wish to sound like a broken record but we do need your cooperation if the Newsletter is to be a good communicator. Please assign a community reporter and send us your stories by the deadling date - even a little "hello" will be welcome.

The limited financial resources of the Executive, the high cost of paper, printing and postage have compelled us to request a subscription fee of two dollars (\$2.00) a year per. subscriber of the Newsletter.

For your convenience, a subscription form has been printed on the last page of this issue of the Newsletter. Please complete it and mail it as soon as possible to the address given.

We hope that all of you will subscribe and, with your help, we will try to make our Newsletter an interesting, inspiring aid to better communication among our Canadian CLC's.

Thank you for your interest and affirmation. May your Lent lead you to a happy, peace-filled Easter.

DEADLINE DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS:
APRIL 30, 1986.

Please send submissions to:
Mrs. Jean Floyd, 297 Lourdes St.,
Waterloo, Ont. N2L 1N8

Sincerely,
Your editors,
Our Lady of Lourdes CLC,
Waterloo, Ontario.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS



Your Executive has been working hard to achieve practical, material goals. These are:

- promote formation
- improve communications
- draft a constitution
- raise many 1000's of dollars
- finding personnel to fill key administrative roles.

It is good, like Martha, to prepare the meal and do the housekeeping but we should never forget our dependence on the Holy Spirit; more things are wrought by prayer than we know of and following Jean Floyd's initiative we beg that you join us and CLC'ers across the world on March 25 in a CLC day of prayer. Let us ask Mary and the Holy Family to pray for us and send us the means which we need and seek to build the Kingdom.

Kuruvila and Lois Zachariah

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITIES DISCERNMENT WORKSHOPS - Ignatius College, Guelph, Ontario.

Four workshops on discernment in 1986 are being presented by Father John English for CLC community members on Saturdays, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The dates of these workshops are: January 11, February 1, April 19, May 24.

The workshops will concern both personal and communal discernment. They will deal with the larger issues of spirituality such as theological, anthropological (human nature), and psychological presumptions. Concrete issues, such as the art of discernment in personal and communal situations and the ability to make decisions that will transform our culture and bring about a social environment of love, justice and peace, will also be treated.

Such workshops are needed for many reasons. Members of CLC sense a desire to constantly be in union with the Lord in their daily life. They also wish to be disciples of Christ and be instruments with him in building the kingdom of love, justice and peace in this world. This means that they wish to be examples of just societies in themselves and to be communal instruments of God's grace in our world. There is also the desire to understand Ignatian spirituality more fully for themselves personally but also in a communal sense. Hopefully, these workshops will achieve some of these objectives.

Discernment itself is based on the premise that we human beings are free and that we are called by God to be instruments of his love in building "a world at once more human and divine". As christians we have the example of Christ to assist us in the manner in which we are to do this. We believe that his Holy Spirit is present with us individually and communally to bring about such a world. We are to respond to the activity of the Trinity in our life situations. In such a call-response context we need to be able to discern how we are to build this more human and divine world. For, as we know so well, there are many voices calling to us in our world. Some of these are instruments of the Holy Spirit and some are false and deceptive voices. We need to discern the true calls from the false and deceptive ones.

Our personal spirituality comes from our experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. It is from this experience that we have learned to recognize the activity of spirits, good and evil angels and God in our being. Since we are also intentional faith communities of discerned mission we need to apply these personal principles to our own communal life. The workshops will also assist us in the activity of communal discernment. Hopefully, the knowledge that we gain will assist us personally and communally and even apostolically as we try to answer our call to be disciples of the Lord's good news to other persons and communities.

EDITORS NOTE: Tapes of input for the January 31 and February 1, 1986 Discernment Workshops are available at a modest cost. Please contact Lois Zachariah, 549 Glenforrest Blvd., Waterloo, Ontario N2L 4J3.

CHANGES AT ROME SECRETARIAT

Jose Gsell has been Executive Secretary of the World Community for 13 years. She has raised the question of a replacement on more than one occasion. The same is true of Patrick O'Sullivan, S.J., our Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant in Rome. Replacements for them have now been found and they will assume their responsibilities at the World Assembly in Loyola this August.

Jose Reyes and family will replace Jose, his wife and three children have been active members of the Santiago, Chile, CLC since they were students. Jose was "process guide" for the International Youth Colloquium in Rome in December 1984. The whole family will move to Rome at the end of March. We are all aware of the great commitment this is and the amount of prayerful discernment it took to come to this decision. We wish them well and will keep them in our prayers.

Fr. Tim Quinlan, S.J. will replace Fr. Patrick. He, too, hails from Australia. He has been a member of the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality in Sydney since its beginning in 1976. He has been a resource person for CLC courses and retreats, as well as assistant to CLC groups, with particular interest in Youth CLC. After meeting Fr. Tim, Fr. Kolvenbach had no hesitation in naming him to succeed Fr. Patrick. He will come to Rome next May. We wish Fr. Tim every blessing in his new mission and will keep him in our prayers.

ENGLISH CANADA CLC ASSEMBLY '85

Jack Milan and Fr. John English were hoping to perform a miracle (maybe two) during the Assembly. There was a mood of prayerfulness, and anticipation... perhaps the best atmosphere for a miracle.

Input sessions, individual reflection and large and small group sharing were the activities that filled the weekend.

Representatives of the CLC's across the country presented the fruit of their group's sharing. These ideas were gathered and boiled down into a draft goal statement. The statement was presented and we were asked "What is missing?" After more thought and much discussion, we arrived at the following draft.

THE GOAL OF THE CLC FEDERATION OF ENGLISH CANADA,
IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE, AFTER THE EXAMPLE OF

PRIMARY, IS TO GATHER, DEVELOP, AND TO SUSTAIN
 LAY FAITH-COMMUNITIES OF APOSTOLIC DISCERNMENT
 TO WORK WITH CHRIST IN THE BUILDING OF HIS
 KINGDOM OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD.

It regards the kind of national structure we ought to have, there were probably as many ideas as there were people present. Some people used the image of a wagon wheel with spokes, someone else a rainbow, and one person suggested a long kayak.

As we tried to settle on a primary need, the need for a national coordinator emerged. Jack and John have been like Paul and Barnabas, but the time has come to have a full-time coordinator. We examined what it would cost to have such a coordinator. We prayed over this question, and finally voted. Yes, we did want a full-time coordinator.

There remained many, many details to be worked out. These we entrusted to the Executive. They assured us that we would hear from them. (Their report is included in this Newsletter).

A Liturgy of Commissioning was celebrated on Sunday. Each member of the Assembly, stood before each member of the executive and with word and gesture most lovingly sent them forth to work for us. The Assembly was a chance to see the Church in action, to hear what God was saying to our brothers and sisters individually and to all of us as a group.

DISCIPLES OF LIGHT C/O January 1986, Mabou, Cape Breton Island, N.S.

Greetings and best wishes from our fledgling community here Cape Breton Island. May the Peace, Love and Joy which Jesus brought us anew this Christmas season be yours to live and give throughout the New Year.

Our community members have continued to meet faithfully every week to share our prayer and life experience. We continue to try to support each individual member in living out his/her Christian commitment in each one's chosen state of life and in reaching out on an individual basis to the lonely and rejected. In addition, we continue to discern a corporate service for our community. In this area, we have a variety of thoughts and feelings and a healthy tension.

In August, three of our members took the twelve-day Practicum at the Mabou Renewal Centre, which brings to five the number of our group who have taken it. In August also, our seven community members agreed to take the Meyers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator test under the direction of Fr. Charlie Gameron. In openness and vulnerability, we shared our findings with each other, and discussed areas of particular strength and weakness in our group as indicated by the Meyers-Briggs test results.

Towards the end of August, we treated ourselves to a fun weekend at the invitation of Fr. Howard Shea, S.F.M., our ecclesiastical advisor, at his family cottage at Mill River, P.E.I. We swam, played sand darts, chatted often, took walks, ate delicate clams and delicious vegetables from Fr. Shea's well tended garden. We celebrated daily a feeding liturgy and came to know each other on new levels of our persons. A recommended experience!

In September, Ray and Joan Rankin took the results of our previous month of prayerful discernment to the first annual CLC National Assembly in Guelph. They represented us and, in turn, brought back a very positive account of the discussion and discernment. They also represented the Disciples of Light Community as they were officially accepted into the English-Canada Federation of CLC.

Also in September, members of our community, along with others, spoke on the Cursillo movement at various parish churches in Richmond County, Cape Breton, in preparation for the introduction of the Cursillo Movement to that area in November.

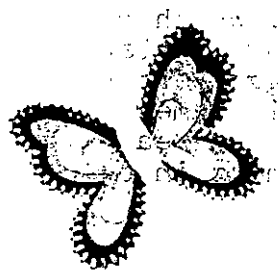
Again in September, at the suggestion of our Bishop, we undertook a corporate service. We drew up a prayer sheet which suggests some practical ways of incorporating prayer in the home as a follow-up for those who have made a Cursillo. At the November, December, and January Ultreya meetings, twenty minute teachings are being given by our community members on individual, couple, and family prayer.

In December, we undertook another corporate service when one stormy evening, we went to share ourselves with L'Arche Community at Iron Mines, Cape Breton. We shared Christmas carols, food, skills, laughter and prayer -- two communities celebrating together.

Sr. Eileen Tobin, C.N.D., our spiritual guide, Jack Milan, layman on staff at the Jesuit Centre in Guelph, and Fr. Howard Shea, S.F.M. Have been asked to join us for a weekend of discernment at the end of January. During the months of December and January, our prayer has centred each week around a review of our original commitment to community, the general principles of C.L.C., our community covenant and spirituality, and the gift of prophecy as given to our community. This prayer is in preparation for our first anniversary weekend of discernment when we will look where the Holy Spirit has been and is leading our community.

Yours in Christ,

John and Cathy Gillies
Disciples of Light
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



OUR LADY OF THE WAY CLC - PICKERING, ONTARIO.

It is often stated that "no news is good news". There is really little to report from our group, except that things are just humming along under the good guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our group, which now consists of twenty members, has, since September of last year, been hard at work in our apostolic work. We have been blessed with excellent responses to the Ignatian Weekend Retreats for lay people. On many occasions we have been able to fill our facility to capacity (low 60's) and to attract new people to this special event: a quiet weekend listening to Our Lord. Great things are happening to so many!

As a group we have commenced the study of the CLC General Principles in order to get in touch again with our roots. Two members commenced the Spiritual Exercises this past fall using Annotation 19, while others have taken eight-day directed retreats.

Our group is also focussing on actively reaching out to a number of people who, for a variety of reasons, have been incapable of attending the weekend retreats.

We are indeed grateful to Our Blessed Lord and Our Lady for the many blessing which have come to so many through the ~~Manresa~~ Weekend Retreats.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are attempting to compile an up-to-date membership list of names and addresses, including postal codes. Would all communities, formed and in formation, please send us the names and addresses of each member in their community. Mail to: Jean Floyd, 207 Lourdes St., Waterloo, Ont. N2L 1N8.

At the same time, would you please appoint one person to be responsible for submissions to the Newsletter, paying particular attention to deadline date, and indicate this person in your mailing list.

ENGLISH CANADA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 1985-1986

CO-PRESIDENTS

Lois & Kuruvila Zachariah
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(519) 885-1275



PAST CO-PRESIDENTS

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William Dirks, R.R.#1 Brantford, N3T 5L4 (519) 759-7262
Hans Vanleeuwen, 734 Annland St., Pickering, L1W 1B6 (416) 839-5353
Frances Morrison, 123 Renaud St., Waterloo, N2L 3T2 (519) 884-4747

Continuation of Executive Council

TREASURER

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FORMATION TEAM

Shirley Gatchene, 129 Glen Lake Cr., Kitchener, N2N 1C4 (519) 744-6067

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

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(519) 824-1250

GENERAL ASSISTANT

John P. Milan, ACSW, Loyola House, Box 245, Guelph, NH 6J9
(519) 824-1250

WORLD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

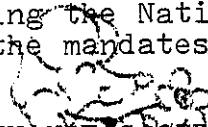
The Executive approved our three delegates to the World Assembly: our Co-presidents Lois & Kuruvila Zachariah, and Fr. John English.

Our nomination for Jack Milan as Consulor on the Executive Council of the World Community has been submitted to Rome.

YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The first Executive meeting following the National Assembly in September explored the ways of implementing the mandates given to them by the members at the Assembly.

The mandates were defined as: 1) FINANCE/COORDINATOR



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Find and finance full-time coordinator

Job description for coordinator

2) BY-LAWS & CONSTITUTION

- Elect Vice-President
- Guidelines for future assembly
- Develop respect and support for regional differences

3) COMMUNICATIONS

- Improved communications
- Encourage common days of prayer



In order to carry out these mandates three committees were formed as follows:

- 1) FINANCE/COORDINATOR (Bill & Marilyn Bitner, Ted & Doll Curtin, Peter, Barb & Bob)
 - a) Look at needs of English Canada CIC to help define job description for the coordinator.
 - b) Develop list of suitable candidates, considering gifts and qualifications needed for the job.
 - c) Financing the coordinator, considering all options.
Note: Go for full-time but have alternatives ready for part-time.
 - d) Support services- office space and office equipment.

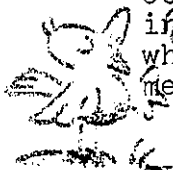
BY-LAWS & CONSTITUTION (Peter & Barb Peloso, Jack Milan, John English)

- a) Finish the statement of purposes that was started at the Assembly.
- b) Means of electing Vice-President.
- c) National structure:
 - requirements for federated status
 - representation at Assembly
 - voting rights at Assembly
 - site of Assembly
 - financing delegates
 - clarification of executive roles & job description
 - getting a secretary
- d) Retreat committee

3) COMMUNICATIONS (Shirley, Jean, Fran, Bob, with the help of Brantford)

- a) Phone committee
- b) Executive letter on mandates & important issues
- c) Newsletter - Need to ask for subscription and for address list
- d) Further development of executive agenda
- e) Form promotion team, Encourage formation team
- f) Ecclesiastical Assistant to communicate through newsletter with the Jesuit community
- g) Better communication between members of executive
- h) Communication with Church at large (Can. Catholic Lay Organization)

The committees were requested to submit reports by January 7 to the Co-Presidents. The February 5 Executive Meeting will be spent in a) listening to reports from each working group, b) clarifying what has been done, c) discerning what still needs to be done to meet the mandates of the assembly.



CLC FORMATION NEWS

CLC formation has evaluated the past few years and prayerfully arrived at a few new goals for 1986. The nature of our goals seem to be to nurture, support and sustain our present CLC communities, and needless to say to help establish any new groups that might be desired of Christian Life Community.

Presently we are in the process of visiting as many of our communities as possible. We will be making contact with you to make arrangements for such visits. If for any reason you have an immediate need of our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us first.

There will be some travelling involved to our CLC groups in other areas of this vast country. Such visits have been a dream of ours for sometime now; and we are so grateful for this opportunity. Through these visits we will be able to get a true sense of our reality.

Formation

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Fran Morrison from St. Michael's CJC, as the newest member of our Formation Team. We know her contribution in this service area will benefit all.

Please pray for us that the good Lord will continue to sustain us in our apostolate. God bless you, and we look forward to a more personal contact in the very near future.

Shirley Gatehene.

RECOMMENDED READING

"WEEDS AMONG THE WHEAT" by Thomas Green. See last Newsletter. Mention of this book bears repeating because of its excellent discernment skills.

"CHOOSING LIFE" by John English, S.J.



This book deals with the significance of Personal History in decision making using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a starting point for appropriating one's unique personal history in faith. Choosing Life is designed especially for directors of prolonged prayer experiences. Yet it can also be used profitably by people who have had a prolonged personal directed prayer experience. Those who have not had such will find the exercises and reflections in this book a means of appreciating their own personal faith history. This is an important work for all those who seek a greater interiorization of their faith and a means of making authentic Christian decisions.

"SPIRITUAL FREEDOM" by John English, S.J.

This book moves from an experience of the Ignatian Exercises to the art of Spiritual Direction, describing the experience of those participating in the personally directed Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, but, for the most part it considers the director's experience as he shares in the movements which his exercitants undergo while he strives to help them follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Loyola '86 - August 21 - 30, 1986.

Theme: Mary Model of Our Mission in the Church and in the World.



Suggested Participation: Although only 3 delegates are allowed from each Federation we all are able to participate through the preparatory prayer and reflection material found in the Progressio issues beginning with that of November 1985, entitled "Praying with Mary". We would welcome a report of communities sharing on these reflections for subsequent publication.

WORLD CJC DAY - March 25, 1986.

National Day of Fast and Prayer for Peace. Theme: Christ Our Peace

Suggestion for community meetings: Let each member have a copy of the prayer of St. Francis. Go through the prayer, line by line, reflecting on your experience of the value, and the anti-value, St. Francis mentions: in your heart, in your family, in your work, in your relationships, in the world around you.

CLC World Day of Prayer

Suggested Participation: Quote from a reflection on the Eucharist contained in Projects (regular reports from Rome): "If I am convinced of the Father's undying love for me, and His desire to communicate Himself to me, then I realize that the Father is desperately anxious to communicate Himself to all His children. And that includes Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan, Mr. Arafat, General Sharon, Mr. Khadafy..., all the world leaders. So I will take them with me, in faith, to the Eucharist, where, through my faith and the faith of the whole Church, they will encounter the Body of Christ, and be more opened to the Peace His heart promises."

U.S. FEDERATION GUIDE COURSE - March 31 to April 6, 1986,

Romero Center, Detroit, Mich.

If interested contact: Mike Splaine, 3721 Westminster Pl.
St. Louis, Mo. 63108

*For those who are not now receiving Progressio, a subscription may be obtained from the following address: Progressio, C.P.
6139, Borgo S. Spirito 5, 00195 Rome, Italy. The annual subscription cost is \$17.00 U.S.

JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Since this has been declared International Year of Peace by the United Nations, and in conjunction with our World Day of Peace March 25 with suggested prayer/reflection material, we suggest, as communities or individuals, that we move out of our prayer to action by writing to our appropriate members of parliament to Mr. Clark and to the Prime Minister, as Douglas Roche, Canada's Ambassador for Peace & Disarmament, challenges us to do in the Fall issue of the Jesuit publication Compass. He says:

"Those with religious backgrounds have the ability to think in a new way. We can join to the secular realization of physical interdependence and universal nuclear hazard what we also know ethically, spiritually. In this spiritual perspective we see the unity of the Human family at a deeper level. We know our neighbour is not just the person across the street, but also the man in the Soviet Union, the woman in Bangladesh, and the child in Ethiopia.

"Fuse these two realities, the physical and the spiritual, and you give the ethical perspective on life a doubly weighty dimension that can be recognized by our neighbours with different beliefs. Together we then can see that we are either going to survive together and occupy this planet together peacefully, or else we are going to have to die together.

"I say to the people who challenge me to change things in parliament: 'Have you gone to your M.P.? Have you written to Mr. Clark, to the P.M.? Have you exercised your democratic rights, have you studied what the Canadian government is already trying to do?'"

Douglas Roche has published an excellent booklet entitled "Canada and the Pursuit of Peace". This could be obtained from any of your local M.P.'s.

Let us join together to create a national ripple that can be part of an international wave for a secure future!

UNITY

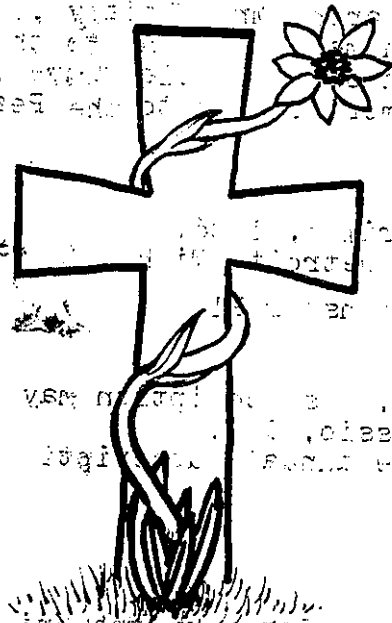
Yesterday you brightened my day
Your presence touched mine and the
harmony we created
Cheered me on in a rather dark world.

But today as that harmony did
not radiate in our meeting
and tensions ensued
The pain is oh so great
For having tasted the sweetness
of yesterday's joy.

I look within and cry: "What now?"
But to live intensely this reality,
this call inherent in being a
people of the towel.
Will you allow me to wipe your feet?
But that is easiest for me. I pray each night
for courage. I pray for the gift
of vulnerability.

I look at my feet. In faith I present
them to you. My strength being in
His words: "Now that I, your Lord and
Teacher, have washed your feet, you also
should wash one another's feet". (In. 13:14)
We meet again. The pain has given birth
into a bouquet of Flowers - grown without water.

Submitted by: Carmen Van Zutphen.
N.S.



CLIP AND RETURN

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE CLE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER.
SUBSCRIPTION FE: \$2.00 per year.

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Please mail to: Mrs. Jean Floyd, Newsletter submission
207 Lourdes St. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1N8
deadline April 30/86.

REMINDER!

WE NEED YOUR STORY!