



Christian Life Communities

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1995

CLC NEWSLETTER

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Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

It won't be long now before our Assembly '95. I am sure each CLC group is hard at work providing the funds for their delegate to be present August 17 to August 20. Ray and I plan to be there, God willing, and we hope to see many old faces as well as new ones.

After much prayer and reflection, I have discerned to resign as Newsletter Editor. Ray and I have been called to be Foster Parents for young offenders and it is too difficult to find a sitter so I can get away to type and process the news on my sister-in-law's computer. We are not in a position to purchase one at this time and availability is limited.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as Editor and been graced to meet many people and hear the news of how God is at work in their lives.

Please discern and pray for the continuation of our Newsletter and support whoever feels called to take on this service in August at our Assembly. I will be of service to our new Editor if needed.

Thank you for supporting me and sending me your news. Have a wonderful summer and may God bless you all!

Linda Blackmore, Editor

Joan M. Pittman
"The Pilgrim People CLC"
Lethbridge, Alberta

I have been negligent in reporting my "what doings" since you all so graciously participated in and prayed for me at and since the Discernment Workshop in Regina, Sask. Sept. 1993. Did I start my own business? No! It was with much prayer and discernment as I agonized over what to do with my career life. My prayers always brought the same answer, "Do nothing". I thought God was telling me I wasn't to work anymore and didn't really understand this. So as I was "doing nothing" I received a very surprising phone call in Feb. 1994. It was from the same hospital where I'd been layed off from the O.R. due to budget cuts. I had kept my name on recall but had not applied for any new positions. The afore mentioned phone call was God's doing, it was the Director of Nursing from Maternal-Child asking if I'd like to have a permanent part-time night shift position in the nursery. God knows my heart, I love babies and also



"nights", so that's what I've been "doing" since March 14, 1994. Taking care of God's little miracles is truly my prayer come true, the best job and truly the nicest staff ever (mainly all committed Christians). It's the best position I've held in my 27 years in the nursing profession and the greatest gift of all is I often get to faith share on the job! That truly is a first for me. I'm also involved in doing another "wedding package", floral bouquets and a cake as my son is getting married in July. God is good!

....God answers prayer even when we don't know we've prayed it....

BOB & MARILYNN HEATON

For about five years (during our initial CLC formation), we were part of a small group of people whose lives became more and more complicated. Because of changes in job situations, and other commitments, the small group disbanded.

We were left with a serious decision to make. Should we join one of the existing CLC groups? We both felt that our involvement in CLC had helped us to continue our spiritual growth through discipline in prayer and support of other Christian people. We found it necessary to share faith because we learn so much from each other. CLC had become very much a part of our lives.

At this point we needed to discern which of the two existing groups we would join. Both groups were very open to having us visit them and

welcomed us to their meetings, at our own convenience, until we had made a decision. This was not easy for us. However, after a few months of prayer and discernment, we felt called to join the Coaldale group. From our first visit with them we have felt accepted and very much a part of them.

It was five or six months later that both groups in this area agreed to invite new people to join. It was good for us to once more open our doors and our hearts to more of God's people. At that point it was decided that we must go back to the beginning of formation using the new CLC manuals made up at National. This has proven to be really rewarding for all of us.

Each meeting has been a time of grace and growth. The prayer and support of our brothers and sisters has been encouragement and strength for us in difficult situations. We need each other to help us bring about a little of God's Kingdom on earth.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**CLC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 1995
HALIFAX, NS**

Theme: Micah 6:8
 To act justly
 To love tenderly
 To walk humbly with our God

My dear CLC friends,

What an exciting time in our Canadian history! The thought of our first CLC National Assembly to be held in Halifax, NS with delegates coming from all regions of Canada really

excites me. Naturally, there is always a "wee Bit" of trepidation as we continue to move closer to the weekend.

The Assembly Planning Committee has been meeting for over a year attending to all the details of this great event. As a matter of fact, I recently met with Colleen Sumarah, chairperson of the committee and a member of the Truth Given CLC in Wolfville, NS. We visited the campus of the University of Mount St. Vincent and viewed the accommodations. I am sure that you will be delighted with all that is being offered including some good down home Maritime hospitality. I was very impressed with the ascetic setting of the university. The campus is situated on a hill overlooking the Bedford Basin on the outskirts of Halifax.

By now your community delegate will have been chosen to attend the delegates assembly commencing on Thursday evening until Friday afternoon. Friday evening we will be joined by other CLC members who are able to be with us for the remainder of the weekend.

We all recognize the sacrifice being made on your part in your effort to raise the \$400.00 needed for our solidarity travel fund. There are diverse and imaginative fund raisers that have helped groups attain this financial objective. I have recently received a note from the People of Hope CLC from Regina, Sask. This group has made and sold perogies and perogies and more perogies. They now have enough money to send to the solidarity travel fund.

I am also aware of many other activities that have taken place across Canada such as; raffles, auctions, flea markets, garage sales etc. No doubt there are many more. I would encourage you to send your own fund raising story to the Editor of our CLC newsletter, so that all may hear and enjoy your stories and the diversity of your efforts in this regard. It is important to once again remind you that we have made financial provision to assist those not in position to afford the travel expenses. THE PRIORITY IS TO HAVE YOUR DELEGATE JOIN US IN HALIFAX.

My friends, this is an exciting and very challenging time for us in Canada, in our Church and in our World. The grace received at the CLC World Assembly in Hong Kong is being deepened. Its "fire is burning" and spreading throughout our global community. Recently, I read in a CLC Projects article that we are moving into the third millennium with a growing consciousness of the charism of the laity in our Church. Indeed it is this charism, clearly defined in our CLC General Principles (GP4), that when lived out becomes a powerful witness of the Church in the world.

I will conclude by drawing your attention to the prayer exercise that was recently sent to you. This reflection on our historical roots invites us to focus on the question:

WHAT IS THE CANADIAN CLC OF THE FUTURE?

It is especially important for you, as a delegate, to pray with this spiritual exercise. At the assembly, we will go into sharing groups on this very question and move into discerning how we are to respond to the call of God in our time and reality. I would suggest that as we move into this phase of disposing ourselves to God's grace, we do so as a community. All CLC members are encouraged, whether you are attending the assembly or not, to take this reflection into prayer. Together with the Spirit, we would then move to a greater clarity of vision for our CLC as we journey into the third millennium.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to meeting you at the National Assembly.

Much peace and love,

Gilles Michaud
CLC President

Dear Brothers & Sisters in CLC,

Greetings! We pray that the Risen Lord has blessed you with the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

We trust you are all actively discerning your participation in the upcoming National Assembly. We look forward eagerly to renewing friendships and have the chance to make new friends as we meet delegates from all the communities across Canada. It is the best opportunity of connecting with everyone and familiarizing ourselves with the richness of our uniqueness and diversity.

This brings us to an update of our financial situation. To date we have had no community declare discerned call to perform the service of Finance Committee for us, although we have heard some unique and ingenious ways in which individual communities are raising their travel funds. We are truly grateful to those who have and are responding and wish you continued success in your efforts.

Regarding our financial position, again we express our gratitude to all who have been so generous in their financial support of CLC in Canada. We continue to appeal to all who may have overlooked or postponed their intention to respond to our appeal of February 7th. This is an unusually heavy year financially due to the World Assembly expenses, followed by our National Assembly. Added to this we have been blessed with continuing growth which means added expense in providing ways and means for enrichment and communication. As well, we continue to have our commitment to the life of the World CLC.

As an example of one of those means for providing links with all communities as well as hearing and responding to their needs, we are enclosing the role of regional councillors and ask that you study this in your communities to familiarize yourselves with the services available to you.

In closing we look forward to meeting as many as possible in August and urge you to continue your prayers and discernment regarding our financial



situation.

NOTE:

Due to pressures of business our Treasurer, Stan Stys, is no longer able to perform this service for us. We thank him for his several years of service and ask that until a new Treasurer is found, all communications and contributions be sent to the National office.

Peace & Love,
Jean Floyd
National Executive Council

ELDERS

After a couple of years as elder representative on the General & Executive councils, I can tell you that I'm impressed with the process and content of the meetings and the vision of our life in the International CLC Community. This is crystallized in the theme of our August /95 Assembly, "The CLC of the Future".

The purpose of an elder representative on these councils is not necessarily to function (although I've helped with finances & a few other ways), but to be a carrier of the myth of our International Community. As well, elders are to encourage & be "wisdom" figures as we see our communal life enfolding. The elder doesn't function as a regular representative, but is an encouraging "presence", patiently carrying the hope-filled legacy of our past.

In the future, rather than remain with one person, the elder role on the General &

Executive Council could
(a) be one which is rotating,
(b) be served by a team of elders,
(c) should represent all the regions of the country.

How this could occur may need some planning since there are many elders across the country. Perhaps you could share this question in your communities & communicate your sharing with your regional representative.

If you are wondering about your elder role possibilities you might refer back to an article on this in our Newsletter a couple of years ago entitled "Do elders have to be elderly?"

PETER PELOSO

Correction: On my last newsletter, there was an article named, "Do we empower the laity?" First paragraph, third sentence read, "Particular mention was made of the lay person. The lay person in question simply shrugged this off..." It should have read, "Particular mention was made of the contribution of the veteran priest, NO mention was made at all of the lay person. The lay person in question simply shrugged this off....."

Sorry for the error!

May 1995

Greetings from the Disciples of Light CLC, Mabou, NS

Plans for the National Assembly in August are well underway. Harry & Jeannie Beks have been able to attend most planning meetings in the Halifax area. Even though Nova Scotia is one

of and smaller provinces, there is still some considerable travel involved between Cape Breton and Halifax! We are all planning to attend, one as delegate and the rest of us as members at large. See you there!

Since our last correspondence, Harry Beks has beaten the dismal Maritime statistics and landed three construction jobs. We prayed hard for him and are thankful to God that the Beks family can now look forward to an income coming in. We are still praying for members John MacInnis and Gerard Cameron who still need employment and also for Marcella Cameron who is recuperating from surgery and was unable to teach this year due to back problems. Father Duncan MacIsaac is just coming to the end of his first year as a parish assistant in Sydney. It was a very busy year for him but he managed to attend most Tuesday night meetings. There is a possibility of a move to another parish. Our Diocese is now feeling the crunch as far as priests available and some of our smaller rural parishes may soon become "priestless" and be "amalgamated" (that awful word) with larger parishes. More for less is the definite trend these days and no matter what the work, with severe cutbacks, everyone is affected. John Gillies, who continues to teach in Port Hood, also feels the pressure as teacher layoffs continue and those left take on more of the load. In terms of our mission and service, we have been involved in some areas besides our primary commitment to family and vocation--John serving on the local Committee for Rural Survival, and Harry &

Jeannie on the registration committee for the Assembly. Fr. Duncan, besides parish duties, has helped out with challenge retreats and continues a long held association with L'Arcne.

Ray & Joan Rankin, who served as parish administrators on St. Kitts' for five years, have been back with us and are looking at a call to be of more service to this field in Nova Scotia. It would seem that lay participation is more needed than ever. It is both a challenge and a commitment for our faith.

We are praying for and supporting our new CLC group which meets every Thursday evening in Mabou. Three married couples and a local priest have begun journeying through the Phase I manual with group guide Cathy Gillies. So far it has been a very positive experience and it's quite exciting to see the Lord at work in this.

This is all our news this spring. The ice on the Gulf finally left (although the air is still cold) but we are getting some lobsters at last. We look forward to seeing you all here in Nova Scotia this August!

CATHY GILLIES
Disciples of Light CLC
Mabou, NS



SPECIAL MENTION

Sister Marilyn Mangan, executive director of Marguerite Bourgeois Family Service, was nominated for the 1995 WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD.

She is a contender for the YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto award primarily for her work on fertility research and natural family planning.

Her notable achievements include: founding the Marguerite Bourgeois Family Service; being the first Canadian natural family planning practitioner graduate, natural family planning supervisor and natural family planning educator; and being the first active Canadian member of Natural Family Planning.

Mangan also spearheaded a move to get Canadian medical consultants trained at Creighton University in Nebraska, where she received her education. This was so that she could refer her patients, who needed specific hormonal treatment to achieve a pregnancy, to doctors in Toronto. Mangan coaches doctors in other parts of Ontario and Quebec as well.

Mangan, born near Kingston in 1933, entered the Congregation of Notre Dame after finishing high school. She graduated from teacher's college in 1958 and obtained her B.A. from the University of Ottawa.

Mangan, who spent most of her teaching years at Notre Dame, designed food/nutrition,

clothing/textile and other courses for Notre Dame and the Metropolitan Separate School Board. She received her masters in Science of the Family from Eastern Michigan University in 1974.

In her spare time, Mangan has volunteered for the Good Shepherd Refuge, L'Arche Community and coordinates a new CLC group.

CONGRATULATIONS SISTER FROM ALL CLCERS.

ATTENTION:

NCLC NATIONAL CONVENTION
"CALLED & SENT"
John Carroll University
Cleveland, Ohio
July 27 - July 30, 1995

For registration write:
Barbara Schaefer
18502 Newell
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
or contact
Jack Quinlan
216-382-9444
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ONTARIO NATIVE KATERI
CONFERENCE
"MAKE THE SACRED TREE TO BLOOM
AND GROW"
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario
August 17 - August 20, 1995

For information contact:
Native People's Parish
263 Roncesvalles Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6R 2L9
Phone & Fax (416)537-0926

Sister Eva Solomon
1019 Brown Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 2L7
Phone (807)475-0861

MAP TO MOUNT SAINT
VINCENT UNIVERSITY
LC NATIONAL '95

THEME:
MICAH 6:8

