

Update

Christian Life Community Canada

National Office – 67 Irvin Street, Kitchener, ON, N2H 1K7

Email: clcofcan@ionline.net

(519) 741 9702



November 2000

TWO themes run through this issue **travel and community**, – whether it be visits with CLCers from a different region, or even country – we are all friends in the Lord in CLC.

We marvel at the many journeys John English undertook to promote CLC and care for fledgling communities in the early years. John's message of the importance of meeting and sharing stories is echoed again and again in the articles in this issue.

Peter and Barbara Peloso, our first presidents, share their thoughts of CLC past and future. They still log many miles as they live out our Way of Life. Gilles and Leah Michaud, of the World Secretariat, write of the excitement their many visitors to Rome bring to them, as they share stories of their home countries.

Fran's visit to the new National Community in Scotland was a highlight of her visit home. The Scottish CLC flag is now proudly displayed at our General Council meetings.

Our General Councillors travel twice-yearly across Canada to make decisions at Council meetings, and bring with them the stories of local communities and their Common Mission actions. They take the national message back to their regions with them – and this, too, sometimes involves travelling as Marilyn Heaton, Rockies Rep who has just returned from a whirlwind visit to communities in BC will attest.

The willingness to share one's story over a "cup of tea" can have a profound effect on all of us. We are drawn out of isolation into community and wonderful things happen: we meet Jesus in each other, are strengthened in prayer and given courage to join with others to act for the common good.

Blessings to you and yours for the upcoming Advent season.

Fran & Elaine



Planting "the CLC Tree" at the General Council Mass Sept 2000

HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL COUNCIL May 29-Oct 1, 2000.

- *New members Matthew Couture, Youth & Young Adult Rep, Nora Jean, Atlantic Region Rep (represented this meeting by Beulah Costain), Carol McKerral, Central Region Rep.*
- *Kudos to all the communities who returned the Survey, despite the time constraints. It is heartening to hear community stories and the incredibly varied ways that the Canadian Common Mission is being implemented. All this information is presently being collated, will be published at a later date, and will be particularly useful when the Presidents have their annual meeting with the Jesuit Provincial, David Nazar, SJ.*
- *General Council has agreed to the appointment of a bilingual CLC member to liaise with CVX (French Canadian CLC).*
- *All the work that has been done in CLC Formation is finally bearing fruit. Thanks to John English, SJ who has spearheaded the Guide Clinics in each Region across Canada. The Atlantic Region has 30 participants for their upcoming Guides Course. Also General Council were happy to agree to the proposal for each Region to have a Formation Resource Person to assist with training Guides, ongoing community formation and advice.*
- *President-Elect process (to replace Fran & Elaine) will be started in January 2001. We encourage communities to pray that the Spirit will call forth leaders to serve in this capacity.*
- *The Directory was completed for use of General Council and will be updated annually. Members who wish to contact other CLCers throughout Canada please contact your own Regional Rep.*

*An address given in Convocation Hall by JEAN VANIER
Toronto, October 27, 2000*

HOPE AND RECONCILIATION IN THIS MILLENIUM

Jean traced the signs of hope in his lifetime and focused on the underlying movement of the Spirit..... *The Wave of awareness of respect for the uniqueness of the individual and the thirst for unity in the community.....*all of this in a world, Jean stressed, still needs a lot of work.

He foresees hope in the search for truth by youth and young adults. They call us to the Basic Truth as they search for the Face of God in our *actions* - not in our words.

PRESIDENTS ON THE ROAD

Starting at the end of May we had a very busy summer: We calculated that in our travels we met approximately 150 CLC friends.

The CLC Banner designed for the National Assembly in Winnipeg 1999 was proudly carried to a number of events:

- Central CLC Pilgrimage and Ecological Walk and Reflection (and Picnic) in Midland with 50 CLCers and families in attendance. Great to see and talk to so many old CLC friends.
- CVX (Montreal) Visited the President and Ecclesial Assistant and old friends from the Hong Kong and Itaiçi World Assemblies. We spent an evening meeting with them and their families and compared notes on the status of CLC in our respective areas.

Our ultimate destination was the Atlantic Assembly held in PEI (see separate report) but en route we visited the following CLC communities:

- In New Brunswick River of Life and Our Lady's Circle, (Nackawic).
- Ichthus, Summerside PEI.
- Shalom, Halifax
- Truth Given and the Ecumenical Community, Wolfville, NS

All of the above communities treated us royally during our stay: giving us overnight accommodation, food, and wonderful hospitality. In most cases we participated in their regular CLC meeting where the truth of the maxim that one is "never a stranger when we

share our CLC charism" was joyfully experienced.

We concluded our 2-week Atlantic adventure by participating in the Toronto Jubilee 2000 celebration for the laity held in King City. Several thousand people attended this event.

During the holidays Fran was welcomed by the new CLC Scotland national community, and Elaine met with members of the US CLC in the Detroit area.

Near the end of the summer we had the opportunity to meet with Gilles Michaud, World Community Coordinator, during his annual retreat in Guelph, ON. Gilles is always interested to hear news from home and is looking forward to being involved in the North American Conference planned for 2002.

Our travels really highlighted the many ways that CLCers are enriching the larger Church.

Carol McKerral, new Central Rep for General Council, has made a special prayer request for a former Hungarian POW finally returned to his homeland after incarceration in a Russian mental hospital for 50 years.

CLC ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY May 26-28, 2000

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts

By Bill Costain

CLC members from Atlantic Canada gathered near Summerside, PEI. Guests from outside the region included John English, SJ, Presidents Fran Morrison and Elaine Regan and Jack Milan, our facilitator for the weekend.

The Assembly opened on Friday with the Seasonal Liturgy led by Ichthus Community: the Blessing of the Waters. Each community brought water from a natural source near their homes to be poured into the communal container and blessed: symbolic of the Assembly theme: "*The whole is greater than the sum of its parts*".

Jack Milan led the Saturday session which focused on deepening our understanding of the Canadian Common Mission. Joe Byrne, Diocesan Youth Director, led the afternoon session which explored the needs of Youth in the Atlantic Region.

John English, SJ presided at the Saturday evening Eucharist during which seven members made a Permanent Commitment to the CLC Way of Life. Just as the celebration was ending the area was livened by the throb of deafening music from the adjoining hall, where the Maritime Special Olympic athletes were having their own festivities. CLCers and the Olympians joined in a celebratory dance before the "older folks" retired to the CLC social. Maritime hospitality included generous helpings of mussels, freshly caught snow crab, baked goodies and home-made wine accompanied by traditional songs and music.

Presidents Elaine and Fran gave a brief presentation from the National on Sunday morning following the opening

prayer service. Nora Jean from Our Lady's Circle in Nackawic, NB was acclaimed as the new Atlantic Rep to General Council.

Jack Milan helped the participants discern where the Spirit was leading the Atlantic Region at this time. Following prayer and discernment two decisions emerged:

- That the Region focus on Youth and Young Adults as a Common Mission for the upcoming year
- That Regional structure be established with the formation of a steering committee to include a representative from each of the Atlantic Provinces.

In the closing ritual each CLC community took home water from the communal container with a small package of Forget-me-Not seeds to plant: powerful reminders of the action of the Spirit during this wonderful weekend.

NOTE: Presidents Fran & Elaine were most impressed with the way the organizers incorporated the three-fold dimensions of CLC: local, national and world throughout the agenda. A marvellous sign of the depth of CLC commitment in the Atlantic region was the Permanent Commitment by seven members during the closing Eucharist. The Ignatian way of proceeding permeated the whole weekend. Under Jack Milan's skilful facilitation participants prayerfully discerned the way that the Canadian Common Mission should be enacted in the Atlantic. Their unanimous and enthusiastic acceptance of a regional focus on Youth and Young Adults was a most exciting conclusion to a spirit-filled gathering.

INTERVIEW WITH PETER AND BARBARA PELOSO

First Presidents of CLC Canada

WHAT WAS THE TIME OF YOUR PRESIDENCY - DATES?

We were actively involved with CLC since 1975 as part of the four founding communities (Brantford, Elora, Waterloo and Burlington- Ontario). In 1982 after Canada was officially welcomed into the World Community we officially became the Presidents of CLC Canada with an Executive Committee (EXCO) composed of one representative from each of the four founding communities. At the end of our first term in office, we were asked, and agreed, to serve a second term until 1985.

HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR TIME IN OFFICE:?

- Assisted John English SJ and John Veltri SJ in their "School for the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life" and, also with weekend retreats
- Directed many retreatants through the Spiritual Exercises
- Organized annual CLC assemblies
- Set up a Fund to oversee CLC financial responsibilities

WHAT DID CLC DO FOR YOU (i.e. IMPORTANCE IN YOUR LIFE)?

Peter: As a lay person CLC offered a way of life and provided me with a community, not found in the larger parish community. The Ignatian tools helped greatly in my marriage ,family life, and call to mission.

Barbara: Since 1976 as a new "convert" to Catholicism, CLC has been a source of deep friendship and spiritual growth. To find and know

that God is in all things has helped me with my daily life and struggles. Ignatian prayer has also been a source of deep love and relationship with the Father and Jesus. Since our two communities have had a strong family focus, CLC helped with the challenges of parenting.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM FOR CLC NOW?

Peter and Barbara: We think that **apostolic action** is the key to the future of CLC.....without it, communities will fade away. Environmental issues are most pressing matters of today. God never meant us to alter the course of evolution. Awareness and education at the CLC local, regional, national and world levels could focus and lead us to take up environmental causes globally.

A question from Barbara and Peter to CLC Canada

As a community what is your call to action that will better this world for all??

REMINDER:

Please send any changes of address and email address to the National Office

VATICAN CITY, OCTOBER 13, 2000

In his address to the new Canadian Ambassador to the Vatican, John Paul II applauded:

- ✦ Canada's efforts in this struggle against antipersonnel mines, and appealed for solidarity in response to globalization
- ✦ Canada's position favouring the reduction of the international debt

In this Jubilee year in which Christ asks us to be more responsible for one another, I renew once again my appeal to the international community so that everything will be done to eliminate as soon as possible the fields in which those horrible weapons have been installed and to halt their production

John Paul II also focused on the next WORLD YOUTH DAY, July 2002, Toronto, ON.

The Holy Father said that attention should be given not only to the "intellectual and professional formation" of youth, but also "to their human, moral and spiritual education," an education that implies respect for life.

WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN

Ottawa, ON October 15, 2000

In September the General Council prayed for the World March of Women. Councillors were encouraged to gather signatures of protest and to support the CLCers participating in The March on Parliament Hill.

After 6-7 hour bus rides, CLCers from Kitchener/Waterloo and Toronto gathered to celebrate the Eucharist in a very packed Basilica. Six Canadian Bishops welcomed and encouraged all Canadian women to participate in this protest.

The March was full of joy as thousands of women and men of all ages, and many children walked hand in hand sharing a hope that the Canadian Government could initiate legislation to make this a kinder country especially for women and children

It was heartening to see our National CLC Community Coordinator, Julie Dwyer-Young, and her eight year old daughter, Justine, standing in solidarity on Parliament Hill.....a symbol of hope for the Women of the World being passed on to the next generation

NEW ECCLESIAL ASSISTANT FOR CLC CANADA



At the CLC ExCo meeting held on Friday Nov.24, 2000 John English, SJ officially announced that the Jesuit Provincial, David Nazar, SJ, has appointed Earl Smith, SJ to be his successor as National Ecclesial Assistant for CLC Canada.

In 1998 Earl represented Canada as Ecclesial Assistant at the World Assembly in Itaici, Brazil, and was one of the speakers at the National CLC Assembly in Winnipeg in 1999, when he and Elaine Regan shared the highlights of the Itaici Assembly and in particular the World Mission document.

Presently serving in the Jesuit parish in Winnipeg, Earl also teaches in St. Paul's High School there. He is a director of the Spiritual Exercises and is active in CLC groups. John English (who moved to live in the parish this past month) will assist Earl in his new duties and the "changeover" will be a gradual process as Earl's other commitments end. John has promised to be an active "Elder" for CLC. Canada.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Provincial who has seen fit to fill this important position by so able a person in a time of declining manpower in the Jesuit order.

Please keep Earl, John and the Provincial in your prayers. We append a copy of the Jesuit Bulletin which announced this appointment.

God is good! Blessings to you all, Fran & Elaine.

FROM THE JESUIT BULLETIN:

Dear brothers: The peace of Christ.

Effective 15 November 2000, Fr. Earl Smith is the National Ecclesiastical Representative for the Christian Life Communities (CLC). Earl replaces Fr. John English who has held the position for most of the last two decades.

As you know, CLC constitutes a group of committed lay Christians who seek to journey with the labouring Christ according to the spirituality of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. There are CLC groups in most every Province of the Society and Fr. General encourages Jesuit collaboration with them. Each CLC group and the National Executive committee seeks to have a Jesuit as the "Ecclesiastical Representative" to accompany them in their discerning search for creative insertion in the world. John English has served long and faithfully in this role, helping to develop many groups and to assist leaders in the principles of group discernment.

You might also know that the head offices of CLC International are at the Curia in Rome and the current Director is a Canadian layman from Prince Edward Island.

Earl's role will be to work with the National Executive in their annual meetings and overall strategy for CLC in Canada.

With this letter, I would like to thank John for his CLC work of many years and to thank and congratulate Earl Smith for his generous availability to this new ministry. I commend them both to your prayers.

Fraternally in the Lord,

*David Nazar, sj
Provincial*



JESUIT/CLC COLLABORATION

- Presidents visited with John Trainor, SJ, Halifax, NS, who has promoted the Spiritual Exercises and CLC in the Maritimes for many years.
- Presidents were hosted by Patrice Proulx, SJ, CVX Ecclesial Assistant, who provided a tour of Montreal.
- Collaboration with Robert Wong, SJ, Administrator of the Shrine Church, Midland, ON for the Central Region CLC Pilgrimage.
- Max Oliva, SJ, Cluny, AB, offered to be available to the Lethbridge/Coaldale Communities for ongoing days of Reflection.
- Central Region CLCers joined a Work Party to assist the Jesuits at Ignatius College, Guelph, with their annual tree planting endeavour.
- Ongoing assistance for Youth in Winnipeg by Alan Fogarty, SJ, Earl Smith, SJ and the Chaplain of St. Paul's College, U of Manitoba, Fr. Melo
- James Profit, SJ assisted in the planting of "the CLC tree" At the Liturgy at the last General Council Meeting in Guelph, Ontario
- John English, SJ, Ecclesial Assistant for CLC Canada, and J.P. Horrigan, SJ, Ecclesial Assistant for Central Region continued to bless us with their dedicated service.

We recommend the following publication:

" The Quest for Spiritual Wisdom"

Michael Murray, SJ, Editor, Carol McKerral, Associate Editor, an account of the Prayer Reflections of a group of the First Nations People on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

For more information contact

Carol McKerral,
Fax 807-343-9114
(Office of Native Ministries, Thunder Bay, ON)

Welcome to the new Kitchener-Waterloo, ON Community

COMPANIONS OF JESUS

Sharon Bissonnette
Jane Hemming
Anne Maranda & Bob Reid
Francine & Greg O'Connor
Fran Morrison

From the desk of Gilles and Leah Michaud.....

REPORT FROM THE WORLD SECRETARIAT, ROME

- The Jubilee Celebrations continue to draw CLC members from around the world to Rome.
- In this month alone we welcomed visitors from Hong Kong, Japan, Germany, Chile, USA and Taiwan - a real appreciation of our one world community.
- It's one thing to recognize a name from a news article or a membership list; but it's quite another to meet the **person**.....again, highlighting the importance of CLC "gatherings".
- These meetings are an opportunity to get first hand information from the various countries and the CLC involvement in the fabric of their civic society
- It is most encouraging to know how CLCers are being called to Mission which is at the heart of CLC (*CF GP No.8*)
- CLC has a new group *in formation* in Sudan.
- We are busy getting reading with preparing the Fall issue of *Progressio with the focus of the Christian Family Today*

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Presidents:	Fran Morrison	Waterloo, ON.
	Elaine Regan	Toronto, ON.
Eccl. Asst:	Fr. John English, S.J.	Winnipeg, MA
Nat. Community Coordinator:	Julie Dwyer-Young	Kitchener, ON.
Atlantic Region Rep:	Nora Jean	Nakawic, NB
Central Region Rep:	Carol McKerral	Thunder Bay, ON.
Prairies Region Rep:	David Sax	Regina, SK.
Rockies Region Rep:	Marilynn Heaton	Lethbridge, AB.
Youth Rep:	Matthew Couture	Winnipeg, MA

MILLENNIUM RESOLUTION

- Let there be respect for the earth
- Peace for its people. Love in our lives
- Delight in the Good
- Forgiveness for past wrongs
- And - from now on - a new start

(shared from the new Scottish CLC National)