

# Update

## **Christian Life Communities Canada**

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Greetings CLC Friends,

As we enter the millennium Jeremiah's words, written so long ago, fill us with hope for our world, and in particular for our CLC sisters and brothers. In this issue we bring you news from the World CLC office, and from across Canada. We share the World Ex Co's prayer materials with suggested ways to celebrate World CLC Day – March 25<sup>th</sup>.

John English has kindly put down his recollections of the beginnings of CLC Canada, and for all of you who have been pondering the question of male and female spirituality, you will find Peter Peloso's article thought-provoking. Take this opportunity to discuss these articles in your communities, and send us your feedback.

You will also find news from the regions of Canada. As we think back to the Winnipeg Assembly, last June, let's remember all the new friendships forged, and keep each other in prayer.

Elaine and Fran

A new friend of ours, U.S. National President Pat Carter, sent us the following prayer in her Christmas greetings to CLC Canada.

For I know the plans I have for you,  
Declares the Lord...  
Plans to give you hope and a future...  
You will seek me and find me  
When you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11,13

## **SIGNS OF HOPE ACROSS CANADA:**

- A proposed International conference for CLC/CVC Canada, CLC US and the Vietnamese Companions of Jesus (a US based community) which we hope will take place in 2002.
  - Two Working Groups have been established – to examine the role of the National Community Office and also to tackle the difficult question of Finances.
  - Jesuit/CLC collaboration has been initiated on a number of fronts – the Presidents met with the Provincial of Upper Canada Province, to explore ways that CLC can have a closer working relationship with the Society of Jesus.
  - A number of CLCers from Waterloo, Hamilton and Toronto participated in the Liturgy to celebrate the re-opening of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto.
  - New communities who have recently made the commitment to journey the CLC Way of Life. within the last year include those established in -
  - Nelson, BC, Lethbridge, AB, Winnipeg, MB, Brantford, London, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Waterloo, ON, and Summerside, PEI.
  - After our Disaster Fund aided the earthquake victims in Turkey, it is heartening to know that there has been interest in replenishing the funds. We remind you that all donations to this Fund are gratefully accepted.
  - In Kitchener, On, all the members of the Fruitful Garden Community are presently making the Spiritual Exercises and are all being directed by area CLCers Please remember them in your prayers.
- John English' dream soon will be fulfilled as Group Guide Clinics are completed in all four regions.
  - April 28-30 a weekend at Loyola House, Guelph, ON for those who have experienced personal Ignatian Retreats and now will be given the opportunity to share their spiritual lives with others.....**perhaps in a CLC community.** Our friends, Peter & Barb Peloso and Jack Milan are the facilitators. Please pray for all those involved in this weekend.

### **Welcome to the new Brantford, ON Community**

#### **BREAD OF LIFE**

John & Lisa Berki  
John & Jennifer Dennis  
John & Annette Minutillo  
Rick & Colleen Vandeven  
Guide: **Bill Nolden**

### **WELCOME to the new Thunder Bay, ON Community:**

#### **FRIENDS OF GALILEE**

Rachel Kovachis  
Mary Carr  
Sister Irene Morrow  
Carol McKerral  
Guide: **Michael Murray, SJ**

**The Start of CLC Canada:  
Recollections from  
John English  
(with some help from Peter Peloso)**

*All our articles and brochures list Guelph, ON, as the birthplace of CLC Canada. A chance meeting with Helen Drago, one of our original CLC members from Waterloo, recently revealed that this was not the case.*

*John English confirms that, in fact, the first seeds of CLC were planted in the Maritimes, in Canadian Martyrs Parish, Halifax. Their leader, a Mrs. Boyd, had learned about this way of life from her brother, an Australian Jesuit. She desired to change the existing Sodality into a CLC community such as we would recognize today.*

***“John, what sparked your interest in CLC so many years ago?”***

My recollection of the beginning CLC in Canada goes back to Guelph. Fr. Nick Reimer, SJ. and Jose Giselle from the World Executive Council in Rome, visited Loyola House in 1972 and talked to us about being a centre for CLC in Canada.

In September 1974 I gathered a group of 4 men, including Art Walter and Peter Peloso, to discuss coming together and sharing our interior life. Eventually, we decided to expand the group to include wives and other women. After a number of months of sharing our prayer and life experiences, I introduced some CLC prayer materials from France.

In the winter of 1975 a group of 4 couples began meeting following the French notes on CLC. These were Lou and Helen Drago, Desneiges and

Art Walter, Helen and John Sullivan (of Guelph), Peter Peloso and Barbara Weber. I spoke to them about the importance of doing the Spiritual Exercises for members of CLC. As it happened Art, Peter and Barbara had completed some of the Exercises. So I began to prepare the rest for the Exercises in Daily Life and to supervise Art, Peter and Barbara as they directed the rest of the group. Previous to this the Provincial decided I should go to Darjeeling to direct some Jesuit students in training.

While I was away Peter, Art and Barbara directed the others while studying the Exercises, Spiritual Freedom and a text by a German Jesuit, Alex De Franc, that was printed in **Progressio**, the publication of the World CLC Office. When I returned I discovered that they had done a very good job of directing the rest through the Exercises.

At this time the Loyola House staff and some volunteers began a school of the Exercises in Daily Life. It ran from 1976-1982. Eventually, the team included Shirley Gatchene, Helen Drago, Sr. Barbara Paleczny, Sr. Frances MacDougall, Peter and Barbara Peloso, Fr. John Veltri and myself. Out of this program a goodly number of people were directed through the Exercises in Daily Life. I believe that John Voltaire's early rendition of **Orientations II** resulted from this program.

In the meantime Art Walter, with the assistance of Fr. Dan Phelan and Sr. Barbara Paleczny, was promoting

shared prayer according to the method of the CLC. St. Michael's Parish in Waterloo was the main centre of this. From all this activity 4 CLC groups (Waterloo, Brantford, Elora and Burlington) were established with all members doing the full Exercises in Daily Life.

In 1981 these CLC groups met in Guelph and agreed to ask to join the World Federation of CLC as the Federation of English-speaking CLCs of Canada. The World Federation accepted the request. Peter Peloso and Jean Floyd represented Canada at the World Assembly in Providence R.I. in 1982.

At the assembly Peter gave a presentation on how all the members of the Canadian CLC were directed through the Exercises in Daily Life at Guelph. Very few, if any, of the other National Federations had the facility of bringing their members through the Exercises in this manner.

Also at this assembly the world federation went through a discernment process and decided that the World Federation would become a World Community with each nation being a National Community in the World Community.

It is interesting to note that the French speaking CLC of Canada (CVX) have existed since 1967. They, too, were present at Providence, R.I. CVX Canada, though small in numbers, have been very active in Quebec and at World Assemblies.

This is my recollection of CLC beginnings in English Canada, As I look back from this millennium year, I remember clearly there was no doubt in my mind that CLC was the way of continuing the spirit of the Exercises and also the means of meeting the Faith/Justice thrust that the Jesuits were promoting. This was the reason I was so convinced about it.

John English, SJ

**Welcome to the new  
Winnipeg community:**

Ruth & Carol Baritt-Flatt  
Ruth & Steve Chipman  
Katie Gumbmann  
Carol Kennedy  
Witold & Jean Kinsner  
Valerie Muzychuk  
Mike Radcliffe  
Earl Smith, SJ  
Marie Woods  
Guide : **John English, SJ**

# WORLD CLC DAY – MARCH 25, 2000

World CLC Day is almost upon us. For those new to our way of life, March 25 marks the day when we remember in a special way that CLC is an international organization with members in over 60 countries. This day we try to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in CLC both in prayer and in celebration. Traditionally CLC groups have gathered in local communities and taken part in the WAVE of PRAYER across Canada.

This year the World ExCo urges us to go beyond the those “religious activities” that do not have an influence on our way of living in the world, and instead to focus on prayer and action for justice within our communities as a way of celebrating this important day.

In the spirit of Ignatius, our founder, the World ExCo have circulated the following to help planning this day.

- In a world that is polarized and divided by wars among nations or regions, and by an economic system that favours the rich and impoverishes the poor, are we aware of the poor in our own neighbourhoods? What can we do to make a difference?
- God pursues us and wishes to be revealed with those who acknowledge their need, the poor.
- To meet God we must approach the poor. “In the poor we can see, hear, touch, embrace... the life of God in our midst.”
- The Holy Father invites us to celebrate the Jubilee with the larger Church around the world as people of Hope: and to try to create conditions to ensure that God’s kingdom of truth, justice and peace be shared by all.
- We are called to be faithful to the Mission we received in our World Assembly at Itaiaci: to be side by side with the poor, recognizing that this is a call to join in their struggles, to participate in advocacy for the poor at national and international levels, and to ensure that the voices of the **poorest** are heard in issues such as international debt.

## PRAYER WAVE ACROSS CANADA

<b>NEW BRUNSWICK</b>	<b>4 A.M. – 6 A.M.</b>
<b>NOVA SCOTIA</b>	<b>7 A.M. – 9 A.M.</b>
<b>P.E.I.</b>	<b>7 P.M. – 9 P.M.</b>
<b>ONTARIO</b>	<b>1 P.M. &amp; 3 P.M. – 6 P.M.</b>
<b>MANITOBA</b>	<b>10 A.M., 2 P.M. &amp; 10 P.M.</b>
<b>MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN</b>	<b>11 P.M.</b>
<b>ALBERTA</b>	<b>11 A.M. – 12 NOON, &amp; 12 A.M.</b>
<b>BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>	<b>1 A.M. – 3 A.M.</b>

# Upcoming Events

## Canadian Common Mission

### in Action

**ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY:** The PEI communities are happy to host this Assembly - May 26-28,00 with the theme "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts". Jack Milan will be facilitator. A wonderful opportunity to experience Maritime hospitality and fun. All are welcome to attend. More information contact: Beulah Costain at 902-859-3742

**Central Region CLCers, Families and Friends are invited to Celebrate Jubilee 2000 by making A Pilgrimage to the JESUIT MARTYRS SHRINE, MIDLAND SUNDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**Meet at 11 a.m. (West Gate)**

**Then go in Pilgrimage from St. Joseph's Chapel, Huronia Site**

**To the Shrine Church and there celebrate Noon Liturgy of The Eucharist.**

**Picnic to follow.**

**Those who wish can also participate in an ecological project around the Wye River Area**

**LET'S CELEBRATE JUBILEE 2000 TOGETHER ON SUNDAY MAY 21st**

## YOUTH NEWS

- Over 200 youth and 40 young adults are presently involved in CLC Canada.
- St. Paul's High School in Winnipeg, MN has a very active group. Two groups helped at an inner city soup kitchen Being present at the Christmas party was an eye-opening experience.
- 50-80 boys from St. Paul's will participate in a retreat in May just outside Winnipeg. Our informant tells us that this overnight retreat has already felt its first "damper": The facility usually features horseback riding; however a month ago the barn burned along with all 23 horses – quite tragic! We certainly hope their luck improves.
- A gathering for CLCers from St. Paul's and St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg, has been planned for senior students. The activities will include: sharing, prayer, pizza and bowling.
- In Hamilton, ON, great interest has been shown by the Catholic School Board in the establishment of CLC throughout their high schools. St. Paul's High School, Winnipeg hosted a visitor from Hamilton-Wentworth District Catholic School Board who wanted to observe Youth CLC in action. Central Region is very excited about the possibility of Youth CLCs in our schools.
- Meanwhile, in Regina and Winnipeg, CLCers have also approached their Catholic School Boards to present the idea of creating CLC groups there.
- In B.C., at the local parish level, CLC Youth is being considered.

## DO MEN AND WOMEN HAVE DIFFERENT SPIRITUALITIES?

*The question of male spirituality has come up in a number of meetings. We are always left with the question, "Why do we have fewer men than women in CLC Canada?" This is one member's response. Peter Peloso writes:*

As I was reflecting on this question, I thought of my youth. We said the Rosary after supper each night. For us children it was "something to get through", although I believe prayer always has a mysterious way of bearing fruit.

My mother insisted on this process each night and so did my dad although he always had the evening paper close by. I noticed he read throughout the Rosary! I thought this was because he just wasn't "religious", especially since he went to confession much less frequently than the rest of us, and only after much prodding from our mother. (She also suggested what sins he might confess!) However, he never missed volunteering to help build our local St. Joseph's Hospital which he did "religiously".

As I look back on this part of my history I note that my mother prayed, but my dad was also being spiritual in his voluntary construction of the hospital. I didn't think so then, but I now see that the Spirit was very much active in my father's life, urging him to serve by building.

So perhaps there IS such a thing as male and female spirituality.

As I reflect back on the times when I have been involved in a small group sharing I have noticed that (with many exceptions) women are able to "share" more easily than men. Women seem to be in touch with their inner experience and are able to express this side of themselves.

Sharing, initially, would not be a man's choice of activity. Generally speaking, men prefer action to sharing. If there was sharing to be done, men might prefer to do it, after work, at the pub. Men of course need to develop their "feminine" side, and engage in prayer, a "feminine" activity. Prayer is not doing, but being; it is not performing, but relational.

Relationships between men are much more competitive or certainly not ones in which we allow any weaknesses to be seen. I have been fishing annually with the same group of men for thirty years. We have experienced deaths, sickness, divorce, death of children and suicide, yet rarely were these "dramas" discussed. I play poker with another group of men. One member recently died of a heart attack. He had been treated for heart problems for years but we did not even know he was sick.

Psychologists tell us that men, in comparison with women, have an extra step to go through in achieving adulthood. At some point boys recognize that they are not like their mothers, to whom they have bonded so closely. They have to break from these relationships to become like

their father. In primitive societies this bridge is crossed with an initiation experience. We have lost this chance for male mentoring in our modern societies which I think results in a lot of teenage "problems". It is only after men are secure in their manhood that they can develop their anima or feminine side.

This discussion has taken us a long way from the consideration of our lack of men's attendance at our assemblies. But it does provide a vantage point, I think, to look at our formation.

The Spiritual Experiences are an excellent tool for spiritual formation, especially of the laity, for those of us who are in the "marketplace".

Yet this prayer method is always going to be more appealing to women than men. On the other hand Ignatius, soon after forming the Society of Jesus, had attracted thousands of men who were formed by the Spiritual Exercises. Jesuits spread throughout the world and founded schools, hospitals, missions and performed other very challenging tasks.

The point here is that Ignatius, who was involved in charitable work, insisted that his men move out to do the needed actions of the day, and balance their prayer life. This was to provide formation for those called to live their spiritual life "in the world"; much like Jesus had done. This was a break from the tradition of his day which was to see monasticism as the only venue in which to grow in holiness.

What does this say to us? If we are going to continue to attract men we need to emphasize not only reflection and its sharing, but also **action** in our formation. Those who plan assemblies or enrichment days should be mindful of the need to balance these two elements.

As a woman friend succinctly observed, "**Men like to work first and reflect later. Women want to reflect first and work later**".

Suggested resources:

"Wildman's Journey" by Richard Rohr.  
"Wildmen, Warriors and Kings" by Patrick Arnold, SJ.

**WELCOME to the new  
Lethbridge Community  
Jesus Pieces**

Mark & Brenda Nixon  
Greg & Marianna Schmidt  
Gary & Pat Spiess  
Peter & Cheryl Verhesen  
Ray & Ellen Wagner



## World CLC Report from Canucks in Rome

*We have asked our own Gilles Michaud, the World Community Coordinator, to give us a brief summary of the happenings at the World Secretariat. He sent us the following report just before he and Leah left to spend Christmas with their family in PEI.*

For many in the World CLC the past year has been one of looking back and honouring those that went before us. We acknowledge the present and with prayerful evaluation and plan the steps to take for the future realization of Our Common Mission.

As a result, some points of attention have been identified:

- It is becoming clearer that, as CLC, we need to understand the perspective that CLC is a vocation, and what this means to live it out. For some, the process to make this commitment takes years. Others may never do so, but want to stay connected.
- The focus for many countries is to ensure that all formation is mission oriented.

*Perhaps in the past this was intended, but now must be more explicitly expressed through our daily life .*

- There is a growing awareness of the greater need to value family life. The formation of family CLCs is seen as one response and in this, Canada can offer some expertise.
- Honouring and respecting youth and young adults is a high priority. In the latest CLC publication of Progressio we listen to the voices of many young women and men. Their stories inspire us and fill us with hope. It is encouraging that the Canadian CLC Common Mission has chosen youth and young adults as one of their major areas for mission.

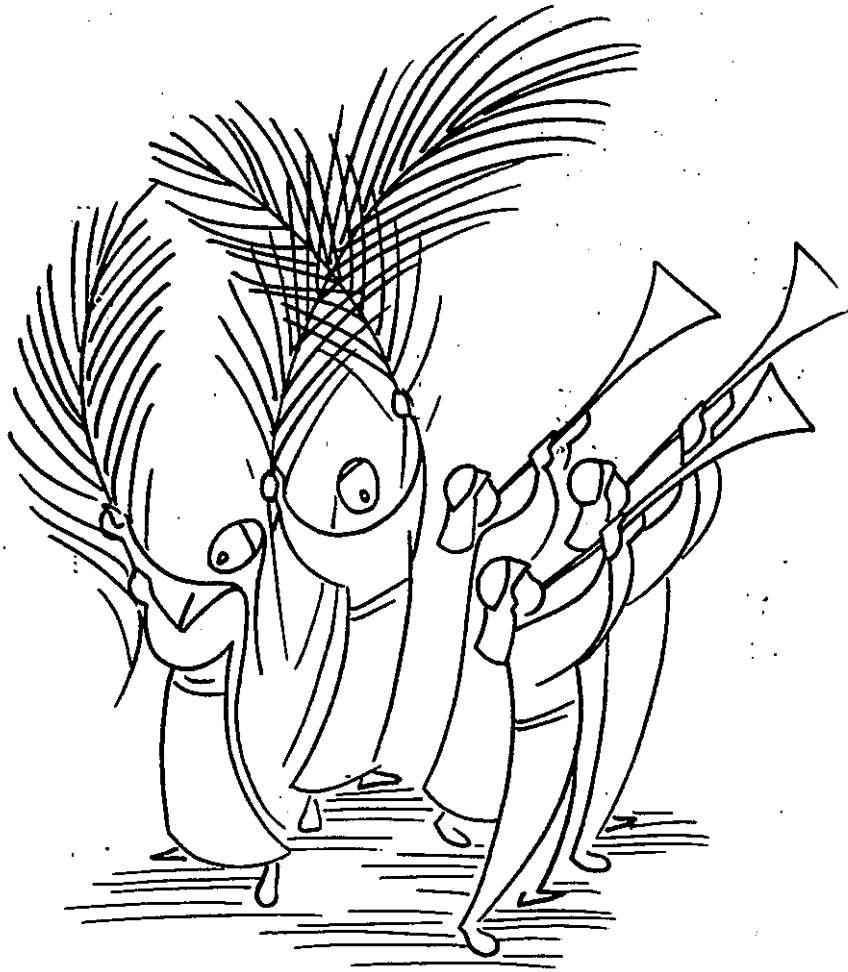
Growth in CLC worldwide:

- Scotland – at least two CLCs in formation
- New Zealand - planning a formation session
- Guam – formation of new community.

March 25 is World CLC Day – as a global family let's unite in prayer with CLCers around the world .

### GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Presidents:</b>	<b>Fran Morrison</b>	<b>Waterloo, ON.</b>
	<b>Elaine Regan</b>	<b>Toronto, ON.</b>
<b>Past Presidents:</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Shirley Gatchene,</b>	<b>Kitchener, ON.</b>
<b>Eccl. Asst:</b>	<b>Fr. John English, S.J.</b>	<b>Winnipeg, MA</b>
<b>Nat. Community Coordinator:</b>	<b>Julie Dwyer-Young</b>	<b>Kitchener, ON.</b>
<b>Atlantic Region Rep:</b>	<b>Beulah Costain</b>	<b>O'Leary, P.E.I.</b>
<b>Central Region Rep:</b>	<b>Susan Tomenson</b>	<b>Toronto, ON.</b>
<b>Prairies Region Rep:</b>	<b>David Sax</b>	<b>Regina, SK.</b>
<b>Rockies Region Rep:</b>	<b>Marilyn Heaton</b>	<b>Lethbridge, AB.</b>
<b>Youth Rep:</b>	<b>Ray Comeault</b>	<b>St.Boniface, MA</b>



*Let us . . . praise God's glory (1.12)*

**CLC IS A WAY OF LIFE**