



Christian Life Communities

NEWSLETTER

Second Class Registration 8294

Spring, 1990

CLC WORLD ASSEMBLY

What is it and how does it function?: The reason for the World Assembly is the fact that there exists a living community scattered throughout the world. The life of the World Community finds expression every day in very diverse local situations through programmes of formation, apostolic initiatives, gestures of solidarity, fraternal communion and the celebration of the Eucharist. The World Assembly grows in proportion to the growth in fidelity on the part of each member to the grace which is at the root of the Community. Although members live in isolated places all over the world, with little possibility of establishing visible contact with other members, they know that in the Assembly there is a shared grace that reaches out to everyone. They are conscious of being members of a Community which is indeed widespread but which exists because the Holy Spirit enlivens it in accordance with the special charism which God wishes to be poured into it.

The "Synthesis of Recommendations" from the last Assembly, that of Loyola, begins like this: "We have experienced in these days how a Community, 'for dispersion', which has gathered together for living, praying, reflecting, listening and sharing, can be strongly moved by the Spirit. From an initial experience of communion built on truthfulness and trust, without hiding our differences, we were led to a deeper union..." It is obvious: a World Assembly is first and foremost a privileged opportunity for being open as a community to the action of the Spirit and for strengthening the ties that unite us. So, if there is not sufficient interchange, prayer, silence, intense work, this first objective cannot be attained.

The principal fruit of this shared opening to the Spirit of the Lord is that the Assembly formulates certain broad orientations for action which should reach out to all local situations and be put into practice at a concrete level. The method used is that of Ignatian deliberation. Starting from reality, praying over it, appreciating its diversity, the delegates come to identify certain common callings. Each delegate has the opportunity of expressing his/her own national delegation. At all these levels the delegates have the opportunity (and the duty) of listening to each other. In prayer they endeavour to recognize the voice of God in all that has been said and heard. In this way, at the final plenary sessions, the Assembly arrives at the formulation of those broad orientations of which we have spoken above.

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The group guide needs to keep a distance between him/herself and the group, if he/she wants to be free enough to help the group on its ongoing journey. While resonating deeply with people's feelings, he or she does not become identified with any emotional problem. It is a delicate balance between appreciating a person/group's problem and letting it become one's own. This distance does not exclude participation, but reduces it. His/her participation will be dictated to him/her by the level of maturity of the members and the stage of development of the group.

The guide has a clear idea of the goal of CLC and of the short term objective of the stage the group is at. His/her knowledge and personal experience of CLC spirituality makes him/her act as formator providing content and method, and he/she 'accompanies' the growth process of the group.

Through all of this the guide develops a profile of his own, distinct from the coordinator's function.

Reflections on G.P.S continued from page 3.

2. How do you account for Mary's ability to enter the Paschal Mystery with her Son? What lifelong attitudes or practices disposed Mary to deal with suffering in her life.
3. What does Mary have to say today to women in the late 20th century. Write her a letter about this topic. Let her write one back to you. Share this experience with your group.
4. If you are a man, reflect on how Mary fits into your spirituality as a male. Is Mary's place different in the spirituality of a woman? Share in your group.

...You will find Mary...
within the whole of
the Christian Mystery
for devotion to her is
not an end in itself,
but the main road
leading to Christ, to
the glory of God, and
to love of the Church.
Pope Paul VI

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 25th for next Newsletter

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PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE ARE CHANGES IN YOUR GROUP PLEASE NOTIFY JEAN OR THE CENTRAL OFFICE.