



CHRISTIAN
LIFE
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Harvest

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Spring 2008

IN SEARCH OF
NEW HORIZONS



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EDITORIAL FOREWORD

“It is a truism which sensible men have arrived at today that, if contemporary Christians are to live in an ever-changing, evolving society, they must have the courage to construct new forms and models, and the courage to evolve with their never-static models and patterns.”

Disponibilitè—is a Christian who reads the signs of the times, who discerns in them a new call of the Spirit, and who responds decisively and lovingly.”

New Communities for Christians, Drolet, Francis K., (Staten Island, NY, Alba House, 1972) 59, 39

These particular points seem quite apropos to our current circumstances in CLC-USA: understanding that we are always ‘on mission’ in our daily lives; emphasis on formation; development of leadership within Christian Life Community®; becoming more politically involved for many causes, such as the dignity of all human life, which include actions for peace and the plight of the immigrant; our presence as an NGO at the UN; reflecting on and becoming more aware and comfortable with our General Principles in order to ‘live’ them; progress in determining new structures in order to bring the gift of Ignatian Spirituality to others; our newly instituted Diversity and Organization Committee; a serious commitment to our youth and young adults as they find themselves in the throes of a society which often doesn’t seem to value the life or dignity of ‘the other,’; and even more ways of ‘being Christ for others’ in our world; being open to change; disponible/available to whatever God might wish of us; to be ever inclined toward keeping *magis* as the centrality of our lives.

As the book blurb tells us, Fr. Drolet was recognized as a “leader in the field of lay spirituality and apostolate.” For those of us fortunate enough to have met him or read his work in older *Harvest* issues, or been at National Conventions with him, we recognize how thoroughly he was able to comprehend the core of Ignatian Spirituality as practiced in daily life, whether for lay persons or clergy.

Our leaders across the country have also noted the need for being open to change...there’s that insight of disponibility again...these from our current authors—

“This past month of April has been chock-full of initiatives of CLC as our community reaches for new horizons on many levels ...Characterizing these initiatives is the grace of growing in relationship with others as Jesus was in relationship to others in Scripture—walking along with, praying with, talking with, eating or breaking bread with, meeting with, gathering with, healing, offering peace and joy and love, sharing in the Eucharist.”

“Our newest horizon in CLC is our oldest horizon. We are called to seek always new and better ways of supporting each other as we respond to God’s call in our immediate lives.”

“Recently lay CLC promoters have been named for each of the clusters of the region. As you might expect, cluster promoters promote CLC throughout their area, visit communities, organize cluster events and foster new communities.”

“I was amazed at how the Holy Spirit uses everything—from political emails to CLC—to touch the lives of the faithful.”

“I don’t have many answers to the world’s ills. I am convinced, however, that we are called as CLC to make a difference in the world. We can’t get too comfortable in our easy chairs and leave to others the cries of the poor and the downtrodden.”

“...we find ourselves in the midst of a very challenging, yet exciting transition from some old and familiar ways of proceeding to a blooming and growing new structure of support.

And with the deeply rooted hardiness of an Edelweiss people, may we continue to bloom, die and bloom again for the sake of our call to mission and gospel justice against any and all evil.”

How often have you found that newer/more effective ways of ‘proceeding’ in your CLC way of life just seemed to overtake older ways? Were there ‘aha’ moments where a need to choose one or another option occurred or did these changes just evolve and seem to be a natural way of continuing your growth in your own spiritual life and that of your Christian Life Community®? Nowadays, we are gifted with many means of making a difference, e.g., with the advent of electronic mail, we can contact our legislators and have our voices heard as never before. There are so many causes involving the dignity of our fellow humans which we should/can support. Our General Principle #8 tells us, “Christ has sent us on mission as members of the pilgrim People of God to be His witnesses before all people by our attitudes, words and actions.”



Dolores Celentano

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President's Message

Ann Marie Brennan



*Ann Marie Brennan
President*

This past month of April has been chock-full of initiatives of CLC as our community reaches for new horizons on many levels! Many of us are still catching our breath! Characterizing these initiatives is the grace of growing in relationship with others as Jesus was in relationship to others in Scripture: walking along with, praying with, talking with, eating or breaking bread with, meeting with, gathering with, healing, offering peace and joy and love, sharing in the Eucharist. We strive to experience that personal interaction with Jesus and others much like the disciples experienced with Jesus along the road to Emmaus, "Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road!" The following events highlight a few of these experiences.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ORIENTATION AT THE UN

The UN orientation of CLC college students was wonderful! This effort was carried out through the very effective collaborative efforts of our Fordham campus ministers, the Partnership for Global Justice, and members of the NY UN Working Group. In attendance were fifteen students from Jesuit colleges; Loyola in New Orleans, Regis in Denver and Fordham in New York City, plus four campus ministers—and they were very enthusiastic! In fact they have already started a Facebook group for the students in attendance. (They can also help us start a Facebook group for CLC-USA.) Students very much appreciated the commitment and passion shown by the speakers as well as the excursions to the Catholic Worker center and to the Redemption Center. Speakers included religious sisters and a lay woman on topics such as An Overview of UN Structure, Millennium Development Goals, War in Iraq, Trafficking, HIV/AIDs and Homelessness. The stories focused on those most vulnerable in our world and those committed to bringing them basic human dignity through food and water, healing, education and peace. Especially compelling was Sister Ana, a Dominican sister from the Basque country of our own St. Ignatius, who gave the talk on the homeless in NYC. She spoke about having done the 30-day retreat and hearing the invitation to live as a homeless person—which she has now done for three years and plans to make this her way of life. She shared very honestly her experiences of this lifestyle and the challenge in serving her homeless friends in giving dignity to their work—by establishing a recycling/redemption center—working from the grassroots rather than being impositional. She connected her work to some of the Church and UN thinking, for example, the 1995 Copenhagen statement (paraphrased): that access to full employment is essential for human dignity. Participants took the train with Sr. Ana to meet and talk with some of the people she works with; the students valued this experience very much. The evening reflections and processing were very well received and helpful. On Sunday, Lucianne Siers of the Partnership for Global Justice walked the group through an Examen of the three days, asking for major learnings and takeaways, and one concrete takeaway. Certainly, a major takeaway was a broadened view of CLC beyond the college and university experience. Expect to see more articles on this by students in attendance.



Related web sites:

Vatican web site:
www.vatican.va

Audio of Pope's address to UN: <http://www.un.org/radio/news/html/19447.html>

NY WG MEETING – POPE'S VISIT AT THE UN – 18 APRIL 2008

The NY UN Working Group meeting this April coincided with the Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S., during which he addressed the UN General Assembly gathered on April 18th. Pope Benedict affirmed the objectives of the UN to promote peace and justice, respect for the dignity of each human person, protection of the environment, the role of dialogue and diplomacy in pre-empting conflict and violence, and the establish-

ment of international structures that work to protect the common good where nation states fall short. In each of these objectives, the Pope emphasized the important role of the religious dimension and vision of faith. He also reaffirmed the UN Declaration of Human Rights which celebrates its Sixtieth Anniversary this year. In closing, Pope Benedict said his presence at the Assembly “is a sign of esteem for the United Nations and is intended to express the hope that the Organization will increasingly serve as a sign of unity between States and an instrument of service to the entire human family”. “The Church is happy to be associated with the activity of this distinguished organization, charged with the responsibility of promoting peace and goodwill throughout the Earth.”



To read the Pope’s speech (Address) to the UN General Assembly in full, go to the Vatican website: www.vatican.va and search for speech on 18 April 2008, or go to: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2008/april/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080418_un-visit_en.html

To hear the audio of Pope’s address to the UN General Assembly, go to: <http://www.un.org/radio/news/html/19447.html>

While meeting at a local CLC family’s home on the East Side of NYC, the members of the working group were treated to see the Pope in his limousine en route to the UN! The Pope’s address to the UN confirmed the importance of the role of CLC working as an NGO in the world body at the UN.

We had the pleasure of Fr. Ben Urmston’s accompaniment on both the UN orientation and the NY WG meeting, and true to form, Ben always presents a hope-filled challenge for CLC to explore an expansive horizon—that of envisioning structures and substructures that move us to a socially just world, such as a democratic world federation. We certainly keep this in mind as we move toward being one apostolic body.

IGNATIAN PEACE ACTION

CLC-USA joined the Jesuits and Ignatian Family in the Ignatian Peace Action from Easter to Pentecost to pray, fast, and act in solidarity with those who suffer from war and violence, and for our national healing through peace and reconciliation. CLC-USA chose the day of April 25th to mark special actions, and on this day our national gathering at the Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh dedicated a special prayer vigil to this solidarity effort.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE APRIL 24—27TH, 2008 IN PITTSBURGH, PA

This conference marks a significant point in our history as we begin a multi-year process of developing our leadership and reorganizing our structure to best support the growth of our national community and especially our growing number of young adults and immigrant/cultural groups.

This process was facilitated by our Diversity and Organization Committee as well as process guide Fr. Jim Borbely, S.J., who noted that this conference

...is not just “a leadership training course” but more precisely that it’s an orientation and a focused training in what will be involved as leaders guide the “communal discernment process” that the whole body of CLC-USA members will need to engage in during the next few years. One way of putting it might be to say that CLC-USA will be making the Spiritual Exercises “as one body” in 19th Annotation fashion.

...this collective discernment process — like any formal discernment process for an individual or a group — will necessarily lead to clarities about the particular “reform of life” — attitudes, behavior-patterns, and “social structures” (organization-of life) — that will become clearer and will need to be “committed to” in the process of the “spiritual exercises” that CLC-USA is engaging in.

There are in fact some elements in the “training program” that some of the “leaders” will have been exposed to, but the purpose of this first weekend training session is for all the members of CLC-USA leadership to be clear about how to apply their training and experience to these particular “CLC exercises” — and to have the experience that all the leaders of “the whole CLC-USA body” are working together as one “guiding team” through the coming multi-year process — and to begin to explore the ways that the members of this diverse and geographically-dispersed “guiding team” can be an ongoing support and “resource group” with one another.”

In gathering with CLC members from all across the country from each of our regions and cultural groups, we shared wonderful moments in getting to know one another, developing relationships, sharing our histories, praying with one another, as well as learning about communal discernment, leadership, conflict awareness/resolution. Our gathering was one of joy especially in the liturgies where we experienced a strong sense of Oneness in the Eucharist; this joy overflowed into the birthday celebration of Tri Dinh, S.J., with dancing and singing! Many, many thanks to our chairs, Peggy Edwards and Mong Hang Nguyen, members of the D & O committee and members of the Formation Committee who are leading us in this wonderful process!

In striving to be faithful to the call of God in communal discernment, the leadership of CLC-USA continues the process of discerning its delegates to the World Assembly which takes place August 11—21st, 2008. Some of you may know that we held our initial discernment in January 2008; however following that discernment, several members voiced uneasiness with the outcome. In striving to be true to the process, we believe that this experience is a vital learning experience for many of us in our national community.

1. The first learning is that if there is not confirmation in a discernment, we can go back to the discernment, that the uneasiness may be a prompting from the Holy Spirit to return to the discernment process.
2. The second learning is in being true to the communal discernment process: giving adequate time to prayer both individually and collectively, having all the information, hearing all or close to all the voices, not being attached to a fixed idea or outcome, being attentive to the spirits or feelings prompting us, having the freedom and openness to express sensibilities regarding the outcome, al-

lowing time to sit with leanings before coming to a final decision.

The upcoming World Assembly is calling us to reflect on how we have been responding to the election of the past two World Assemblies in Itaici, Brazil (1998) and in Nairobi, Kenya (2003): sharing a common mission, becoming an apostolic body. Which of the three pairs of persons have we been like in our response: the pair that postpones the election, the pair that accommodates the election according to our own interests, or the pair that welcomes it fully?

When the apostles rejoined Jesus, they told him all they had done and taught. What have we been doing, learning and teaching to implement this election fully? Where have we fallen short? (See Projects 136)

While our preparations for the World Assembly continue, we ask for your prayers that we may be true and faithful to God's call to us, that we may be prepared as we gather with CLC members from more than sixty countries at the World Assembly in Fatima, that we will be free and generous in our response to discerned elections, and that we may be aware of Christ's presence among us and "hearts burning within us." 

Continued from page 3

We hope this issue's entries will inspire you to recognize the difference you are making in today's society (whether it be as an individual or along with other members of your CLC) and perhaps become even more proactive in the political arena.

This is an exciting time for CLC-USA. We will be sending delegates to the World CLC Assembly at Fatima this Summer. Here at home, Liem Le has been discerned to be our next President-Elect. We thank him for being willing to take on this commitment and share his time and talents at a national level. We look forward to his new leadership role.

As Tom Bausch moves out of ExCo as our Immediate Past President, we would like to extend a note of sincere gratitude for the wonderful work he has done for many years with CLC, and especially for the outstanding articles he has submitted to *Harvest*. We look forward to seeing more of his literary/philosophical acumen in print to our benefit.

Thanks for the memories...

This will be my last issue as Coordinating Editor of *Harvest*. After seven years (originally supposed to be two), it is my privilege to announce that members of the Locust



Members of the Locust Valley CLC who are the Servant Community serving as new editors of Harvest.: Dorothy Zambito, George Willett, Nancy Head. I thank them for responding so generously.

Valley CLC have taken on this responsibility as a Servant Community. It has truly been a very special gift for me to be of service in this venture and I have always been most grateful as well as deeply moved at the opportunity of being there at the 'birthing' of each new *Harvest*.

My heartfelt thanks go out to each of the many authors who have been so kind as to share their thoughts, hopes and dreams with us. A special note of recognition to our very talented Graphic Designer Pat Carter, who has made this journey a delight for me .

Blessings,
Dolores Celentano

One Perspective on New Horizons for CLC-USA Mission

Tom Bausch

The Easter Season brings with it many blessings including the opportunity to hear several readings from the Acts of the Apostles. On Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter the reading of Acts 11:1-18 focuses on Peter growing into an understanding that the Gentiles are also recipients with the Jews of the flood of graces won in the Passion and Resurrection. I was particularly struck by two of the lines spoken by the voice that Peter heard. "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." These two lines lead directly to our CLC-USA mission.

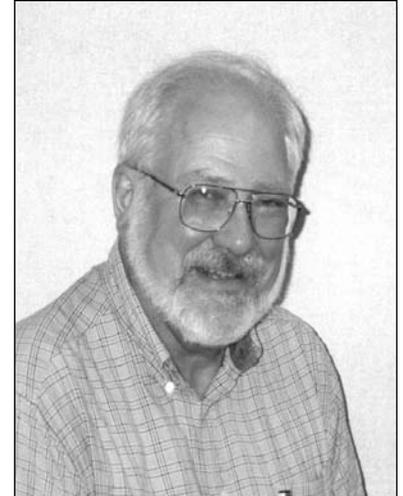
Our Ignatian Spirituality and way of life absolutely insists that all of creation is good and God can be found in all of creation, nothing is profane. If we are true to our Ignatian roots we are called to go to all, to the ends of the earth, to be instruments in God's hands, opening all to "the repentance that leads to life." That is our mission! Our means and places of mission must be open to everything everywhere! We know that we are not called to waste our energies trying to do everything, but we are to discern what is the greater good and then do it. On the Feast of the Ascension in Acts 1:1 each of us in CLC is addressed personally, as well as in the CLC community, when the author uses the name Theophilus, best translated as person of God. The author then goes on a few verses later and says, "Stop staring at your navel and get to the work to which I have called you!" And so we ask, "What is our work?"

The theme of this issue of *Harvest* is "New Horizons". Well, if we cannot be everywhere and do everything, what are the new horizons that are most urgent in God's plan for each of us? Christ by becoming human could not be everywhere doing everything and so He calls us to do His work in this time and place. We are called to find Christ through specific things and in specific people in our time and place. Yes, since individually, or for that matter in community, since we cannot be everywhere, we are right back to our good old Ignatian Spirituality again! We must make choices and set priorities. We must stop staring at our navel, trying to do the same things we did as community in 1580, 1920, 1950, or 1980. We must, in the spirit of those who came before us, do what He calls us to do in 2010.

In April we, as a national community meeting in Pittsburgh, began a process of discerning our new horizons, how we are called to live out and organize CLC-USA in order to move on to these new horizons, and to prepare our new leaders in CLC to lead us to the new horizons. This process will be a failure unless all of us in CLC are part of it. I am using this space to offer some suggestions to consider, as all of us together discern our new horizons. These five suggestions are meant to help us all pray, think, discern and contribute in a bottoms up process. I do not have answers, but only ask questions that I hope will stir your hearts and minds.

First, we must always be prepared to carry our daily crosses (joys?) and to support each other in community to carry these crosses as part of our common mission. This is our way of life.

Nothing in my four years in CLC-USA leadership has inspired me more than the peaceful and courageous manner in which so many of my CLC brothers and sisters carry the burdens the Lord has given them. In the past week alone I have corresponded with three different CLCers who had to say no to national leadership as part of saying



Thomas Bausch, Past President

yes to heroically meeting very specific and difficult calls in their family and personal lives. All three persons were apologetic about not being able to serve CLC-USA and my response in all three cases was the same. “If you did not have the sense of Ignatian priorities that you have, calling you at this time to say no to CLC-USA leadership, I would not want you in CLC leadership!”

These three individuals are not unusual, for I find it all the time as brothers and sisters in CLC deal with aging parents, critically sick spouses, a child on drugs or in jail, earning an advanced degree so they can use their talents to serve even more effectively, or meeting some need in the local political or work community, always quietly and often without thanks or recognition. Our newest horizon in CLC is our oldest horizon. We are called to seek always new and better ways of supporting each other as we respond to God’s call in our immediate lives!

Second, the most urgent call in today’s society is that of building strong families in our own CLC-USA community and in our society. Healthy families are a sine qua non for a healthy society and for the flourishing of the human person and healthy families are under attack both by intention and due to modern circumstances throughout all sectors of our society. We must find new ways to support each other in CLC and to foster the conditions necessary for healthy families in our parishes and society in total. I am absolutely inspired by efforts currently under way both in our own CLCs and also in service to our parish and other communities. Our Vietnamese brothers and sisters are leading the way — praise be to God! Our South Florida community members use their retreat house to reach out to single parent families and there are many other initiatives across the country. Let us be bold in the initiatives we use to serve each other’s families in our CLC communities and as we as Community serve the broader communities in which we live. Let us be motivated by the Holy Family itself.

Third, each of us, with the support of the CLC community, must do our work in our specific professions and communities more perfectly, as defined by the Lord, not by our secular standards.

For CLC members, the laity of the Church, the ends of the earth today are not so much exotic places where few from the West have ever gone. The new horizons are in our professions and work organizations, the global businesses in which we work, the political communities in which we

live. The new horizons are in our professional callings as we work to form international organizations, do medical and all other types of research that serve the elderly and poor, and as we serve in politics. God calls us to our jobs for forty to sixty hours a week and second only to our families. These two places for most of us are the most important place for us to find God. Most of us are called

to our fields for much of our lives, although often in many jobs and with great insecurity, in imitation of our Lord. It is in these arenas that we are Christ in the world, in the marketplace, in the public square. It is in these arenas where we have the power to change structures for the common good and to serve the poor. It is in our work during most of our waking hours, and our preparation for it in school, that each of us in CLC is called to make our most important contribution to the kingdom of God, to return what God made clean and humans made or are making profane, back to the clean that God created.

To give just one example, consider our members working in any profession having to do with genetics and medicine. The governor of Alaska is being praised, and rightfully so, for her courageous decision not to abort her Down’s Syndrome child. There are many who claim that she has no right to impose an “imperfect” child on society. Unfortunately, according to our courts, the only physical aspect of a person that cannot be declared the intellectual property of another, such as a large corporation, is the person in

total. (Thank my profession, economics, for turning all of life into a transaction.) If the gene that gives you blue eyes is isolated, it can quickly be patented as intellectual property. The movie *Galactica* is not the future, it is now! The following conversation is upon us: “Well, yes, doctor we desire a boy as our first child, who is 6’4”, with blue eyes, an IQ of 164, blond hair, and, and, and . . . , but without the diabetic gene I have.” The Dr. will respond, “That set of characteristics will cost you \$25,000, but have I got a deal for you. I can reduce that to \$23,000 if you are willing to substitute brown hair for blond hair.” This “ain’t science fiction!” We in CLC are mandated to call the scientists of tomorrow into CLC and Ignatian Spirituality, to support them as they get the education necessary to be credible in their fields, and the spiritual, ethical, and moral education necessary to bring those disciplines and professions into service of people. We then must provide life-long community in CLC as the means of the discernment, sending, supporting and evaluation needed if one is to serve.

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The core of our common mission in CLC is two-fold—

- 1) It is being the means of the Incarnation in all of these new horizons.
- 2) It is through the specific day to day work that engages all of us. Some of us may be called to work in the Church or specifically with the Jesuits. But all of this work is in service to the labors of those involved directly in the redemption of the world, and not just persons but all that is, in accordance with His divine will. It is my contention that the laity has failed miserably in responding to the call of Vatican II, not because of the hierarchy or institutional church getting in our way, but because like Adam and Eve, we the laity have been focused on the wrong tree in the garden — the institutional church — and not on our place in the world. Original sin thrives!

Fourth, we as CLC- USA are called to a common mission. It is to make Ignatian Spirituality available to the Church, and more, to make it available to all persons of good will, in our society. I envision our way of life, CLC, as an automobile designed to operate with four properly inflated tires. Have you ever tried to operate an automobile with a flat tire? It is often impossible and at best very dysfunctional for a short distance. So it is with CLC. Each of us needs and must pay attention to our own inner life grounded in Ignatian Spirituality, our life in community grounded in Ignatian Spirituality, our personal apostolate grounded in our common mission, and a community action growing out of our common mission. I am convinced that this action must be the promotion of Ignatian Spirituality. We all have in common one spirituality urgently needed in the Church in all ways and in society. There are many ways of doing this, some of us are doing Ignatian Spirituality including running a retreat house in Miami, doing the work of the Bridges Program, doing spiritual direction, organizing *Magis* retreats, organizing lectures on Ignatian Spirituality, cooperating with our brothers in the Jesuits and groups of religious women grounded in the Exercises, doing the scholarship and other work needed to make connections between ecology and feminist theology and Ignatian Spirituality, or using the Eighteenth Annotation approach to bring the Exercises to the poor in our society. We are investing a lot of energy and resources in the Guides Program. Cannot this work be taken to others outside of CLC?

In no way am I suggesting that individual communities will not be called to focus on water, migration, the UN, or some other issue. And certainly the two most important calls for each of us are our duties in our families and our work in our professions. But I think all of us are called as community to take the Exercises to others, if only through

our prayers for our brothers and sisters in the work. Further, I cannot imagine a single calling as parent, doctor, educator, factory worker, retirement, parent, bearing illness, where we cannot take Ignatian Spirituality to others.

If this full vision of CLC is to bloom, I think it is time to become deadly serious about our identity. Those who have not made the Exercises in their fullness with individual direction and do not intend to do so in a couple of years, should be supported as they leave CLC and find one of the other beautiful spiritualities of the Spirit that will enable them to flourish. We must help our communities to truly use discernment to help each other. We must properly support, financially and in prayer, those who have the gifts to lead us in Ignatian Spirituality. We simply do not have the energy or the resources or the time to take any other approach. We need the freedom of being true to our identity!

Fifth, CLCers need to become much more involved in the public arena of politics on every level. Maybe only a few of us are called to seek office, but we are all required to support those called, and we are all called to awareness and sensitivity.

Our CLC brothers and sisters are involved in community action work that would make Saul Alinsky and Jack Egan proud. Our work at the UN is wonderful, and many CLCers are involved in one or more public policy issues on all levels of government. Praise God! But so much more work and personal involvement and commitment is needed. Politics is the route to make structural changes to aid the poor and disenfranchised at home and abroad, to save the environment, to protect human life and to bring peace to the world.

One of the new horizons I would like to see us move to is the creation of affinity groups within CLC both to address issues directly and to develop materials to help the rest of us. Affinity groups of CLC members in economics and business, the health care world, teaching, law

One of the new horizons I would like to see us move to is the creation of affinity groups within CLC both to address issues directly and to develop materials to help the rest of us.

*Continued on page 11
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Reaching New Horizons in the North Central Region

*Mickey Dodson
Jackie Gilbert
Maryanne Rouse*



Our authors, Jackie Gilbert, Maryanne Rouse, Mickey Dodson are members of Quest for Metanoia CLC in Omaha.

For more than thirty years, the North Central Region of Christian Life Community® has continuously expanded its horizons under the leadership of our Regional Assistant, Father Jack Zuercher, SJ. The North Central Region (which covers the same territory as the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus) is a far-flung area that includes Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming. The distance from end to end is approximately 1200 miles!

In this article, the authors will tell you, the reader, about some of the means that have been successfully used to “expand our horizons.”

Communication among members has been a challenge and is accomplished primarily in four ways: a quarterly newsletter; an annual weekend retreat/meeting; our Regional Coordinating Council, with representatives sprinkled throughout the area; and the now thousands of miles of travel of Fr. Jack. The annual gathering is held in various parts of the region in order to minimize the distance for some of us one year and for others the next. It began primarily as a business meeting with some time for prayer, but the members found that the same amount of business could be attended to in less time so that more time could be devoted to what has become a mini-retreat. The array of presenters has been rich—Fr. John LeVecke, S.J., National CLC Ecclesial Assistant; Fr. Dick McCaslin, S.J., and Sr. Marie Schwan, long time partners in ministry; Sr Suzanne Zuercher, OSB, popular Enneagram and Merton scholar, to name just a few.

Fr. Jack has logged the miles on his car as he visited, encouraged and guided existing communities and assisted in forming new communities from his base at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. At present, there are twenty-eight adult communities in the region. Jack’s ability to do this CLC formation work full-time has been supported by the Wisconsin Province and its leaders’ willingness to dedicate a full-time man to this ministry.

In recent years, Father Jack has worked with CLC members to establish structures among the membership that will carry on his work and ensure CLC presence in the region for years to come. One of these structures is Regional By-Laws. Our By-Laws, yet to be formally adopted, are patterned somewhat on those of the California, Missouri and Oregon regions. Another example is Jack’s enlistment of members to assist in setting up the CLC North Central Endowment Trust Fund. Contributions are invested for the future of CLC in this area to supplement future financial support of the Province.

In February, 2006, the North Central Region Executive Council (ExCo) was formed with members from various parts of the region. This group meets regularly with Fr. Jack by teleconference. The group acts as a sounding board for new regional initiatives and makes decisions about region-wide activities, e.g., the annual retreat/meeting. Minutes of ExCo meetings are published in the quarterly newsletter. In 2007, a co-chair was chosen to assist the Regional Assistant in the workings of the region. Maryanne Rouse, a former NCLC President, now fills that position.

In 2006, the Gigi Cannon Retreat in Daily Life was first offered to Omaha CLC members. The Organizing Committee members were Fr. Jack, Mickey Dodson, Renee O'Brien, and Maryanne Rouse. The retreat continues in 2007-08 with another group of retreatants from Omaha communities. Retreatants meet with individual guides at least twice a month and come together for sharing once a month. This offering is the realization of a dream of a dedicated CLC member, Gigi Cannon, in whose honor the retreat has been named.

Recently, lay CLC promoters have been named for each of the clusters of the region: Meg Mannix of Minneapolis, a member of Namaste CLC; Linda Hayek, of Omaha, a member of Siloam; and Jeanne de Simone Sieger of Milwaukee, a member of Gesu Companions. As you might expect, cluster promoters promote CLC throughout their area, visit communities, organize Cluster events and foster new communities.

Ever the shepherd of all of us, Fr. Jack has recently made available a series of meetings on the CLC General Principles with reflection questions. Vital as the General Principles are for new and old communities alike, these

meetings offer an opportunity to pray and reflect on the Principles and share the fruits with community members.



Finally, in the past year, there have been several occasions when Omaha members of the Ignatian family have been invited to celebrate our Ignatian heritage together: a wonderful dinner that commemorated Fr. Arupe's birthday; an upcoming meeting with Fr. Tom Krettek, S.J., during which he will share his experience of the 35th Congregation; and Province Days in June to which CLC members will be invited. The Provincial is also calling together Ignatian based groups in the Twin Cities area and in Milwaukee for a report on the 35th General Congregation.

All of these developments illustrate the ways the CLC North Central Region, in over thirty years of Father Zuercher's guidance, has searched for and found New Horizons. This has resulted in expanding communities and strengthening members in the Ignatian Way of Life. ☩

Continued from page 9

enforcement, and on and on would be wonderful. Modern technology opens many possibilities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTED ACTIONS

There are many more new horizons that are important to me as I think about CLC mission and I have just stated my priorities. However, all of us in leadership on all levels in CLC-USA desire to hear from you and we can only make CLC-USA the powerful force for the realization of the Kingdom if all of us, all of the members, are involved. Since I know many of you, I realize that you have better ideas about priorities than I do. Share them with all of us! We are planning for our CLC future and it must be bottom up and we must go through the slow and painful process of discerning and developing our priorities in mission. I pray that all of our communities will become involved through the process that you will hear much about.

For now, I suggest the following actions:

- Recall your own history as an individual and as communities and why your community is who/what it is at this time. Do a time line. My guess is that you will be astounded by the richness of who you are.
- Study our foundational documents, especially the General Principles and Charism. Spend some time as a community praying over the Incarnation

Meditation. What does the Trinity see in the world today? What have we done? What are we doing? What are we called to do?

- Organize some of the faith sharing in your meetings around The Acts of the Apostles.
- Plan on attending as a community the various cluster and regional meetings during the year and the National Assembly in Summer 2009 in Washington DC.
- Pray and then pray some more for all of us in CLC. For each other! ☩

Questions for Discussion

1. Can you list at least one new initiative upon which your own CLC has embarked within the last two years?
2. How well is your CLC represented at regional activities such as meetings/days of prayer/retreats?
3. Does your region promote participation with members of the Ignatian family other than CLC?

Moving Catholics to Action in California

Steve Pehanich



Steve Pehanich is currently serving as Senior Director of Advocacy and Education for the California Catholic Conference. Previously he was the Executive Director of Catholic Charities in California. In that role he promotes social justice and helps Catholic Charities agencies develop leadership programs, improve services and expand local advocacy efforts.

Prior to joining Catholic Charities in 2005 he was Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in San Jose. He writes a column that appears in Catholic newspapers around California.

He and his wife Loretta have been married for twenty-eight years. They are the parents of four children.

Steve has been a member of Immaculata CLC since 1997.

In *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI described the laity's central role in the creation of a just society. And every four years, the U.S. Bishops publish *Faithful Citizenship*, their teaching on Catholic political responsibility. Most people associate this responsibility with voting—and that is a critical action in our democracy—but promotion of justice in our political process requires constant vigilance and action.

In California, the Catholic Legislative Network will make it simpler for Catholics to promote justice and the common good by examining political issues, learning about social justice and communicating with their elected officials. The Network is a new partnership of all twelve archdioceses in the state, whose members will not only work together on state and federal issues, but will also use the Network to advocate on local topics and matters of justice.

Unlike many specialty sites, the system covers all the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching—from life and dignity of the person to care for God's creation. And it is as much about educating Catholics on our social teaching, as it is about moving them to action.

As the Director of Advocacy and Education for the Catholic Conference, I am making the rounds recruiting participants. (Sorry, California only.) The initial response around the state has been excellent—hundreds have already signed up. And every time we send out an alert, for example, support for nutrition programs in the Farm Bill, many participants refer others to join.

We're still fine-tuning the technology and messages of the Network, but there is one result that has already touched my heart deeply. In the weekly email summary of policy developments we mentioned how low income people and seniors could receive economic stimulus checks. One southern California parish published the item in its bulletin and received more than fifty appreciative calls from parishioners who did not know they were even eligible.

I am amazed at how the Holy Spirit uses everything—from political emails to CLC—to touch the lives of the faithful.

Visit the website at <http://capwiz.com/cacatholic/home> 

Questions for Discussion

1. *There are Catholic Advocacy Networks in other states. Are you aware of your own...and are you a member?*
2. *How have you/your own CLC members networked within these types of structures in order to further the ideals of Catholic Social Teaching?*
3. *How would you encourage others(not necessarily CLCers) to participate in this kind of teamwork?*

Peace Initiatives in CLC, Our Parishes and Beyond

Dorothy M. Zambito

As March 19th draws nearer, where are your thoughts? Are you thinking about the Feast of St. Joseph, Holy Week, the nearness of Spring? Unless you are in touch with one of the many peace and justice organizations, one of those three suggestions may be where you are. There are many more Christians and non-Christians alike who are pondering with a heavy heart the fact that March 19th is the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by the United States. Days go by and I think most of us do not focus on the war. We seem to have gotten used to it. In the *New York Times* this morning (February 25), the first story about the war was on page eleven. It told of a suicide bombing which claimed forty lives, possibly two of our troops. On the same page, in a little box, was the announcement of a confirmed death of a twenty-five year-old soldier from Pennsylvania. Little or nothing of a personal nature was said about this young man. There was an additional note stating the fact that 3,961 of our troops have lost their lives in the last five years.

On another front, we read about preparations being made by the Israeli army at the border fence with the Gaza strip. Palestinians are planning a non-violent protest using a human chain. This action is being taken to condemn the embargo inflicted by the Israelis upon the Palestinians, an embargo which has caused undue hardship to the Palestinian people. The embargo resulted in severe shortages of fuel, foodstuffs and health services. It has disrupted 'normal' living including the education of the young and the loss of employment to others. How much does this modern day occupation of one people by another touch or challenge you? Do you care about it? What can you (we) do in response to it?

In the *General Principles*, #8, we read:

*Christ has sent us on mission as members of the pilgrim People of God to be His witnesses before all people by our **attitudes, words and actions.** (author's use of boldface) We are to become identified with His mission of bringing the good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives and to the blind, new sight, setting the downtrodden free ...*

Of primary concern to me is the apparent lack of passion about the world's ills, especially in the areas of peace and justice. In my own parish, if one speaks up for an end to the war in Iraq or Afghanistan, there are parishioners who equate that with a lack of loyalty to our US troops abroad. They look at it as a political rather than a moral issue.

If one identifies the crisis of the occupation in the Gaza strip as inhumane treatment of the Palestinians, others take that as anti-Semitic. For some, the genocide in Darfur and the ethnic clashes in Kenya or Kosovo are just too distant from their reality.

Going back to GP #8 – we are to be witnesses by our **attitudes**. One definition of attitude, according to the Webster's Unabridged Dictionary is, "the manner of acting, feeling or thinking that show one's disposition, opinion, etc." As I see it, in order to have an attitude regarding a position on some faith and justice issue, we must have some knowledge of that issue. We, as committed members of Christian Life Community®, must be informed on those issues that cry out for justice. Our GP #6 tells us to make "ourselves sensitive to the signs of the times and the movements of the Spirit." We become aware of the signs of the times by staying in touch with the news through newspapers, journals, books and the internet. We become sensitive to these signs by being attentive to those whose mission is to pass on information, Pax Christi, Center of



Dorothy Zambito has been a member of Sodality/CLC since the late '50s and has tirelessly promoted CLC during those years along with her husband, Ray. She is a member of Locust Valley CLC in the New York Region, had served as Coordinating Editor of Harvest for five years and served as President and Past President of CLC-USA. She is part of the Servant Community that will serve as Coordinating Editor of Harvest.

In addition to involvement at her local parish, Dorothy spends time at the local soup kitchen and with the winter homeless shelter in the next town. Among her special blessings are husband, Ray, her six children and her children in marriage and the nine grandchildren.

Concern and JustFaith, to mention a few. We become sensitive to the signs by reflecting on the words and actions of Jesus from Scripture. We recognize the movement of the Spirit through prayer and discernment, alone and with our communities. With the development of attitudes, comes the emotion or mood or passion we need to move forward.

GP #8 directs us to be witnesses by our **words**, as well. Being informed about current events and the Church's moral teaching will place us in a favorable location when it comes to speaking out about issues of peace and justice. A lay Catholic evangelist was invited to my parish to give a mini retreat. He used the occasion to preach about crisis in our world, especially with regard to the issues of the poverty, racism and the war in Iraq. He asked our congregation to reflect on the words of the Apostles' Creed – reminding us that our God was creator of all humanity – reminding us that we are brother and sister to all peoples. If we truly believed in the words of the Creed, how could we look down upon people of color or the people dying in Iraq? How could we support that war when even our bishops spoke against it? There were several in the congregation who wanted that preacher to be removed from the church. The pastor actually had to calm the crowd. Our witness of words may not always be in hostile territory, although Jesus did say that prophets were not always welcomed in their hometown. In this day and age, our words can reach others, even in government, by letter writing, signing petitions on line and writing letters to the editors of our local newspapers.

Witnessing by our **actions** is the third directive mentioned in GP #8. Some of the thoughts above are actions as well as words. There are other initiatives that we can enter into to help us to be missioned members of the people of God. True gestures of peace to the outside world, however, will only be recognized as authentic if we first labor for a loving peace among our families and friends. Once we have worked to accomplish this, opportunities for farer reaching actions should adopted. As many of you know, I have been spreading information regarding the conditions in the Middle East which I receive from a Jesuit, Father Donald Moore. (Father Moore is in the NY Province and teaches at Fordham part of the year while spending the remainder of his time in Jerusalem.) The articles I have forwarded have stimulated a lively dialogue among CLCers from several regions. One segment of this communication focuses on how best CLC might be involved.

Pax Christi, JustFaith and The Declaration of Peace are a few groups that provide ongoing information about non-violent actions promoting peace and justice and a commitment to the sacredness of life. Have you ever joined a non-violent march for peace? Witnessing with people of all faiths is a stirring and humbling experience. Have you ever participated in an Outdoors Stations of the Cross where each station represents a cause for peace and justice? Many of us in the New York Region can be seen on Good Friday walking along 42nd Street on our way to Broadway with crucifix in hand, as Christ's witnesses to the world declaring our hopes for a peace-filled and just society.

Would you consider organizing a peace vigil and prayer service in your parish? Materials are available from the organizations mentioned earlier.

I don't have many answers to the world's ills. I am convinced, however, that we are called as CLC to make a difference in this world. We can't get too comfortable in our easy chairs and leave to others the cries of the poor and the downtrodden. What a roar there would be if all Catholics spoke in one voice against the war in Iraq, or the occupation of Gaza, or the genocide in Darfur, or the ethnic problems of Kenya! In GP#6, we read of being impelled to "**creative and concrete collaboration for the work of advancing the reign of God on earth, and... a readiness to go and serve where the needs of the Church so demand.**"

Questions for Discussion

- 1. Do your own 'attitudes, words and action' speak of peace for others?*
- 2. In what ways has your CLC publicly stood for peace--within the local community or on a broader level?*
- 3. As the author notes, have you given thought to how your own personal resources can be applied in order to create/expand on peace initiatives?*

New Horizons: Blooming, Dying, Blooming and Growing Forever

April, 2008

John LeVecke, SJ

*Edelweiss, Edelweiss,
Every morning you greet me.
Small and white,
Clean and bright,
You look happy to meet me.
Blossoms of snow may you bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Edelweiss, Edelweiss,
Bless my homeland forever.*

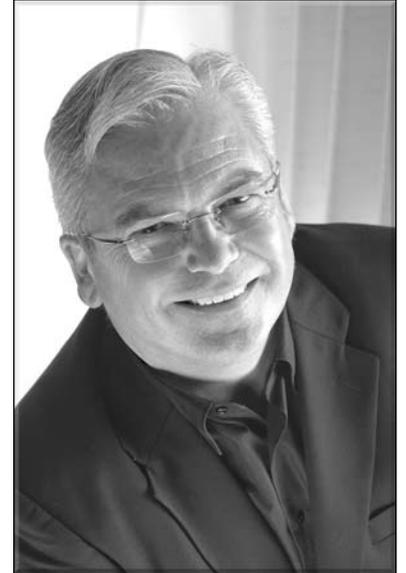
(Written by Rodgers and Hammerstein for *The Sound of Music*, 1959)

“Just a few” years ago, when I was a senior in high school (okay, in 1971...), I decided to try out for the senior class musical, the production of “The Sound of Music.” Part of the motivation was that I wanted to branch out and meet new friends before our graduation departure. And being in an all-boys Catholic school, it also provided me the opportunity to encounter more young ladies from our sister schools...

Possibly thinking that just my “good looks” could land me a part, I decided to pursue the male lead role of Captain von Trapp. However, although I could play the guitar, I really had not developed much talent at that time for such a role.

Practicing the singing of the song, “Edelweiss,” proved to be a real challenge. I waited until I thought the family had all retired for the evening, not realizing that our dear old family friend and weekly overnight guest on his day-off, Fr. Ben Schmidt, was still reading upstairs. Cranking up the “record player” (yes, more than “just a few” years ago...), I tried my best to play my guitar and sing with the recording, as it helped to mask my voice! Practicing over and over again, the whole family was startled back into awakened consciousness when Fr. Ben blasted out loud, “Will anyone in this family tell that boy that he can’t sing?!!!” I immediately shut the practice down and embarrassingly went to bed.

I took consolation in learning years later that the song is named after the edelweiss, a white flower found high in the Alpine hills. When the song is sung by Captain von Trapp, it wonderfully serves as a double metaphor. He sings it as he rediscovers music and a love for his family. In “Edelweiss,” the flower’s blossoming symbolizes the Captain’s newfound horizon. Later on in the show it is sung as a defiant statement of Austrian patriotism in the face of the great Nazi evil, reflecting the deeply rooted hardiness of the flower as it blooms, dies, and blooms again. Despite not getting that part, I did survive, and have continued to experience life’s moments of dying and rising to newly discover “other parts” better suited to my gifts and call to serve God’s greater glory. The enduring white flower can be viewed as a sign for all of us that our graced life in Christ is an invitation to share fully in his Paschal Mystery, never without the hope of Easter and the promise of Pentecost.



*John LeVecke, S.J.
National Ecclesial Assistant*



Similarly this year for those of us within our National Christian Life Community®, we find ourselves in the midst of a very challenging, yet exciting transition from some old and familiar ways of proceeding to a blooming and growing new structure of support. It is not all so easy, but a time of Winter is giving way to Spring's new horizons once again. I am delighted to realize the results blooming and growing from the efforts of the members of our Diversity and Organization Committee, who were given the charge to develop a new methodology for our National Community. To this end, they are creating our first Leadership Conference, which over the next few years will lead us into a new structure that supports our richly diverse National Community. It will be a structure which is inclusive of our cultural and age group clusters, where all can experience themselves as members of one community. The first of these conferences is happening during this publication in Pittsburgh. It also anticipates our participation in the approaching World Assembly in Fatima this summer. Talk about God blessing our "homeland!"

As we continue to transition within the Paschal Mystery of our common life and mission in Christ, may we never lose heart or give up the fight. Like the good Captain, my hope and prayer for us is that we seize this and every opportunity to rediscover our love for our CLC family and all of humanity. Even if you are tone-deaf like me, may we always keep on singing the eternal music of our faith. And with the deeply rooted hardiness of an Edelweiss people, may we continue to bloom, die, and bloom again for the sake of our call to mission and gospel justice against any and all evil. For every waking morning, our Lord of CLC truly greets us and looks happy to meet us! ☸

Continued from page 16

Creative and concrete collaboration is one of the areas that has surfaced in the recent dialogue spurred on by emailing those articles on the situation in the Middle East.

Father Ben Urmston, S.J., and CLC Past President Thomas Bausch have shared their experiences and sources via email. Talk of being in touch with Jesuit Social Ministries and the Israeli Peace groups has emerged. Each of us is called to be creative and yet concrete. What resources do you have that can be shared?

Who is called to bring Christ's presence to the world? Each of us is through our baptism and confirmation. Are we to proceed alone? In CLC we act in community – discerning, sending, supporting and evaluating. Will the road be smooth? We will struggle to change oppressive structures. GP #8a But, **“Our life finds its permanent inspiration in the Gospel of the poor and humble Christ.”** GP #8c ☸



A communication link between the Executive Council and the World Christian Life Community®

The World Executive Council met from February 9 -16 in Munich hosted by the German CLC. We are especially grateful for the generosity of the National Community and the warm welcome and day to day care from the Munich CLC. Spending our break day in the historic center of Munich and meeting the local CLC in both Munich and Regensburg added to the richness of our time together.

Sandra Haley (formerly Chan) and Mari Carmen Mora were unable to be with us for this meeting. Please join us in congratulating and offering best wishes to Sandra and her husband John whose daughter Amelia was born on Dec. 29, 2007. We were joined by Jody Sim from CLC Philippines and coordinator of the Asia/Pacific Region who brought regional input to our planning. Also present was Edward Warrington from CLC Malta, our process guide for Fatima 2008.

As always, we began with a personal sharing followed by a report about each region. It is always a rich experience to hear about CLC in current and emerging communities. We also discussed and received updates on the Nairobi mandates.

1. Leadership: Courses have taken place in a number of national communities. During April, the Leadership Working Group will report to national leadership on what has happened since the November 2006 Rome Leadership Course and how national communities can to get support for leadership development.
2. SJ and CLC: Thank you also for the input from national communities and Ecclesiastical Assistants on the draft document “The Relationship between the Christian Life Community® and the Society of Jesus in the Church”. For the final document, we also plan to take into account the reflections during the recent General Congregation of the Society of Jesus.
3. The CLC Formation Working Group has completed a rewrite of the Formation Manual (former Charism 2), which is currently being translated. We plan to publish the final version in the near future to give some orientation on CLC formation, complementing “The CLC Charism”.

In addition to this work on the initiatives and the normal work of governance and finance, we spent much of our time outlining the process for the Fatima Assembly. By the time of the meeting, we had received reports on *Projects 136* from 2/3 of the national communities. This input, which the delegates will expand on at Fatima, was also critical to us in designing the process for our August 12 – 21st Assembly.

Thank you to all the National Leadership and Preparation Teams that worked on your community’s report. The reports gave us a much fuller picture of the growth, opportunities and struggles in communities and demonstrated clear progress since Nairobi. Many sent detailed responses on each topic. Thank you for your time and reflection. If your response to *Projects 136* and National Community Graced History has not yet been sent to the Secretariat, please still send it. It is very important that the situation of all of our national communities is considered in both planning and living out Fatima 2008.

As you know, Fatima 2008, with its theme “Journeying as an Apostolic Body: Our Response to this Grace from God”, is an invitation to deepen the graces of Itaiici and Nairobi. The delegates will pray with and explore together our graced history during and since those Assemblies using the pre-work from *Projects 136*, the National Community Graced Histories, the report from this World ExCo and the shared experience and hopes of the assembled delegates.

We will use a process called ‘Open Space’ for part of the Assembly. In this process, delegates are invited to raise specific topics of interest to them and their national community since Nairobi. Each topic will be discussed by interested delegates during time periods in the ‘open space’ day. Each delegate will have time to participate in several topics during the day. The Assembly will receive brief reports and a conclusion from each session. We will work with these recommendations in national and regional groups and in the entire Assembly to answer the question; “How are we called to deepen our living out Apostolic Community?” These ‘conversations’ together with the pre-work of national communities and the World ExCo will create the content for the Assembly’s deliberation and eventual decisions.

Several communities have also presented amendments to our General Norms. Those amendments will be sent to all delegations at the beginning of April.

We have asked that delegates register before the end of March. Delegates can register online at www.fatima2008.org. A mailing with further preparation materials and information about the Assembly will be sent to all delegates in April as well.

If you are seeking Solidarity Fund support, please send your application as soon as possible. Please also continue to make contributions to the Solidarity Fund. The Assembly cost is very challenging to many of the national communities (and even more so with the current crisis of the US\$). It is only with the generosity of all of the World Community that we can meet at the Assembly and have all of our national communities present.

Those who have been nominated for the next World ExCo have received notification of their nomination and are asked to respond within a month. We will send the final list of candidates to the delegates no later than May. Please pray with us for those discerning a nomination.

We are also seeking nominations of persons who would be available to serve as Executive Secretary April or May of 2009. Guy Maginzi will be leaving the office in June 2009 as the school year ends in Italy. We want to plan for a transition period. The Executive Secretary role description is available at the World Secretariat. Please contact Guy at exsec@cvx-clc.net for a copy. If you are

interested, please get in touch with your national leadership. We ask a commitment of 5 years, a willingness to relocate to Rome, and working knowledge of at least 2 of the official languages.

Taking into account his resignation as Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Peter- Hans Kolvenbach contacted us last year to consider a possible successor for himself as World CLC Ecclesiastical Assistant. The two positions – General Superior of the Society and CLC Ecclesiastical Assistant – are not necessarily linked to one another, but from our experiences during the past years and the excellent collaboration with Fr. Kolvenbach, it makes a lot of sense if the General Superior is ready to also act as CLC EA. We are very grateful that the new General Superior, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, expressed his willingness to take over the position. Therefore, the world ExCo and Fr. Kolvenbach contacted the Pontifical Council for the Laity, asking for the appointment of Fr. Adolfo Nicolás S.J. as the new Ecclesiastical Assistant for World CLC (see also General Norms #42). Meanwhile, Fr. Kolvenbach – who has recently returned to Lebanon – continues as our World EA.

Please continue to pray with us and all of the delegations as we prepare for the General Assembly.

United in our prayers and service,

For the World Executive Committee

Daniela Frank
President

Lois Campbell
Consultor

Previous issues of Projects, including Projects 137, can be found at <http://www.cvx-clc.net/pub.html>:



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News of Our NGO activities at the UN in New York

Joan Woods

This year at the UN has been a busy but very satisfying one for me. The Committee on the Status of Women is one of the most active committees at the UN. Some of their activities are included in this summary.

The planning committee for the two week Commission, Feb.25 – March 7, 2008, began in September with bimonthly meetings (September/December) and weekly ones during January and February. Sub-committees were formed dealing with two Roundtables, The Consultation Day and the two-week Commission. I joined committees for all three events and sometimes it was a problem just keeping track of meetings and assignments.

The Roundtables and The Consultation Day served the same purpose: to highlight the themes of the forthcoming session and to begin caucus planning. These themes centered on finance, emerging issues, trends, and new approaches involving violence against women and women's equal participation in conflict presentation and conflict resolution.

They were very well attended and, I believe, highly successful.

The two week session included daily formal negotiations with ambassadors and occasionally some NGO intervention, workshops, parallel events by UN Missions, caucus meetings and briefings. Some workshops began at 6:00 P.M. Highlights for me were:

- a) The U.S. Caucus became a reality. There was one downer, however. The four original members were introduced as: Marge—Anglican Women, Pat—Anglican Women, Lillian—Presbyterian Women, and Joan— Christian Life. I wanted to yell out : You're mistaken, I'm Catholic! We did very well, considering that at least one point "Climate Change" which we brought up at the U.S. Briefing made it into the "Agreed Conclusions" document. Believe me, I don't think we did it alone. It probably became a bargaining chip during the last all night formal session.

We owe a great deal of credit to many participants but I would like to single one out; Jeeni Phillips, who joined the U.S. caucus and became an editor/writer of caucus statements. Jeeni will graduate this Spring from the University of San Francisco, School of Law.

- b) There were many interesting workshops and parallel events by UN missions including " Muslim and Jewish Women Building Bridges of Understanding", " A Dialogue between Cultures: Iraq for All", " Climate Change: Why Women's Perspectives Matter" and " The Human Dignity of Women in Contemporary Society: Financial Programs Supporting Equality, Empowerment, and Families". This last workshop was sponsored by The Holy See. One co-sponsor was St. John's University and one member of the panel was from Fordham University. Dr. Christine Firer Hinze, Department of Theology, spoke on " Women , Economic Livelihood, and Modern Catholic Social Teaching"
- c) I was delighted to find in the Agreed Conclusions Document the following: Ensure adequate financing for women's full, equal, and effective participation at all levels in conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace negotiations and peace building.



Joan Woods is the Non-Governmental Organization main representative for WCLC at the United Nations in New York where she is a member of the Committee on the Status of Women and The Migration Committee. She attends briefings at the UN and lectures at the International Catholics Organizations Center.

Joan started in CLC in the late sixties as a member of the New York Professional Sodality. Today, she is a member of both Loyola NYC and The Westchester CLCs. She is a member of the Metro Regional Council, Leadership Council, and is a Past President of NCLC.

Joan is a retired Elementary School Administrator, both in the Catholic and public sectors.

She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Lehman College, City University of New York.

A participant from Israel told me: Women at the Peace Table—An idea whose time has come.

- d) Finally, I would like to point out the participation of almost two thousand women over eighty countries. Some were from The Sudan, Kenya, South Africa and other dangerous parts of our world

Monday, Nov.5,2007 was the annual Women Ambassadors' Luncheon. The keynote speaker was Carolyn Maloney, Member of the House of Representatives, N.Y.C. District, United States Congress. Carolyn assured us of her interest in the CSW, help and accessibility. Large organizations like Professional Women take a table which allow them to sponsor an ambassador who then is a guest at their table. Some NGOs are considering joining together next year in order to sponsor an Ambassador.

My other committee is the NGO Committee on Migration. We are again focusing our efforts on civil society preparations for the 2008 Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Manila this Fall. Ms. Sylvia Lichauco, Executive Director, Lola Grande Foundation, Inc, Philippines, was a guest speaker at a meeting in March.

Her group is organizing an International Conference of Gender, Migration and Development in preparation for the Global Forum and we were able to discuss our participation.

We will again lobby the UN Missions for the human rights of migrants. I will be visiting the Irish and UK Missions with two interns who are students at Fordham University. Also on my list for the first round is Canada.

On Thursday, April 10th, we had a briefing on Pope Benedict's Visit to the UN. Panel speakers included H.E. Archbishop Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio; Sr. Dorothy Farley, Executive Director, International Catholic Organizations/ Information Center; and Mr. Peter Steinfels, Co- Director , Fordham University, Center on Religion and Culture. The DPI/NGO (Dept of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization) invitation read as follows: On this occasion, a panel discussion, looking at the significance of His Holiness's visit and its impact on current global issues, will be convened. This will be the first in the *Focus on Faith* series, during which the guest speakers will share their insights into the topic and underline the links between the principles of the United Nations and — in this case — the Catholic Church. Archbishop Migliore speculated on what topics the Pope might address including Peace and Human Rights. Peter Steinfels discussed six topics including Catholic Universities, Church teaching and Modern Secularism. Sister Dorothy spoke about the long history of UN interest by the Catholic Church. She spoke about Church support of the MDGs and the Pope's passion for promoting human dignity. Questions, some from the media, for the Archbishop centered on concerns for Catholics including the sex scandal, male hierarchy/clergy and the lack of recognition for women religious.

An ongoing topic is the Vatican/NGO Forum held in Rome last Fall. In January, we had a briefing and discussion. The purpose of our meeting was to give background information on the Forum program and the Pope's desire to discuss the relationship of Catholic NGOs with the Holy See in New York. This was followed by a discussion on cooperation among Catholic NGOs in New York and to identify next steps. We continue to have meetings but nothing definite has been identified. However, we are considering a workshop on Human Rights to be held in New York during the DPI/NGO Conference in Paris.

WCLC belongs to the Conference of ICOs (International Catholic Organizations). They will meet in June to decide whether they are going to continue with new guidelines or dissolve. Their discussion will have implications for the center.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

There will be an ICO Center. The shape it will take and how it will be funded was the topic of today's meeting. Sister Dorothy announced her resignation. The ICO Board has organized a search committee for a new executive director. They also conducted a series of interviews which resulted in a Project Report on the Center's weaknesses, Administrative issues and opportunities. There will be another meeting next week and many to follow as we continue to work through the above agenda.

Finally, I would like to tell you of an important event that took place on Friday's NGO/DPI planning session. It was announced that Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information, and Co-Chair of the Planning Committee would be going to another Department and this vacated position would be taken by Maria Louisa Charvez. Then Mr. Brandt said he was sorry to leave but would be in the building and, along with a UN official, left the room. Ms. Charvez introduced herself and said she was glad to assume the position. Members of the Committee were not happy.

They expressed their dissatisfaction about being the last group to know about this decision, and were not even consulted.

This is a Conference on Human Rights. What happened to our rights? All was (or seemed to be) in vain and the meeting continued. ☒



EXCERPT FROM THE ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI TO THE UN, NEW YORK, FRIDAY, 18 APRIL 2008

As history proceeds, new situations arise, and the attempt is made to link them to new rights. Discernment, that is, the capacity to distinguish good from evil, becomes even more essential in the context of demands that concern the very lives and conduct of persons, communities and peoples. In tackling the theme of rights, since important situations and profound realities are involved, discernment is both an indispensable and a fruitful virtue.

Discernment, then, shows that entrusting exclusively to individual States, with their laws and institutions, the final responsibility to meet the aspirations of persons, communities and entire peoples, can sometimes have consequences that exclude the possibility of a social order respectful of the dignity and rights of the person. On the other hand, a vision of life firmly anchored in the religious dimension can help to achieve this, since recognition of the transcendent value of every man and woman favours conversion of heart, which then leads to a commitment to resist violence, terrorism and war, and to promote justice and peace. This also provides the proper context for the inter-religious dialogue that the United Nations is called to support, just as it supports dialogue in other areas of human activity. Dialogue should be recognized as the means by which the various components of society can articulate their point of view and build consensus around the truth concerning particular values or goals. It pertains to the nature of religions, freely practised, that they can autonomously conduct a dialogue of thought and life. If at this level, too, the religious sphere is kept separate from political action, then great benefits ensue for individuals and communities. On the other hand, the United Nations can count on the results of dialogue between religions, and can draw fruit from the willingness of believers to place their experiences at the service of the common good. Their task is to propose a vision of faith not in terms of intolerance, discrimination and conflict, but in terms of complete respect for truth, coexistence, rights, and reconciliation.

The Importance of Mission

Carlos de la Torre



Carlos de la Torre, Cuban born, came to the US at the age of 11. Retired from the insurance and finance industry in 2000 and has worked in the Ignatian Spiritual Center of Miami since then. Became a CLC member in the year 2000, when the CLC Community was founded in Casa Manresa. He is working towards a master's degree in Hispanic Pastoral Ministries at Barry University.

Finishing our third week of training on the Spiritual Exercises at the Jesuit University of Comillas in Madrid, I prayed and began to reflect on how and where God was talking to me this week. I realized all that I learned in the course of the week was great, things that I would use in my ministry of Spiritual Exercises. During this process, one thing kept coming to my mind, and that was a conversation Rosita and I had with a Madrid taxi driver. Madrid cab drivers are no different than other taxi drivers in a big city. In Madrid I find them particularly witty with a dry but real sense of humor that I enjoy, so it would not be unusual for me to engage them in conversation.

Early on Sunday morning, on our way to “El Rastro,” Madrid’s flea market, I flagged down a cab by the Puerta de Alcalá. Possessed by I don’t know what, after telling him the place where he was to take us, I followed it with a forceful “¿Cómo está?” sort of a “How are you?” He looked back and, with the typical Madrid Spanish sarcasm, he replied: “How is the traffic, the weather, the politics, or how am I?” I replied, “You! I want to know how you are!” That triggered a continuous outflow of ideas that lasted all the way to our destination.

I don’t know how it got to this, but half way into the trip, the conversation turned to trees, fruit trees. Possibly I encouraged it because of my own passion for trees. He started to tell us about a cherry tree he planted several years ago in a small farm he and his wife own outside Avila. He explained that he and his wife go to the farm every other weekend or so. He told us that the cherry tree had been bearing fruit for some years now, but he had not been able to eat any of it. You could feel the sense of frustration in his voice, he went on to enumerate the reasons: Near the farm, he said, there is a wetland inhabited by every variety of cherry eating birds. These birds, according to him, only eat ripe sweet cherries. He told us he purchased a net to place over the tree; I mentioned that in the Jesuit Retreat House at Xavier they place a net over their cherry trees to protect the fruit. He confessed that he strongly suspects he purchased a net with wholes that were too big, because the birds either get inside or pick at the cherries from the outside. The cherries that survive the birds, not many by his account due to the voracity of the local birds, fall ripe off the tree when he is not there. He paused, looked back at me and said “You know, my wife is smart, she eats green cherries, because she says that if she does not eat them green she does not eat them at all.”

This phrase, “You know, my wife is smart, she eats green cherries,” kept resonating in my mind for several days. Since I’m trying to sort out all these thoughts, something I read from Blessed Peter Fabre came to mind. I will translate and paraphrase from his Spiritual Memories, No. 154:

*Many think of impossible things and in the meantime they become careless of things they have right in front of them. That is why faith is proposed small like a grain of mustard seed and the first and major commandment is charity. Because it is necessary that when you have a little faith your faith should continue to grow, with good deeds, you do not always want to be learning without worrying about your deeds (mission). If you have a talent of knowledge and faith, **put it to work, don't wait until you have two talents**...Do not overlook good works (missions) around you that are reachable and doable for the lazy contemplation of future things that are far away from your reach.*

Some times we worry too much about being ready to do our missions, we worry about rules, regulations, time frames, initiation processes, formation programs, being part of, meetings at all levels, etc. The question we need to ask is: Where are my fruits, my good works? Are they getting side-tracked, lost in the requirements of organizational structures? Are we waiting for ripe red cherries or perhaps we also have to eat our cherries green? Peter Fabre is right, once you have one talent, you need to put it to work. ☸

Meditative Retreat

July 22 - 24, 2008
Cahokia Mounds, Illinois

Join with others in exploring our relationship to the universe, Earth, others and ourselves during this two-day event beginning the evening of Tuesday, July 22 and ending around 3:00 pm on Thursday, July 24. The setting for this retreat is Cahokia Mounds, Illinois, about 15 minutes east of downtown St. Louis, Missouri and the site of an advanced culture of Mississippian Indians from about 700-1200 AD. It has been designated as a world heritage site. The site, along with the archeological research done there, invite us to a deeper appreciation of our connectedness with the universe and our own human story.

The retreat experience will include short input sessions, guided meditations, quiet meditations, shared reflections, time to explore Cahokia Mounds, and rituals! Principles from the Earth Charter will provide a focus for the retreat experience. Rituals and meditations will draw from various faith traditions as well as our Ignatian experience. In keeping with the focus of the retreat, meals will be simple and nourishing. Special diets can be accommodated.

For more information and a registration form visit www.storygroups.org or e-mail Pat Carter: pacarter47@yahoo.com

Youth and Young Adult Updates

CLC had its first UN Orientation for University Students April 10-13, 2008 in New York. Campus ministers from Fordham University, the CLC UN WORKING GROUP and the Partnership for Global Justice organized the program. Participating students had the chance to see how the UN works and how groups like CLC impact its work. There was a service opportunity, an outing in New York and a chance to meet members of other Christian Life Communities from around the city. The project was undertaken with much enthusiasm and we pray for its continuing success.

The Cura Personalis Leadership Conference for college/university students and campus ministers will take place at Loyola University New Orleans from May 27 – June 1, 2008. The efforts are being organized by representatives from various Jesuit universities, as well as members of the National Formation Team and NCC. Please pray for the continued success of this endeavor.

Approximately 10-15 youth/young adults are being invited to participate in the CLC Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from April 24-27, 2008. In addition to attending this important meeting, young adults will meet

separately during this meeting to help discern and guide the future of young adult CLCs in the U.S.

One new initiative that the YYA division of CLC-USA is trying to focus on is encouraging former members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) to join or start CLCs after their year of service. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) live in community during their time in the corps and their focus is on service, so it is a natural fit to encourage their participation in CLC. We will be contributing an article to the fall edition of JVC's *Journeys* magazine to promote CLC to Former JVs and share how JVC and CLC are a good match, especially for young adults exploring how to integrate faith and social justice. If any current CLC member is a Former JV and would like to contribute to this article, please contact Angelique at aruhilopez@clcyia.org or Carmen at csantamaria@clcyia.org.

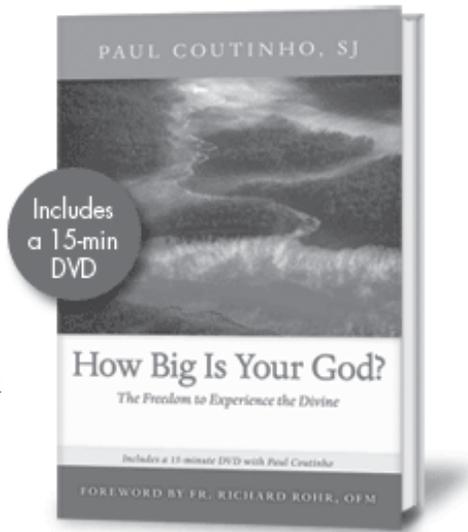
A young adult manual for the creation and formation of young adult communities is being created. We request contributions from the national community. Any materials should be sent to Angelique at aruhilopez@clcyia.org or Carmen at csantamaria@clcyia.org. ☎

HAVE YOU READ...

How Big is Your God? The Freedom to Experience the Divine by Paul Coutinho, S.J.

This book has just been awarded the Eric Hoffer 2008 First Prize Award in the Spirituality Category for Excellence in Independent Publishing.

It is a wonderful reading/meditative experience, which includes some of Fr. Paul's reflections from the Ignatian Spirituality Conference held in St. Louis in 2005.



Coming!

THE ARRUPE CHARITABLE TRUST DRIVE

This Trust was begun in 1991 by a group of CLC members with a vision of the development of CLC in formation and mission. It is independent and tax-exempt. It is our support arm in many ways. seventeen grants have already been awarded for a total of over \$70,000 by June 1, 2008. We now appeal to our members and friends in this first fund drive since 1991. Check your mail and respond as generously as you are able.

"What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything."
— Pedro Arrupe, SJ
former Father General of the Society of Jesus

The Arrupe Charitable Trust
supporting lay formation

Jesuit Collaborative

I would like to invite you to nominate two or three candidates for a pioneering leadership program to be piloted this September under the auspices of the east coast provinces of the Jesuits.

Contemplative Leaders in Action is designed to nurture emerging Christ-centered leaders so that they can impact society. Each year, a selected cohort of approximately fifteen young adult “emerging leaders” from business, the professions, civil society, and non-profit organizations will be nominated to enter this program.

In broad terms, the two-year program will comprise: 1) monthly evening meetings of the cohort involving either a guest lecture, a book discussion, or some other interactive activity, 2) occasional weekend retreats, and 3) an opportunity for spiritual direction and an informal professional mentoring relationships. The program will draw on sources so varied as leadership theory, business case studies, the Spiritual Exercises, and Catholic social teaching. By providing both spiritual formation *and* “secular” leadership development, the program is unique.

We hope you can help us identify outstanding young adults (loosely defined as between the ages of 25 to 35) who are distinguishing themselves by their work, their commitment to serve the common good, their potential to make a substantial positive impact on society over their lifetimes, and their willingness to pursue their own continued spiritual and professional growth. Participants will be asked for a donation of \$500 to participate in this program to defray a portion of its costs; this fee will be waived in cases of financial hardship or can be underwritten by organizations who wish to support a participant.

One of my program design team colleagues or I will call you within a week to seek your reactions to the program, answer any questions, and discuss any potential candidates who may come to your mind. Enclosed for your further information is a “Q and A” regarding the program, drafted for the benefit of potential participants.

Thank you in advance for your interest and support.

Following please find a few questions and answers regarding key aspects of the program:

What will go on in the program?

In general terms, the program will include:

- 1) a once-monthly, two-hour evening meeting of the full group at St. Ignatius Loyola parish (84th Street and Park Avenue). The evening sessions will include various activities like reading discussions, presentations from guest speakers, group work on leadership case studies, or presentations on core practices of Jesuit spirituality.
- 2) A weekend retreat or day of recollection once or twice per year
- 3) The opportunity for a mentoring relationship with one or more experienced and more senior Catholic professionals, and the opportunity for spiritual direction.
- 4) Ongoing or new participation in some service work as characteristic of your Christian vocation

These activities will take place over a two-year time frame, although the program will not meet during summer months.

Fall, '08 is the inaugural pilot of this program. Therefore, the first cohort will both participate in the activities and provide continuous feedback to help us assure the program's continued excellence going forward.

What are the program organizer's goals for this initiative and what will participants get out of it?

Our goal is to nurture the next generation of leaders, individuals who will impact the Church and society for the good through their chosen professions.

Participants will build a network of peers in various occupations; develop relationships with senior professionals in various fields; learn Jesuit techniques for making good decisions, for praying, and for daily effectiveness; polish their communication and leadership skills; reflect on their strengths, weaknesses, and role in the world; discuss the current state of our world and figure out where they want to help lead our world.

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Is this program a “religious thing” or is it a “leadership development thing”?

We are very purposefully going where other leadership or religious programs fear to tread. That is, the program is spiritual *and* worldly. We will pray together, as happens in religious retreats; but we might also occasionally work through the kinds of case studies one might find in a business school classroom. The program will probably push all participants beyond their personal “comfort zones,” because we believe that developmental growth often occurs when people are stretched, but in an environment that gives them support and an opportunity to reflect on their experiences.

What will it cost?

We request a \$500 donation per annum to defray the costs of the program. If you cannot afford any donation, however, you will still be warmly welcomed into the program. If you can donate more than \$500, we will gratefully accept it: we have estimated that the actual cost of this program would be at least \$2500 per participant per annum if we tallied up the value of donated venues, services of guest speakers, mentors, etc.

In addition to your annual donation, you would also have to bear the cost of any weekend retreats, out-of-pocket costs for reading materials, a contribution for “delivery food” meals preceding the evening meetings, and other small incidentals. Once again, however, we will not deny entry to the program to anyone because of financial considerations.

Who is behind this? What do they hope to get from it?

The program sponsor is the Jesuit Collaborative, which is an organization that promotes Jesuit spirituality throughout the eastern United States. In preparing and implementing the program, we have counted on the cooperation of Jesuit high schools, colleges, parishes, organizations like Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and many others.

Our agenda is none other than what was stated above: we want to develop Christian leaders so that they can impact society through their chosen professions; and we want to develop networks of Christian leaders to change society for the good.

How do I apply?

The application process is simple and straightforward. By June 15, please e-mail the following information to Ms. Donna Garabedian (dgarabedian@sjnen.org; 617-424-0266):

- Your name and contact information (address, email, phone)
- A resume or brief summary of your education and work history
- A sentence explaining how (or from whom) you heard about the program
- A one-paragraph statement explaining why you are attracted to this program and what you might hope to gain from it

We very much welcome your application! But please *apply only if you are willing to make a strong, good-faith commitment to participate steadily in the program meetings*. This program will work if we develop a close-knit cohort of committed participants; it won’t work if participants dip into the activities casually.

Once we have your application materials, one of our team will contact you to follow-up. We plan to finalize the participant list by end-June and to convene our first session in early September. Because we are trying to assemble a very diverse group of participants, we may have to defer some applications as we strive for the right mix of backgrounds.

If, prior to applying, you have specific questions about the program, please feel free to contact:

Chris Lowney chrislowney@verizon.net

David McCallum, S.J. davidmccallumsj@gmail.com

Kevin O’Brien, S.J. kobrien@holytrinity.org

Clare Walsh, M.H.S.H. cwalsh@sjnen.org

Please Remember

CLC

In your Will

FROM THE REGIONS . . .

KCLC

Mid Atlantic Area

On January 6th, we held our New Year's Party. There were forty-six present, which included CLC members and their families. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Benedict Jung, S.J. Dinner and our annual talent show followed. A donation box was set up for the Cambodian Missionary fund.

On January 20th, an educational meeting was held for team coordinators and staff members. Fr. Benedict Jung's lecture was entitled, "Life Giving Leadership." National KCLC Chair, Hae Ja Rhee(Bibianna), who also attended the meeting, announced the leadership positions. MAR KCLC Chair, Teresa Kim, explained the guidelines for the CLC members and laid out the annual plans.

On April 19th, a one day Spring Retreat will be held at Holy Family Seminary in Silver Spring, MD. The retreat will be guided by Fr. Jung Ho Ahn, S.J.

From April 25th to 27th, a silent retreat has been scheduled at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD. This retreat will be guided by Fr. Pyung Kwon Park, S.J.

Fr. Jung will also be guiding our annual silent retreat to be held in August, well as a one day retreat scheduled for Oct. 4th, after which First Temporary, Renewal and Permanent Commitment ceremonies will take place.

New York Area

We began our Spring session of ICL (Institute for Christian Life), which is an on-going formation program for KCLC members in the Metro NY area. The first class started on March 10th with Eunae Christina Kim as a guest speaker. The topic was "Cura Personalis" (Care for the Person). ICL sessions run every second Monday of each month and will continue until June. Everyone is welcome.

There was a preparation meeting on February 11th for those members who are preparing for First and Permanent Commitment. The ceremony will take place on September 21st at Fordham University. Fr. Daniel Suh, S.J., was invited to be our guest speaker at the preparation meeting.

Metro NY KCLC is preparing a one-day retreat on April 27th at Mt. Manresa Retreat House on Staten Island. It is open to both Pre-CLC and CLC members. But it is highly recommended for those members who are preparing for First and Permanent Commitment.

Lastly, we are very happy to announce that Young Sook Clare Maing was elected as our new president of Korean National CLC. We give all our support and prayer to Clare.

MID ATLANTIC REGION

MAR CLCers who attended the Guides' and Coordinators' Formation Course last Summer held a gathering in December at St. Aloysius Church in Washington, D.C. The theme of the meeting was "On Journey Together" and the group spent the afternoon discussing common goals and directions; options for "spirituality ministries" which included coordinating and facilitating workshops for guides and coordinators; serving as guides and coordinators in groups; and recruiting and forming of new CLC communities in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Sixteen people representing the wide cultural diversity of our region participated. Since attending the formation course at Creighton, the ten MAR "alumni" have communicated via teleconference call once a month.

Please keep John O'Brien, who died in late January, in your prayers, He was the brother of Fr. James O'Brien, S.J., our MAR Ecclesial Assistant.

We are preparing for our Spring regional weekend gathering in mid-April, which will have a retreat theme.

MISSOURI REGION

As I write this report looking out my window, I see the rainy side of spring. A few daffodils are popping up in my yard, promising sweet days to come.

CLC in the Missouri Region has also been showing the promise of sweet things to come.

The CLC centerpiece this time of year is World CLC Day held at St. Matthew Parish on the north side of St. Louis. The day fit in very well with our commitment to diversity and CLC. As a Jesuit parish led by Fr. Mark McKenzie, S.J., and some of the most faith-filled people I have ever met, St. Matthew's gave CLC members an awesome welcome and taught us throughout the day what the Holy Spirit is doing in the city. We began the day with Mass at the church, mindful of the classic beauty of many churches in the city. Fr. McKenzie and Fr. Bob Costello celebrated together and gave the attendees a capsule view of the historical underpinnings of a church that welcomed all God's children, no matter the color of their skin or their life situation. Mass was followed by coffee, fruit and rolls and then we rolled up our sleeves to help with painting, cleaning and writing notes to military veterans. Lunch consisted of soup, sandwiches, fellowship and conversation. One of St. Matthew's parishioners, Beatrice Blackshear, spoke about all that St. Matthew's encompasses in terms of programs and ministry. Her talk was so eloquent I mentioned to Fr. McKenzie that she embodies what I understand as a voice of the "Wisdom People". He heartily

concluded. We received invitations to join St. Matthew's at Sunday Mass and hold World CLC Day at St. Matthew's again. We are making plans with the possibility of ongoing projects and continuing our relationship. Thanks to all who helped make World CLC Day memorable especially Linda Lieb, Missouri Region Coordinator. Her tireless efforts gave this day a special touch.

Almost all the CLCs describe new undertakings and expanding their horizons. Bill Kriege reports that Rockhurst University has sixty-six active members. Forty-four of them attended a retreat given by Fr. Bob Costello, Missouri Region's Ecclesial Assistant. They are now making plans for a first-time CLC Social. It sounds like a great idea.

Fr. Bob Costello is working at DeSmet Jesuit High School with Ignatian Spirituality and will travel to Illinois with some of the students for a Kairos experience. Considering CLC afterwards will be an option. The group in Oklahoma with Mary Diane Steltenkamp is working towards beginning sessions in a pre CLC program.

Nicholas Owen members continue to be active with Awakenings, networking with social justice groups. A number of our CLCs are studying the *General Principles* and using them as stepping off points.

Saint Louis University staff/faculty pre CLC group is contemplating studying the Spiritual Exercises with Carol Boerding, a campus minister. The student CLC group is one hundred twenty-five members strong and has a project around the theme of water, a subject studied in our national and world CLC bodies with encouragement to see water as free to every human being. John XXIII CLC helped Clare Summers, a long time member, celebrate her 80th birthday on September 29th with a party at Nazareth House. John XXIII has a milestone of its own this year, marking the 50th anniversary of John XXIII Christian Life Community®.

NEW ENGLAND REGION _____

We are all so excited to be welcoming new members — a family from South America, a married couple from France and a Jesuit.

We held a regional meeting in January at the Dragas' residence, where we discussed our present goals and plans for the future. During this meeting we reviewed our regional mission: HOUSING . We realized that not all the members have been particularly active with the two organizations we have set to help (Mustard Seed and WATCH). Individual members have embraced different projects that have to do directly with housing—one member moved to another house to care for an elderly relative, one couple decided to become a foster family, one member decided to change his career to be a mortgage lender. We have rec-

ognized that the other members have supported them and encouraged them to continue with that work.

At our World CLC Day in March, we had the opportunity to reflect on the materials sent by World ExCo. As usual, we had a wonderful potluck lunch followed by Mass. The gathering was held at the Dragas' residence in Lowell, MA.

Our last issue of *Sparks* — our regional newsletter— included comments from the children of the Dong Hanh community. Their contributions were about the ExCo— NECLC—Dong Hanh gathering last October.

The beautiful campus of Fairfield University (in Connecticut) will welcome us once again during our annual retreat in May.

The life of our local communities continues to be one of our great strengths for our region.

NEW YORK REGION _____

On March 2nd Fr. Bernie Owens, S.J., Ecclesial Assistant for CLC in the Detroit area, presented the Lenten Day of Reflection for Metro NYCLC. The theme was the Two Standards of the Spiritual Exercises. He invited us to reflect on the key characteristics of the Kingdom of God and then the qualities of the kind of community that reflects what the kingdom looks like. Two resources he used and recommended were Albert Nolan's book, *Jesus before Christianity* and Michael Crosby's *Spirituality of the Beatitudes*. Following each of his presentations he invited us to reflect on the ways our daily lives and specific actions are expressive of our mission to bring forth the Kingdom. Following each of the times of prayer, we gathered in small groups to share the fruit of our reflections on the beatitudes and the challenges and obstacles to spiritual freedom.

One example from the morning was the challenge of the first beatitude: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit. The value of that beatitude is to be truly confident in God. The action called for is to sell/detach from my prestige, lifestyle or possessions and learn from those who have faced their powerlessness. Father Bernie reminded us of the promise of Jesus; that we are invited to come into the Kingdom of God in the present, not just in the future.

The second beatitude invites us to look at our own brokenness, and perhaps the business and addictive living that prevents us from hearing the cries of others. The study notes on the beatitudes which he provided list the qualities of the kind of community the Kingdom of God looks like. We are grateful for the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the qualities of the Kingdom as we continue

to choose to live better our own mission as part of Jesus' mission.

Members from various communities of our region gathered for the Good Friday Walk, sponsored for the twenty-sixth year by Pax Christi International. The following are reflections from two members of the Fordham Prep CLC, Martin Carney and Paul Homer:

Participants met near the UN building and proceeded down Forty-Second street to the west side of Manhattan. As they processed, they stopped periodically to observe the Stations of the Cross.

At each station a presentation was made linking current sufferings to Christ's Passion. It was a powerful, thought provoking experience.

A UN immersion experience for our CLC members in universities was held the weekend of April 11th and 12th. Fordham University campus ministers coordinated all the logistics, accommodations, meals, excursions, reflection meditations, brochure, marketing, etc.. Lucianne Siers of the Global Partnership for Justice developed the curriculum of the program and arranged the speakers. CLC'er Jose Lim of the UN working group gave a talk on CLC at the UN. Sylvia Schmitt and Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick were involved in the planning and were on hand during the orientation to help out as needed. Our National President, Ann Marie Brennan, and Fr. Ben Urmston, S.J., were also there.

Sylvia Schmitt gave a well-attended talk on the Examen of St. Ignatius at the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ.

We are very grateful our Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick, S.J., is on the road to a full recovery from his knee surgery in late 2007, and is back with us to share his wisdom, thanks be to God.

From San Lorenzo CLC—

Our friends often wondered what we did at CLC, what we got out of it, what made us stay.

Just as they had many questions, we also gave them many answers which, however, failed to satisfy their curiosity. So San Lorenzo CLC started to hold a Day of Prayer especially for the Filipino-American Community in the New York area.

We invited Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick to be the facilitator for the day. We looked for a site and we prepared the other logistics, like the printing of materials for prayer, the lunch to be served, the sound system needed, etc. We were anxious that we would not get enough people to participate.

God wrote straight with crooked lines that April day—we had ninety participants!

Now sixteen years later, the mission continues.

This past March 8th we had our seventeenth successive Day of Prayer at Xavier High School on 16th St. in Manhattan. Fr. Gabriel Jose Gonzalez, a Filipino Jesuit studying at Fordham University, directed the recollection. He led the participants through three Lenten reflections. He gave pointers on how meditations could be made more meaningful through the use of the senses and through proper posture. He also assured us that distractions could be handled. Confession was held and the day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist. The attendees left the day spiritually uplifted.

With the continuing grace of the Holy Spirit, we hope to attract even more people to more Days of Prayer.

RIEMAN GREAT LAKES _____

The Detroit Cluster Retreat January 2008 at Columbiere Jesuit Center Clarkston, MI

It has been traditional for the Michigan cluster of the Nick Rieman CLC Region to come together on the last weekend of January for a shared retreat. In the last four years we have been blessed to have Kuruvila and Lois Zachariah as our retreat directors. They bring not only their incredible understanding of the CLC way of life, our lay expression of Ignatian Spirituality, but also the wisdom of John English, S.J., one of our great wisdom figures in the Ignatian tradition. Each year "Zack" and Lois have shared their scientific understanding of the universe, coupled with their deeply Ignatian way of "knowing".

In January, 2007, they brought us to the Third Week of the Exercises. Keeping with the theme of ecology and universal connectedness, we were led into reflections of compassion with our family and friends who suffer, with victims of natural and man made violence, particularly reflecting on the victims of Hurricane Katrina and victims of war and poverty around the globe. As we prayed with and suffered with the suffering Christ in His people, our focus was again expanded to include other elements of creation, namely the many endangered species of life on this earth, and the destruction of our natural resources and of the earth itself.

Many of us expressed a real sense of "being in the tomb" after the experience of suffering with so much of what God created in love.

This past January we were able to pick up from there and find resurrection experiences in our lives and in the world. In the Fourth Week we are still focused on the cosmos and how we are in communion with all of creation.

In this Fourth Week experience a miraculous thing happened. Through our large group sharing we realized it

was a communal experience. Most of the twenty plus CLC members at the retreat had attended most, if not all, of the four years. There were a few, two or three, for whom this was the first time. The miracle was a new level of trust, new depth of sharing and a rebirth in individuals and of the community of the Detroit Cluster.

National CLC Day was celebrated in the Detroit area Sunday March 30, 2008 at Manresa Retreat House.

The Fifth Week CLC hosted the event. Acts 3:1-10 was the text used for reflection during the course of the day. These are some questions used in sharing: How would you describe the charism of your community? What is its identity, individual flavor? What have been the consolations and desolations within your community? How has your community grown in the time you have been together? Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give to you." In the spirit of the Apostle Peter, in what ways has your community been apostolic?

Mixed Community Sharing questions: By the grace of the Risen Christ, Peter gave new life to the beggar. How do you see your local community giving life to the Detroit Cluster and Great Lakes region? What is our relationship to National and World CLC? How do our smaller CLC structures empower our larger CLC organizations to be Apostolic? What is our collective mission? The Grace of the Day: We will share "What is my experience of this gathering?" and/or "Where will we go from here?" Afterward, a liturgy and shared potluck ended the day.

Stanley Gogol, a long-time CLC member from Toledo CLC has passed away

Deacon Stanley J. Gogol, Jr.'s spirit has been reunited with Christ Jesus on Friday, March 28, 2008. Stan's love for Christ Jesus showed in every capacity of his life and everyone Stan met knew the power of that love. Stan was ordained in 1974 and was instrumental in forming the National Diaconate. He was appointed to St Mary's Catholic Church of Toledo and served that community for over thirty years. Following his service at St Mary's he served as deacon for St. Adalbert/St. Hedwig's twinned parishes. His work included programs such as RCIA, Feed Your Neighbor, House My People and Alcoholics Anonymous. He provided Eucharistic services for local rest homes and the Pearl Granger Homes and was instrumental in Parish Council Leadership. His memberships included Christian Life Communities, National Diaconate and Knights of Columbus.

Surviving him is a legacy of love including Jane, his wife of sixty-four years and nine children, twenty-six grandchildren and over forty great-grandchildren. Contributions may be directed to either St. Vincent De Paul, c/o The Assumption Center at 219 Page St., Toledo, Ohio, St.

Adalbert/St Hedwig Parishes, 2916 Lagrange St., Toledo, Ohio or Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Rd., Perrysburg, Ohio. Farewell, as he spoke it at the conclusion of each mass: Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord and Each Other!

Stan's dedication was also apparent in other aspects of his life including serving his country in the U.S. Marine Corp. for over nine years, achieving the rank of master sergeant and a thirty-year career with SSOE, Inc. in Toledo.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Schimefening mother of Marie, long time CLC member from Detroit MI who passed April 13, 2008

SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

Members of the South Florida Region gathered on February 2nd to celebrate Family Day, on the day that our liturgy celebrates The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Various members of Alas de Cristo (Young Adults CLC) introduced their off-spring and some grandmothers presented their grandchildren.

After the Mass, celebrated by Fr. Pedro Suárez, S.J., our Regional EA, the children received presents, we shared pizzas and Margarita Theye, member of Prince of Peace CLC, painted the children's faces.

On March 19th, Holy Wednesday, for the eighth consecutive year, CVX El Peregrino organized a Christian Passover celebration. More than fifty members of different communities of the region, their families and friends, as well as people from different parishes who were experiencing the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life, gathered at Marcia Iglesias's home to remember the night in which Jesus presided over the Last Supper with his disciples. We followed the readings, the ceremony, the songs, and at the end, we shared a Jewish Passover meal of Matzo Ball Soup, Sweet Potato Tsimmes, Spinach Squares, Onion Keugel, etc., and the Paschal lamb.

On March 29th, we celebrated World CLC Day at Belén Jesuit School. More than sixty members of the different CVXs participated in a day of prayer, sharing and friendship in the Lord. After breakfast and introduction of the participating CVXs, we welcomed the members of Cardoner, a newly affiliated community and the members of Porta Coeli", a pre-CVX. The program continued with Dr. José Pedro Redondo, of CVX Magister, who presented the theme: "What is community". Magda Castiñeyra, of CVX Casa Manresa, presented Projects 137, sent from the World Secretariat for this celebration. We were divided into seven groups, according to the meditations from the Project. Later on the members of each group shared their conclusions. During the Eucharist, members who have



*Alas de
Christo
CLC*

made their permanent commitment with the World Community renewed it. The day ended with lunch.

We participated in another Encuentro of the Ignatian Family of the Antilles Province, Maimi Section, on the 19th of April. The main purpose of this was to share with other members of the works of the Society of Jesus in Miami, while discussing and deepening on the documents of the General Congregation 35.

We continue the CLC Formation every second Saturday at 9:00AM.

In April, Juan Romagosa, CVX Cardoner, presented “La persona CVX” from The CLC Charism. After Fr. Pedro celebrated the Eucharist, he presented a Power Point on the General Congregation 35.

In May, Romagosa continues “La persona CVX”, when we remember Mary, Our Mother, in a special way, by offering flowers during the celebration of the Eucharist and enjoyed a presentation on : “Mary in the Spiritual Exercises”.

Every Saturday at 8:30PM we have a program on Radio Pax with Marcia Iglesias as our hostess and Carlos de la Torre as our electronic technician. Members of our communities, as well as other persons are invited to participate and talk on different interesting themes.

We are looking forward to the upcoming visit from our World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Alberto Brito, S.J. who will be with us from Saturday, June 21st, to Thursday, June 26th. On the first day of his visit, we will celebrate our Summer Regional Assembly, during which we will have our first election of officers, and during the Eucharist, several members will pronounce their temporary commitments with the World Community and several others will renew their temporary commitments.

WESTERN REGION

World CLC Event, April 5, 2008

To celebrate forty-one years of bearing the name of Christian Life Community®, twenty CLCers gathered at Presentation Retreat Center in Los Gatos on April 5, 2008. The Philippian CLC San Francisco planned the day. Shirley Jordan, Tricia Perry and Steve Pehanich came from Sacramento. Christine Aldecoa, Kathy Tobin, Tina Baker, Sal Nicoletta and Sister Sharon Skain arrived from San

Jose. Sheila O’Connor, Ralph Rivas, Diane Del Chiaro, Janice Menucci, and Sister Roberta Connolly represented San Francisco. Cristine Felkel and Jen Horan, CLC-LMU staff, Tom from Taiwan, and Beti Leone from Fresno completed the attendance roster. For a few of us, this was the first time meeting with Northern Cluster.

Meeting Plans

Planning for the meeting included three parts: a) focus on the past with a report of the first forty years of CLC; b) a second report by Steve Pehanich, our president, on the demands of the present; and c) a third report on the hopes and dreams for the future. These are still the plans for an article being written for our Northern Cluster newsletter.

Thanks for the Memories and Legislative Network

Sister Roberta, PBVM, opened with a wonderful “Thanks for the Memories” narrative of the past forty years of CLC in California/Western Region. After lunch, Steve Pehanich, serving as President of the Western Region, gave us much to work on in the present with his power point presentation on Christian Social Principles and their connection to the new “Legislative Network” project. Unfortunately, Father John LeVecke S.J., who, in his report, was to carry us into the future and connect us with the National CLC, was unable to attend. However, his report will be added to our newsletter.

After the presentation, time permitted numerous exchanges, questions, and announcements concerning e-mails, setting up a data base for the region, hopes to restart The Servant, a former publication, and an invitation from Kathy Hicks to a CLC Northern Cluster barbeque in Salinas on August 2nd. Kathy Hicks reminded all of a \$25 cluster fee, and Kathy Tobin will notify all concerning the dues needed by the National Office.

In closing, there were affirmative evaluations and frank reflections of the meeting, leaving most of those present satisfied that this was a good meeting, and happy to have met new friends. Pictures were taken before moving to the Presentation Convent Chapel for Mass at 4:30.

A final note of thanks is due to the Presentation Center, which so generously provided us with a partial scholarship for the day as we availed ourselves of their gracious hospitality, great lunch and snacks. The building is the first totally “green” building in the San Jose area and this was an added attraction to our day—a living example of what we all can do to be better stewards of our environment.

Gary Miskimon, former Western Region President, reports that his group (Holy Family CLC) is searching for new horizons by using the Gary Smith, S.J., book, “They

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Come Back Singing.” They plan to combine it with the web site at Creighton to improve understanding of Africa and what they as a small community could do in terms of Catholic Social Justice. They also have also briefly discussed supporting Fr. Paul Mensah’s Foundation for building a school in his village in Ghana – whether financial or with in-kind donations, we will discuss this again at a later date.

Current Western Region president, Steve Pehanich, is forming the Catholic Legislative Network. The advocacy system is a partnership of the twelve archdioceses in California —whose members have unanimously agreed to support and promote the new Network. Open to all people in California, the Network educates Catholics on our faith’s social teaching and moves them to action with their federal, state and local governments. You can view the main page for the network and join at <http://capwiz.com/cacatholic/home/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meditative Retreat

Cahokia Mounds, Illinois

July 22 - 24, 2008

<http://www.clc-usa.org/docs/2008RetreatFlyer.pdf>

Ignatian Spirituality Conference

Ignatian Passion, The Challenge of the Cross in the 21st Century.

St. Louis, MO

July 24-27, 2008

<http://www.slu.edu/conferences/isc/index>.

Summer NCC Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri

July 27-30, 2008

World CLC Assembly

Fatima, Portugal

August 8-21, 2008

<http://www.fatima2008.org/>

NEXT ISSUE

THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE:
GOD’S PROMISE AND OUR RESPONSE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE US BISHOP’S PASTORAL

NATIONAL IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE IV

IGNATIAN PASSION:

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS IN THE 21ST CENTURY,

July 24-27, 2008,

at Saint Louis University.



The Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, Saint Louis University, and the St. Louis Center for Ignatian Spirituality will sponsor a fourth conference on Ignatian Spirituality.

The conference, *Ignatian Passion: The Challenge of the Cross in the 21st Century*, will be held on Thursday evening, through Sunday, noon, July 24-27, 2008, at Saint Louis University.

Once again, the conference will gather persons (lay, Jesuit, clergy and other religious) who:

- Conduct works rooted in Ignatian Spirituality such as the retreat in everyday life (19th annotation retreat) programs, Christian Life Communities, Ignatian-centered prayer groups, university, high school, retreat, and parish ministries; and Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Participate in the activities of such programs and desire to deepen their spiritual growth and their commitment to creating the reign of God
- Have a personal desire to live Ignatian Spirituality more deeply
- Desire, as Jesuits, to share Ignatian spirituality with others as envisioned in the Decree on Cooperation with the Laity in Mission, in the documents of General Congregation 34

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

The Passion of Christ and the Third Week
Rev. David L. Fleming, S.J.

What Does Ignatian Passion Look Like Today?
Marie Schwann, C.S.J.

The Passion in Everyday Life
Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan, S.T.D.
Rev. Kevin Burke, S.J.

For more information and to register:

<http://www.slu.edu/conferences/isc/index.html>