



# Christian Life Communities

## NEWSLETTER

Second Class Registration 8294

SPRING 1991

### EVANGELIZATION

From Christ the Evangelizer to the Evangelizing Church

The witness that the Lord gives of Himself  
and that Saint Luke gathered together in his  
Gospel -

"I must proclaim the Good News  
of the Kingdom of God" -

without doubt has enormous consequences, for  
it sums up the whole mission of Jesus!

"That is what I was sent to do,"

These words take on their full significance  
if one links them with the previous verses,  
in which Christ has just applied to Himself  
the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord has been  
given to me, for he has anointed  
me. He has sent me to bring the  
good news to the poor."

Going from town to town, preaching to the  
poorest - and frequently the most receptive -  
the joyful news of the fulfillment of the  
promises and of the Covenant offered by God  
is the mission for which Jesus declares that  
He is sent by the Father. And all the aspects  
of His mystery - the Incarnation itself, His  
miracle, His teaching, the gathering together  
of the disciples the sending out of the  
Twelve, the cross and the resurrection, the  
permanence of His presence in the midst of  
His own - were components of His evangelizing  
activity.

- taken from "Evangelii Nuntiandi" No. 6

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Newsletter Editor

ONTARIO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
June 7-9, 1991

On Friday evening approximately 35 members of communities in Ontario gathered at the Notre Dame Centre in Waterdown, ideally suited to a week-end of quiet reflection on the theme for the week-end "Proclaim the Good News". It was significant and special to us to have a representative from the Montreal English speaking CLC who brought greetings from her Ignatian Centre CLC.

The two speakers, Bishop Henry of the London diocese and our own Fr. John English addressed the theme in their key-note talks. On Friday evening Bishop Henry referred us to Pope Paul VI's Encyclical "Evangelii Nuntiandi", a copy of which was included in each participant's kit, but focused us on conversion. He said that to evangelize we first must be converted. Repentance is turning from (past) and Faith is turning toward God (future). Conversion is grounded in our history said Bishop Henry. There are no areas in our life to be left untouched. We must surrender ourselves to God in every sphere of our lives. Conversion is to bring the kingdom into the world with explosive force! It is both moment and process.

The Bishop challenged us to be known in the world for the same things as God is known. He said we must move from individualism to corporate bodies. He directed us toward the prophets - they speak with a broken heart. In the role of the prophet today we can speak from our history, but make the story present with a proposed vision. It is not how to bring Jesus into our lives, but how to bring us into Jesus' life!

In closing he emphasized the importance of Eucharist. Worshipping as community models the "corporate" life. "See how the Christians love one another!"

On Saturday morning Fr. John began by referring us to #13 and #58 of the encyclical saying that "evangelization is at the heart of CLC". In the "new evangelization" a person needs witness and experience of community to evangelize. The process is communal. The Holy Spirit is experienced most in a communal setting. The apostolic ministry of Ignatius and his companions of Finding God in All Things went beyond the monastic - beyond prayer groups - beyond therapeutic groups. Discerning communities of apostolic nature are always changing as you discern the present moment. We are on a pilgrimage! (G.P.8)

God is active and alive in our world! We were challenged to read the signs of the times. Apostolic service means more than rescuing one another. The gospel gives us new insights for our life experiences. The love-energy of God is for life now as opposed to the hereafter. Proclaim what we experience! Fr. John challenged communities to ask these two questions: Is there a sense of community?  
Is there a sense of apostolic service?

On Saturday afternoon the Group of 7 made a presentation to the assembly on their activities of the past year based on their perceived mandate from last year's assembly. They asked the assembly for recommendations, decisions and actions for the upcoming year, resulting in the following proposals:

- 1) Locality reps be elected by locality prior to Regional Assembly.
- 2) When a locality rep retires, preference indicated that the new rep. comes from a different group in locality.
- 3) The 2 members of Group of 7 who will sit on the General Council representing Ontario, should be elected by the members of all Ontario communities at Assembly.

Accordingly, the two members elected were Pam Meier of Our Lady Help of Sinners community and Walter Dorsey of Ubi Caritas community in Brantford.

Biff and Louise Gallagher from our host community shared their experience of conversion and evangelizing with the group on Saturday evening. The most powerful witness is the personal witness!. Thank you Biff and Louise.

As on Friday, the evening concluded with a "beverage and junk food" get-together.

The fruits of the times for reflection with suggested scripture passages and questions throughout the week-end resulted in the following mission statement being developed on Sunday morning:

"The Spirit is calling us to the New Evangelization as a corporate body of CLC. We should be guided by the Spirit in what (s)he says in the Revised Gen. Principles and the Gospel."

It was decided the next Regional Assembly would be in two years as the National Assembly will be held next year on Oct. 2nd to 4th. Ecclesia community in Waterloo volunteered to host it and to check out facilities at Resurrection and Notre Dame Colleges in Waterloo.

Prayer services and song throughout the week-end, as well as the closing liturgy were once again beautifully provided by Paul & Theresa Tratnyek assisted by Greg Mailloux. Many thanks for sharing your gifts! Much thanks and appreciation goes to the members of Our Lady Help of Sinners, Chatham, Ont. for hosting, planning and providing an assembly rich in renewal, challenge and appreciation of our "way of life"!

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**NOTICE:** Workshop for Guides and Student Leaders of High School and University CLC's.

Date: November 15-17, 1991

Place: Burlingame, California (near San Francisco).

Cost: \$60.00 (U.S.) which includes room and board.

For more information call: Pat Carter (314)533-3185 or

Cris Kowtow-Sullivan (519) 966-1408

## WORLD CLC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Guelph Area - On March 25th, the World CLC Day of Prayer, members of the Guelph area communities met at the Fischers' home. Those gathered were various members of the Sacred Ground, Gaia, Lost & Found, members of a local Mennonite community and Frs. John & Phillip.

In keeping with this year's theme, "In All Things Love & Serve", we asked God for the grace that each one of us may be aware of our sanctity so that we might live out our call to be a people of prayer, a people of mission, a people who care about one another and the world in which we live.

In our service we recalled that Christ was anointed priest, prophet and king. We are mindful that we too are called to holiness. To be priestly people we are consecrated to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood. To be prophetic people we are to share with others the "good news" we have made our own. To be royal people we are living out our daily lives in service to others.

Then as part of our sharing each of us was asked to complete this sentence: "Lord take my hands..." How would you readers of this article finish this sentence? This sharing period was very special!

During the next part of the service we used OIL as the symbol of our holiness. Just as our church uses oil in the various sacramental rites, we too used its powerful symbolism. We took the opportunity of using oil to make the sign of the cross on the palm of the person sitting next to us. This proved to be a very powerful, yet tender symbolic gesture.

We concluded the service with joyful voices in the singing of "Take my hands".

The evening didn't finish there though as we Guelph Area CLC'ers enjoy our food, so a nice social followed "where we took our hands" and ate delicious finger food and shared in much wit and merriment.

We tentatively planned to further build community by meeting again in September at the Peloso home.

And on a final note, let all of us thank our God for his ultimate love and service to us, his people!

Submitted by Debra Fisher

ATLANTIC REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
May 10-12, 1991

The Third Atlantic Christian Life Community Conference was held at Mount St. Vincent in Halifax from May 10th to 12th, 1991. It was hosted by the Halifax/Dartmouth CLC communities.

There were sixty people in attendance representing eight communities plus others that were interested in the CLC way of life.

The theme for the weekend was discernment. Fr. John English was the resource person on this topic. John Sullivan, Co-president of the National CLC, was in attendance. Gilles Michaud from Ichthus CLC in P.E.I. showed the video on the World Assembly.

There was a common expression at the business meeting to continue the regional assemblies whether they be yearly or every second year. It was important to have the wider connected vision to the CLC's in other areas of the Atlantic, the national, and the world (to share our story, our history, etc.) Pat Marleau was elected to replace Doreen Reid as Atlantic Representatives to the National Council.

The format of the weekend allowed for a nice even flow with four presentations on discernment with private reflection, small groups sharing and large group sharing.

Because of the growth of the CLC, it is apparent how important it is to continually keep before us the dynamics of the Exercises in relationship to the CLC way of life.

On the last day, Fr. John talked on how we are to be co-creators with the Spirit to build a world of justice and peace. He stressed the need for social analysis and the discernment of spirits in everyday life. The question we must always ask is: "are we life-givers and are we involved in changing structures to become more life-giving?" This has been left as a challenge to all of us.

Submitted by Julia Donahoe, Ichthus CLC

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CONGRATULATIONS GO TO OUR CO-PRESIDENT ELECT GRAYDON NICHOLAS!

In mid May Graydon was appointed to the bench for the Province of New Brunswick. Graydon has been a strong and dedicated advocate for the rights of the Native people and will certainly pursue this in his new career. Our prayers and best wishes are with you Graydon!

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NOTICE: Any submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to our Business Office (address on front page) until a new editor is found. It would be good to have a response to the two challenges offered by Fr. John in his talk at the Assembly and by Deb Fischer in her World Day Celebrations article.

Kitchener-Waterloo Area: On March 25th the three communities from Waterloo - Fidelis, Ecclesia and Our Lady of Lourdes met at the home of Jean Floyd for a World CLC Day celebration.

Paul Tratynek prepared a beautiful Liturgy of the Hours Prayer Service, which included song, listening to the Word, collective prayer, silent reflection, singing the Canticle of Mary, general intercessions, ending with a blessing and sign of peace. It was a beautiful time of experiencing community, locally in our shared prayer and blessing as well as nationally and internationally in our intercessory prayers. It further provided us with focus for the discussion to follow.

We discussed the brokenness and division present in our country today and the opportunity for input and dialogue through the Spicer Commission. One common concern was Justice for Native People. Everyone thought that CLC'ers need to speak out for justice and this would be an appropriate action for World CLC Day. It was decided then that our submission would be on Native Rights. Paul Tratynek prepared a kit included in which were pertinent documents faxed to him by Graydon Nicholas. Each community then met and prepared their own submission which was sent in jointly to the Spicer Commission.

In the tradition of true CLC'er's we ended the evening with the three "f's", fun, food and fellowship!

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A REPEAT OPPORTUNITY: The Catholic Study Bible

A recommended Commentary which used the New American Bible as it's scriptural base. Published by Oxford University Press.

To assist you if you wish to obtain your personal copy, please complete the order form below and mail with cheque or money order to:  
CLC of English Canada, % 79 Winding Way, Brantford, Ont. N3R 3S4

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REMINDER: Anyone wishing to send in your dues, the cheque is made payable to CLC of English Canada and sent to: CLC of English Canada, %79 Winding Way, Brantford, Ont. N3R 3S4.

## OUR NATIONAL FAMILY GROWS

A dream came true Wednesday, May 8th. On that day, during a Eucharistic celebration John Sullivan from ExCo formally admitted to full membership in the Canadian English-speaking CLC nine of the Ignatian Centre's staff.

Our Centre focuses on Ignatian Spirituality and is involved with the 19th Annotation, both guiding individuals or communities through it as well as offering programs for the formation of Spiritual Directors. The 9 new CLC members have as their apostolic commitment the supporting of and the furthering of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate as it is offered through the Ignatian Centre. A main thrust is to make the gift of Spiritual Direction available to those who, because of financial straits or mental and physical limitations, would otherwise be deprived of it.

I would like to introduce ourselves to you. To begin with we have all made the Spiritual Exercises and are fully or partially qualified as Spiritual Directors. There are 4 lay women. Joan Ryan our CLC coordinator, is married and has 3 grown children. Joan has completed the 6-year formation program (and more)! Irene Miller is married and has 2 young children. Irene, too, has completed the formation program. Besides giving Spiritual direction Irene uses her teaching skills in the formation program as well as in art and prayer, healing, and the spirituality of the A.A. 12 step program. Terry Kivimaki, a widow with a grown son, is our "matchmaker". Those asking for a spiritual directors are, through prayer and reflection on Terry's part, matched with just the right Director. Not yet has there been a miss-match. Terry also teaches a program called "Getting There", which combines relaxation techniques and prayer. Marilyn Turpin is married and has 5 (mostly grown-up) children. Marilyn is presently in the Basic Level of the formation program and serves as Co-Ordinator of the centre.

Two of our CLC are priests. John Wickham is Jesuit Director of the Ignatian Centre and an internationally known author and teacher of the Spiritual Exercises and Ignatian Spirituality. Patrick Lannon is a member of a secular institute called Institute Voluntas Dei. Patrick is nearing the completion of his formation as Spiritual Director. He has a background in psychiatry and is teaching and integrates these with Spiritual Direction.

Besides the lay women and priests there are 3 Sisters, two of whom are Ursulines from Ontario, the third a Sister of Charity (Halifax). Helen Normandeau is presently Executive Director of the Centre and Marian Krauskopf is a fully trained Spiritual Director as well as teacher in the program for the formation of Spiritual Directors. Gloria Garbarini too, is a fully trained Spiritual Director and a supervisor of student Directors. Gloria has combined the aforementioned with a newly created ministry of spirituality with Young Adults.

So now you have met us all. We are grateful to John Sullivan for making himself available to us and thus bringing a long hoped-for dream to fruition. We praise God for the wonder of His ways!

Helen Normandeau, Ignatian Centre-Montreal CLC  
reprinted from Ontario Region Newsletter

## MARY, THE EVANGELIZER

Mary is the hidden evangelizer of the good news. She is the contemplative evangelizer, the eucharistic evangelizer. She rendered Christ present through his presence in her.

Prayer with Mary proclaims salvation: "...this great gift of god which is liberation from everything that oppresses, but which is above all liberation from sin and the evil one, in the joy of knowing Christ and being known by him of seeing him and of being given over to him" (Evangelii Nuntiandi, no. 9). These gifts are "available to every human being as grace and mercy, and yet at the same time each individual must gain them by force - they belong to the violent, says the Lord, through toil and suffering, through a life lived according to the gospel, through the spirit of the beatitudes. But, above all, each individual gains them through a total interior renewal which the gospel calls "metanoia", it is a radical conversion, a profound change of mind and heart" (EN no. 70). "And your own heart a sword shall pierce, that out of it many truths will be revealed." (Lk.2:35)

The mystery of evangelization is that we are to become the good news, that Jesus has visited each one of us, lives within us, and is waiting for us to share him with everyone we meet. Each one of us is a sign, an image, a mystery of the presence of Christ. Through the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Christ offers us his hidden presence - living and real. What is the value of one person? The silence and hidden-ness of a person is as mysterious and secret as God's. Each individual in faith is a sacrament, a sacred image of the Lord among us, a revealing, unconcealed reflection of his human and divine countenance. The Church's tradition has always recognized in her people, and especially in the poor, the Sacrament of Christ - a mystical correspondence with the Eucharist. One will never feel ready or fully qualified to BE Eucharist for others; yet, Jesus sent his disciples out before they were fully formed, before they were fully ready to understand the mystery of his presence in them. And, so he continues to send us - broken vessels that we are! Mary did not feel ready, yet she never hesitated. Trusting God to know what he was about, she simply said, "Be it done unto me according to your will" (Lk 1:38). This is a first step in evangelization - to be willing to be vulnerable to God's will. Like Mary, we must become quiet enough within to listen, to expect, to be open to the message of God. Unlike Zachariah, who questioned in doubt, Mary questioned in faith that she could more fully understand.

And with Paul, on bended knee, we can join ourselves to the prayer of Jesus and of Mary: that the Father out of his infinite goodness and love would give us the power through his Spirit for our hidden selves to grow strong so that Christ may live in our hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built in love, we will have the strength to grasp and experience the love of Christ which is beyond all knowledge, and that we may be filled with the utter fullness of God (Eph 3:16-19).

excerpted from article by Edward J. Farrell, SJ  
in the Jan./Feb issue of Catholic Evangelization