

Update

Christian Life Communities Canada

National Office – 207 Lourdes St., Waterloo, Ont. N2L 1N8 (519) 886-6726

Fax: 519-886-3231

Email: clcofcan@ionline.net

September/October 1997

Greetings once again CLC Canada! It has been awhile since many of us have been together in our communities due to vacations or many other summer commitments. But the fall has a way of inviting us to once again resume our many responsibilities. To some this can be very welcoming.

Christian Life Community is a **Way of Life**, a life always inviting challenge, enrichment and growth. Let's welcome not only what the fall holds for CLC, but all that this coming year has to offer CLC'ers in Canada with renewed energy and excitement.

Atlantic Regional Assembly in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Aug. 15-17/97 was a great experience. The theme of the Assembly was **CLC Charism – Identity, Vocation, Mission and Celebration**. Those who gathered from all the Atlantic provinces were once again energized, and went away with a much deeper sense of who they are as CLC'ers, a greater understanding of CLC as Vocation, our connection between CLC and Mission, and a deeper understanding and appreciation of Celebration, a component very necessary (yet sometimes overlooked) to complete the cycle. Each Assembly has its' own flavour or charism – this one was no different. The Spirit was at work in our midst during the entire weekend and at the end when it was time to leave, we were sent

forth with renewed energy, much gratitude for the many gifts we have obtained from CLC, Ignatian Spirituality, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and a burning desire to spread and share this wonderful gift with others. The last bit of good news from the Atlantic is the P.E.I. has offered to host their next Atlantic Regional Assembly. **Great stuff P.E.I.!!**

Central Regional Assembly - October 3-5/97 at Loyola House, Guelph, Ontario.

Theme: **Mission is the Quality of my Presence: The Millennial Spirit in CLC.** If you need more information or have not yet registered contact **Barb Peloso - 1-519-846-9631** or email: peloso@sentex.net
Hope to see you there!!

Steering Committee – We have had members of the Steering Committee, and on many occasions accompanied by your Regional Rep to General Council, visiting or contacting communities to discuss and get your feedback on **Regional Structure**. Their one-year mandate will be completed in (November 1997.) At that time their reports will be submitted to General Council for review. We thank Pam Nowina from Central, (Congratulations to Pam who has just been recently married); Martha

Ottenbreit from the West and Julia Donahoe from the Atlantic region for the great job done on this project. On behalf of the National Community we thank you!

Formation Working Group – Presently there is a Formation Working Group meeting to compile a Leaders Manual which will accompany our Phase I, II and III Formation Manuals. This came out of a need for leaders working with CLC Formation material, to have greater resources directly related to our CLC formation more readily accessible to them. When this manual has reached it's completed stage, it will be presented to General Council for approval and publishing. We ask for your continued prayers for the successful completion of this manual.

1998 World Assembly – Attached you will find a copy of 1) Standard Operating Procedure for Delegate to World Assembly and 2) Candidates for the World CLC Executive Council. These two articles should be discussed with your community, and any nominations for either Delegate to the World Assembly or suggested candidates names for World Executive Council, should be submitted to the Regional Rep in your area to be brought to the General Council Meeting on Nov. 14-16/97 for consideration. We ask for your prompt attention to this matter.

National Community Coordinator – The position of National Community Coordinator remains available. We once again ask you to prayerfully consider this position. Attached please find a letter from Jean Floyd who has over the past several years faithfully served in this capacity. Anyone interested in this position, please contact Jean Floyd at our National CLC office.

Further UPDATE News Items – If you have any – prayer requests, announcing or reporting community celebrations, community happenings, up-coming events, etc., whether Local, Regional, National, World, please send them to:

Shirley Gatchene
gatchene@ionline.net
Fax. 519 570-4735

Until the next time – HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH!

Begin each morning by resolving to find something in the day to enjoy. Look into each experience which comes to you for some grain of happiness.

CLC IS A WAY OF LIFE

● Candidates for the World CLC Executive Council

I. Procedure for the nomination of candidates

- ① Each National Community affiliated to the World Community is called to nominate candidates for all the elected positions on the Executive Council, i.e:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Consultors.

Those nominated can be members of the same National Community or from any other National Community. You may nominate one person for each position, making a maximum of seven nominations.

- ② According to General Norm 21(a), an ExCo member can be re-elected to the same position only once. This means the following members may not be re-elected to the same position:

- Maria Clara Bingemer Lucchetti as Vice- President
- Ingeborg von Grafenstein as Secretary
- Mary Nolan as Consultor

- ③ Nominations in writing should be forwarded to the World Secretariat as soon as possible through the National Executive Council. According to General Norm 28 nominations should be received four months before the Assembly, but practical experience has shown this to be insufficient time. We have, therefore, set a deadline of **31 December 1997** for the receipt of nominations. Early nominations will give National Communities more time for discerning their choice of delegates. You will understand that for both financial and administrative reasons, we cannot afford unlimited numbers, and nominated candidates who are not delegates cannot be invited additionally.

- ④ The World Secretariat will contact the nominated candidates to ask for their consent. At the same time they will receive a questionnaire (Appendix 2/2).

- ⑤ In the second mailing of May 1998, the list of candidates will be included with a résumé of their answers to the questionnaire, to allow an initial discernment before the election itself in Itaici.

The nomination of candidates is a great responsibility for the National Community. A prayerful approach is needed, as well as discernment on the basis of the criteria on the following page.

II. Criteria for selection of candidates

According to our General Norms, the Executive Council is responsible for the ordinary government of our Community. For this important task, as well as a mature personality and leadership qualities needed to govern an international association, the following basic criteria have to be met by the candidate:

- Commitment to CLC as their life vocation
- Identification with the General Principles, and a personal life style that is not contradictory to them
- Availability (willingness and time) to give priority to the obligations of an active, working member of the World ExCo and the support of one's own National Community, family and CLC group
- Awareness of and commitment to the **one** World CLC
- A profound experience of the CLC way of life, that is
 - an understanding and experience of the Spiritual Exercises as a life process,
 - membership of a small CLC community where communal discernment and sharing life and faith are practised,
 - apostolic commitment and an understanding of mission
- Sound CLC formation
 - understanding of the group process and the process of personal growth
 - Experience of leadership in the National CLC or in the ecclesial, professional or civic field
- A good relationship within the National Community, the Church and with the Society of Jesus
- A good knowledge of scripture and of the Church's teaching
- The ability to work in a team
- Good knowledge of at least one of the official languages - English, Spanish and French.

September, 1996

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
DELEGATE TO WORLD ASSEMBLY

Preamble: The World Assembly meets every four years. According to the statutes of the World Executive Council, the national delegations consist of three people, generally two lay members and the Ecclesial Assistant. One of the lay delegates is usually the National Leader. Delegates are chosen according to the criteria set out by the World Executive Council. The process for selecting delegates should be started eighteen months in advance of the World Assembly date.

Criteria:

- Experience in CLC life; membership of a stable group where praying with Scripture, sharing life and faith and giving account of apostolic commitment is practised.
- The ability and time to read the preparatory material and respond to it as indicated.
- Identification with the General Principles
- Experience of the Spiritual Exercises in proportion to the maturity of the person and the National Community to which they belong.
- A sense of belonging to one World Community, and some knowledge of this World Community.
- Knowledge and identification with the Social Teaching of the Church and a personal life style that is not in contradiction to it.
- Capability and willingness to communicate effectively to the National Community the orientation, guidelines and decisions of the World Assembly after it has taken place.
- Knowledge of at least one of the official languages: English, Spanish, French.
- One who lives the General Principles

Process of Selection of Delegate: The delegate/s will be chosen by the nationally elected General Council according to the criteria set out above. The regional representative will inform communities in their region of the selection date. If they have a candidate/s who meets the criteria they may give the name/s to their regional representative before this date so that their name/s may be included in the selection process. Communities will be advised by their regional representative of the choice made by General Council and the reasons for their selection.

Possible Exception: If Canada should wish to submit a candidate for election on the World Executive Council, it is recommended that the person should be a delegate since it is advisable for that person to be present.

Greetings from the National Office

"There is a time for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven..."

Eccl.:3-1

This verse from scripture came to me as I pondered my role as National Community Coordinator on this the great feast of Pentecost. As you know I have notified the General Council of my intent to retire on or before the National Assembly in 1997. My time to retire has come and the time for someone else to carry on this role has come.

There have been many changes in my nearly 6 years, not the least of which was the change of address for our National Office from Guelph to our home. This was the beginning of de-centralization for our National CLC. Along with this came the moving of all the archives from Ignatius College to 207 Lourdes St. No small feat, in a Mazda Protege! So, with a little ingenuity necessitating the removal of car door handles and sufficient elbow grease the file cabinet and many boxes containing more than 15 years of history found a new home!!

The work then began. The organization of files, current and past was energizing, for my gift, I had long since discerned, was in organization. Mastery over our little Radio Shack Tandy Computer and printer was another story. My beginnings into the age of technology were, to say the least, challenging and frustrating, but not without its rewards each time mastery over another task was won. Little did I know that that was just the forerunner!! Windows '95 in '96 almost did me in and continues to be both challenging and fascinating! Added to that was the greatest hurdle of all - taking over the Treasurers' position which is definitely not my gift, but my past experience in bookkeeping came back to aid and abet. Microsoft Works had all the tools for spreadsheets, financial statements, etc., so once again new and higher mountains to climb! During all of this "technology adventure", and I use the term loosely, the boys at National Computer were invaluable and oh so patient. Together we are where we are today! Where is that? Able to provide the tasks of the NCC with and through this modern marvel of technology - the computer!

Having said all this, I would like to share a little of the experiential and feeling level of this job of NCC. First of all let me say, I accepted this position as a discerned mission and in and through this mission as well as taking groups through the formation have I come to realize that it is, in fact, my vocation. I have found that my greatest excitement and source of energy in CLC is in sharing the gift. This for me was and is the most rewarding part of this job. Here in Central Ontario most of the enquiries come to the office through the brochure from the Guelph Centre of Spirituality. Subsequently I had many opportunities to talk about CLC prior to sending out our initial package. Added to that was the communication with many CLCers across Canada. There is something awesome in the kindredship of shared spirituality!

As in any mission or vocation there are the times we are asked to carry the cross. I have shared with you earlier in this article where that cross was encountered. The feeling of "being in over my head" was a recurring experience as Microsoft Network and I did battle. I must admit to several times even being angry with God. "Where are you

when I need you?" Someone said to me recently they imaged the vertical part of the cross as taking the risks to move forward in mission even when lacking the confidence, but as long as we play it safe in that horizontal part there is no movement forward. That rather summed up for me the "triumph of the cross"! The only way to reach the newness of life is through the struggles, through the risks.

So what is this all saying to anyone out there who may feel called to this service in the job of National Community Coordinator? I believe the job description need not be part of this article as that can be obtained in detail upon request. What is more important is to perceive this as a call, a mission, to serve the National CLC. Realistically one needs certain skills. If it were in business terms we could say we are looking for a Secretary-Treasurer so that is the knowledge and experience needed. The other is time and this varies, but generally the time spent in a week could be estimated to be approximately 8 to 10 hours, as well as attendance at General Council and Executive Council meetings in order to take minutes.

.I thank God for the grace to having said "yes" to His call and I will pray with you that the next person He has chosen will be given the same grace. No one stands alone when they hear and answer His call!

In Love and Gratitude,
Jean Floyd