

# Update

November 2009

This edition of UPDATE highlights **Mission**. *Out of the story of the Assembly, the following recommendation was made: that General Council reflect for some time on the prophetic graces of this Assembly, and discern ways to move CLC Canada forward; in particular, to promote and encourage the third pillar, mission, as an integral part of our CLC charism.* Members, groups and regions have been invited to reflect on individual and group missions with particular focus on mission discernment, adaptation and evaluation. In sharing our mission stories we engage the possibility of sharing resources of every kind across the country and developing an apostolic network. In Project 143 *the World ExCo would like to encourage communities to share experiences and also act together whenever possible and after sharing and discerning, the World ExCo invited Guy Maginzi to serve as coordinator of apostolic initiatives and international advocacy for one year.*

On September 30th, 2009, CLC members attended the investiture of Graydon Nicholas, Past President of CLC Canada, as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick. Details of this historic event are also included in this newsletter. September also saw distribution of the first edition of the revised formation Manual I. Thanks again to Gilles Michaud, Barbara Peloso and Fr. Charles Pottie for leading the revision team.



Final corrections will be completed by December for January 2010 distribution.

General Council met in Winnipeg, October 2-4 and will meet via Skype conference call in early November. Council, as part of the process of working with the World and National priorities and recommendations, used the tools of Communal Apostolic Discernment. General Council was unanimous in supporting this dynamic for every level of CLC. The 2010 national budget process is well under way. Shared responsibility in terms of supporting national formation action, inclusion of an elder and young adult on General Council, president's and Ecclesial Assistant's travel and annual saving for both the next World and National Assemblies lead us to anticipate that it may mean that CLC member's donations need to be doubled.

November sees us all preparing for Advent. We are again invited to enter the mystery of the Annunciation. In Luke's Gospel Mary reflects on how God has already acted in her life enabling her to understand what is happening to her in the present and by remembering God's promise to help, Mary is able to say "yes." Together we are invited to reflect on the Trinity at work in our history, engage the signs of the times and move forward with hope and courage.

*Advent is a time for being deeply shaken..."*

*"... so that man will wake up to himself. ... It is precisely in the severity of this awakening, in the helplessness of coming to consciousness, in the wretchedness of experiencing our limitations that the golden threads running between Heaven and earth during this season reach us; the threads that give the world a hint of the abundance to which it is called, the abundance of which it is capable." From [Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings](#)*

*(Ignatius Press, 2006), by Alfred Delp, S.J.*

Ruth Chipman  
CLC Canada - President



National Address: CLC Canada, Jesuits of English Canada, 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto ON, M5S 2C3

Phone: 403-328-3612

e-mail: [clccanada@jesuits.ca](mailto:clccanada@jesuits.ca)

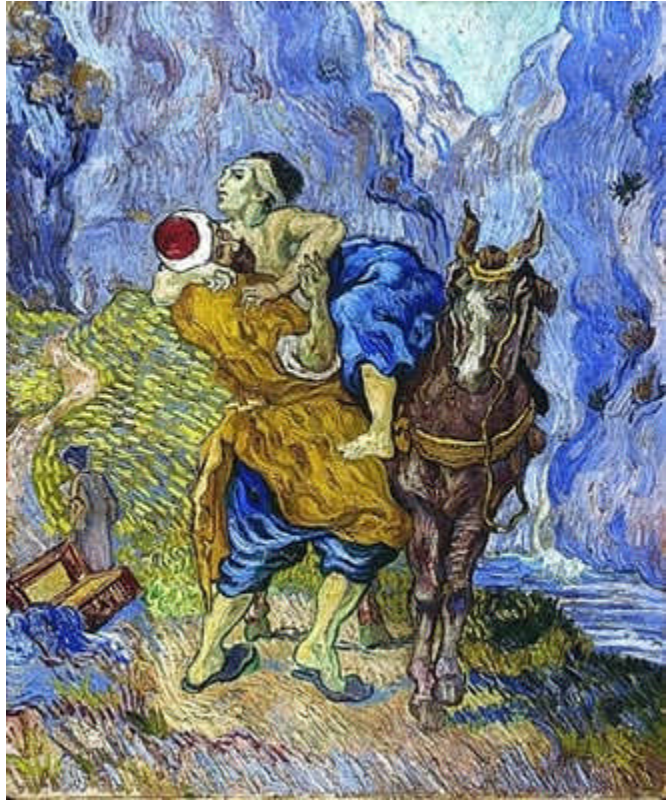
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## A Message from Fr. Charles

Dear CLC friends,

I was presiding at Eucharist in one of Winnipeg's parishes recently and I was struck by these words in the closing hymn: "*As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name....*" It inspired me to write a few lines for this issue of *Update*, and its "mission" theme.

**Mission** is part and parcel of what it means to be church, and by extension, what it means to be "Christian life community". As one of the key dimensions of our CLC charism, and as deeply connected to the other two – our relationship with Christ, in the particular way that we have come to know this in the Spiritual Exercises, and faith-discerning apostolic community - **mission** is the fruit of the other two dimensions. Mission is not simply doing this or that good work, small or great, even if we want it to be for Christ. And it surely is not "more and more activity". But it is the deep conviction and lived out reality of "being sent" into our world, as Jesus was sent by the Father, and anointed by the Spirit, "*to proclaim good news to the poor....to let the oppressed go free....*" (Luke 4: 18-19 and Isaiah 61: 1-2) .



**Good Samaritan by Van Gogh**

Everything that we do or say can be "mission territory" – in our families, our professional work, our parishes, our city, our world - every outreach of love to our sisters and brothers in need. Further, it is not **our** mission but **our sharing in the one and same mission of Christ Jesus**, who is present – **and desires us to be present with Him** - in the hunger and thirst for food and drink as well as for justice and true love, for freedom and for true joy, Christ who is present in the grief and struggles, in the joys and blessings of our brothers and sisters, living in this created world that God has first loved and has redeemed in Christ.

Because by our baptism we have been anointed by the same Spirit as Christ was, we are part of the great commissioning (sending) of the Lord Jesus: "*Go out into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.*" (Mark 16: 15)

Your brother in Christ,  
Charles  
National Ecclesial Assistant

## Installation of the Honourable Judge Graydon Nicholas as Lieutenant-Governor for the Province of New Brunswick

September 30th, 2009 was an historic day for New Brunswick. For the first time in its 225 year history New Brunswick installed, as its 30th Lieutenant-Governor, a member of a First Nations community. The Installation invitation from Graydon and Beth included a special invitation to children, a theme that would be woven throughout this remarkable day.



**His Honour, Graydon Nicholas,  
River of Life CLC New Brunswick**

The Installation ceremony took place under a huge white tent on the historic grounds of Government House. Graydon described the grounds as a spiritual place where Maliseet, English and Acadians are buried. The Installation celebration brought together the rich and diverse fabric of New Brunswick history and culture through which the sparkle and energy of excited children darted and bubbled.

During the burning of the sweet grass performed by Imelda Perley we were invited to pray:

*for those who experience the absence of the sacred.  
for those who have forgotten how to forgive  
for those who have forgotten how to love  
for those who are lost, especially the many lost aboriginal women.*

The scripture reading and prayer offered by Fr. Aron Knox was from Luke, the Song of Mary, poignantly touching on women and the downtrodden.

The Honour Song sung by Gwen Bear reminded us “*A child I will always be.*”

Holding an eagle feather, Graydon expressed gratitude for all those who served before. He touched our hearts as he told the story of his pregnant mother crossing the river in January to catch the train to town to buy Graydon’s older brother a birthday present. She fell through the ice. Shortly afterwards Graydon was born, two months prematurely. While Graydon struggled for life his mother prayed and cared for him. Years later as he settled on law studies his mother told him to work hard and come back and help his people.

On this auspicious occasion, with humble good humor, Graydon told us that he had failed grade one as he struggled to learn English. The new Lieutenant Governor has two specific interests as he begins his term; education and the underprivileged. Graydon hopes to see a province wide day that will focus on being with and helping; the homeless, the addicted, those with psychological problems. The new Lieutenant-Governor is looking forward to exploring new cultures and learning French.

Graydon and Beth warmly greeted the cross section of New Brunswick and Canada represented at the Installation, but their deepest joy shone through as their grandson, Cato, sat on the knee of New Brunswick’s 30th Lieutenant-Governor.

“A CHILD I WILL ALWAYS BE.” **The Honour Song**

## Installation of the Honourable Judge Graydon Nicholas (Cont.)

His Honour concluded his remarks with a prayer shared by Chief Dan George.

### ***GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER***

Chief Dan George, Salish,

British Columbia, 1899-1981

*O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, Whose breath gives life to all the world,  
hear me.*

*I need your strength and your wisdom.*

*Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.*

*Make my hand respect the things that you have made, and my ear sharp to hear your voice.*

*Make me wise so that I may understand the things that you have taught my people.*

*Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me.*

*Let me learn the lessons hidden under every leaf and rock.*

*Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others.*

*Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.*

*I seek strength not to be greater than my brothers and sisters, but to fight my greatest enemy -  
Myself.*

*Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so that when life  
fades as the fading sunset my spirit will come to you without shame.*



Prior to the departure of their Honours, the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Nicholas, The Honour Song “*All Our Relations*” was led by Maggie Paul and Deanna Francis.

Beth and Graydon, the prayers of CLC are with you and your family as you begin this new mission.

Ruth Chipman  
CLC Canada, President

More on the Installation of Graydon Nicholas in the next edition of  
CLC Atlantic Region *Colloquy*

“O GREAT SPIRIT...I NEED YOUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM”

## Insights into Ignatian Mission - A Personal Story

**by Adrienne De Schutter**

**Pilgrims on the Journey CLC Guelph, ON**

*Building on the July 2009 article "Celebrating St. Ignatius of Loyola" I'd like to share my personal story, outlining discernment, adaptation, evaluation and apostolic formation.*

Last winter when I was asked to consider the Central Region Representative-Elect position, I was ironically trying to discern another possible mission and that was to take a leave from my current work to return for an extended period to St. Anne's Parish in Kingston, Jamaica. Earlier that winter I had the opportunity to spend ten days with the poor of St. Anne's Parish and had experienced an incredibly strong sense of God's presence among his people there. Although I did seriously consider the Central Region Representative position, I realized that at that time I lacked the experience and the passion or connection to the larger CLC and so I declined the nomination.

As April approached I found myself very resistant to attending the National Assembly. I registered only for the Saturday but a friend's encouragement and a strong tug from the Spirit, led me there not only Saturday but Friday night and then Sunday as well. My experience of the National Assembly was an incredibly moving one for me. I had expected a somewhat dry business meeting where a few voices would dominate and others would listen. What I experienced was quite different. Not only were all the people I met wonderfully warm and welcoming, but here was a place where people could speak their mind, where everyone's voice was heard and respected, and where the "leaders" responded to those voices. I had never experienced anything like that before. The very tangible presence of the spirit was undeniable. Also in the course of the weekend I had a conversation with a wise Jesuit who spoke about his experiences in Jamaica, and how his experiences there had enabled him to better fulfill God's will for him here. Later came a comment from Bishop Bergie on Sunday that what he admired about CLC was its Ignatian approach and ability to "Find God in all things" - not condemning our wealthy, at times very materialistic, society, but being able to find God here as well as anywhere. I felt a call to try harder to do so and I knew there would be no better place to do this than in CLC, so re-considering the nomination seemed a good place to start.

Soon after saying yes I was given another discernment to make and that was whether the yes would be to the position of Regional Representative Elect or Regional Coordinator of Communities. Having been in CLC less than two years at this point, the reasonable thing would be to opt for the Coordinator position. It would provide an opportunity to "test the water" and learn the ropes before "plunging into the deep end." But something was calling me to the other – and I was finding the discernment difficult.

Here is where understanding of myself became really critical. In a conversation with a friend about this discernment I was able to reflect on past experiences with other roles I had taken on and I realized that I had a tendency to over-commit, to ask more of myself than I really felt ready for or wanted. It seemed this was partially because I didn't want to let others down, and partially because of a need to prove myself capable. Realizing these personal traps of mine was incredibly freeing for me and made the decision to accept the Coordinator position so much easier.

*Note: The sharing of my discernment with the CLC Executive was met with complete support and understanding. I received a similar response from my CLC community when I shared an earlier draft of this article with them. That support, and the sense of peacefulness that has accompanied my decision, has given me a real sense of confirmation of my decision.*

MY DISCERNMENT WAS MET WITH COMPLETE SUPPORT

## Insights into Ignatian Mission - A Personal Story (Cont.)

**Adaptation:** What seems to fit here is the reminder that those times of vibrant awareness of God's grace, such as that experienced among the very poor yet incredibly faithful in Kingston Jamaica, are to be used as inspiration and continual reminders of God's faithfulness to those who seek him/her.

**Evaluation:** This will come as I gain my footing as Regional Coordinator and each time I step forward in response. I will seek feedback to ensure my work is as effective as it can be.

**Apostolic Formation:** I look forward to further opportunities to be mentored by the wonderful people on the Central Executive and look forward to continuing to develop my understanding of the CLC organization and application of Ignatian Spirituality.



## Community Help in Personal Decision-Making

*"Discernment is the process of choosing from among many possible goods the specific good that God wants me to choose here and now". (Rev. Howard Gray, S.J., "The Ignatian Mission", In All Things: A Jesuit Journal of the Social Apostolate, Summer 2003).*

My discernment consisted of bringing a decision regarding retirement from my job-share position as visiting community nurse in the Regional Palliative Care Program of our city.

Awareness of a new call has begun with a generalized feeling that something was shifting in me and this 'something' began to surface to consciousness during an 8-day directed retreat. As I entered into the various contemplations over this period of time with scripture, symbolic dreams and God's revelation, I felt that I was being called to make some changes regarding my career as a nurse. I felt stirred by feelings to a deeper calling to follow God...in another path. This path has yet to be revealed to me.

I asked my community for their help in my discernment. In preparation, I prayed with the question, "Am I being called to retire" using data of feelings, revelations from my summer retreat, and the discernment process found in the Spiritual Exercises. I brought this discernment to my community and with our group guide present, we followed the process found in the revised Manual 1 in Session 26 to guide us. The key question/grace that arose for me as the community arrived at part 3 was: "I am free to go to where God is calling me". This has been helpful for me as I prayed with this grace in the following days.

During the next two weeks my community continued to pray with empathy on the question. I prayed with this also, asking God to reveal more of his will for me. In our next CLC meeting, the community members shared the results of their prayer for my discernment. Trust in God, service and CLC were some of the responses.

I have wrestled and prayed with this discernment and I'm so grateful to my community and our group guide for their loving concern and gentle listening and especially for their prayers as I go through this transition phase in my life. I will be retiring from my job-share position in March of 2010 and I look forward to the new possibilities of following Jesus wherever he is calling me into mission for his greater glory.

**- Mariette Ternowski, Metanoia CLC Community, Winnipeg.**

RESPONSES WERE: TRUST IN GOD, SERVICE & CLC....

## Finding God on the Street

**Koinonia Christian Life Community, Winnipeg, Canada**



Our mission story began over twenty years ago. Together we moved through our parish's three year Renew program, the Spiritual Exercises directed by John English SJ and were formed as Spiritual Directors and members of CLC Koinonia. Our call to mission came ever so quietly from a high school student who asked for help in transforming an inner city soup kitchen in Winnipeg.

CLC members Ruth & Stephen Chipman and Michael Radcliffe currently coordinate the development and service of the Drop In which is located in one of the poorest and most violent urban areas in Canada. Volunteers at Immaculate Conception Drop In Centre serve a hot lunch to more than 250 of Winnipeg's most marginalized citizens every Sunday. We work with volunteers from more than 30 different organizations, coordinating more than 2000 volunteer hours each year.

This year the Drop In will coordinate The Street Retreat. This exciting project will continue the process of following Christ across social, cultural and economic boundaries using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius adapted for the very specific needs at the Drop In.

In the Fall of 2006 the following goals were established:

- Dignify the level of service offered,
- Integrate the Centre into the local community and connect with other services in the neighborhood,
- “Grow” a social justice relationship with young people,
- Move volunteers along the social justice continuum from “doing to” to “being with”,
- Weekly team kitchen meetings integrate diverse volunteers and contain a reflective (Ignatian) component.

Since October, 2006 lunch has been served banquet style. The level of conflict and violence has fallen to almost zero. “This place has been humanized”, says Sister Leslie Sacrouman, inner city activist.

Integrating the Drop In Centre into the local community is slow and complex and is related to the quality of our neighborhood relationships. We continue to advocate and educate around the issues that exclude and keep people marginalized.

Remarkable responses and support from young people. Fully half of a rapidly growing volunteer base is under the age of 30.

The change in the service model has facilitated the participation of neighborhood volunteers. Close to one third of our volunteers come from the inner city street community we serve.

“THIS PLACE HAS BEEN HUMANIZED” ....

## Finding God on the Street (Cont.)

We struggled long, hard and sometimes painfully with our evolving identity as individuals and as a group called to be on mission with Christ in a suffering world. A small change in service practice, rooted in respect and fostered by Ignatian process has transformed the Drop In community. Rich and poor, young and old, weak and strong, healthy and sick we gather each week living God's abundance. As we experience this grace each week we are also confronted by our very specific failure to be community, to be the Kingdom.

We see ourselves clearly, aware of our identity as the “rich man” in Lazarus' story, participating in a culture that at every level reluctantly shares the real necessities of life. We experience redemption and salvation as servants in God's faithful and loving presence to the weakest among us. Those we would abandon, exclude or discard are held in unfathomable and eternal love, living witnesses to God's passion for each moment of every human life. We are deeply grateful for the active and ongoing support of the Ignatian family.



### Mission - CLC Young Adults

CLC - YA is a global community of Christians: men and women from all walks of life ages 21-45. Our community is open to all young adults who want to learn and participate in the spiritual formation inspired by the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

As of now, we have two active Young Adult Communities in Toronto, namely “The NewMan Centre” and “Fishers”. These two communities have different concepts. NewMan is an open concept community comprised of students and non-students who gather twice a month for faith sharing, spiritual formation and community building. The other community, Fishers, is a closed group made up of working young people, who meet at least once a week.

We are also in the process of developing a web community of young people across Canada. Right now we have one from Calgary and two from Vancouver. We meet thru SKYPE. Our meeting is not fixed yet but we make it a point that we do meet at least twice a month. We are still looking for any young adult who might be interested in joining our SKYPE group.

- **Cheche Lisondra**  
Fishers - CLC Young Adult

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ November 6-7, 2009—Atlantic Regional Council, Summerside, PEI
- ◆ November 7, 2009—Central Regional Council, Thornhill, ON
- ◆ September 17-19, 2010—Central Region Assembly, Manresa, Pickering
- ◆ October 1-3, 2010—General Council Meeting, Winnipeg, MB

OUR COMMUNITY IS OPEN TO ALL YOUNG ADULTS...

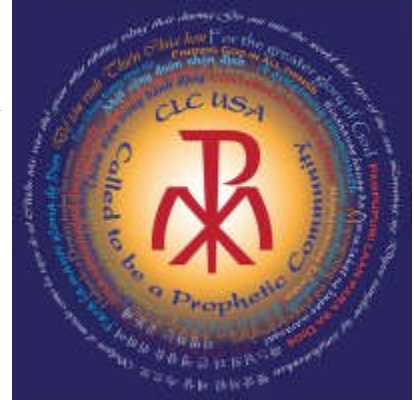
# The Call to Go Deep

by Julie Dwyer-Young

For us in CLC we engage in the constant and momentous movement of ‘going deep’ Deeper into relationship with the Trinity, each other and all creation. Talk about an incredible journey; a glorious dance with the Holy Spirit. When it comes to discerned communal Apostolic Mission we have struggled to find the steps to better express God’s vision, and this past year has perhaps allowed us to traverse closer to that sacred vision than ever before. Grace given and received from a consortium of CLC gatherings manifesting the desire to go deeper.

My recent encounters with this journey have been truly inspiring. Upon reflection on the emergent tone from this past year I can empathically say we are moving forward and deeper! From the remarkable World gathering in Fatima, to our own compelling National Assembly, the many Regional events that have continued to build our faith movement, and our CLC leaders who continue to challenge us to move forward. However, we as individual communities, along with National bodies continue to grapple with the question of how CLC will seek transformative social justice in Communal Apostolic Mission.

For this justice seeker, some answers to the dilemma of strengthening our 3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar of Mission were to be found at the U.S. CLC 2009 National Assembly. It was an interesting experience for me to arrive at this gathering and following is a snapshot of this journey. While attending our Canadian National in June, I heard Lois Campbell, CLC USA and member of the World UN Working Group, speak about the upcoming American National Assembly; which had chosen the theme ‘Called to be a Prophetic Community’ “How could I resist? I was immediately drawn into discernment. After research, I shared with my community and asked for their input. After discernment and with confirmation, I then communicated with both the Central Region Rep. and National President my desire to be sent to the July 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> U.S. Assembly as a Canadian CLC delegate and to receive financial support. This process was enriching in itself. A grounding encounter in our charism and the power of our discernment tools.



Following another short period of prayer and discernment, affirmation was received from all. I was sent and what an immersion into the larger CLC body; the whole is so much greater than the sum of the parts! As I drove through a dark and raining night alone and not always sure where I was going, I could return to the prayers and memory of this shared process and continually found affirmation and strength. There was a persistent sense of the ‘present whole’ and this was enlarged as I met with our U.S. CLC family. I experienced the power of our shared Ignatian Spirituality during interactions and discovered our American counterparts are dealing with many similar issues.

The organization of the Assembly was impeccable and allowed participants to clearly and critically engage in analysis of issues, but always from within a communal grounding and prayerful context. Central pieces facilitating growth were the workshops, liturgies, the Open Forum, and justice excursions. The Thursday workshops I attended introduced me to the JustFaith Ministry organization; a lay group that promotes faith justice formation through comprehensive programs. Another session led by Ed Plocha and Ramon Calzada explored stewardship and financial co-responsibility in CLC. Sound familiar? They outlined how important it is for us to manifest our CLC vision and then link with funding support. The next day delegates chose an ‘emersion trip’; one that drew us into a direct encounter with justice issues and mechanisms in which to alter the situation. Buses took people throughout Washington D.C. to meet and lobby Congressional leaders or attend presentations with key social groups, such as Sojourners, Catholic Central Relief Agency, or the Smithsonian Native American Museum. Saturday afternoon was dedicated to an Open Social Forum similar to those held at Fatima. There was a plethora of interests and topics ranging from faith formation, youth, Spiritual Exercise training and, my favourite, communal justice mission. Our busy days always concluded with an inspiring Liturgy, which served as an essential means to connect our experiences in the Eucharist.

LET US CONTINUE TO DRAW FROM...THE GOD OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

## The Call to Go Deep (Cont.)

I find myself able to return and bask in the warm vision of this experience. As John English SJ was often heard to say "You got the Grace!" The way forward is one that requires us to continue to build on our Good Works. This is echoed in the words of Micah 6:8, to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. How do we bring about the transformation that is needed? Inuit leader, Sheila Watt Cloutier says we need to free people's imaginations. "Listen to your neighbour, listen to your heart. A way will come." To quote the recent Jesuit Forum news, "a good revolution begins in the hearts and minds of people. Attentive listening and reflection will foster decision-making and action that will make a difference". The well is deep; let us continue to draw from the depth of this unfathomable possibility and mystery that is the God of justice and peace.

### CLC Canada 2009

- **Members: 269**
- **68% contributed to National expenses this year**
- **Since 2007 donations to National have decreased 23%**

**General Council is currently reviewing the 2010 budget.  
A financial update will be circulated before November 30, 2009.**



Please send your donation to:  
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**The suggested yearly donation to be paid by the end of June (to coincide with the anniversary of death of Father John English), is \$35 per person (\$25 to CLC National, \$10 goes back to your Region).**

*We depend on your generosity to meet our financial commitments!*

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