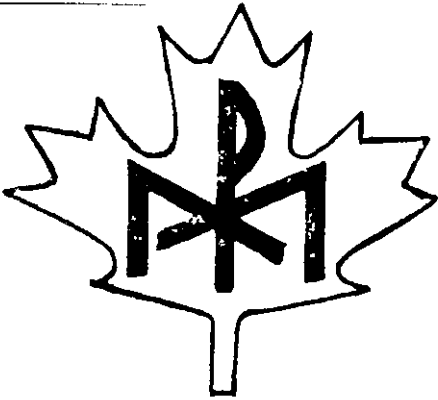


December 93



Christian Life Communities

NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS ALL CLCERS

I would first like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you had a holiday filled with the Lord's richest blessings and that they will continue to be given to you and yours in the New Year. I would also like to apologize for not getting a newsletter out to you before this. It was unavoidable; at first, there was no response from your CLC groups but following my plea for stories, etc, I am glad to say the material came pouring in. However, I was laid off from my job and had no access to a computer. Thank you for your response and for your patience. I love you all.

Yours in love of Christ,
Linda Blackmore, Editor

ADDRESS: Site 28, Box 10,
Newcastle, NB., E1V 3L8

****NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 31st/94****

ATTENTION:

" OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFE TIME"

The World Christian Life Community is looking for a volunteer to work for two years at their World Secretariat in Rome.

We are looking for a mother-tongue English speaker who:

* is an adaptable young person with no dependents

* has a good knowledge of either French or Spanish (ideally both)

* has a positive attitude to the Church and to working within it

Familiarity with CLC/Ignatian spirituality and its vocabulary would be a definite advantage.

THE CLC WORLD SECRETARIAT

The CLC World Secretariat in Rome is the administrative

centre of the World Christian Life Community. The work of the Secretariat includes the following:

* Producing English, French and Spanish editions of the world Community's quarterly journal "Progressio", including finding articles, editing, translating, compilation, mailing, subscriptions, billing etc.

*Regular mailings to the World Executive Council (ExCo) and to CLC leaders around the world

*Correspondence with national communities and individuals in all parts of the world

*Preparation for meetings such as the annual meeting of the ExCo and the World Assembly (every four years)

*Welcoming of visitors to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is currently staffed by a team of five people - the Executive secretary, the Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant, one English mother-tongue volunteer, one French mother-tongue volunteer, and one part-time clerical worker.

THE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are normally taken on for a period of two years, with an initial period of some months which is probationary on both sides.

They work a forty-hour week at the Secretariat.

They receive a stipend, to cover accommodation and living expenses, which is increased annually in line with inflation.

They have to find their own accommodation, though the Secretariat will offer what help and advice it can.

Further Information--
More details can be obtained by writing or by phone. Peter Scally, the current English volunteer, would be pleased to discuss the job with anyone interested.

Address

CLC World Secretariat, Borgo S. Spirito 8, CP 6139, 00195 Roma, Italy **396-686-8079 or Fax **396-687-9283

Our Lady of the Way CLC
Manresa Retreat House
Pickering, Ontario

MY LIFE LINE

Involvement in the Jesuit Retreat Association brought me into a religious experience with the Christian Life Community of Manresa.

Serving with the Retreat Association, first as a yearly retreatant, then as a co-captain to recruit retreatants and finally as the captain of the retreat group, I think this laid the foundation, as it were, to my attendance at the weekly meetings of the CLC as an observer and then my acceptance as a member.

My first impressing after two meetings was, "I don't think this is for me." I did not seem to derive any motivation or meaning from the meeting and as a consequence I was absent from the next meeting.

Four members phoned me to inquire about my health, the Chaplain (Spiritual Director) and the Prefect who had assumed that illness had prevented my attending the meeting. This required some soul searching and a reassessment on my part, for I was very moved by their thoughtfulness.

My conclusion was, first - this could be God's way of saying, "I need you," second - this group had to be concerned and caring. The impact of these two thoughts was the motivation required to resume my attendance and finally my acceptance as a member.

How blessed I am to be a member of a Spiritual Community that has a member who has been attending for over fifty years, and some over thirty! What a living testimonial to any organization.

The Holy Mass, celebrated before each meeting, leaves us with a very intimated and

personal feeling that is shared by each of us.

Our sharing of the Bible selection, each in their turn, is a very moving feature in that there is such a varied interpretation by each member - God's way of speaking to us through each other.

The recruiting of retreatants for our designated times and the assistance that we volunteer each other, is very gratifying and strengthens the bond that exists between us as a community.

The Retreat Movement, I would have to say, is foremost in my mind, but the spiritual strength is derived through my CLC. I can think of no better way to serve my God and my brethren.

Ed Scheck

Atlantic Group Guide Workshop
1993, Nackawic, NB

Our Lady's Circle CLC from St. Simon and St. Jude's parish were happy to host this workshop held Oct. 21 to 24. Attending from the National CLC were Father John English, our Ecclesiastical assistant and Gilles Michaud, our President.

We were warmly welcomed by Becky Boulter, president of the Parish Council. She and others from the council seen to our needs and fed us hearty meals as well as desserts fit for a King.

Thursday evening began with a Eucharistic celebration, followed by a presentation on the General Principles of the CLC. Small group sharing followed each teaching.

Friday, we discerned that CLC's are based on Ignatian spirituality where discerning

communities are working toward apostolic services. Guiding us through an overview of the Phase I and II manuals, Fr. John and Gilles gave us a deeper grasp of the meaning of our call to apostleship. Fr. John explained for us the discernment of spirits and how we can recognize these inner movements of desolation and consolation -- Outside circumstances or influences can bring about those movements personally or as a community. The goal of CLC, is to discern the Spirit of God in us and around us in order to follow His ways and fulfil our apostolic mission.

Saturday, many important points were brought to light: We learned of the different judgements we bring, the help of community in making decisions by using the diagnostic tools to help group guides; the Spiritual Exercises, the life cycle and the power cycle. Evaluation was stressed throughout the day as one of the most important elements of CLC.

The goals and principles of CLC were studied and discussed. The stages of CLC growth were outlined as well as the goal to mission. We learned the characteristics of CLC, that there is unity in diversity, and that we can be who we are until there is a willingness to change.

Another important tool for sharing is the second round. After persons in the group have gone around and shared the experience of the results of their prayer, it is helpful for those sharing and for a sense of community that a second round of sharing take place. After a few moments of reflecting on the following questions

4
share;

1. Where did I experience affective union and concurrence with the others as they shared?
2. What new insights was I given about myself and the group?
3. How will this help in my future prayer and spiritual life?

This new method for sharing was put into practice throughout the weekend and found to be very helpful and insightful for all of us in discerning the will of God in our workshop.

Sunday, following Eucharist Fr. John led us through a sharing of our insights of our prayer experience. Ignatian Spirituality is a spirituality for today, it is a lay spirituality. We were led through the process of the manuals. Phase I gives us an introduction to CLC where we learn to pray with Scripture. The internal movements of spirits, consolation and desolation are touched on. The basics of Phase I is to learn the process of CLC. Phase II deals with the impact of external forces and how they move us to consolation and desolation. Phase III becomes that experience of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. These can be done one on one or as a communal exercise. Phase IV is the living out of the General Principles.

We finished the day off with an evaluation of the workshop weekend. As we bid goodbye to our many new CLC friends, we were again reminded of our part of the larger CLC community, the world.

--Francis Thebeau
OUR LADY'S CIRCLE CLC

AN EXAMPLE OF OUTREACH MARY HELP of SINNERS CLC Chatham, Ontario

Since Jan. '93, we have been supporting some of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. When I visited Haiti in Dec. '89, I met Yvette Papillon, a French Canadian missionary who is married to a Haitian named Pierre. Yvette has taken responsibility for about 1000 children and their families. She tries to build up the family unit so the family can stay together and become self-supporting.

Yvette had found a family of 8 people who were starving. They decided if they could find money to build a cistern to collect rain water, the now destitute family could become self-supporting. Also, this same family could provide a safe, cheap supply of drinking water for other needy Haitians. The proceeds of our 1st. garage sale \$250 (converted to U.S.) was a fairly quick answer to prayer.

Several people who had been gouging the poor with too high prices for water had to lower their prices to match those that our family was charging. Isn't God Good!! YES! Money from subsequent garage sales has been used to remodel the donated premises of a house into a school for children in the lower grades. Also the yard around the new classrooms is being made more suitable for the children.

Yvette says the prayer groups are praying the Rosary around the clock during this difficult time. Her group are praying from 8-9 P.M. She normally prays for 3 hrs. a day. Her husband, Pierre, prays for 6 hrs. a day. They also attend

daily Eucharist. They have about 200 people meeting at their home at 1:30 p.m. daily for Life in the Spirit seminars. Their hope and trust is in God and their spirits are high. Haitians are used to suffering.

Love and Prayers,
Sherry Cadeau
Mary Help of Sinners CLC
St. Ursula's Parish
Chatham, Ontario

Here are some pictures to share this moving CLC outreach.



THE SCHOOL



THE CISTERN

The National Christian Life
Community of Canada
Report from General Council

Present: Sharon Adams (B.C.),
Ray and Ellen Wagner
(Prairies), Glenn Drobot (Youth
and Young Adult), Mary Jane
Kelley, Phyllis Porter (Central
Region), Ray Blackmore (NB),
Ann Benson (Atlantic), Graydon
and Beth Nicholas (Co-
Presidents), Gilles Michaud
(President-Elect), Elaine
Regan, Fran Morrison (Ex
Officio Reps.), Peter Peloso,
(Elders), Stan Stys,
(Treasurer), Fr. John English
(Official Church rep).
Apologies: Jean Floyd,
National Community Coordinator.

The semi-annual General
Council meeting was held at
Ignatius College, Guelph,
Ontario from Oct. 1st. to
Oct. 3rd, 1993.

Commissioning Ceremony

One of the highlights of the
weekend was the commissioning
ceremony for Gilles Michaud as
the new President of the
National CLC of Canada and for
the new regional repre-
sentatives: Ellen and Ray
Wagner from Alberta, Mary Jane
Kelley and Phyllis Porter from
the Central region and Ann
Benson representing the
Atlantic region.

Delegates to World Assembly

An important item on the agenda
was the selection of delegates
to represent the National
Christian Life Community of
Canada at the World Assembly to
be held in Hong Kong from July
20th, 1994 to July 31st, 1994.
Our National Community is

entitled to send three
delegates including our
Official Church Representative.
Father John English has
designated Father David
Creamer, S.J. to attend the
World Assembly as our official
Church Representative.

Nominations for our two lay
delegates closed on September
30, 1993. The names of the
nominees were: Gerry Albanese,
Linda Blackmore, Irene Girard,
Gilles Michaud and Fran
Morrison. Unfortunately, the
nomination of Michael Meraw was
not received until Oct. 4\93.

In light of the criteria
provided by the World CLC
Secretariat for selecting
delegates, the members of
General Council took the
nomination letters to prayer
Saturday night. The actual
decision-making took place on
Sunday morning with the result
that Fran Morrison and Gilles
Michaud were chosen as our
delegates to the World Assembly
with Linda Blackmore as
alternate delegate. It was
recommended that the nomination
process for delegates commence
at least one and one-half years
prior to the next World
Assembly.

Working Group on Community
Guides

The General Council approved
and accepted the recom-
mendations of the Working Group
on Community Guides. The
recommendations have been
referred to ExCo for imple-
mentation. It was agreed that
an evaluation of the Community
Guides be done at the next
National Assembly.

Working Group on Constitution

Gilles Michaud, the chair of the Working Group on the Constitution, presented the revised Constitution. The revised document with some minor amendments was accepted by Council. A re-typed version will be presented at the next General Council meeting. The revised Constitution will be presented for approval to the National Assembly in Halifax in 1995.

Working Group on Social Action\Social Justice

Concerns about justice issues have surfaced both at our National Assembly and at the regional level. Action for justice is an integral part of our spirituality and therefore the responsibility of every CLC member. To respond to these concerns and to determine whether there is a need to coordinate social action\social justice activities at a national level, it was decided to mandate the Ichthus CLC of Prince Edward Island as a working group to study this whole area of concern. An interim report will be presented at the next General Council meeting.

Finances

The discussion of finances is always an important agenda item. Our Treasurer, Stan Stys presented the Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the fiscal year that ended August 31, 1993. The amount of donations and the number of donors was down this year. We ended the fiscal year with a slight surplus only because of our Solidarity Travel Fund from

1992 and the sale of manuals.

Stan also presented the budget for 1993-94 which includes the projected costs of delegates expenses for the World Assembly (\$6,000.00), and a contribution to the World CLC Solidarity Fund (\$3,000.00) to assist the delegates from India, our twinned CLC country, to attend the World Assembly.

If each CLC member in Canada contributes \$2.00 per week, we should have a balanced budget.

U.S. National Assembly

Pam Meier, a former member of General Council from the Central Region, gave a lively report on her experience at the U.S. National Assembly.

Next General Council Meeting

The next General Council Meeting has been scheduled for February 18th to 20th, 1994 at Ignatius College in Guelph. Please contact your regional representative or any other member of General Council at any time regarding your questions and concerns. An updated list of General Council members follows:

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Linda Blackmore NEWSLETTER
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Jean Floyd NAT. COMM.
207 Lourdes St. COORD.
Waterloo, Ontario NZL 1N8

DIASPORA SHARES

The Diaspora CLC, Hamilton, gathered in September, in the "Upper Room", Notre Dame Convent, Waterdown. We gathered to re-unite after the summer - to reach out to each other and to receive from each other, in community. We invited J.P. Horrigan to join us, to guide us in a "mini-retreat". We began the evening with supper and camaraderie, then moved upstairs to continue what was begun over our meal. It was so good to share our journeys, re-united. J.P. directed our evening with a sensitivity respecting our needs, appreciating the relationship we share, and challenging us to move beyond. He presented to us, Ignatius, the man and helped each of us look more deeply at what CLC offers us, individually and as the Diaspora Community. We sang, we shared, we prayed, we "broke bread" and we laughed. We left feeling we understood a little more of the gifts of CLC - the gifts we each bring and the call to go forward, knowing we have been created by our

Father, dignified and redeemed by His Son and energized by their Spirit. As we continue on our paths of discernment and joyful living, we feel gratitude to J.P. for being with us, gratitude to each other for our commitment to each other in CLC and gratitude to God for the gift of Presence and Grace.

- SHEILA CORR

Fidelis CLC Community,
Waterloo, Ont.

To CLCers across Canada,
Greetings!

Our CLC Newsletter exists to keep communities in touch with each other across this vast country of ours. We hear (and we have to confess have heard for many, many years) the plaintive cries of our editor begging us for contributions. Usually we mean to sit down and get that article out right away....but then something deflects our purpose and then when the next issue comes along...Does all this sound familiar?

In our CLC community, Fidelis, Waterloo, Ont., we have had many, many discussions on what we ALL want to hear about is how other communities function on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis. This is what we spend our time discussing at our Assemblies, General Council gatherings and ExCo meetings. As individuals we share with each other the high points and the low points in our journey.

We in Fidelis decided to tell you a bit more about our community, trusting that our story will help some other community.

We are a group of five women, who have been meeting

for over eleven years. We came to CLC as a result of the RENEW program in our parish and when our three-year stint was completed we decided that, having been led to meet together in the first place, we did not want to lose such a wonderfully enriching way of living out our Christian vocation.

Our weekly meetings of prayer and sharing are regularly enlivened by discernment questions. We try to keep "on track" with our CLC journey and send each other back into the world renewed and "ready to face the fray." We are all mothers (with some grandmothers and great-grandmothers). We feel that we have a lot to share in just plain "lived wisdom" and this is often put to the test with the concerns that are brought weekly to our gatherings.

Over the years we have been involved in the Regional and National CLC gatherings, have taken turns to participate on Working Groups for the National ExCo, have helped proof-read the Formation Manuals, and have also been active with other groups in our region in fundraising events for CLC causes. Our Bake Sale and Garage Sales were hard work, but they raised money for the Solidarity Fund and World CLC and gave us the opportunity to get to know other CLC people in our Region. There's nothing to beat eating home-made donuts in the early hours of the morning while you try to resist the haggling of the garage sale bargain hunters! We certainly laughed a lot too.

We are interested in Justice issues particularly those pertaining to women and family life and following the

completion of our Formation programs, we have tried to become more involved in concrete examples of these. As a result we befriended a Guatemalan family last year and have kept contact with this single mother and her three children. Initially our contact was purely superficial—we provided financial aid, food and clothing at a time when these were needed by the family. However, since then, we have come to deepen our relationship and have heard, first hand, the horrors of life in Guatemala for those who run afoul of the authorities.

Through our friendship with this family Ana, the mother, has not only related her history to us, but through our contacts has spoken to school groups in the community. Thus, what started as a Christmas project has now broadened into an ongoing awareness of the refugee problem.

Presently we have become involved in the campaign against the exploitation of home workers (mainly women) in the garment industry. One of our CLC founders, Sr. Barbara Paleczny, S.N.N.D. has spear-headed the Coalition for Fair Wages and Working Conditions for Home Workers. By gathering information on the issue, writing letters to the people in the offending companies who are exploiting a cheap source of labour, discussing the issue with our friends and bringing it to the attention of local retailers, we are taking action for justice.

Our future plans include continuing to meet, pray and discern together and all of us are going to help with the preparations for the Ontario

Assembly for 1994, which is to be held in Kitchener, Waterloo. For this event we will work closely with the other CLC groups in our area.

EVENT UPCOMING

Central Assembly
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2nd, 1994
Resurrection Centre
Westmount Rd., Waterloo, Ont.
Theme: THE DISCERNING HEART
Watch for more details.

.....There now! (sigh of relief!) we have written the letter ...now we challenge other communities across Canada ...let's hear from you.

God bless you all.
The Fidelis CLC, Waterloo, Ont.
(Alice, Cecilia, Fran, Michele, and Phyllis).

GRACE AND PEACE to you, our CLC brothers and sisters, from "The Way CLC". We ask your prayers as we continue to journey through Phase I. At the moment we are praying through and with week 26. We are struggling through the CLC method of decision making, i.e., using the four columns of advantages and disadvantages in making decisions toward questions raised in the group. As the theme of week 26 indicates, the community to which we each belong is indeed to help us in personal decisions. However, this is a struggle in itself since "The Way" seems to be in a state of chaos. We continue our journey in consolation, optimistic that in working through this chaos, we will grow stronger as a Christian Living Community.

~~Yours in Christ Jesus,~~
Fr. David Fulton