



# CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITIES

## NEWS LETTER

November 1987

### EDITORIAL

Another Fall Assembly is behind us but still lives in our hearts. Those present were touched by the peaceful, prayerful atmosphere and the insightful sharing—signs of the presence of the Spirit.

It was gratifying to meet so many new people and to renew old friendships. We were very pleased to have special guests with us: the delegation from the United States, Fr. Constantinus Mahlone of Lesotho, Africa, who is studying in Ottawa, and Sr. Barbara Paleczny, SSND of Toronto. Their presence gave the Assembly and international consciousness.

The children of some CLC parents attending the Assembly had their own program. The little ones gave a unique dimension to our Sunday lunch and liturgy.

We are deeply grateful to Jean Floyd for accepting the presidency of the Executive Council of the National Federation (EXCO). Her many gifts will certainly enhance the office. We bade fond farewell to Lois and Zack who served us so capably. They now act as Past Presidents, so we will continue to benefit from their expertise. Jean and all members of EXCO request constant prayer support.

We hope that all delegates to the Assembly have shared the prayer material and their reflections with their communities so that the seeds of Fall '87 may bear fruit all over the land!

DEAR UE

DEAR UE

In future, submissions to the NEWSLETTER should be mailed to:

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We hope to relieve Jean Floyd, former contact person who will be very busy as President. However, Jean has asked to remain on the NEWSLETTER team since it is so close to her heart—God Bless her!

NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DATE IS ..... JANUARY 15, 1988

Prayer, peace and joy till we write again ..... and may we be the first to wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Your Editors  
Our Lady of Lourdes CLC

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Shine on the world like bright stars: You are offering it the word of life" (Phil. 2: 15-16).

This is the gospel acclamation from the Sunday Mass of October 18th. It particularly spoke to me in verbalizing what I felt as I went through the history and activities of our National CLC since its federation with the World CLC in 1982.

God has richly blessed us with many "bright stars": Fr. John English, our ecclesiastical Assistant, Jack Milan our facilitator and now Co-ordinator, Peter and Barb Peloso the first co-presidents, Zach and Lois Zachariah the outgoing co-presidents, Helen, Shirley, Fran and Patrice our formation team, whose formation material has been such a rich resource and has been shared around the world, Sr. Barb Paleczny who collaborated and spearheaded the first formation program, *Growing Together in Christ*.

Now five years later, we have 24 groups with 200 people meeting faithfully and many more interested in our way of life. The quality and health of our federation was evident at the 1987 Assembly. Praise the Lord! The solidarity shown by the members of the U.S. delegation, as well as the presence of Lesotho's Fr. Constantinus and the surprise visit of Sr. Barb was truly great.

At this time when our bishops are meeting in Rome for a special synod to discuss the role of the laity in the church it seems the Lord is calling the laity to play a greater role in this church. It is significant too, I believe, that the Pope has declared this year a Marian Year.

Dr. Conrad Barth, a noted psychiatrist, stated that from his experiences in counselling people, he believes that it is necessary for us to experience three births. The physical birth, the spiritual birth through baptism and a psychological birth which allows us to experience being loved for ourselves. As I reflected on this I felt that this was one of the key experiences of the CLC way of life: meeting in small communities supporting one another, caring for one another, loving one another despite our disorder, our sinfulness. The ability to be able to talk about who we really are, knowing we are still loved for ourselves and for who we are and respected for our uniqueness is truly a freeing experience. What a better way to experience God's love for us and learn to love ourselves. This is the gift we have to offer!

Your EXCO met in October to discern the mandate given us at the Assembly and how we may implement this in the light of the Spirit. Guide courses and tools for Social Awareness seemed to be the two main areas of concern expressed by the members at the Assembly. The EXCO will be attempting to discern ways in which to meet this need and in so doing may call forth the gifts and talents of the membership in order to serve more of our church who seek and long for the ministering love of small communities. We seek your input because we exist to serve you the body of our CLC Federation. Let us hear from you.

My challenge then, as I begin my mandate, would be to give the gift God has given us so freely to "build the kingdom" in today's world. The gift of awareness and discernment, the gift of the word of life, the gift of community. I recommend too, using the reflection and sharing questions in your communities on the G.P.'s found in each Newsletter and to regularly review and pray for the goal-statement and purposes attached to the constitution mailed to all communities in August, 1986.

In closing let me echo the words of Mary, "Do whatever He tells you".

Jean Floyd

## Ecclesiastical Assistant

The following article appeared in the the *Prairie Messenger*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It gives us some idea of how well Fr. John English is promoting CLC across Canada.

John Has promised us an article for a future Newsletter. Since he has been "living out of a suitcase" this year because of his extended travel we hesitate to add to his work load. Whenever—we will welcome his sharing.

### Community begins with sharing of stories

By Marikay Falby.

SASKATOON—"The sharing of our story is the beginning of community life." With these words Father John English, SJ, opened a workshop held on Christian Life Community (CLC) groups, at Queen's House of Retreats, June 6-7.

"Since Vatican II, sharing of experience is necessary," English said, "to recall our many blessings, to find God in all things, to be aware that my experience is where I begin."

Nine people were invited to hear Father English of Loyola Retreat House, Guelph, explain the concept of CLC which, in the mission statement, is described as a "small cell within the church where members support and help each other to live out the Gospel message."

The groups are comprised of 10 to 12 laypeople, couples and singles, who come together on a regular basis to pray and share their life experiences. What sets CLC apart from other groups of laity is that the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius are a specific source and a characteristic instrument of spirituality.

In the matter of decision-making, it is the group which discerns communally, instead of the individual. "The discernment becomes not so much conceptual but rather experiential. First the group shares experience. Then, using the Spiritual Exercises as a basis, it discerns the different forces at work, makes a decision, and acts.

Concrete action is stressed—to be involved in the world and, as CLC says, "to be no longer able to separate what is Christian and what is profane in our life any more than one can separate what is God and what is human in the person of Christ."

There are 30 CLC groups in Canada, divided into regional groups, associated with the world federation, having the secretariat in Rome. All countries were represented at the world meeting held last year in Loyola, Spain.

There are four phases to the formation of CLC groups. The first phase of 30 weeks stresses the heightening of personal awareness; phase two, 20 weeks, combines personal and communal awareness with a deepening sense of the church and preparation for the Spiritual Exercises in daily life. Phase three, which can take from 9 to 10 months, centres on the 19th annotation from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The final phase encompasses a serious commitment to the general principles of the CLC, the decision to join the Federation and a deepening of communal and apostolic spirituality.

Reaction to the workshop was varied. Some participants shared their observations:

—"I've gone through the Exercises but never thought about it being done in community. I believe that in order to live fully a Christian lifestyle, you need community. I have asked the Lord to show me different kinds of community living for laity. This is a good form. It is solid spirituality.

--"I've never done the 19th annotation, but now I am going to push it. I can't verbalize my reaction, but if I gave it a color, it's powder blue—soft, a gentle yes, not terribly exciting. A symbol? I'd say wavy, going deep, all noise is left on the top."

—"I find the whole process is systematized and organized. If it has good leadership and good discernment, I don't see where it can run off the rails."

--"We are learning in the Ignation method *how* to decide, not *what* to decide. This is a real challenge. I was more comfortable in the old church being told what to do. But I like to be challenged."

—"We are all so busy, and there's so much to be done that when we do come together, it's all business. Each of us comes from a deep spirituality, but it's all individual. We have to bring it to some collective awareness. Our problem is that we do not share our life stories."

Since six of the participants were from the Queen's House community, much of the reaction came from discussion as to the possibility of incorporating the CLC principles into their way of life. English will return to Queen's House in the fall to conduct further sessions.

There are tentative plans for group leaders of CLC to assemble in the future in a western Canadian city.

#### A Prayer of Abandonment

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to love as Christ loves pleases you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

## NOTES FROM THE CO-ORDINATORS DESK

WELCOME to yet another new community in TORONTO under the able and enthusiastic leadership of ELAINE REGAN and FR. J.P. HERRIGAN, SJ. Let's keep them in our prayers.

TONI DILABIO, religion teacher at Sacred Heart of Mary High School in MISSISSAUGA, is spearheading another new community composed of the High School Staff. Toni, although not a member of a group, has attended the last two Assemblies. Her enthusiasm is inspiring her colleagues. With leadership like Elaine, J.P., and Toni we can't go wrong.

A word of CONGRATULATIONS to the Whenever Two or More CLC in HAMILTON. They are starting the Phase II journey of CLC formation guided by CHERYL BONANY. Happy journeying....

As you may know, ASSEMBLY '87 held in Guelph on the last week-end of September, was a rousing success. Our facilitator, MR. STEVE HILL of Toronto, skillfully lead the 60+ participants in a prayerful experience of integrating the Eucharist with daily life.

The event also had an international flavor. We were very happy to have with us FR. CONSTANTINUS Teboho Mahlone from our Community in LESOTHO, Africa. He brought us news of the struggles of his country because of its close proximity to South Africa. Currently, he is studying in Ottawa. Thanks for being with us, Father! We'll keep in touch.

Also, we had no less than six representatives from our Community in the U.S. Presidents BARBARA BEDOLLA of Columbia, MARYLAND and LOIS CAMPBELL of NEWARK, N.J. From ST. LOUIS, Missouri we greeted FR. BOB JOHNSTON, SJ, the CLC Promoter for the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, and MARIE SCHIMBELFENING, the Secretary of the International CLC Executive Council. FR. BOB YANKOEVTCH, SJ brought greetings from ANAPOLIS, Maryland, and FR. DOM TOTARAO, SJ, from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Yes, they even came from the Maritimes. JOHN AND CATHY GILLIES represented the Disciples of Light CLC in CAPE BRETON, N.S. and JULIA DONOHUE together with GAIL MACDONALD brought the presence of the Bloomfield CLC, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Many thanks to JEAN FLOYD, of Our Lady of Lourdes CLC in WATERLOO. She was elected National President for our Community. She will take on the important job of national leadership, along with the other members of the Executive for the next two years. We owe her our prayers of support and co-operation! It's a generous service to the Church and the world.

While we are expressing gratitude, we want to say THANKS to SHIRLEY GATCHENE, Our Lady of Lourdes CLC, WATERLOO. Shirley has recently resigned as Chair of the National Formation Team. For many years she has pioneered CLC formation. Under her leadership and in collaboration with PATRICE REITZEL of VANCOUVER and HELEN DRAGO of WATERLOO, our CLC Formation Handbooks took shape. If you are using the Phase I or Phase II of the Formation program, you are the direct beneficiary of her work. The Formation team will miss her spirit of committed service. But she is anxious that we not "write her off!" Characteristic of her Ignatian heart, she has asked to be kept in mind for other forms of service. Expect a telephone call, Shir!

Another great big WELCOME to the Gaia CLC of GUELPH. After four years of faithful formation and serious discernment, Gaia was received as a Federated Community by the Assembly. They have heard the call to the CLC way of life and responded, CONGRATULATIONS! The members of that community are RICHARD and OLGA PROTZ, CONNIE SHAW and FR. REMI LIMOGES, SJ.

Were you wondering who supplied the SPLENDID MUSIC during the Assembly? Our musicians are PAUL and THERESA TRATHYK of St. Michael's CLC in WATERLOO. Paul has a degree in Liturgy from Notre Dame and together with Theresa they form a dynamic liturgical apostolic team. We thank the Lord for the gift of their talent and committed service. They enrich us as well as the entire church! Thank, Paul and Theresa.

Assembly '87 will likely go down in HISTORY! For the first time ever, J,N had a simultaneous Children's Program, thanks to the FAMILY vision and hard work of ZACK and LOIS ZACHARIAH, our immediate Past Co-Presidents and PETER and BARBARA PELOSO, the founding Co-Presidents of our National Community. They engaged the services of two extremely talented teachers to conduct a children's program parallel to the Assembly program. The teachers from the WATERLOO COUNTY SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD are MISS LINDA FRANCHETTE and MRS. BARBARA VAN DER VOORT. The children participating in the program together with other children and family members joined the Assembly at noon on Sunday for a family celebration of Eucharist and lunch. Our initial attempt to make our CLC a more family oriented community was a resounding success. Thank you LOIS, ZACK, PETER, BARBARA, LINDA and BARBARA!

Finally the Assembly could not have happened without the organizational work of the BRANTFORD CLC, co-ordinated by GERRY RICH who is also a member of the Executive. Organizing an Assembly involves, among other things, registrations transportation, arranging for the facility, supplying refreshments, advertizing, dashing around gathering various supplies, a million telephone calls and generally seeing to the comfort of all. MANY THANKS, folks!

The work of PROMOTING the CLC goes steadily on with the travels of FR. JOHN ENGLISH, SJ, our Ecclesiastical Assistant. To date he has travelled across this large country twice, conducting Mini-Guides Courses as a way of introducing people to our Community. He has stirred up a lot of interest. Not a week goes by without a letter asking for Formation materials from folks who have participated in these Courses. As we grow beyond southwestern Ontario, new challenges in formation and communication are generated. But with our able Executive and your continued support, we will meet that challenge.

Finally, FR. JOHN ENGLISH and PETER PELOSO have been appointed to the International Formation Team forming an English Speaking Canadian link with the International body.

SO LONG, till next Newsletter!

## WORLD EXECUTIVE

### Greetings From The President:

My Dear Friends,

I am writing this short note at the completion of our first full Executive Council meeting held in Rome from the 22-4-87 to 30-4-87. It has been quite an extraordinary time for us. On Saturday morning the 25th, Fr. Kolvenbach, s.j. participated in our meeting. Afterwards I had an enjoyable talk with him over lunch.

The whole of our meeting went very well and it was wonderful to experience again the spirit of Loyola '86. We examined very closely the Synthesis of Loyola and we are determined to ensure that this spirit continues to grow in all our members.

On the final morning of our meeting we, as an Executive Council, were invited to be present at the Pope's morning Mass in his chapel. We felt very grateful for receiving such an invitation. It made us really as one in praying for the whole church and our members worldwide. After the Mass we were each introduced to the Holy Father who had words of encouragement for our movement and families. He blessed our work and urged us to continue in this way of life. [See picture July '87 NEWSLETTER]

It was a memorable ending to what had been a very hard but joyful time spent working and living together as a community.

May we continue to have the support of your prayers as we strive to fulfill the desires, wishes, and recommendations of Loyola.

Yours Sincerely in Christ  
Brendan McLoughlin  
President WFCLC

The Executive Council of the World Federation of Christian Life Communities (WFCLC) met in Rome, reflected on the graces of Loyola '86 and spent their days in deliberation on the seven Means for Implementing the Recommendations of Loyola '86. They prepared mandates for some of the working groups, and appointed co-ordinators for each group.

Jack Milan is co-ordinator of a reflection team for *the integration of the Ignatian Charism and CLC experience*. Other working groups will deal with *Formation, CLC Mission and Analysis* and *Twinning*.

Work will continue on the development of additional mandates or different ways of responding to other points of the Synthesis of Loyola '86.

An Ad Hoc Commission to draft amendments to our GP's and statutes was set up to be co-ordinated by Nick Rieman, S.J. of Detroit.

Attempts to deepen international presence will be made concerning the United Nations where CLO has status as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Since the death of Tom Monahan, our representative at the U.N., the part-time services of Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick, S.J. of New York CLC (Ecclesiastical Assistant) and Charlotte Rodiewicz, a New York CLC member, have been gratefully accepted.

New World CLC Day will focus on Mary, and in particular on the latest Encyclical, *Redemptoris Mater*. (Details to follow in later editions of the Newsletter.)

Sincere thanks to Marie Schimelfening, secretary of WFCLC, for her fine minutes, which we had to edit drastically, but hope will give you some sense of the World EXCO.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Happy the man who discovers wisdom, the man who gains discernment:  
gaining he is more rewarding than silver, more profitable than gold. She  
is beyond the price of pearls, nothing you could covet is her equal. In her  
right hand is length of days; in her left, riches and honor. Her ways are  
delightful ways, her paths all lead to contentment. She is a tree of life for  
those who hold her fast, those who cling to her live happy lives.

Proverbs 3: 13-18

## COMMUNITY SHARING

Disciples of Light CLC,  
Mabou, Cape Breton Island,  
Nova Scotia

Greetings from the Disciples of Light in the Highland heart of Nova Scotia—on beautiful Cape Breton Island. After a warm and much appreciated summer, we are enjoying the fruits of a bountiful fall harvest and the richness of color in the hills surrounding the Mabou area.

The Disciples of Light, besides lapping up the good beach weather this summer (the water in Port Hood was like bath water all summer), have kept busy. Visiting relatives "from away" who come back each summer to recharge batteries "down home" and to catch up on family news have kept us on the go: as have the many summer festivals in our communities in which we have been involved.

And the summer of '87 was a busy one—the International Gathering of the Clans made Nova Scotia an exceedingly busy place this year with "Scots wha' hae" descending upon us in droves. The centennial reunion of the CND Convent School in Mabou was the focal point for John and Cathy Gillies who prepared a historical book telling the story of CND education in Mabou.

Since you last heard from us, we had our annual discernment week-end with Jack Milan at the CND Renewal Centre in Mabou. Sr. Bileen Tobin, CND, our group guide, Fr. Howard Shea, SFM, our ecclesiastical advisor, were with us that week-end. Jack, with his many words of practical wisdom, helped us recommit ourselves to our community after a prayerful review of our last two years as a CLC community.

Although he has had a desire for a corporate service, we have not discovered it yet, and so continue to be of service in various ways as the Lord calls us. Ray Rankin, since March 19th, has been working for a new boss. Colin Campbell was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, which includes all of Cape Breton Island and some of mainland Nova Scotia.

Ray works along with Fr. Charlie Cameron as codirector for Renewal and, as such, has been very busy travelling around the Diocese meeting with various renewal groups. He is also giving the Spiritual Exercises to several members of his parish. In July, he organized the fourth annual Bible Institute in Antigonish, a five day course on Scripture which was attended by more than 150 lay, religious and clergy members from the four Atlantic provinces. All of the Disciples of Light, with the exception of Joe van Zutphen, attended the Bible Institute. Ray and Joan, daughter Jennifer and friend, Christine, travelled by car to New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend the North American Charismatic Conference on the Holy Spirit which was a tremendous event for them.

Duncan MacIsaac, after working as a volunteer at Corinthian House in Whycomagh, our local L'Arche Community, discerned that he would go back to university to prepare for a teaching degree. He is currently enrolled at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish and lives with Fr. Howard Shea at his residence with some other St. F.X. students. Duncan still attends our weekly meetings.

Joe van Zutphen, a teacher in Port Hood, helped organize "Teen-Aid" in the school there, a 15-week course given by volunteers on Christian moral and

family values. He and his wife, Carmen, were also involved in various pro-life issues this past year.

The community as a whole drew up some formation guidelines for new members this past spring. One couple had expressed an interest in joining us earlier, so Carmen and Duncan began the formation program with them this past summer. This project gave us a great incentive to look at our CLC roots and to re-confirm our commitment to Ignatian spirituality.

Also, during the summer, several members of our community attended the Healing Retreat in Sackville, New Brunswick, sponsored by the Atlantic Charismatic Service Committee. This was a tremendous experience, especially to hear the well-known Jesuits, Frs. Matthew and Dennis Linn. We could easily recognize the Ignatian influence in their talks.

In August, the community tearfully bade farewell to Joe and Carmen van Zutphen who, for a year, went to Gaitherburg, Maryland, where Joe is on a sabbatical, studying for a Masters of Special Education. This past spring Joe, Carmen and family took a trip there to visit Joe's brother, Ben, and encountered the Mother of God Community, a charismatic community of some 1200 people, outside Washington, D.C. This community puts out the Scripture guide *THE WORLD AMONG US*. Joe applied and was accepted at Loyola College (where else?) in Baltimore, so the family is staying in Maryland where Joe will continue his studies. Carmen is working full-time at a city day-care centre, encountering racial tension and economic deprivation. We miss them terribly in our community, but we have sent them out to serve the Lord and are encouraging them with our prayers.

John and Cathy Gillies have continued to participate in events in the Mabou area. John serves on parish council, and this past spring took part in a panel discussion when the parish Development and Peace Committee sponsored a talk by a priest from the Philippines. John's interest in the Third World, his travels, and his several years of experience in Nigeria stood him in good stead here. Cathy, besides working at home full-time looking after William—who is a very active toddler—and coping with an abundant garden and orchard on their farm, is involved with a writer's group and the publication of a small magazine of local fiction and poetry.

This is about it for new from us. Ray and Joan have decided to work on Marriage Encounter in our Diocese for the upcoming year. Duncan's studies include a theology course by Fr. Bernie MacDonald, a noted pro-life advocate in our Diocese, and Duncan is pleased with that. John and Cathy attended the CLC National Assembly in Guelph and were glad of the opportunity to make contact with other CLC groups.

As we move towards winter, and the roaring gales of December, we can look back fondly to the many happy days of these past few months and thank the good Lord for his great generosity.

Yours in Christ  
Cathy Gillies

## Sad News from Afar

September 21, 1987

*"HE IS RISEN, HE IS NOT HERE"*

The Philippine situation today is very much the same and I think it is the role of the catechist, especially that of the Molian (Mother of Life) catechist to remove this fear from their hearts. In Jesus there is nothing to fear. Sufferings, tribulations or even death. This is my vision: to have JESUS proclaimed, at least, in our diocese Camarines Sur, so that one day we will be ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, ONE PEOPLE.

Somewhere in the green fields of Pangasaun in Pagoring Nuevo, Libmanan, Camarines Sur, is a nameless grave for the man who--two weeks before he died--wrote the above quoted words. For those who must have dug his grave know that we hope to find his body, bless it and find it a final resting place near his parent's home. We do not seek revenge.

NESTOR DACARA, a CLC (Christian Life Community) guide in Bicol, left his home in Iriga City on August 13, 1987--a day after his 35th birthday. At the Social Action Center, Archdiocese of Caceres, he cashed his \$25 pay cheque and went off for his scheduled tasks. That day, he was going to start his week-long immersion phase in the community where he had hoped "to have Jesus proclaimed". He was "to walk" with the barrio people as they prepared themselves--psychologically, culturally, spiritually--for the installation and proper use and maintenance of facilities that would bring them clean and potable water. Before leaving for the barrio, he had lunch with Estrella Abdon, another Social Development Worker and a CLC member. They discussed their plans for the week ... they would never see each other again.

The efforts to gather information surrounding Nestor's disappearance have been coordinated with Fr. Jun Besinio, Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Pillars and Rev. Fr. Manuel Ricafort, Vicar Forane of Libmanan, Cam. Sur.

Reports revealed that around four o'clock in the afternoon of August 13th Nestor, while taking his snacks at the Bening's store, was accosted by two young armed men who brought him to a road leading to the barrio chapel. Witnesses said that they tied Nestor's hands behind his back, kicked him as they all went uphill. Then, he was brought to the nearby elementary school house where four to six men were waiting. They were there till sunset. At around seven that evening, they brought Nestor to another place nobody knows.

The week following Nestor's disappearance, the SAC office held several meetings to validate information received, to send word through parish contacts to the people who could shed light, and to get organized for greater effectivity in the search. The SAC staff felt that organizing a Task Force with a prominent figure heading it, would be a good step. Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, O.P., Archbishop of Caceres has unflinchingly expressed his support for the task at hand. The SAC staff has vowed to continue its efforts to bring justice and peace to a co-worker they admire and love.

With only a handful of people expressing their commitment, other events dissipated our efforts. The Aug. 28th coup in Manila, the bombing of bridges in Bicol, and the Penafancia fiesta activities... dwarfed the event of Nestor's loss.

The residents of Pangasuan have been silent. In their homes, they talk in whispers--afraid for their own safety. No one is willing to tell us the truth. Our initial contacts who gave us bits of information tell us that we should stop searching because this will mean more trouble for us.

But "in Jesus there is nothing to fear". And so we will not stop. We will continue to reach out to the conscience of those who hold the truth in their hearts and we know that the truth will set them free. As we carry the burden of pain and powerlessness, we find the words of the Scripture as the source of our hope.....

*WHY LOOK AMONG THE DEAD FOR SOMEONE WHO IS ALIVE? HE IS NOT HERE. HE IS RISEN*

*(Luke 24:5-6)*

Leadership Community

### The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of Virgins, my mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

## REFLECTIONS ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE #3

The Christian Life Community aims to develop and sustain men and women, adults and youth, who commit themselves to the service of the Church and the world in every area of life: family, work, professional, civil and ecclesiastical. Our community is for all who feel the urgent need to unite their human life in all its dimensions with the fullness of their Christian faith. It is especially for those who are concerned with temporal affairs. To prepare our members more effectively for their apostolates, especially in their daily environment, each CLC group is formed of people with similar ideals who are willing to work together, and each group organizes itself to meet the demands of vital Christian living for its members. Thus we seek to achieve a unity of life in response to the many calls of Christ from within the world in which we live.

The first two general principles, already commented upon in previous issues of the Newsletter, form the "Preamble" to the G.P.s. They focus our attention on the free and loving initiative of God on our behalf, as well as the call of Christ to each person. G.P. #3 now dwells on our response to God in Christ.

Our Community aims at encouraging and sustaining in its members a free response of total commitment to witness to this radical love of God in all the areas of our lives and in every form of service.

Because the love of God is TOTAL, our committed response is also total. God's love is total because it seeks to animate every fibre of our being and every aspect of our daily life. A total response, then, will witness to that love in family life, work, civic and parish responsibilities. No sector of life will escape the love-energy of God making itself felt through our own activities. This is how we "unite our human life with the fullness of Christian faith and achieve a unity of life in response to the call of Christ."

Our commitment is also RADICAL. That is, it is as unconditional as was the love of God which expressed itself in Jesus by the life He chose and the death He freely accepted. God was so pleased with His life that God raised Him from the dead. We seek to identify with Jesus and to reproduce in our own lives His life, death, and resurrection (Cf. Phil.3: 10-11).

Our identification with Him transforms us into the very Person of Jesus, here and now. That is, we become "persons-for-others," serving the Church and the world through the ordinary tasks of each day. Like Jesus we develop a special concern for the poor and marginalized and seek to announce God's Kingdom of Justice, Peace, and Love in every sector of life--social, cultural, political and economic, and religious.

Finally, our way of total and radical commitment is rooted in a community of others who also desire this kind of vital Christian living. We assist one another, as "Friends in the Lord," to find that unique path of discipleship and service each one is called to travel.

The commitment described in G.P. #3 is serious and demanding. It requires a life-long process of singlehearted growth and development which is initiated by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, kept moving forward by our CLC formation, and sustained by the Christian Life Community and the Church. With St. Paul each of us, at any stage of life, can say "I do not claim that I have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself ... I forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above." (Phil.3: 12-14)

### Questions for Reflection

1. What does commitment mean to me? What kinds of commitments do I have in my life right now? To whom or to what are they a response?
2. What are the ways I find myself sustained in my commitments? What more would help me?
3. How would I describe my Faith commitments at this time in my life? To what or to whom is my Faith commitment a response?
4. What sustains me in my faith commitment? Prayer? Retreats? Eucharist? Sacraments? Spiritual direction? My CLC group? What more do I need?
5. Pray with the following Scriptures and share the fruit of your praying with your CLC group: Phil.3: 7-14, Luke 9: 57-62, Matt. 13:44-46, Luke 9: 21-26.



## FEATURES

### INDONESIA

#### The Role of the Laity in the Church

Contributed by Fr. A. Sudiardja S.J.  
Translated from *Nurani*, Aug-Sept 1986

I think that nowadays the phrase "lay people" in ordinary use is quite different in meaning from what the Church means. Usually "lay people" means those people who know little or nothing, who are not professional, those who are ordinary members, etc. The phrase has got a derogatory meaning. Probably such was what the Church actually thought in the past. However, since Vatican Council II, it has become clear that "lay people" are considered very positively. The "lay people" are the greater part of the Church's members, with very diverse positions, vocations and roles. It is difficult to describe them in a few words. They are the strength of the Church and have a special apostolate, which is also very diverse.

Their special apostolate, or their characteristic, is that they are sent into the world, into the hub of society. In contrast to the hierarchy who administer the Church organization, or the clergy, who should be witness to the eschatological direction of life, the "lay people" should be the Church's ambassadors in the world, be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, bringing Christ's light. It is unthinkable that a priest or a nun or a monk should take part in governing a country, or become a soldier, business person, farmer, worker, politician, engineer, physician, etc. These should be the tasks of "lay people". These are the Church's works which are entrusted to the laity. This is so because within these tasks the lay people can express their lives freely, without constraining rules from the Church or religious orders. They are expected to give witness to Christian life, lived well and responsibly, so that through them other

people can see the saving Truth.

On the other hand, their tasks are diverse. A Catholic teacher has a different world and field of activity, compared with a Catholic physician, or a Catholic soldier, or a Catholic business person. All of them work according to their specific field, bringing their Christian faith into it. So laicization does not mean just giving liturgy jobs to lay people, promoting them to "pro-deacon" to conduct liturgy ceremonies, giving communion, teaching catechists, etc. Laicization means much more. Laicization means motivating the laity to realize their very important role in the Church, which is bringing the light of Christ to the world, to their neighbours.

One of the difficulties experienced by the Church, and a very big one, is that the laity do not sufficiently realize their role, that they are needed by the Church, that they have on their shoulders the duty to proclaim Christ's Good News to the world. Is this difficulty realized? Should the Laity reflect on themselves, and ask themselves whether this is true?

Previously, perhaps a lay person's reaction would have been an apology: "Sorry, I am a lay person ... can't do anything ...etc". But now, in the spirit of Vatican II, the reaction should be like that of the journalist who elbows into the crowd to get the news: "I am a newspaperman, sir", and people will answer: "You are welcome ... get on with it", making way for him or her. Similarly, a true lay person will show an attitude of preparedness: "Let me do that job, I am a lay person".

The development of various organizations in the Church shows that the laity is growing mature, realizing their role. The Christian Life Communities are one of these expressions, intending to develop themselves, maturing themselves in order to become a better salt for the world.

### JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Sr. Barb Paleczney paid a surprise visit during our Assembly. While there we invited her to speak to us about her work as Co-Ordinator for Social Justice Office of the Ontario Conference of Religion. Her talk was inspiring and her message was to mission beginning with your role in life. She left us with many sources of information and direction. We list these below for your information and reference

Project Ploughshares  
Conrad Grebel College,  
Westmount Rd.,  
Waterloo, Ont.

→ Action Guide,  
Worship Guide  
Re Arms Control;

International Institute of Concern for Public Health,  
Dr. Rosalie Bertell,  
343-67 Mowat Ave.,  
Toronto, Ont.

→ Video tapes, hand-outs  
Re Nuclear Threat,  
Pollution, and Environment

Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops  
90 Parent Ave.,  
Ottawa, Ont.

or  
Office of Religious Education,  
Hamilton Chancer Office,  
700 King St.,  
Hamilton Ont.

→ Any Copies of  
Bishops' Statements

Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice,  
947 Queen St. E.,  
Toronto, Ont.  
M4M 1J9

→ Refugee Kit and  
Social Assistance Flyer

CRC O Social Action Office,  
101-146 Laird Dr.,  
Toronto, Ont.  
M4G 3V7

→ Produces Social Justice Bulletin  
giving brief overview of  
Canadian Inter-Church justice work.  
4 times/year + urgent action appeal.  
\$10/yr.

For all who may be engaged in studying the issue of Free Trade we recommend the booklet published by the CCCC Publications Service, 90 Parent Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1N 7B1. It contains suggestions for three workshop sessions on the free trade issue. The sessions are based on the traditional principles *see, judge, act*. A set of background notes on the topic, plus a possible model for or-

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### Reports:

#### Formation Report

Fall 1986 - Fall 1987

Members: Shirley Gatchene, Helen Drago, Fran Morrison.

The Formation Team has had three meetings since our Fall " Assembly. During this time, we evaluated the past and assessed our needs and, in a brainstorming session, reached some goals.

In January, we invited our co-ordinator, Jack Milan, to attend our meetings. His input enables us to get more up-to-date and complete information about communities across Canada and their needs. His CLC expertise has already proven very helpful, and we are grateful for his presence with us.

Some goals for future deliberation and implementation:

1. To systematically visit groups as a means to assess needs and give support
2. Plan enrichment experiences/programs based on the needs.
3. Where feasible, team members will initiate new groups and/or guides in the use of formation materials.
4. Plan and implement a "min-guide course " for existing and potential group guides. This course should be oriented to lay people.
5. Encourage individually-directed retreats, especially among formation groups.

Early in 1987 we perceived a need in the region for a get-together of all CLC'ers and those in formation. Result--A CLC Spring Gathering held Saturday, May 30th at Ignatius Hall, Guelph. The afternoon included a film on the Eucharist, liturgy, games for the kids, fun and refreshments. A good time was had by all.

We deeply regret to announce the departure of Shirley Gatchene from our team. Shirley has worked with the Formation Team since its inception, acting as a very capable chairperson. After a long and prayerful discernment, she made the decision to leave us. Her many skills, experience and personal vitality will be greatly missed. We extend to her our sincere thanks for her faithful and energetic service to CLC in Canada.

Your team looks forward to another year of working for the formation of CLC in Canada.

#### NEWSLETTER REPORT

Our Lady of Lourdes community in Waterloo will continue as publishers of the Newsletter.

Three issues were published last year in late Fall, early Spring and early Summer. It was decided due to time and expense that three publications per year would continue.

We received no response to the naming of this newsletter and, since it is your newsletter the publishers have not taken the responsibility of giving it a name. So, until we receive those creative suggestions our membership that we know are there, it shall remain nameless".

We applied for second class postage registration from the post office during the past year. However, since we do not have a central office nor a permanent publisher to use as a permanent mailing outlet, our request was turned down. As the situation changes we may re-apply. You will notice after receiving the last publication that we have also tried computerizing. We were pleased with the effect and format and plan to continue this means of printing.

Please send us your submissions according to deadlines

published in the Newsletter. A suggestion from the assembly last year was a "Letters to the Editor" column. We initiated this but had only one submission.

Lastly, we invite, encourage, cajole --criticism, ideas or whatever. Above all, if anyone has anything they would like to contribute we would welcome sharing your creative gifts with our members.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Good News about Finances

Reflecting on what has happened to us financially it is noteworthy that, we have no dues as such. A suggestion of one-half of one percent of annual income is made as an annual contribution to CLC but there is no follow up to this. Since most people give through Ignatius College to obtain a receipt for income tax purposes, it would be impossible to know who gave what.

Still over this past year the money has come in. When a suggestion was made two years ago that we hire a co-ordinator there was skepticism and yet trust. Hiring Jack Milan last Jan. was a graced moment for our National Community. We stepped out in faith.

We are a small National Community and yet by the end of this year we may have raised close to \$15,000.00. ALLELUIA!

Let me quote from an interview of Gordon Caskey whose article was in the last CLC Newsletter. "I think one of the most important disciplines for any one coming in is a discipline of money. Money and what it represents is an idol for almost all of us..."

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

##### Reports: CHILDREN AT OUR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The following children were present at our Sept. 26, 1987 Assembly, Joe & Shanti Zachariah, Clara & Francis Sullivan, Matthew, Robert & Andrea Peloso for the full week-end. Vincent, Stephen & Colleen Morris joined us Sunday A.M. at 9:00 and fitted into our children's week-end program. By noon many other children joined us for lunch and Mass.

Many months ago I read a book by Sofia Cavaletti, a pioneer children's catechist from Rome, Italy. Sofia's life long dedication has been to explore and nurture the spiritual experience of children starting at age three. Her experience is encapsulated in the above mentioned book *The Spiritual Experience of a Child*.

I was struck with the book's report that children can experience the action of the spirit and this can be healing and transforming even at an early age. Bringing children to an awareness of their own experience of God is much more meaningful and transforming than didactic teaching. Sofia reports that her children experience joy in their spiritual discoveries and more personal confidence results. In the tumultuous teenage years would it not be much easier to drop religion which has been taught, but has no meaning, in favour of spiritual experiences nurtured throughout the years.

This realization engendered the idea of bringing children into our assembly. The idea of bringing children "for our retreat" was not universally embraced at our executive meeting but the executive allowed those interested parents to carry our children's program on a trial basis.

Through Sr. Marie Taylor, a religious education consultant from the Wellington County Separate School Board, I met Lynda Franchetto and Barbara Vandervoort. Both of these people are very dedicated grade school teachers. We began discussing Sofia Caveletti's concepts. Based on this both Lynda and Barbara volunteered their week-end time to the children. Together we met with Fr. Remi Limoges to assess and reserve the "Villa" for the week-end. Separate meals were provided at the villa and the children slept in sleeping-bags on the floor at Loyola House.

The week-end was on the theme of the Good Shepherd. The children painted, played games, roasted marshmallows on a bon-fire, watched films, prayed and generally had a good time. Hopefully the Lord was able to be recognized with them as well.

Next year this program can be expanded. In the meantime we have contacted some of the catechists who have been trained in the Cavaletti method in Toronto and plan some future contact with them.

There are several advantages in having children on our annual assembly retreat.

1. Our children may form the nucleus of youth CLC in Canada

2. Children will not learn to hate retreats since they "take mom and dad away.

3 "Our children will not be left at home with a babysitter and videos, but will have a valuable experience of community themselves.

Children should not just be tolerated on retreat. Children are not dispensable. Whatever nuisance factor they bring will be greatly countered by their "natural" presence, the example they set and the joy they bring.

**"UNLESS YOU BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN YOU CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."**

#### Reflection of a Newcomer

The recent CLC Assembly was a wonderful opportunity for me, a new member, to see CLC working on the national and international level. As I reflect back to that week-end I remember us being bathed by God's love through prayer, sharing, and the Eucharist. We were like yeast being prepared by the baker. In the baking of bread the yeast sits for about ten minutes in warm water--slowly growing and bubbling. But the yeast cannot sit there forever. It must fulfill its purpose as a catalyst. We enjoyed the peace and warmth of the Assembly but we had to return to our own communities to grow. We cannot forget the bubbling which the Holy Spirit instilled in us. We, like the yeast, should become the catalyst within our own communities. Just think of the wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread. See the large puffy golden loaves on the counter. Now, let's expect the Lord to let us rise with our communities.

Thank you Father for that gentle, loving touch that we all received in Guelph on a beautiful September weekend

Elaine Regan  
Toronto 11 CLC-in-Formation

#### CLC IN LESOTHO

##### CLC Introduced in Lesotho

CLC was introduced in Lesotho in 1972 under the supervision of Bishop Paul Khoari in the Diocese of Leribe in Lesotho. He had heard about CLC when he was in Rome so he sponsored three sisters to go abroad to study CLC and introduce it in Lesotho. It was formally introduced in 1972 and groups were formed in high schools in 1973. It took root and grew rapidly under the guidance of an Oblate priest who was the National Assistant working with the sisters who had introduced it. They formed a team of five people including a scholastic student and this team was responsible for the administration and formation programs in Lesotho.

##### Formation Courses

Formation courses are usually held twice a year, one during the summer holidays and the other during the winter holidays. These times are the most convenient for our members to attend courses as most of them are students and working people. Our courses are divided into two groups, a youth group and an adult group. Both are held in one place at the same time but in different sessions: for example, when Fr. Patrick O'Sullivan and Jose Gsell came to Lesotho, Fr. Patrick gave the course to the youth group while Jose gave it to the adult group. We also had general sessions for both groups for matters of common interest.

##### Growth and Affairs of CLC in Lesotho

Since CLC was introduced more than 50% of the members are in high schools. There are 47 groups of which 39 are youth groups. The 8 adult groups make up one-quarter of the total number of members. Most of the adult members are teachers, nurses and civil servants: very few of them are common people. The source of our spirituality comes from retreats and spiritual exercises for which we depend entirely on foreign assistance. CLC is only thirteen years old in Lesotho but has grown so much that assistance is now needed as we do not have enough people with proper experience or knowledge to guide the groups. The sisters who started the groups have been withdrawn from its activities by their congregations and the priest who was the Assistant has resigned from that position so we are left with one sister who has been with the team from the beginning.

##### Achievements and Governance

Our CLC has always been represented in all International General Assemblies, in 1979 in Manila, Phillipines; 1982 Providence, U.S.A.; 1986 Loyola House, Spain. It was in 1986 when we applied for affiliation to the World Community that we were accepted and officially recognized as a full member of the World Community and participated in the election of CLC World EXCO. All along CLC has been doing well under the guidance of the people who introduced it. In 1979 we elected a committee which served for

three years and at the end of its term we elected another committee. Unfortunately for this second election the person in charge of the procedure made a mistake in the process and the Bishop in charge was approached and he ordered things to stop; so now we are in the process of preparing members to elect a new committee.

Expectations/ Requests/

We hope that through the prayers of our fellow CLC members we will be able to come to a stable situation which would lead to a proper election. We are also expecting any kind of help that our brothers and sisters would be able to provide us with, preferably help concerning formation courses. We are also in need of CLC literature.

For correspondence with Lesotho CLC I recommend:

Sr, Thomas Schofield, S.C.O.,  
P.O. Box 60,  
Pitseng 320,  
Lesotho.

Miss Clara Suping,  
St. Paul Catholic Mission  
P.O. Box 150,  
Botha - Botha 400  
Lesotho.

Rev. Father C. Mahloane,  
175 Main St.,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 1C3

A PRAYER

God, give me eyes that always see  
The glories of each new day;  
Roses beside a cottage door,  
Wild flowers on the hills away.

Keep my life a simple one  
That I may always thrill  
With Joy when I can hear  
The song of the whippoorwill.

Fill my heart with gladness  
As I go about each day,  
Keep me cheerful at all costs,  
Unselfish, kind and good.