



ENGLISH CANADA

Christian Life Communities

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1987.

Greetings dear CLC'ers:

Here we are in Lent already! It seems to us that the Liturgical calendar is moving us very quickly from Bethlehem to Calvary. When receiving our Lenten ashes this week, we couldn't help but smile as we recalled that just last week we removed the remaining Christmas poinsettias from the sanctuary of our parish church. In a few short weeks we will be decorating it with Easter lilies to honour our Risen Lord! Tempus fugit!

Musings aside and down to business! We have several newsworthy items to bring to your attention.....

We plan to issue our Newsletter quarterly. We need your submissions by the deadline date. If this Newsletter is to be a valid communicator we need your input. There are a lot of quiet communities out there. Don't be shy! Let us hear from you!

The Newsletter subscription fee (\$2.00) will be discontinued and your annual donation to the Executive Council (EXCO) will automatically entitle you to receive our Newsletter. Thanks to all who subscribed in 1986!

A reminder of World CLC Day on March 25th... the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Please note the reflection included in this issue. Join CLC'ers world-wide in prayer and share with us your reflections and/or how you have chosen to celebrate CLC Day.

The Bishops' Synod on the Role of the Laity in the Church will be held in Rome in October. Our National CLC has made a comprehensive submission to the Canadian Bishops in preparation for the Synod. Prayer support please for this important event!

We also request prayer for a National President or co-Presidents. Lois and Zach's term ends in September of this year. Pray that the Holy Spirit will call forth generous servant(s) to lead us!

Finally, letters to the editor are encouraged be they positive or "constructively negative." (The quote was contributed by our tactful co-ordinator, Jack Milan.)

May God grace your Lenten journey and lead you out of the wilderness to a happy Easter.

Peace, love and prayers,

Your editors,
Our Lady of Lourdes CLC,
Waterloo, Ont.

NEWS OF OUR ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANT

A formal report has not been received from Father John English. However, since so many inquiries about his whereabouts and well-being have been directed to us, we obtained a copy of his itinerary to help us locate him for you.

Catch up to him if you can - it's a superman feat!

In January and February of 1987 he visited Jerusalem, Nepal, Kurseong in West Bengal, Bombay, and Beugal, India - then off to Hong Kong.

March and May will take him to Australia, back to Hong Kong and Tokyo Japan.

In May he returns to Canada visiting Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto Calgary and Edmonton.

In the fall of 1986 he visited the Maritimes (see "Disciples of Light" CLC sharing), England and other areas.

We heard via The Grapevine that he is well but had been "under the weather" - possibly a bug that somehow managed to catch up with him. Let's keep him in our prayer that God will continue to bless his work for the Jesuits and CLC and protect him in his travels.

THE EDITORS.

BITS FROM THE COORDINATORS DESK

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, as of this writing we have a National Community of 21 local groups with approximately 155 persons. Seven groups are "affiliated." Fourteen groups are at various stages of formation.

Most of our groups, in fact, do have GROUP GUIDES. Our gratitude for GUIDING goes to FR. W.R. DEVLIN, SJ in Pickering, Ont.; SR. EILEEN TOBIN, CND and FR. HOWARD SHEA, SFM in Nova Scotia; FR. REMI LEMOGES, SJ and ART MENU in Guelph; SR. ANNE HARVEY, SC in Elora, Ont.; HELEN DRAGO, JEAN FLOYD and FRAN MORRISON in Waterloo; FR. PETER NASH, SJ in Toronto; CHERYL BONANY and SR. ALOYSIA FISCHER, CSJ in Hamilton; SHARON SINCLAIR and EVA ROZIERE in Winnipeg. Also thanks to FR. TONY VAN HEE, SJ for being the spiritual director for the Fergus, Ont. group.

THREE CHEERS for two NEW GROUPS in Guelph. Fr. Art Menu, SJ has started a Community at the University of Guelph composed of Faculty and Staff. MARILYN GOSTLIN has coordinated the interest of the folks who make up the second new community. Our prayers and support are with you. Welcome to The CLC Family!

ATTENTION: For our groups new Loyola House in Guelph - two excellent formation opportunities. A WEEKEND DIRECTED RETREAT, April 10-12. Are you struggling with the daily Examen??? Come to the Examen Workshop, "FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS". June 12-14. If interested, call Carolyn at (519) 824-1250.

P.S.: I'd love to visit with you and your community - Call me anytime at Loyola House, (519) 824-1250.

JACK MILAN,
COORDINATOR.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The priority of the last Ex. Co. meeting held Feb. 21st was the task of leadership for our Federation. Our current co-presidents term is over in Sept. and we have no willing nominations to date.

Are we being called to a different type of leadership? Do we need co-presidents? Should the Co-Ordinator take over leadership? These were some of the questions discussed in depth. After prayer and reflection the members of Ex. Co. felt a definite need for leadership in collaboration with the Co-Ordinator.

We meet again in April at which time Ex. Co. will submit some more nominations. We request prayers from the membership that the Lord will call forth a president or co-presidents to shepherd us. The task is less onerous now that a Co-Ordinator works hand-in-hand with the President/s.

Alive in the Lord: We now have a membership of 153, including formed and in formation members with 6 formed, federated communities and 13 in formation or non-federated.

Financial Woes: Letters have been sent to Bishops across the country soliciting Their financial assistance with information re our history. This letter has also been mailed to other organizations and individuals. The finance committee submitted a draft of the letter which when ratified at our April meeting will go out to our full membership.

National Assembly: A tentative date for this years National Assembly is September 25-26, 1987. Place not determined.

WORLD EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MARCH 25, 1987

WORLD CLC DAY

THEME: "THE VOCATION AND MISSION OF THE LAITY"

This theme was adopted in view of the upcoming Synod of Bishops whose focus will be the "Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World, twenty years after the Second Vatican Council".

The last issue of Projects - LINK between the Int. Ex. Co. and Leaders of National Communities - provided us with the following ideas for time of Prayer, Reflection and Celebration.

and adolescents, professional work, suffering. The more Gospel-inspired lay people there are engaged in these realities, clearly involved in them, competent to promote them and conscious that they must exercise to the full their christian powers which are often buried and suffocated, the more these realities will be at the service of the kingdom of God and therefore of salvation in Jesus Christ, without in any way losing or sacrificing their human content but rather pointing to a transcendent dimension which is often disregarded".

Reading II

(Excerpts from "Synthesis of Recommendations", Loyola '86.)

"We have been affirmed in our identity, which is rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. They send us on the road with Christ, poor and humiliated, and invite us to follow Him on mission as Mary did, in freedom, poverty and solidarity - and all of this with a listening heart and a ready will to act for justice and the defence of life. This will lead us to a deeper conversion which is marked by a simple style of life and a decisive option in favour of the poor.

Our theme, being mission, couldn't be perceived without going back to our source and discovering that we are sent on mission by the Lord and His Church. We have also recognized that we cannot be faithful to our mission without placing it within the framework of our community, sensing that it is the whole community which is sent, in a communion of hearts and minds."

An Experience of Prayer

Context: Jn 15:13-17; Rm 12:1-2

Grace: I ask the Lord for a deeper sense of the significance for me and for others of my baptismal call to participate in the mission of Christ today.

Prayer: Prayerfully read the excerpts from the Synod "working document" and "Loyola '86". Note where you are moved, drawn, or puzzled.

As you read, speak to the Lord often about what you are experiencing.

Review: After, reflect on the time spent with the readings, asking yourself:
 What happened to me during this time of reading/prayer? Did it go poorly? Why? Did it go well? Why?

Sharing: From your review, share with your group what happened to you as you prayed through the readings.
 Additional questions for sharing: (Take time to reflect on your answers before sharing).

- What experiences have I had of carrying out the mission of Christ as a layperson?
- In Baptism, I have been given the grace of union with Christ and His Body, the Church. How have my experiences made this a conscious reality for me now?
- From my experiences, what observations can I make about the mission of the laity in the life of the Church? In the life of the world? What observations speak to me of hope and encouragement? What observations call forth from me greater fidelity to prayer, dialogue, discernment?

Other material for prayer/reflection:

1 Cor 12	Mark 3: 13-14
1 Peter 2:4-10	Matthew 5:13-16
Eph 4:5	Kingdom Meditation, S.E. 91-98
Matthew 28:16-20	General Principles, nos. 3, 5, 7.

Another suggestion

- 1) Prayerfully read the excerpt from the "Working Document" and "Loyola '86".
- 2) Divide your group into smaller "interest" groups, e.g. those engaged in: the helping professions; business; farm work; the home and care of children; factory work; various works in their parish or diocesan work; etc.
- 3) Reflect on the following question: How do I in my role as parish worker, business person, mother, etc. participate in the mission of Christ today? What are the opportunities I experience? What are the difficulties I experience?
- 4) Share on the question.
- 5) What conclusions can we draw? What are the implications for us as living the CLC way of life? How do we sense we are called to respond? How can the Spiritual Exercises help us?

Create a para-liturgical celebration which affirms your call to carry out the mission of Christ in the Church and World as MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

COMMUNITY SHARING

ELORA CLC

The glow from Barbara and my recent trip to the National Assembly CLC meeting in Mexico is beginning to recede as we re-enter the reality of our life here, with children, work, etc. So we have decided to make this preliminary report with the hope of a more indepth report later.

The idea of a Canadian visit to Mexico arose in Loyola at the International CLC Assembly where the delegates lived community together as they discussed the life of our international community. World CLC is divided into continental regions and English Canada shares the North American continent with French Canada, United States and Mexico. However, Mexico has a natural affinity with the Latin Americans of the Southern continent, since their life experiences are so similar. At the International Assembly the Mexicans met with the Latin Americans. Actually, this places Mexico in the position of a bridge between the north and south continental regions allowing us to share the reality of the whole Latin American CLC experience. This is very important to us in the North as the Lord is doing something very special in Latin America.

John English asked me to go to Mexico to represent Canada. Barbara and I previously promised ourselves to take a one week holiday each year away from the children. We had not really done this lately and so we decided that the trip to the Mexican CLC annual assembly could also be a holiday.

On a personal level, I was really attracted to the idea of going as I had observed at Providence/82 that we needed to keep contact with the Latin American CLC's. On the other hand my neurotic side reminded me that I was claustrophobic in planes and if it were to crash, our children would be left parentless. This was a great chance for me to practice spiritual freedom. So in almost all of my prayer time before the trip, I offered my life, my family, and my children to Him, if He wished. He responded with the grace for freedom. I received a great sense of peace which I kept drawing from in the flight. The only time I was really frightened was not on a plane, but in a car trip from San Luis to Guadalajara. In San Luis we visited my classmate for two days, a Mexican who took orthodox training with me in Toronto. He drove us to Guadalajara and sped all the way through the mountainous countryside, passing cars, screeching around curves and breaking all speed records. The circulation didn't return to my knuckles until the following day.

The Mexican national CLC assembly was held in a seminary in a small village just outside of Guadalajara. We were received at Puente Grande with the warmth and love which is so typical of Latin American people. Not only this, but the fact that we shared the CLC vocation, allowed us to experience an immediate strong bond. This was to last and grow throughout the four days.

Approximately 85 people attended the assembly from the 60 CLC's in Mexico. They were free for the four-day event because Thursday was a national holiday in Mexico. In Latin America there are many youth CLC's and it seemed that half of the delegates were teenagers. As Jean Floyd will attest from her contact with these youths at Providence 82, they are very zealous in their CLC vocation. It is wrong to make comparison with our youth but these young people take their Christian vocation very seriously. They respond with enthusiasm and a great desire to grow. All of the delegates seem to be joyful in spite of their poverty,

Continuation of Community Sharing:

corrupt government and often a hierarchy which seems allied to the status quo.

The Conference was divided into four streams - youth, the poor, formation and analysis. Barb chose youth and I chose analysis. One of the gifts the Mexicans have is to use play acting to make their point. For example in our session on analysis, there was the following drama. The twenty of us in the analysis stream assembled. Our guide, Father Felix, read us the scripture passage on the Good Samaritan. This scripture passage was then acted out in the following way. Two teenagers accosted a third and took all of his money, other personal articles and clothing and left him lying naked, literally on the floor. The rest of us were observers to the scene and tried to decide how to react to this situation. Some of us went over and put blankets on him to keep him warm. The lesson was clear. Our vocation was to be the Good Samaritan and help out, in some way.

Then for our next dramatization, a more complex society was set up as follows. A poor farmer brings his grain to a mill to be processed. The mill owner has the support of the government and the police. A worker arrives to operate the factory to grind the grain. As time goes by, the price of the grain goes down, the wages of the worker goes down, but the price of the product goes up. The farmer and the worker are required to make more and more sacrifices. Finally they begin paying for their product with their own articles of clothing. All of this was done with a lot of joking and good humor. But the point was made that, ultimately, these two would also be left naked. Then the scene is made more complicated and more people are asked to play parts. The corrupt government is played by one person; I play the part of Ron Reagan. T.V. was present as well as the hierarchy. There is a group of CLC'ers with banners present as well as other observers. The question was, "How are we to help these poor people?" As there was more clamour and demands for food from the poor people, the police became more strict and had to throw some the objectors into jail. The president made charming ineffectual speeches. He had the union leaders under his control. Reagan kept up his alliance with the corrupt government and tried to pass out money, but the people asked for work, not charity. The hierarchy did not know what to do and they worried about CLC suspecting they were Communist. Ultimately the hierarchy went around blessing everybody. The CLC, initially did not know what to do and ended up beating the factory owner with their banners. The observers did not know what to make of the chaos. One person representing another segment of society went around passing our kleenexes. The government decided not to repress CLC because if felt the CLC would help the poor and this would free up more government money to purchase arms.

Obviously what was needed was some type of analysis and so we spent the rest of the day getting into methods of analyzing the situation to help us to get in touch with the basic power forces in the society and to help with formulating and effective plan for action.

This is a shortened version of what went on, but basically it was an attractive, exciting tool to help up with the reality of social analysis. Of course, a limiting factor was our inability to speak Spanish. I had started to take a course in Spanish and the Italian of my youth did help. But Barbara, who knows no Spanish, was still able to participate through interpretation on the part of the people and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Mexican CLC are very serious about their vocation. They live in a potentially violent country because of the poverty. They are dedicated Christian CLCers and so they use their Christian vocation to serve as best they can.

PETER AND BARBARA PELOSO,
ELORA CLC.

Disciples of Light Community

Hi from Cape Breton and Happy New Year! Time has flown swiftly by and there is much to share from the Disciples of Light.

First of all as we listen to the word of God we hear Him calling us to a deeper trust in His ways. At the heart of Jesus' message for us is forgiveness which we consider to be our greatest act of service to another. We hear over and over again how Jesus and the Father want to make their true home in our hearts.

Well the Lord continues to bless us as a community and in particular his kindness and goodness have been showered on Ray and Joan Rankin. They became proud grandparents for the first time in early October with the arrival of 12 lb. 1 oz Colin Glen, infant son of daughter Anita and husband Glen MacNeil who both reside in Scarborough, Ontario. This explosion of joy was only the beginning for Ray and Joan. They received more exciting good news from Zimbabwe, Africa with the announcement of their daughter Jo-Ann's pregnancy. The father, Harold MacNeil has become a delighted birth companion. Things didn't slow down for Ray and Joan as preparations were made for Christmas and the wedding of daughter Paula to Roddie Rankin on Dec. 27th. A grand wedding celebration in traditional Cape Breton style took place. Yet again another wedding is slated for August with the engagement of Colleen to Harry Neynens. And that's not everything! Ray has a new boss, with the announcement of the New Bishop elect for our diocese Colin Campbell. A long time participant in the renewal of the church, Bishop elect Campbell presents a strong vision of parish as a way of bridging life and community.

John and Cathy, the proud parents of 6 month old William are very much involved in historical research. This mission activity in this area is something they both enjoy and are gifted at doing. Their efforts are presently concentrated on the Centennial of the Arrival of the CND's the Mabou and the boarding school for women that they set up and ran.

Joe and Carmen continue to make strong commitments to young people. They are presently part of a team that is setting up a teen-aid program for the area. Carmen continues her clowning ministry by doing acts such as portraying Santa Claus in adoration of the Child Jesus at a pre-Christmas Candle Light Service.

When our community travelled to Corinthian House for our annual visit, Carmen, with her daughter Sarah entertained us all with wit and grace. Our visit as the Disciples of Light was a joyful occasion to renew acquaintances by singing carols, joking, sharing some food, and praying together.

Since early November Corinthian House, a L'Arche community in Iron Mines, has become my full time apostolate. The opening of the New Workshop and a new house called Waycobah with the addition of 5 more mentally handicapped adults had made it an extremely demanding apostolate. How long I stay, or whether or not I'm called long term to L'Arche, remains to be seen.

Also in November we welcomed Father John English to our community for the first time. His presence filled us with much happiness. He brought hope and light to us on the working and development of CLC in Canada and abroad. His stories from the World Assembly in Spain and of people in South Africa, the Philipines, Chile, Northern Ireland struggling for social justice and truth by trying to live the Christian life more fully under oppression really touched our hearts.

Disciples of Light

While in the Maritimes Father John spread the vision of CLC. In our area he spent a day with 12 interested people in Mabou and another day with 18 more in Antigonish. He feels the Antigonish group have a good possibility of perhaps getting started as a CLC group in the near future with some guidance from ourselves. This is in part our hope to fulfil the National Goal of CLC to gather, to develop and sustain other lay faith-communities.

We had 2 new couples join a regular meeting in January to explore the possibility of joining our group or perhaps look at beginning another group. The Spirit really led this initial meeting by helping us here in such an open and honest way.

On January 4 we more or less rang out the old year and brought in the new with our monthly celebration at Ray and Joan Rankins place. Father Shea attended along with family members and special guests from Corinthian House, Mass, followed by a delectable meal of scallops made for an enjoyable evening.

We now wait in anticipation of Jack Milan's annual visit with us at the end of January for a discernment of where we've been and where we might be going. In our hearts we know Jesus continues to call and to send. We pray for his grace to help us to remain faithful to prayer and committed to one another. May his Peace and Joy be yours in 1987.

Love and Prayers,
DUNCAN MAC ISAAC.

Hamilton Prayer Community

Dear CLC friends:

Greetings, in the Name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ in this new year of 1987.

We had a good year in 1986. We are now a membership of 8 and happy to be together. Our programme is Formation 1 and although a few of us have shared this programme a few times round, we always find a newness to bring to our lives that helps our growth of deeper awareness of Jesus and His family.

Recently we have added a treasury to our group to which donations are given for the needs of the community, or perhaps at times for our own CLC or group needs. As we are primarily a group of prayer sharing - this is a step to share in the greater community in a more active way.

We are asking prayers from our fellow CLC's that the Holy Spirit will enlighten our group with a name. To date we do not seem to have come up with an agreeable name. You might remember our no name group, from the famous skit performed at the 1986 Assembly at the Holy Spirit Centre in Hamilton, the "Wherever Two or More are Gathered" skit...well, that is us. Although, this may be what the Holy Spirit is intending for us, we are still searching for affirmation for this name or....another. Please pray for us.

To all at Loyola House, our executive staff and our editors, we thank you for all your work and effort put out in supporting us. God bless you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have just received word our "No Name Group" now have a name - "Wherever Two or More"!

Hamilton Prayer Group
-alias "No Name Group"
Reported: Barbara Legg.

CONGRATULATIONS!

REFLECTION ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE #1

In fulfillment of His promise of salvation, God became a human being, born of Mary, in order to give Himself continuously to all people and to invite all to give themselves continuously to Him, in and with Christ. This mutual gifting between God and His people, moved by the Spirit, is always conditioned by the circumstances of each situation. Therefore, we members of the World Federation of Christian Life Communities have composed these GENERAL PRINCIPLES to aid us in giving ourselves always more generously to God in loving and serving all in the world today. (G.P. 1)

General Principle #1 sets out for us the very source of the energy of our Christian lives. It is grace, gift. God gives Himself to us. The CLC nurtures in its members a sense of grace and gift. That sense of grace produces in us an experience of gratitude. We are a grateful people who receive our lives and all they hold as gift from a loving God. Even our CLC vocation is experienced and received as gift rather than as some obligation imposed from the outside.

The love of God comes to us very concretely: It is "conditioned by the circumstances of each situation." God loves us in and through our unique personal circumstances and vocation. Whether we are married, single, unemployed, a carpenter, housewife and mother, whether we have one child or ten children, whether we live in a house or an apartment, on a busy street or a quiet side-road, whether we are successful or failing...these are the means by which God loves us, graces us, gifts us.

Likewise, the concrete circumstances of our lives provide the means for our loving response to God. Ours is a spirituality rooted in real life. We are not called to be Christians anywhere but where we are...here and now.

The General Principles, and therefore the CLC itself, are a means to "aid us in giving ourselves more generously to God." The CLC is not an end in itself. Through the CLC way we can expect to find that we are becoming more generous with life, more loving, more open, more like Christ Himself. All of the dimensions of our CLC lives (spiritual development, community meetings, apostolic service, etc.) should be producing in us an ever deepening friendship with the person of Christ. He is the centre of the CLC.

Finally, in the CLC our self-gift to God in Christ is expressed in loving service. Through CLC our occupations, family life, church involvements, and civic life become the means by which we service the human family.

And of course, the CLC model for all of this is Mary. She is First Christian, Mother of the Church, and Model of our Lives and Mission.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE #1

1. In what ways do I experience my life and its circumstances as gift?
2. How is my work, family life, civic life the means for service of the human family?
3. How does my CLC assist me to a life of grateful response?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

REFLECTIONS ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WERE REQUESTED AT THE FALL '86 ASSEMBLY. PLEASE NOTE ALSO THE REFLECTION FOR WORLD CLC DAY.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

John C. Haughey, S.J., THE HOLY USE OF MONEY: PERSONAL FINANCES IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, Doubleday & Co. Inc., Garden City, New York, 1986 (Hardback)

An excellent resource to help in the integration of personal finances and Christian Faith. Draws liberally from the insights of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. A bit hard going in spots, but well worth the effort.

William Bridges, Ph.D., TRANSITIONS: MAKING SENSE OF LIFE'S CHANGES, Addison-Wesley Pub. Co, Don Mills, Ontario 1980 (Paperback)

If you are interested in understanding the interior dynamics of life's changes, big and small, this is a must. Easy to read, with plenty of real life examples. Dr. Bridges' book is easily integrated into a faith (christian) perspective.

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, A WORLDLY SPIRITUALITY, Harper & Row, San Francisco, 1984. (Hardback)

This book explores Christian spirituality from the point of view of creation and the environment. It is well written and easily read. Chapter 8, "Life as Grace," is a must. Chapter 10, "The Church's Ecological Economy," despite an impressive title, will challenge you where you live. An excellent resource for community prayer and reflection.



GUELPH CENTRE OF SPIRITUALITY ANNOUNCES:

SPIRITUALITY FOR INVOLVED LAITY

1987: A YEAR OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Busy people involved in life -- raising a family, making a living, volunteering in the parish, neighborhood or city -- frequently find little time to cultivate a vibrant spiritual life. The Spirituality for Involved Laity Series creates some "space" for busy people to rest, to learn, to grow

Come join us for any one, two, or all three week-ends!

Week-end I: February 27 - March 1, 1987

AN ECUMENICAL WEEK-END ON PRAYER learning various prayer forms, individual and communal. For fuller description, see reverse.

Week-end II: April 10 - 12, 1987

AN INDIVIDUALLY DIRECTED RETREAT personal prayer individually guided by an experienced spiritual director. See reverse.

Week-end III: June 12 - 14, 1987

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS a workshop on the "awareness examen" -- a practical tool for daily integration of faith and life. For more experienced pray-ers. See reverse.

The series includes ...

talks, small group reflection, individual prayer and spiritual direction; meeting new friends, an experience of Christian community, learning about yourself, about the Lord, about others, new skills in prayer and in interaction with others ...

Each week-end begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The cost for each week-end is \$60.00 (Canadian).

More info next page.....

AN ECUMENICAL WEEK-END ON PRAYER

"The only purpose of prayer methodologies is to discover a way one can become more open to the influence of God's Word." -- J. Veltri, SJ. Hence, this week-end will have a unity of experience but a diversity of methods to teach various ways of praying from our Christian traditions, e.g., centering prayer, meditation, use of fantasy, etc. Beginners in prayer will find this week-end just what they need. More experienced pray-ers will be enriched. The week-end will also feature Ecumenical worship.

AN INDIVIDUALLY DIRECTED RETREAT

In an individually directed retreat the environment is one of prayerfulness and silence. The focus is upon the presence and activity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one's life. Each retreatant is personally assisted by a retreat director in brief meetings (usually four times on a week-end retreat). In the meeting the retreatant is aided in 1) noticing the reality of God's presence and activity; 2) coming to trust what has been noticed; and 3) responding to this presence and activity. Prayerful reflection with Sacred Scripture is the usual setting for this process.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

Living in our technologically based world presents a real problem for persons wishing to lead a real spiritual life. How does one bring together the experiences of technological life with one's more personal life experiences? The issue is integration. For 400 years there has been a tradition of a technique called the "Awareness Examen" which brings together one's personal reactions to the social and technological milieu with an awareness of what God is saying in this. "Since we are social beings interacting with our world, one does not find God at all unless one can find God in the majority of one's daily experiences." -- Olivia N. Newton

I am applying for the 1987 Spirituality for Involved Laity Series.

Week-end I Week-end II Week-end III

I enclose a \$15.00 non-refundable application fee, which is considered part of the total cost.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE/STATE _____ POSTAL/ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE () _____

Mail application and fee to: The Secretary, Loyola House, Box 245, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. N1H 6J9

Aid We Can Help Shape Canada's Aid Program

You may not have had an opportunity to read the recommendations Development and Peace presented to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade in October, 1986. The presentation was made by Mr. Rolly Laroux, then President of D&P's National Council, and Executive Director Jacques Champagne. There were 23 recommendations. Here are a few of the main ones. (If you want a copy of the Summary of recommendations, contact the D&P Diocesan Council President in your area.)

Development and Peace feels that the first requirement for improving Canadian Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a clear definition of the objectives of this assistance and a general agreement on these objectives, and recommends:

Recommendation 2

That Canada advance the current deadlines for achieving the goal of 0.7% of the GNP for ODA, and that it set itself the goal of reaching 0.6% by 1990 and 0.7% by 1995 at the latest.

Recommendation 7

Canada's Official Development Assistance starting next year, should assign at least 0.15% of the GNP to the Less Developed Countries (the poorest); this percentage should continue to increase until about half of all ODA is assigned to these countries.

Recommendation 8

Bilateral aid should be limited and concentrated in a smaller number of countries (about 40), and the majority of these countries should be Less Developed Countries (the poorest).

Recommendation 9

Canadian aid should be directed in particular to those countries whose governments are seriously endeavouring:

- a) to pursue a more self-reliant development strategy, and
- b) to ensure that the poorest in their societies are able to meet their basic needs.

Recommendation 12

Where it is clearly determined that basic human rights are grossly and persistently violated by a State, that State should receive no Canadian government-to-government assistance, except for emergency relief aid. Aid through Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with local NGOs may however be maintained.

Recommendation 13

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Rights should prepare an annual report on human rights violations in various countries; this report, as well as reports and information provided by other organizations like ICCHRLA (Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America) and Amnesty International, should serve as a basis for determining whether or not aid should be granted to a government.

Recommendation 14

Canadian food aid should only be used as a short term, transitional measure, to fill a gap between food needs and production, and then only in conjunction with a detailed food production plan.

Write Now!

For those who wish to express their concern about Canada's Official Development Assistance, background information is available from Development and Peace, or Ten Days for World Development. The Churches' concerns listed on this page could be supported. Some may manage to get a meeting with their MP and emphasize these concerns. This is very important. The House Standing Committee members are holding further hearings in Ottawa. They're also travelling to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Solidarity with the impoverished people of the world involves influencing the development of just Canadian policies and practices that will enable full human development of all the earth's people. Each small action counts! Write your local MP or, William Winegard, Chairman Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade House of Commons, OTTAWA K1A 0A6

Regional Lobbies: We understand there are regional concerns and injustices throughout our country where members are working to right wrongs. Our entire body could be a more powerful lobby group. If any community is undertaking any such government lobby where we as a body could add strength, let us know. Perhaps this networking could be a topic for discussion at our next assembly. Let us hear from you. We also have membership on the Can. Catholic Lay Organization and hope to develop input to the Can. Conference of Catholic Bishops.