

Update

Christian Life Community Canada



National Address: Jesuits of Upper Canada, 1325 Bay St. Toronto, ON, M5R 2C4. e-mail: clc2@nbnet.nb.ca
(506)622-2869

December 2002.

Greetings to CLCers across Canada and to our friends in other parts of the world.

We send you our warmest greetings at this time of Advent and we hope that your preparation for the feast of Christ's birth be joyful, peaceful and prayerful.

As we look back over the past year we see significant happenings for CLC Canada. There are many signs of the action of the Spirit in our national body. It is gratifying to note how many communities are taking to heart the General Council's suggested plan for renewal in their regular meetings by streamlining their meetings to allow time for discernment into individual/communal action as well as personal sharing.

Ignatius wanted "fire and zeal" from his first lay Congregations. There are a number of examples of such fervor across our country: the seven intrepid ANIA "campers" who offered their CLC expertise as Spiritual Animators; the formation of a new world region, *CLC North America*, which was the outcome of the North American conference held in Guelph, ON; and the growing interest in sharing our Ignatian spirituality with groups in local parishes in PEI and Ontario, are all reported here.

CLC Canada is just over 25 years old (we are delighted to include a recent photograph of four of the founding members). In our *Getting to know you* section you will find interviews with some of our important elders in CLC: Jean Floyd past national president and J.P. Horrigan, sj, our Central Ecclesial Assistant. Here you will also find a short history of the vibrant and active Emmaus Community of Comox, BC.

There are a number of significant changes at the national level. At this time we now "pass the torch" to the incoming presidents Kati Gumbmann from Winnipeg, MB and Graydon Nicholas of Fredericton, NB. We also welcome Lin Blackmore from South Esk, NB as our new National Community Coordinator. We are grateful for the rich and wonderful experience we have had in our years as presidents of CLC Canada and we know that Kati and Graydon are going to be blessed abundantly. Please remember them in your prayers.

May you receive many blessings at Christmas and during the year to come.

Thank you!

Fran and Elaine

Getting to know you...

History of the Emmaus CLC Community, Comox, BC

Emmaus CLC grew from a desire for prayer and community. Their first gathering took place in 1974 at Ralph and Sue Rambow's home in Courtenay, BC. Their time together was centered on faith sharing resulting in a greater awareness of and involvement in social justice work within the local parish. Participation in Development and Peace projects soon followed.

Three couples plus Bernard deAguiar (now deceased) found a welcome home in the Love of God Charismatic Prayer Group. It was through this experience that a growing desire and deeper commitment to prayer and community took root and was nurtured.

In 1983 when the political situation in BC called for a response from the social justice community, some of us were searching for a deeper understanding of the faith-basis of social justice centered prayer and community. Sr. Bernice Lamphiar, a Sister of St. Joseph, introduced the Followers of Jesus program to several people and a group soon formed.

By 1985, six couples, two single persons and a single mother came together and made the decision to form a covenant community centered on prayer, sharing of resources, social justice action and a preferential option for the poor and marginalized. This new community became known as Emmaus, inspired by the Emmaus story in the 24th chapter in Luke's Gospel. At the same time the Mawhinney family welcomed Sharon Adams and her two children to their property in rural Courtenay while the Ruels and Rambows built a new home in central Courtenay. The Rambow family occupied the upper floor of the newly built house while the lower floor included a large ground-level room for community gatherings, a short-term shelter for people in need and a suite for Sue's mother who had just moved to the area from Australia.

About this time Father John English S.J. made his first visit to the Comox Valley community and discovered in our group a CLC in practice if not in name. With his encouragement and leadership, Emmaus was drawn into the CLC fold.

The call and mission of Emmaus has been marked by a faithful journey of each member, with the parish, the immigrant community, the birth of a local L'Arche community, social justice outreach projects and with others who have moved into and through our lives at Emmaus. We are excited about our future as a CLC and are prayerfully grateful for the work undertaken by so many at the regional and national levels.

Current community members: Sharon Adams, Lock & Joanne Mawhinney, Ralph and Sue Rambow, Andre and Mary Catherine Ruel, David Stevenson.

Group Guide: Sister Pat Macaulay.

Closely associated with Emmaus are Richard and Bridget Caissie,

Mark your Calendar...

CLC CANADA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Lethbridge, - AB May 27-30, 2004

Watch for more details in future issue of Update

Interview with Jean Floyd, President of CLC Canada 1987-1989

WHAT WERE THE IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN CLC AT THAT TIME?

- National grew to 12 federated communities and 30 in formation dawning of the SOPs
- Group Guide courses in East and West
- General Council established more representation from across country
- Dawning of Standard Operating Procedures!

WHAT WAS THE VALUE TO YOU PERSONALLY OF HOLDING THIS OFFICE?

Never before or since have I experienced such a profound presence of the Lord walking with me, supporting, guiding, directing and affirming. When I said "yes" to His call it was like Jeremiah and placed myself totally in his hands. I could believe in my head that this would happen, but until you experience it, it does not become part of your interior. I could best answer this question by saying that I learned the difference between "rushing in where angels fear to tread" and falling flat on my face because I thought I was in charge. I had to learn to ask, "is this what You want of me Lord?" Perhaps that is the definition of HUMILITY!! I continue to learn!!

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM FOR CLC CANADA?

I continue to see this Community of communities across our great land being empowered by the wonderful gift of Ignatian Spirituality which leads us forth into whatever call the Lord gives us. The tools of discernment lead us in our individual call. I firmly believe this can only be done in and through community; plus a discerning heart which seeks and finds God in all things. This can be summed up in one word MISSION. Because I have watched and been a part of the struggles out of this one word, and because of my own experience, I feel strongly that the key is the discovery of how much God loves us. This creates the desire to listen and respond to whatever God asks of us in our reality. God will put us on the path, each and every one, singly and/or communally if we but remain faithful to our formation, precisely the Awareness Examen.

This was confirmed for me in a recent homily.

"Jesus said, Follow me"

"Peter said what about him?" (meaning John, the one you love)

"Jesus said, it is my will that he stay until I come, what is that to you? Follow me."

I would like to quote the very powerful definition of community from Henri Nouwen: *"A mosaic is made up of thousands of little stones. When we view them singly we can admire the beauty of each stone, but as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself. This is what community life is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say I make God visible, but others who see us together can say, They make God visible. Community is where humility and glory touch!"*

WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN YOUR LIFE (SPIRITUAL/AND/OR FAMILY) SINCE YOUR PRESIDENCY?

I continue to praise and thank God for the gift of my Ignatian Spirituality! It has been carried into all phases of my life and most especially in the difficulties encountered from time to time. It is being able to find God in the "unexpected" that pulls me through. Our CLC way of life has implanted within me a deep desire to continue to serve in the various roles of Newsletter editor, National Community Coordinator and Spiritual Exercises Director. However God presented me with the challenge of all challenges: the care of my handicapped husband. I could write a book about this but suffice to say again that my faith, with the gifts of its explicit spirituality and community have been my saving grace and strength.





*Getting to know you... Interview with the Central Region Ecclesial Assistant
Joseph Patrick (J.P.) Horrigan, sj our longest serving Regional Ecclesial Assistant*

How did you become involved in CLC?

In September 1976 my Jesuit Provincial gave me an assignment to work in Toronto. This followed a mission to India from 1961 until 1976.

At that time I was looking for a small faith community based on Ignatian spirituality, which would meet regularly, take time for shared prayer, and have some apostolic outreach.

Father John English was doing just that in the Guelph area. The rest is history.

Highlights of your time in office?

Several things come to mind, I will mention two:

1. The opportunities we have taken to meet Jesus from Nazareth in addition to Jesus the Christ
2. Discovering that Ignatius was a Spiritual Director as a lay person mostly in Barcelona and Paris. He experienced the movements of the spirits, recorded that in the Spiritual Exercises - all as a lay person. Ignatius then gave them to others for 15 years (1522-1537). Now we are making programs to train laity in Canada to do the same.

How has CLC been significant in your life?

The most important has been to receive and give support to other CLC members in our pilgrimage of life. The vast majority of such "support" occasions are in the "internal forum"

My Jesuit community is my core or primary community. Like the lay CLC members I find in our CLC community adjunct support, companionship, prayer and outreach. I find I can both receive and give such help in the CLC setting.

Perhaps the best indicator of CLCs significance in my life is my uninterrupted participation for the better part of fifteen years!

As you continue in this office what is your DREAM for CLC?

In the Central Region

I have a vision of CLC doing the "service of our faith" through the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius...with a preferential option for the poor. I dream of duly trained central CLCers bringing the Spiritual Exercises and quality Ignatian Direction/Discernment to the large population centers of Central Region.

In CLC Canada

Our national "service of faith" will be to train many CLCers to do nationally what Ignatius as a lay spiritual Director did in the years 1522- 1538 -- the years before his ordination.

I hope that we will make distinctive efforts to contact the immigrant and refugee CLCers who are making Canada their adopted home. This will be especially true of the "Asian" CLCers. Asians constitute more than 800,000 out of every one million newcomers now entering Canada.

When social justice issues need to be addressed I hope that CLC will do so fearlessly: that Ignatian Spirituality will be used to assist all who seek justice, not just Christians.

In World CLC

World Youth Days 2002 gave a strong sense of solidarity to our faith community and beyond.

I hope our world CVX can do the same for CLCers as we seek to do "*the service of the faith of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement*"

WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER IN A CHURCH SETTING.

Congratulations to our CLC members in PEI and Ontario who are reaching out to share our Ignatian way of prayer. This creates the possibility for participants to experience a directed retreat without leaving their daily life.

To purchase

Week of Directed Prayer in a Church

Setting by John Veltri, sj,

Please contact

Religious Education Office,

700 King Street W.,

Hamilton, ON, L8P 1C7.

(905-528-7988). Cost of this booklet is

\$8.00

Mrs. Evelyn Milan, mother of Jack Milan, died this summer in Boston. Please remember her and Jack's family in your prayers

Welcome to Peter Chouinard of "Come and See CLC", St. John, NB the new Atlantic Region Coordinator.

ANIA 2002.

As members of the Christian Life Community (world and national regions) we were invited by the Society of Jesuits (Upper Canada Province) to participate in the ANIA pilgrimage held in Midland, Ontario, Canada.

As far as we know, there were a total of 9 CLC members, who responded to this invitation and worked with others who had the required qualifications for Spiritual Animators. Those CLC members came from 5 countries (Brazil, Canada, Malta, and USA.). They brought with them many

years of experience as group guides/facilitators, formed in Ignatian pedagogy and spirituality Our Canadian group, 7 CLC members, who participated as Spiritual Animators wish to thank Michael Knox SJ, the Assistant Director of the organizing committee of ANIA, for inviting us to participate in this historic event.

We made many new friends from all over the world and were inspired by the young persons that we met and came to know. The weather was hot hot hot!, the mosquitoes were out in force, but this did not seem to dim the enthusiasm of the young participants (aged 14-35) from over 32 countries.

In their five day stay the campers retraced the steps of the early Jesuit martyrs. On Day 1 they travelled by a canoe to a reconstructed Huron Village. Day 2 they toured the famous St. Marie among the Hurons, The actual village was burned down in 1649, but through the detailed reconstruction and interactive presentations one could feel part of 17th century Upper Canada. life "The Pilgrim's Sabbath" a well deserved day of relaxation was Day 3's program where the youth were entertained by local rock bands and had the opportunity to cool off in the lake. In their quiet time that day they could prepare for Reconciliation later that evening after the very exciting arrival of the Papal Cross. Day 4 all the able-bodied took part in a 10-K trek to St. Ignace where St. Jean de Brebeuf and St. Gabriel Lalamant were martyred. On their last full day the pilgrims were able to explore the Martyrs Shrine itself.

Through all these days there were opportunities for private and group prayer, celebration and Eucharist.

At the end of their stay the CLC Spiritual Animators wearily headed home to sleep..... the young pilgrims were made of much sterner stuff. They went on to Toronto to the excitements of the Papal Visit and World Youth Days.

North American CLC Conference

Loyola House, Guelph

September 13-15, 2002

by Marilyn Heaton, Rockies' Rep for CLC Canada

The Guelph Centre of Spirituality (Loyola House) is situated on almost 600 acres of beautiful farmland with rolling hills, woods and wetlands and is located about one km. north of Guelph's city limits. This was the site of the third North American Christian Life Community Conference. The first conference was held in 1983 in Guelph and the second in 1984 in Montreal.

Four national communities were represented at the conference. The purpose for the gathering was to provide a place where the four communities could come together to communicate, understand and support each other; to establish a new sense of community; and to discern how the Holy Spirit is calling them to journey in light of the Common Mission (World Assembly in Itaici, Brazil, 1998).

The conference, hosted by CLC Canada, had 41 delegates in attendance - fifteen from CLC U.S.A.; three delegates from Vietnamese Companions of Christ (VCC); eight from CVX (French) Canada, and thirteen from CLC Canada. Representing the World Secretariat in Rome were Gilles and Leah Michaud originally from PEI. Jack Milan, well known in CLC circles for his experience and understanding of Ignatian tools and his sensitivity to the Spirit, very capably facilitated the sessions.

On Friday evening the conference opened with "The Prayer of the Seven Directions", presented by Graydon Nicholas, president-elect for CLC Canada. Introductions followed and a brief sharing of the delegates' hopes and fears for the weekend. The national community groupings met to discuss key concerns and graces within CLC. These discussions, all interpreted in French and/or English, formed the basis for contemplation and interpretation of the Spirit's leading that continued on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning's theme was "Coming to know each other as national community". A reading from Romans 12:3-13 set the atmosphere for the morning. Delegates were encouraged to consider all as Grace - even their concerns (not as the world would do). After each national community shared their concerns/graces, a short verse 'For Thy Gracious Blessing' was sung (in rounds, even!). Some of the concerns expressed were youth and family involvement, lack of financial responsibility, lack of understanding of formation process and mission, communication, group not identifying with social justice issues, no experience of Spiritual Exercises, ignorance of CLC General Principles, cultural issues regarding family.

Graces mentioned were development of a regional structure across North America, more leadership, more involvement of youth, better collaboration with Jesuits, many members having experienced the Spiritual Exercises, excellent formation resources.

An 'Open Space' session was held Saturday afternoon in which the assembly was asked to propose topics for consideration. Once the topics were brought forward delegates were invited to sit in which ever session best suited them. Topics covered Jesuits & CLC, formation, ethnic groups, youth, communication, clarifying what CLC is, social justice, world crisis, family and

CLC, how to build a more united CLC in North America. Discussions from each group were recorded and evaluated.

Gilles & Leah Michaud pointed out that regionalization is developing throughout the world, but that as a world community we are still learning about ourselves. They said although there is a lot of reflection on the Common Mission, there is a problem with how to move as groups into mission. The world community is moving forward in providing effective communication through publications like Progressio, Projects and the world CLC website. CLC has NGO (non-government organization) status with the United Nations with representation at Geneva and New York.

CLCers and their families from Kitchener Waterloo, Brantford, Guelph and Toronto joined the delegates for Eucharist followed by a delicious barbecue with all the trimmings. Socializing, sharing and an opportunity to view the display boards set up by the Nationals followed.

Delegates were asked to spend their overnight prayer to discern what the Spirit was asking of the North American community. On Sunday morning the common desire expressed was to move ahead as a regional community of all of North America with a mission for peace and justice. The practical steps needed to make that desire a reality were discussed. The working group, reps from each national who organized this conference, agreed to organize 'NAC 2005' to be hosted by U.S.A.

An exciting and Spirit-filled appropriation and evaluation ended the conference followed by a closing ritual. In the words of Jean Paul Daoust, S.J., newly-appointed Ecclesial Assistant for CVX Canada, there was a spirit of prayer, reflection and silence permeating the whole gathering.



World Secretariat members Gilles and Leah Michaud join l-r Fran Morrison, Elaine Regan, Canada, Leah & Gilles Michaud, WCLC, Binh Ha, VCCT, Dorothy Zambito & Pat Carter, USA, and Rafik Salama, CVX, newly appointed members of the Organizing Team for the 2005 North American Conference to be held in the US

World CLC Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya,
July 30-August 8, 2003.

Theme: SENT BY CHRIST, MEMBERS OF
ONE BODY

*For just as the body is one and has many
members, and all the members of the body,
though many, are one body, so it is with Christ
(1 Cor 12:12)*

CLC Canada's delegates to Nairobi are our
incoming presidents: Kati Gumbmann from
Winnipeg and Graydon Nicholas from
Fredericton. They will be accompanied by our
National Ecclesial Assistant, Earl Smith, sj.
A preparatory team has been established from
our four regions: its purpose is two-fold - to
gather information and concerns from our local
communities and to keep us abreast with the
discernment at the world level. Look for more
information from your regional reps. Please box
below about the World Solidarity Fund.

WORLD SOLIDARITY FUND.

Every five years CLC delegates from the sixty
member countries gather in a general assembly
forming the decision-making body for our whole
world community. For this reason it is of the
highest priority that each national community be
represented.

The economic reality is that we live in a world of
unequal distribution of wealth that also affects
our CLC brothers and sisters. Some national
communities are unable to meet the financial
commitment entailed in sending a delegation to
the assembly.

The World Solidarity Fund was established for
this reason - to enable participation from all
national communities. Your General Council
encourages each community to support this fund.
(We hear that one CLC community has already
started making a regular "Toonie" donation each
time they meet). **Let's pitch in to ensure that
ALL voices from the World CLC will be
heard at this Assembly.**

**Donations can be sent to Lin Blackmore, at the
National CLC Office.**

Colloquy. Congratulations to the Atlantic Region
for the premier issue of their newsletter. Editor
Leo Deveau has done a great job of presenting
community news, our CLC vision and charism
and even has managed pictures! Great work Leo!

Welcome to the new Prairies Rep

Mike Radcliffe has been a life long member of
St Ignatius parish. He is a current member of
parish council, serving 01-02 as chair. After
completion of the Annotation 19 Spiritual
Exercises in 98-99 he joined CLC. This year he
is Spiritual Director for two retreatants. Mike is
both a Minister of the Eucharist and a lay reader
in his parish, and is actively involved in a
number of other capacities there.

Mike we are happy to have you on board

Ignatian Video:

**IGNATIUS LOYOLA: the story of the
Pilgrim.** (Loyola Press).

An excellent video to teach, introduce, or review
the life of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556).

A one-man dramatization by I. Michael
Dellafiore, sj.

In three 30-minute segments viewers experience
Ignatius' journey from his youthful days to his
founding of the world's largest Catholic religious
order - the Jesuits.

(Comes with a discussion and study guide).

\$21.95 US

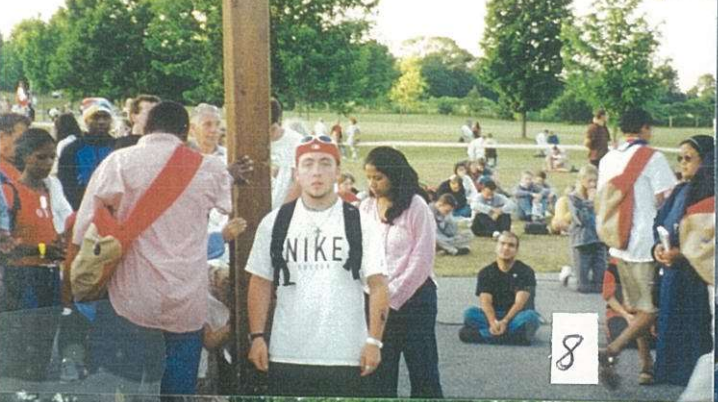
Loyola Press can be reached at
1-800-621-1008

Book Review:

Step by Step to Grace by Lorraine Milton.

Gently leads women through the 12 steps
inviting them to read the Bible with fresh eyes.
The author explores issues such as relationships,
self-worth, sexuality and spirituality. She offers
women in general hope and encouragement to
reflect on their lives and to turn them over to
God.

Lorraine belongs to the Lord of Light CLC Community in
Thunder Bay, ON.



General Council membership 2003

Presidents Kati Gumbmann, Winnipeg, MB.
Graydon Nicholas, Fredericton, NB
Past Presidents: Fran Morrison: Waterloo, ON
Elaine Regan: Toronto, ON.

**National Community
Coordinator:** Lin Blackmore, South Esk, NB.
Atlantic Region Rep Nora Jean, Atholville, NB.
Central Region Rep: Carol McKerral, Thunder Bay, ON.
Prairies Region Rep: Mike Radcliffe, Winnipeg, MB.t.
Rockies Region Rep: Marilyn Heaton, Lethbridge, AB
National Eccles.Asst: Earl Smith, sj, Winnipeg, MB
**National Eccles.Asst.
Emeritus** John English, sj, Winnipeg, MB



**WELCOME TO LIN BLACKMORE,
OUR NEW NATIONAL COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR**

Lin hails from South Esk, NB. She and her husband, Ray, are founding members of the *River of Life CLC Community*.

We want to extend THANKS to Julie Dwyer-Young of Burlington, ON, for her previous service to CLC in this position. Julie is presently hard at work on the Central Regional Committee helping with the organization of their Assembly to be held in June 2003.

Please make note of the NEW email and telephone number for our national office.

*Calling all CENTRAL REGION CLCers
Keep this date for the
CENTRAL REGIONAL ASSEMBLY:
June 13/14, 2003
Resurrection College, Waterloo, ON
Tentative theme:
"Light the Fire, Fan the Flame: The
Ignatian Quest for Transformation"
Details will follow....*

This table is in response to a number of requests for a breakdown of the contributions to CLC Canada by Region

Donations 2002 :

Atlantic	Central	Prairies	Rockies
106 members	108 members	39 members	59 members
58 donations	51 donations	19 donations	8 donations
\$2,610.00	\$4,140.00	\$1,155.00	\$625.00

Total donations 2002: \$8,530.00

Thanks to our very generous contributors. CLC just couldn't operate without your donations.
Reminder:
If you haven't already sent in your annual donation we'd be VERY happy to hear from you. Please see next box for CLC national address

*General Council is trying to climb into the 21s' century!!
We have reduced costs by meeting annually face to face only once per year and completing the rest of the business of General Council via conference or teleconference call.*

New info for CLC National Office

Email: CLC2@nbnet.nb.ca.

Telephone # (506) 622-2869

Address (unchanged)

*Jesuits of Upper Canada,
1325 Bay St. Toronto, ON, M5R 2C4*

Key to the Photograph Page (1) ANIA 2002:- everyone here has a CLC connection in their country. (2) Lin Blackmore, National Community Coordinator, CLC Canada. (3) Jack Milan, facilitator of the North American Conference. (4) Four members of the first CLC community in Canada: John English, sj, Peter & Barbara Peloso, Helen Drago (5) Graydon Nicholas, Sue Rambow & Marlene DeGroot Majetti present Canada's Graces at the North American Conference (6) Incoming CLC President Graydon Nicholas and his wife Beth are joined by Fran Morrison at Wilfrid Laurier University's Convocation where he received an Honorary Degree. (7) CLC Canada's Spiritual Animators at ANIA with friends (8) Matt Ottenbreit, a CLC youth from Regina, stands in front of the World Youth Day Cross at ANIA.

PEACE! LOVE! JOY! ...AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS