

**CLC Canada
Guelph National Assembly
General Council Summary
April 2009**

Preamble

In this summary CLC Canada's General Council follows the example of the World ExCo at the Fatima World Assembly. We trace the gifts and graces of Lethbridge in the history of our community over the last five years, "sharing what we have done taught and learnt and thus developing a deeper sense of our community in this moment."

Lethbridge National Assembly 2004

It has been five years since we met as a National Community, hosted by Rockies Region in Lethbridge Alberta, May 2004. We met to explore the theme *One Apostolic Body, Our Way of Life*. We focussed on our call discerned at the Nairobi World Assembly *to continue our growth as discerning apostolic communities in action, using the tools of discerning, sending supporting, evaluating*.

John Sumarah, CLC Truth given, Nova Scotia, was our keynote speaker. His presentation, *One Apostolic Community: Our Way of Life*, explored the meaning of "Apostolic Community" and provided much needed clarity *around our invitation to embrace this call at the regional, national and world levels and how we might promote CLC as an apostolic body*. John Sumarah's presentation continues to inform and inspire CLC and can be found on the national web site on the gallery/resources page.

<http://www.jesuits.ca/clc/John%20Sumarah%27s%20lethbridge%20presentation.pdf>

Two Working Groups were mandated at the Lethbridge Assembly in accordance with CLC's Constitution Article 9.

Working Group - Communication was formed to design a web page in "order to develop better communication between the National - the Regions - our Communities. The members of this group were, Chair, Clarence De Schiffart, Cheryl Gruninger, J.P. Horgan, SJ and Pat Carter, CLC USA, Consultor.

Working Group - Leadership Formation was formed "to facilitate the development of group leaders and guides thus assisting us to grow and mature as One Apostolic Body by developing a national formation structure that ensures that all existing and new formation material is grounded in the Sp Ex, the General Principles and Norms, the CLC Charism, the CLC Process of Growth." Gilles Michaud chaired this working group.

General Council 2004-2009

2004 President: Kati Gumbman, Nicolas Graydon; National Ecclesial Assistant; Earl Smith SJ

Regional Representatives: Rockies, Dan Clark, Prairies, Ruth Chipman, Central, Maria Brown, Atlantic, John Sumarah

2005 President: Kati Gumbmann, Peter Chouinard; National Ecclesial Assistant: Earl Smith SJ

Regional Representatives: Rockies, Dan Clark, Prairies, Ruth Chipman, Central, Maria Brown, Atlantic, John Sumarah.

2006 President: Kati Gumbmann; National Ecclesial Assistant: Charles Pottie, SJ

Regional Representatives: Rockies, Dan Clark; Prairies, Ruth Chipman; Central: Maria Brown; Atlantic: Clarence De Schiffart for John Sumarah

2007 President: Kati Gumbmann; National Ecclesial Assistant, Charles Pottie, SJ,; National Executive Assistant: Marilyn Heaton; President Elect: Ruth Chipman

Regional Representatives: Rockies, Don Mattern; Prairies, Sharon Baker; Central, Mary Balfe; Atlantic. John Sumarah.

2008 President Kati Gumbmann resigns in April. General Council and Fr. Charles write to thank Kati for her hard work and service as President. Acting President April / President Ruth Chipman, National Ecclesial Assistant. Charles Pottie SJ, National Executive Assistant: Marilyn Heaton, Regional

Representatives: Rockies, Don Mattern; Prairies, Sharon Baker; Central, Mary Balfe; Atlantic: Michelle Mahoney.

2009 President, Ruth Chipman, National Ecclesial Assistant, Charles Pottie, SJ, National Executive Assistant, Marilyn Heaton,

Representatives: Rockies, Don Mattern,; Prairies: Sharon Baker; Central: Mary Balfe; Atlantic: Michelle Mahoney.

SOP:006 C - Regional Representatives

The terms for regions will be sequenced as follows to provide continuity in the leadership of CLC:

Rockies, 2006 and every 3 years thereafter.

Prairies and Central, 2007 and every 3 years thereafter.

Atlantic, 2008 and every 3 years thereafter.

General Council's Way of Working Together

Article Six of CLC's Constitution regarding General Council states, *The **General Council**, is mandated by each National Assembly to be responsible for community growth, unity, faith, justice, Ignatian Spirituality (formation), regional concerns and desires.*

It has been General Council's practice to meet as a face to face body once a year. Due to financial restraints the 2006 meeting was cancelled. Conference calls often lasting 8 hours and longer were held twice a year. Recently General Council has been making use of Skype technology holding shorter meetings as required.

The National Executive Committee receives its working mandate from General Council as it fulfils the direction given by the National Assembly. ExCo has as one of its stated goals, the addition of an elder to the Executive team.

In 2007 the World ExCo asked Nationals to compile World Assembly data around the themes below. CLC Canada added communication and governance as National themes.

1. The dynamics of discerning, sending, supporting, evaluating.

The Nairobi tools (DSSE) have been worked with extensively through CLC structures over the last five years. These tools have become more familiar in our way of being with each other and have given us renewed life as we continue ongoing formation as Christian Life Community.

Individual communities report increased awareness of the dynamics of individual and communal discernment through its regular use in community life. Three regions have provided workshops on communal discernment for apostolic mission.

Sending rituals are highlights of community life and bind us deeply to each other and our apostolates.

Supporting each other in our individual walks and journeys and seeing the connectedness with the larger movement of the body has 'freed' many members from feelings of not belonging to CLC. There is a deepening awareness that all are part of the body. Support for each other as community has also increased as we sense and recognize movement towards 'common mission'.

Evaluation requires further attention throughout our structure. In many cases the evaluation process of reviewing just what, how and where the Spirit moved a particular

community has given great life and a more focused and renewed awareness around mission – communities in action.

2. Formation

A national leadership formation working group was mandated at Canada's 2004 National Assembly. The working group, coordinated by Gilles Michaud was mandated to develop recommendations for a national approach that would assist formation in all four regions. Group guide formation was also discerned as a pressing national priority.

Since Nairobi group guide workshops have been conducted in each region. Each region has been encouraged to develop and support group guide peer mentoring groups.

The National Formation Working Group has also taken on the responsibility of coordinating the revising and updating of our national formation material, viz. the Manuals of CLC Formation. The process of developing and implementing CLC formation across the country requires a great deal of effort, patience and a deep commitment to collaborating as a unified national body.

As a national body we are all deeply grateful for the commitment and efforts of members who have so generously served, developing Canada's formation material.

3. Leadership (connect to Rome course, November 2007)

All regions have provided initial leadership formation encounters using the modules developed in Rome. Regional ExCo's and LFE participants evaluated the resources and facilitators as excellent. The skills and generosity of Lois Campbell and Gilles Michaud contributed significantly to this important initiative.

Again regions have been encouraged to develop and support coordinator/leader/facilitator peer mentoring groups. Each region will develop a plan to move through the remaining LFE modules.

CLC Canada is blessed with a wealth of gifted, generous and committed CLC members. We hope that the support and resources offered in peer mentoring groups will encourage members to view CLC leadership as a shared responsibility. We hope that the development and growth of an active and informed leadership culture will result in more members responding to the call of servant leadership within Christian Life Community.

4. Society of Jesus/CLC Collaboration

Since Nairobi the nature of our relationships with the Society of Jesus has deepened. Our experience of the love of God and our lived commitment to work with Christ on mission has deepened our capacity to relate to the mission of the Society of Jesus. Nationally we celebrated the Ignatian Jubilee year in 2006. In reflecting and celebrating the lives of Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre we were made more deeply aware of the continuing fidelity of the Society lived out in the work of our National Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Charles Pottie- Pâté and Regional Ecclesial Assistants, Frs. Earl Smith and J.P. Horrigan. It is with gratitude we acknowledge and celebrate Fr. Charles' 50th anniversary with the Society of Jesus. We also welcomed Fr. James Webb sj as Provincial of the Jesuits of English Canada.

Fr. Alberto Brito's visit to Canada in the fall of 2008 was another highlight. There were many opportunities for rich dialogue between CLC members and Fr. Alberto.

We are also deeply grateful for the Society's generosity in sharing the events, actions and outcomes of their 35th General Congregation in Rome.

Many CLC members work or volunteer with the Society. Collaboration has developed around the Spiritual Exercises and specific social justice initiatives.

Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, requested an Ex Officio letter from CLC Canada about the nature of our community, the issues and challenges which we are facing as well as the assimilation, application, reception and impact of General Congregation 35. The Ex Officio letter was sent in January 2009.

CLC Canada is deeply grateful for this unique and life giving relationship with the Society of Jesus.

5. Apostolic Initiatives.

Since 2003 CLC Canada has also continued to emphasize the Three Pillars of our CLC way of life. Nationally we celebrated the 40th Jubilee of the CLC General Norms and Principles. Members have been encouraged to share and celebrate their apostolic work within communities in a more intentional way. Nationally we continue to pray for the grace to be aware and open to the possibility of common action, common mission. Human marginalization /exclusion and the environment/ecology draws the attention and energy of many members.

CLC Relationships

As a national body we also recognize the importance of maintaining and deepening relationships with other national groups within the World Christian Life Community. In October 2005, Peter Chouinard and Ruth Chipman were sent to the CLC North American Conference in Chicago. Peter and Ruth, supported by General Council, were tasked with coordinating the CLC Conference in 2007. General Council withdrew its support for the conference.

Following delegates' return from the Fatima World Assembly, CLC Canada facilitated initial contact with CVX and CLC USA in September 2008. Fr. Charles Pottie attended CVX's Assembly in November 2008. CLC Canada's President has been invited to CLC USA's National Assembly. National financial priorities and considerations have limited travel resources. Personal funds have been used to support CLC travel. These expenses need to be shared more broadly throughout our membership.

Our relationship with the United Nation's Working Group will require more support over the next five years.

The resources and relationships we share deepen our capacity to serve as a community of salt, light and leaven. Fr. Alberto Brito SJ, World Assistant Ecclesial Assistant on his 2007 visit to Canada said "*we are our relationships.*"

6. Membership and Commitment

In 2005 national data indicated "approximately 400 CLC members in Canada and 43 groups across Canada. Currently there are 273 registered members in 40 groups.

Nationally, membership development is supported by our web site and an information brochure. Each region develops its own *Come & See* process. Formed groups are persevering and deepening in the CLC way of life. Members report that "continually learning and practicing the CLC tools- life, death resurrection cycle, communal examen, communal discernment help deepen the CLC way of life.

Since Nairobi various regions have supported commitment discernment through retreats and individual spiritual direction. There have been permanent and temporary commitment celebrations at CLC gatherings across Canada.

7. Finances

Nationally, we are confident that our financial records meet the legal standard required of Canadian charitable organizations. We are deeply grateful for the hard work and commitment of Marilyn Heaton, CLC Canada's national Executive Assistant.

Financial reports are sent to each region. The national budget is developed based on input from each region as well as ExCo's recommendations to General Council. All members received the 2009 budget approved by General Council as well as a summary of the last five years in January 2009.

Gratitude is at the heart of all giving and the generosity of CLC members is a powerful expression of that thankfulness. Members have indicated that stewardship of our shared resources and funding development requires national attention for CLC Canada to grow and develop as a discerning apostolic body. As a National body though we struggle to "build the house." Key priorities require ongoing, sustained funding to allow for effective planning and best use of limited resources.

At Fatima, as a World body, CLC discerned that financial co responsibility was an essential and life giving priority. General Council has experienced growing pains in our response to the spirit of change and creativity (the signs of the times) around financial co responsibility. Reflecting the broad spectrum of responses of a diverse membership on such a sensitive topic calls us all to a deeper level of trust, compassion and hope.

8. Communication

CLC Canada's membership is spread over a vast distance. Communication is a significant challenge. Since Nairobi a national web site has been developed. Geraldine Tingley has completing her term as web master, having overseen CLC Canada's introduction to the internet. E mail and Skype technology has also facilitated communication. Even with this contemporary technology, our experience has been that face to face contacts and relationships are an invaluable aspect of our community life.

Nationally, we are reviewing and evaluating our communication processes. Martin Prince's work on the refreshed site has been terrific. Building on Geraldine's strong contribution he brings new capacities and ideas for improving CLC's web presence. *I strongly believe regional web page is the key to prospective CLCers and to involve the communities I was thinking of doing individual structuring of web pages of the regions with the input of the members of the region. Thereby it gives the regional members (a way) to voice their needs and an opportunity to involve them in the process of reaching out to their specific region.* Our goal is to develop a cohesive strategy that serves the various needs of CLC members and structures.

9. Governance.

Following our 2004 National Assembly General Council discerned the need to review and update CLC Canada's constitution and standard operating procedures. Our past president Kati Gumbmann and CLC member Maria Brown along with her husband, Bill facilitated the much overdue work on governance issues. We are very grateful for their hard work and dedication to this project. The revised constitution and amendments have been reviewed by CLC membership and will be voted on at our 2009 National Assembly in Guelph.

National Ecclesial Assistant CLC Canada Report to the National Assembly, April 2009

Following the Lethbridge Assembly in 2004, Fr. Earl Smith, SJ continued as National EA until July 31, 2006. In May of 2006, I was missioned to Winnipeg to replace Earl Smith as National Ecclesial Assistant (NEA) and to be Regional Ecclesial Assistant for both the Prairies and the Rockies (REA). [As well, I was to be available for pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg]

This ministry as NEA began in the summer with a warm welcome from the then President of CLC Canada, Kati Gumbmann. I also communicated with Earl Smith and received an overview of this role. As NEA I act as link to the Church (esp. to the bishops) and to the Society of Jesus. [Fr. Alberto Brito, vice- world EA representing Fr. Adolpho Nicolás, world Ecclesiastical Assistant, has written up a profile of the Ecclesial Assistant). I serve as well on General Council of CLC Canada, and attend all its meetings. This national group has as its goal to put into effect the mandates of the National Assembly held every 5 years. (cf. English Canada website: www.jesuits.ca/links/ChristianLifeCommunity/Canada)

Our General Council meetings are done in the atmosphere of prayer, reading of Scripture, faith- sharing and a discernment process concerning decisions to be made. Even with the limitations of phone conferences, or Skype calls, it is impressive how well the meetings go and what we accomplish. Among many topics, we discussed the ongoing project of the revision of the Constitutions of CLC for Canada, the revision of the CLC manuals, Standard Operating Procedures, collaboration in the North American context, and the process for the election of a new President, preparation for the World Assembly and most recently our National Assembly in Guelph. There were tensions at times, partly because of communication problems, partly because of the sensitivity of certain topics. But this National group at the service of the CLC Canada dealt with them in a prayerful and discerning way. At the end of the first year, we had completed the process for electing a new President. Ruth Chipman, from Winnipeg is President-elect for one year. She was to take responsibility as President in September 2008.

I concluded my first year as NEA by attending the Atlantic Regional Conference in August 2007 in Charlottetown, PEI. It was a joy to be back with these people, most of whom I knew from my years as Atlantic regional EA. The CLC is very alive in the Maritimes, and continues to grow and develop formation workshops for its members.

My second year as NEA, Sept 2007 to September 2008 began with attending the Central Regional Assembly in Guelph, in mid-September. It was a rich experience for me to meet many of the early members of CLC that John English had worked with, as well as the growing number of new people in the region, especially the young professional people.

The General Council had decided to meet at St. Benedict's monastery, just outside Winnipeg, Sept 28-30. We had 3 new regional representatives – from the Rockies, the Prairies and the Central regions. The outgoing reps also attended. It was an intense but very rewarding time of prayer, reflection, discernment, and socializing with each other. We got off to a very good start. In November we had a 2 hr or so phone conference and then in February we had our first SKYPE conference, which, despite some technical difficulties at the beginning, turned out very well. We have continued to use this form for our shorter meetings throughout the year.

I also attended the Prairie Regional Assembly Nov 2-4 at St. Benedict's monastery outside Winnipeg. I was there both as National EA and as the Regional EA. Each region, I noted, has its own character as CLC, yet united in a common vision and spirituality.

The year of 2007 – 2008 the General Council was oriented to the preparation of the World Assembly in Fatima, Portugal in August 2008. The theme, a continuation of the Nairobi WA: Journeying as an Apostolic Body: our answer to this grace from God. In preparation for this World Assembly, we had to send a summary report (gathered from all the regions) on a questionnaire from the World Secretariat and to articulate our graced history as CLC Canada in 2 pages! We also kept the longer version – which begins with the Sodality that our Jesuit brethren in Huronia started in the 17th century – up to our present day. Ruth Chipman did most of the work in preparing this graced history. It is amazing to read such a history. Many CLC members contributed to the telling of this graced history in Canada. We have made, and continue to make, an important contribution to the World CLC. Two Canadians, Gilles and Leah Michaud have had responsibilities at the World Secretariat.

During that year, I prepared an overview of the CLC way of life and the unfolding of a CLC meeting to send to bishops where we have groups established or beginning.

In August 2008, I went to the World Assembly in Fatima with two other delegates, Ruth Chipman, as President, and Mary Balfe, elected delegate from across Canada.

This was an unforgettable experience – a gathering of over 260 people from around the world, Jesuit ecclesial assistants and 2 lay delegates from each country, praying, sharing, celebrating and deciding together as one body. Our Canadian delegation spent time together reflecting on the implications for our Canadian context. We continued the impetus and orientation of the World Assembly as we prepared a booklet on the process and final document of the WA for regions to use this coming year in preparation for our National Assembly.

In September, I was able to have a substantial visit with our incoming Provincial, Jim Webb, SJ in order to fill him in the history and present state of CLC Canada. He has been very supportive of CLC.

This year, I have been working at greater communication with our sister CLC in French Canada – la Communauté de vie chrétienne (CVX). I met with a group of CVX members in September and then attended their General Assembly day in November. There are 2 members present here at our National Assembly.

The major part of our attention this past year (2008-2009) has been the preparation of the National Assembly here in Guelph. I have taken part in all the General Council meetings, as well as the National ExCo meetings with Mary Balfe, coordinating the committees for the NA. This has been a rich learning experience for me, since it is my first National Assembly that I am participating in.

One decision that came out of the World Assembly was to have CLC Canada representatives at the international course in Rome in January 2009. Mary Balfe and I attended this course on `Communal Apostolic Discernment` in the light of the 35th General Congregation, with 40 Jesuits and 40 lay people and religious. Not only the process of `communal apostolic discernment` but also the deep sense of an Ignatian family developing throughout the world, collaborating together in same mission of Christ. There were at least 30% of the participants at this meeting involved in CLC.

Many CLC members are aware of many elements of this process, and I believe we will continue to put into practice in our local communities.

Conclusion: My own personal experience as National EA has been one of a deepening appreciation of the dedication and seriousness of lay people to the Ignatian vision of living the Gospel, and working for greater justice and peace in our world. Each of the members of the General Council (and I could say this for each of the regions of Canada) are involved in their own professions and work and yet give their time, talent and treasures in living the CLC way of life. It has truly “edified” (built up) me and made me appreciate the gift of the Ignatian charism to the church and deepened my own vocation as a Jesuit. I am grateful to God as well for the co-operation of the two Regional Ecclesial Assistants, Earl Smith and JP Horrigan. I think they would join me in

expressing gratitude to God for being a part of this worldwide lay association of the Church.

Charles Pottie-Pâté, sj National Ecclesial Assistant – English Canada.

What is growing in CLC?

The Fatima World Assembly experience has been a significant source of gift and grace for CLC Canada. Preparing for the Assembly as a team; Mary Balfe, Ruth Chipman, Charles Pottie Pate, Peter Chouinard (alternate) was a vital part of developing the skills and capacities for participating fully in the assembly and sharing the Assembly outcomes effectively. Within 6 weeks of returning from Fatima, the Assembly team had developed a World Assembly summary and JigSaw process which was shared in each region.

Organizing and preparing for Canada's National Assembly in Guelph is another example of the depth of capacities within CLC. Mary Balfe and Magee McGuire and the National Assembly Organizing Committee have exhibited extraordinary skill in co ordinating Assembly details. Assembly communication was systematic and designed to support communal discernment by providing CLC's data, history, priorities as well as fostering gratitude.

Working together using Ignatian tools enhances our capacities to collaborate with each other and with others on mission with Christ in the world today.

Around the Regions

Regional Representatives are a key link in our relationship as a united national body. Discerned, sent and supported by regional members these generous and deeply committed individuals collaborate, encourage, promote, and coordinate our life together as CLC. Regional Representative reports follow below.

CLC Rockies Region Report for the Period 2004 to 2009

Activities & Events Completed

2004 – Rockies Region hosts the CLC National Assembly in Lethbridge. The theme evolved from the Nairobi World Assembly the year before, “One Apostolic Body, One Way of Life”. The theme of the assembly was water conservation that featured an excursion to Waterton National Park and a prayer walk.

January 2005 – Father Earl Smith, sj, CLC National Ecclesial Assistant and Kati Gumbmann, CLC National President conduct a two day workshop for Rockies Region communities in Lethbridge.

November, 2006 – Father Charles Pottie, sj visits the Rockies communities, reviewing the pillars of CLC

April 27-29, 2007– Father Charles Pottie, sj, CLC National Ecclesial Assistant and Ruth Chipman conduct a formation workshop program, Sharing the Joy of the Lord, for the Rockies Region in Lethbridge

September 2007, CLC Rockies Region Representative, Dan Clarke completes his term as representative and is replaced by Don Mattern for a two year term.

Volunteers from CLC communities in Lethbridge and area worked a concession booth at the Alberta International Air Show, August 4/5, 2007 and July 26/27, 2008. The combined CLC communities realized revenue of over \$2000.00 from each air show, which became general revenues for the Rockies Region.

Nov 30 – Dec 2/07, Rockies Region Gathering

Father Charles Pottie-Pate arrived in the region on November 30 and attended Special Core Committee Meeting at Assumption Parish,

Saturday, December 1/07 - Meeting with all CLC communities in Taber

Sunday Gathering: Discussion around: acting as Apostolic Communities [DSSE]

Father Alberto Brito sj, World vice-Ecclesial Assistant's visit to Canada

Leadership Formation Workshop

Resource Manuals Phase I & II

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius – Annotation 19 ?? – [more info on this?](#)

February 29 to March 2, 2008 - Lenten Retreat conducted by Father Max Oliva, sj, at Martha Retreat Center, Lethbridge, Alberta. 10 of 26 retreatants were from CLC communities

April 11 to 13, 2008 - Following a rigorous discernment process Phillip and Anne Goertzen attended the Leadership Formation Weekend in Winnipeg, MB. They returned to the Rockies Region with heightened enthusiasm and useful information for moving forward on leadership formation within this region

June 2008 - Father Charles Pottie met several Spiritual Directors who live in Lethbridge and area. This meeting took place in at Martha Retreat Center and was introductory in nature. Father Charles' intention was to guide and support these Spiritual Directors as a group.

October, 2008 - CLC National President, Ruth Chipman, came to the Rockies Region to share the World Assembly summary and priorities with Rockies Region members.

March 8, 2009 – A sending rite was celebrated with the Jesus Pieces Community of Coaldale as they leave Christian Life Community.

Apostolic Activities/ A Calling of Service

The members of the CLC Communities of the Rockies Region are involved in these activities:

Provide financial support for Catholic Christian Outreach, an organization that provides a Catholic presence on university campuses in Canada.

Supporting the college education of a young man in St Lucia, in the Caribbean.

Leading a monthly ecumenical prayer service at the Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge.

CLC Rockies Region Communities

April 2009 – The current communities of the Rockies Region are

Emmaus Community, Courtenay, BC

Lamplighters Community, Lethbridge, AB

Lord's Mosaic Community, Taber, AB

Son Seekers Community, Coaldale, AB

Threads of Love Community, Taber, AB

CLC Prairie Region

Prairie Region Activities Since Lethbridge National Assembly

2004

- May: Thunder Bay becomes part of Prairie Region at the National Assembly.

- June 9th, 2004 John English. S.J. died.

- A new group begins (Metanoia)

- Gathering November 20, 2004

2005

- Regional Rep prepared for and participated in the North American Conference in Chicago October 7-9, 2005

- The regional organizing committee supported collaboration and sharing of resources throughout CLC in North America.

- June: John English Memorial which included Mass and a potluck supper for Prairie Region members.

- October 29th, 2005 Individually Directed Retreat Day/potluck

2006

- Beginning of the Prairie Region Newsletter.

- The need for trained group guides was critical and planning for a group guide workshop began.

- The region's first attempt at communal discernment of the regional representative.
- March: World Day of Prayer Retreat Day focused on the Three Jesuit Jubilarians
- June 9th: John English Memorial and farewell for Fr. Earl Smith, S.J.
- July 13th: First lakeshore retreat on 'Examining Commitment'. Deepened awareness of the Charism and supported the desire to further explore the reality of commitment in CLC.
- September: Rep Elect begins her term
- December: Advent gathering

2007

- March 24th World Day of Prayer Retreat Day focused on 40 years of the General Principles.
- May: Come and See invitations which included various CLC events.
- June: Second lakeshore retreat day on 'Examining Commitment, provided an experience of communal support for personal discernment. A follow up retreat was held in September and a commitment process outlined.
- June: John English Memorial.
- 'Leadership Formation Encounter' planning begun.
- September: New Prairie Region Rep begins her term.
- October: Welcomed Fr. Alberto Brito, S.J.; the World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant.
- New group begins formation.
- November 1st: Bob Gaul died. With his death, Friends of Jesus community died. After a period of time, the 2 remaining members begin discerning which community to join.
- December: New position of Executive Assistant for Prairie Region, as well as a financial advisor, who is not a member of CLC, began to assist us with our budget and financial records.
- December: Advent gathering.

2008

- Ruth Chipman becomes President Elect.
- March 29th: World Day of Prayer Retreat Day with a focus on the Acts of the Apostles as outlined in Projects 137.
- April: Kati Gumbman, member of Koinonia and CLC Canada President suddenly and inexplicably leaves CLC.
- Ruth Chipman is confirmed by General Council to be Acting President for CLC Canada.
- Preparation for World Assembly in Fatima, Portugal which took place August 2008 – feedback forms.
- June: John English Memorial and sending for Fr. Charles and Ruth Chipman, to the World Assembly.
- September 2008: Ruth Chipman begins her term as President of CLC Canada.
- September 27th: Gathering of members for feedback from Fr. Charles and Ruth on their experiences at the World Assembly. Priorities booklet and Jig-saw Process introduced.
- September: Process of discerning delegates for the National Assembly begun.

- October: Prairie Region Committee becomes Prairie Region Council.
- National General Council meeting held here, October 17th to 19th with a social evening, on the 18th, which included all Prairie Region Members.
- November: Meetings with Fr. Jim Webb, S.J., the new Provincial.
- December: Advent gathering.

2009

- January: Members encouraged to engage in preparations for National Assembly.
- January: Prairie Region Rep Elect process begun with letter to communities.
- January: Integration begun of 2 new members into Diakonia and Metanoia.
- January 20th: Presentation by Fr. Peter Bisson, S.J. to CLC members in the evening.
- February 7th: Commitment Retreat Day for all CLC members. 9 people attended; 3 being members in formation. Presentation by Deacon Jeff Burwell, S.J. on commitment to our lay vocation.
- March 28th: World Day of Prayer Retreat Day with a focus on Projects 141 and the National Assembly Prep.

Dates and Topics of Regional Meetings:

- a) January 15th, 2005 Planning Meeting for Regional Assembly
 - b) February 5th, 2005 Visioning Meeting
 - c) Spring 2005 Lenten Reflections/Assembly preparation
- May 13th to 15th, 2005 saw the first attempt at a Regional Assembly. The grace of this assembly was an evolving communal awareness of our need to share responsibility in all aspects of our CLC way of life.
- d) The Regional Organizing Committee (now the Prairie Region Council) was formed in September 2005 and has been meeting in a consistent manner to discern, plan and organize regional activities. At this point, the regional representative (elect) communal discernment process was initiated.
 - e) January 20th to 21st, 2006 Regional Meeting
 - f) September 8th, 2006 Regional Organizing committee meeting and welcome for Fr. Charles, S.J. as new EA for the Region.
 - g) May 19th, 2007 Meeting to plan Regional Assembly. There were several meetings to plan this event.
 - h) September 28th to 30th, 2007 General Council Meeting hosted here. New Rep begins her term.
 - i) Prairie Region Assembly; November 2nd to 4th, 2007 Grace: To deepen our sense of how we can live our CLC Charism more explicitly. Shared responsibility encouraged and embraced. 8 members made a Temporary Commitment to CLC.
 - j) Regular meetings (every 2 to 3 months) of Prairie Region ExCo to plan topics for Agendas for Council meetings; regular meetings of Prairie Region Council (every 2 to 3 months).
 - k) Planning meetings for:
Commitment Retreat Days
World Day of Prayer Retreat days

Any other upcoming functions, such as the Group Guide, Start-up Leader, Fisher Workshop; the LFE

l) February 28th, 2009 SKYPE conference call with Fr. Charles and Sharon Baker in Winnipeg, Fr. Larry Kroger, S.J., Geri Albanese, and Rose Nadeau in Thunder Bay, to plan weekend agenda items for Fr. Charles's and Sharon's trip to Thunder Bay.

m) March 13th to 15th, 2009 Trip to Thunder Bay by EA and Rep to meet with community members there.

Workshops:

- 2004/2005 Following the National Assembly in Lethbridge, regional workshops and gatherings were organized to support CLC World and National priorities. This work continued into 2005.

-September 18, 2004 - Communal Discernment Workshop

-October 23, 2004 - Leadership Workshop

- 2006 Lethbridge Formation Workshop

- February 10th, 2007- 'Group Guide, Start-up Leader, Fisher' workshop with Elaine and Peter Nightingale as facilitators.

- February 2007: Group Guide Start-up Leader, Fisher discernment Saturdays.

- One member attends LFE in Omaha

- April 11th to 13th, 2008 Leadership Formation Encounter with Gilles Michaud as Facilitator. Those present were given tools for ongoing deepening formation. Plan: Group Guide and Coordinator training as well as peer groups for these.

- 2 members attend Ignatian Spirituality Conference in St. Louis

- January 19th, 2009 Communal Discernment Workshop facilitated by Fr. Peter Bisson S.J. that included members of the Ignatian family. 12 CLC members attended; 4 being our newer members in formation. We practiced elements of communal discernment and found this quite beneficial.

Publications: Prairie Region Newsletter (spring, summer, fall, winter)

New groups: One new group in formation since October 2007. Still in Manual 1.

Temporary commitment made by:

In 2007: Ruth Chipman; Howard R. Engel; Tere Hajzler; Lorraine Mueller; Linda Moug; Sheila Sturley; Mariette Ternowski; Sharon Baker; Bob Gaul (deceased)

Group apostolic initiatives and/or apostolic networks:

- One community began a Vocations Committee. Two religious were members of this committee. This project was left after a year.

- One community began a cookbook project, which members from other communities joined in to help, to raise funds for the Solidarity Fund, but had to leave it after a year.

- One community took the Just Faith course together.

- The new group in formation wrote letters to various levels of government around the issue of homelessness.

Individual apostolic work or special apostolic experiences/expertise:

- 4 members of the Region are Spiritual Directors for Annotation 19.
- 3 of the Spiritual Directors are involved in facilitating Prepare Ye the Way (Annotation 18) for Advent and Lent 2008/2009 in collaboration with the Spiritual Directors Apostolate at St. Ignatius Parish.
- Poverty Project
- Ignatian Lay Volunteer Program (ILVP) in collaboration with others.
- Immaculate Conception Drop In Center (soup kitchen): Several members volunteer at this soup kitchen in various capacities and it is overseen by 3 CLC Prairie Region members.
- Environmental Project focusing on water. A CD has been produced by Ruth Chipman, around this issue.
- Parish and Diocese Leadership
- Refugees
- Liturgical ministries
- RCIA; and preparing 7 year olds for first communion.
- Volunteering with adults who have intellectual disabilities.
- Jesuit Vocation Committee
- Mennonite/Catholic dialogue with 12 professors.
- Presentations in Parishes (including United Church and Lutherans) and teaching.
- South Deanery Pastoral Council
- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
- Palliative care
- Ukrainian Diocese
- Instructional design
- Assisting with the giving of retreats or facilitating one day retreats.
- Prayer ministry and music ministry
- Hospital and Personal Care Home volunteer work
- One member of the new group, who is a Dr., has done a 6 month volunteer position in Uganda in an Aids Clinic.
- Food purchasing and preparation for youth retreat weekends at the church (e.g. Salt and Light and Teens Encounter Christ) (Thunder Bay)
- Women's and men's Cursillo weekends. (Thunder Bay)
- Charity fund raising.
- Delivering food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. (Thunder Bay)
- Promoting and supporting CLC in Thunder Bay
- Local anti-pesticide campaign and education efforts (Thunder Bay)
- St. Vincent de Paul store (Thunder Bay)
- Soup kitchen in Thunder Bay
- Regional pastoral education promotion and support (Thunder Bay)

- Parish nursing (Thunder Bay)
- Anti-pornography work. (Thunder Bay)
- HAAO (Health Auxiliary Association of Ontario - Province of Ontario Team)
- Exception Achievements Awards for City of T.B.
- Elder Abuse Prevention Committee and Senior Fraud Stoppers (Educational Team for Seniors)
- Ethics Committee (Lakehead University)
- Funeral reception co-coordinator.
- Development and Peace Council Office of Past President
- Dews Drop In (Community Soup Kitchen)
- Selling of hand made rosaries and religious items and crafts in local Mall.
- One member in Thunder Bay assisted with putting together the Leaders Manual.

CLC Central Region

Central Region - Summary Report for National -April 2005 - 2009

As of the fall of 2007 - There were 15 communities (111 members) and of these communities 8 were making the Spiritual Exercises. There are 8 communities in formation. One group is Korean and one is "On Line". Collectively there are 40 persons in pre-community.

As of the Spring of 2009 – Central has 17 active communities 101 members and 2 communities in early formation. SEE - Details of Formation later in this report.

Governance: Central Region Evolves

- Before 2005 Central Region was administered by one member holding the discerned position of Regional Rep. Our executive council increased to having a secretary/treasurer, an elder , a formation coordinator ,and the E.A.

- Given that the expectation of National is for each region to develop a council SOP #6,B 16, in 2005 onward there has been much energy put into formation of a Regional Council... "in order that representatives can be called upon by the regional Executive Council between assemblies for discerned consultation on major issues that affect the region."

- To this end a Working Group representing the communities across the region was formed and met to discover together possibilities for shared responsibility.

- Bringing representatives from each community to meet twice each year in 2007 and 2008, in Thornhill at St. Luke's, resulted in the desire to meet overnight in June 2009 at the Anishinabe Center, north of Manitoulin Island, to bring a more conclusive discernment and action to a new working model for Central.

The inaugurated and mandated council members are presently discerning the use of the Atlantic Model where 2 persons share the responsibility and administer the work of the present Regional Rep.

- Our hope is that the Regional Council gatherings will be the avenue for social justice education as well as formation opportunities.

- If we follow the Atlantic model we will celebrate with one another with laughter, wine and song, while building the Apostolic Body!

Our Executive

- We grew in the Spring of 2008 with the invitation to a Young Adults position
- And in the Fall of 2008 with a position for Social Justice Initiatives.
- This growth is a direct result of listening and responding to the Spirit among us in the Regional Council gatherings.
- We presently await the discernment for a secretary and treasurer to take the next term and for the discernment of a regional rep-elect.
- We use Skype technology for our bi-monthly meetings as geographically we are separated by 16 hour round trips as well as e-mail and telephone one another when the need arises. A saving of the environment and the CLC Central bank account.

Activities and Events

- Beloved Fr. John English passed on June 9, 2004 leaving a deep mourning for our members and leadership.
- 2005 - 8 members from Central participated in the North American Assembly in Chicago.
- Fall 2005 - Central's Regional Assembly at Crieff, Ont.
- November 2007 - Past -president gather to summarize Central's graced history
- November 2007– 7 CLC members in Toronto give input into the research phase of a new book on Ignatian Prayer by Fr. Timothy Gallaguer OMV.
- Spring 2007 - WORLD CLC-CVX- Daniela Frank, World president visits and speaks passionately and eloquently at Lourdes Parish in Toronto ,giving us lots of energy. Seeing slides of World Executive council, the participants truly felt like a World Community.
- September 2007 - Fr Alberto Brito, World E.A. visits all communities even the new one on Manitoulin Island in Northern Ontario, J.P. was the 'chauffeur'. Alberto wanted to meet CLCr's, meet Jesuits and meet with the Jesuit Provincial.
- Fall 2007 - Preparation of communities for the 'Fatima feedback' was extensive and enriching.
- Fall 2007 - Central researched and documented CLC Canada's graced History line from coast to coast with many assisting the process. A copy resides in the Archives - Spring of 2008.
- April 2008 – LEADERSHIP Formation Encounter (LFE) gratefully uncovers a new webmaster for CLC Canada.
- May - 2008– Regional Council Working Group Discernment of Regional Council Proposal/ Outdoor mass/Picnic , St. Luke's, Thornhill.
Concensus to look at the Atlantic Model as a working model for Central Region. (2 positions for Rep instead of 1 in discernment)...
June 27,28 gathering overnight at Anderson Lake for decision.

- May - 2008 –First face to face meeting of the National Assembly Organizing Committee (NAOC)
- August 2008 - 3 delegates attend the Fatima CLC-CVX Assembly in Portugal
- Fall 2008 – 2 WA delegates develop a Jig Saw Priorities booklet to address creatively the 8 Priorities coming from the World Assembly. The document is distributed to all the regions in preparation for our National Assembly.
- Fall 2008 - Regional rep visits ‘clusters ‘of communities in Guelph and Kitchener/Waterloo to transmit the energy and spirit of the assembly. The membership catch the spirit with both challenge and encouragement.
- National Assembly Organizing Committee works non-stop to accommodate and prepare hospitably for the CLCr’s coming from across Canada.

REPORT TO MARY BALFE RE 2005-2009 FORMATION.

Spiritual Exercise Program

- Background to promotion of Week of Guided Prayer and the Spiritual Exercises - prior to 2004 - 2 members took 9-month training program as spiritual directors at Loyola House. Some members of Formation Team gave Week of Guided Prayer in Guelph and Kitchener. John English gave his materials for Annotation 19 to 2 members.
- Sept. 2004 - Spiritual Exercises program began in Toronto, with 3 CLC directors, 3 retreatants, weekly peer supervision meetings.
- 2006 - 4 CLC members involved in giving Week of Guided Prayer in Mississauga.
- 2008 - 8 CLC retreatants, 2 CLC directors, 2 other directors, monthly peer supervision.
- Now planning training of about 20 CLC prayer companions to give Week of Guided Prayer initially to other CLC members. Trainer is a CLC member.
- Spring of Living Water preparing to companion non-CLCers through Creighton U. Ann. 18 Exercises using Skype.
- Communities are now being encouraged to take the Spiritual Exercises with one-on-one direction after Manual 1.

Training of Co-ordinators, Start-up leaders and Guides

- Background to development of training leaders—prior to 2005 leaders were trained in “clinics” in which John English “trained the trainers”, the trainees were then expected to be able to train other guides and leaders. These were not used and were forgotten, so that only the Leaders Manual remains from that era.
- 2004-5 - Starting again “Leaders workshops” for co-ordinators of new groups on Saturdays giving them a sense of where they were going with their groups.
- 2005-7- “Guides’ workshops” Development and write-up of a praxis for start-up leaders in 2006 and shared with other regions.
- 2007- Workshops for start-up leaders

- Guides' Peer group started in Toronto and continues 2005-2009
- LFE in 2008.
- 2008 Central guides meet spring and fall
- Young Adults co-ordinators' peer group started in 2009.

Diversification

- Background-: prior to 2005 there was great geographical diversity with CLC's in Montreal, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Hamilton, Chatham, Windsor, Mississauga, Brantford, and Toronto, but otherwise the members were all of European descent, and all of the same generation, except in the family group. We subsequently lost this diversity.
- Since 2005 CLC's have been established in several new areas (Manitoulin, London diocese, Barrie) and reintroduced to other areas where they had stopped meeting (Guelph, Oakville, and liaison with Michigan CLC in the "John English-Nick Rieman Great Lakes collaboration project).
- Skype community to include people who cannot attend a face-to-face CLC.
- Prior to 2005 one person, the formation co-ordinator was responsible for Formation throughout the region. Now, Formation team is gradually being enlarged to be a network of formation with shared responsibility.
- In 1990s there had been 3 communities of young adults but when the Jesuit who was leading them left they did not continue to meet. Now there are two thriving young adult communities. Most of them are now doing An # 19 and are becoming very involved in the regional structure.
- Prior to 2005 almost all CLCers in the region were of European descent. We now have greater cultural diversity with 2 Korean speaking communities, one community in which all members are Philipino, and a membership that includes individuals from cultures as diverse as Korean, Latin American, First Nations, African, Chinese, Lebanese, Indian and now Maltese.
- Before 2005 all members were from the generation that John English had worked with. We have been blessed to retain about 30 of those members and a few of them are still very influential in CLC. We now have greater diversity in the ages of members, some of whom are in their 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's, people who take for granted that our leadership is lay, never having known John English or the other Jesuits and nuns who were the initial leaders of CLC Canada.

History of Young Adult CLC in Toronto

In 1990's three CLCs for young adults were formed – 1 at Regis College and 2 at Newman Centre; however, when the Jesuits who gathered these folks moved on, the communities did not continue. Information meetings with chaplains from high schools were also held to promote CLC for high school students.

February 2005 – Young adults from CVX Chile, CVX Egypt and CLC Ireland visiting Toronto contacted formation members and promoted CLC for young adults

April 2005 – Tree planting activity at Loyola House for young adults and two (2) families interested in CLC. However, they did not continue when leaders returned to Chile.

December 2005 – AMDG CLC made commitment to the larger CLC but many members left Toronto at the end of the first year.

June 2006 – Workshop with Ramon Calzada from CLC California with 30 in attendance. The target was to a group of university students at the Jesuit parish to reach out to teens. Attendees were university students and young professionals. The university students did not form a group but one member from former AMDG CLC and 2 young adults from the Newman Centre were very interested in starting CLCs.

September 2006 – Seven (7) young adults had their 1st meeting after the workshop in June 2006. After meeting for weeks, some left but others remained and were eager to learn St Ignatius' teaching. Six (6) young adults continued. This was the traditional closed community.

December 2006 – On week 12th of the meeting five (5) out of the eight (8) since June information session with Ramon Calzada made their commitment and named themselves FISHERS. Since then the group became active in the larger CLC.

January 2007 – CLC community is gathered at Newman Centre. The goal has been to explore a CLC community with a core group who make a commitment to the larger CLC and hold meetings for other students in the university parish to drop in. Another visitor from CVX Chile gave support during her six month stay in Toronto

May 2007 – Two (2) from FISHERS went to Miami, Florida to attend the 3rd cycle of the MAGIS - a retreat for all men and women wanting to learn more about Catholic faith using the exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and learning how to live as better Christians in the world. In September on that same year, two (2) members of the community went for the 1st cycle of the retreat.

September 21-23, 2007 – Fishers had their first taste of the Central Region Assembly, held at Loyola House in Guelph, Ontario. The theme was “ For the Greater Glory of God” and the grace asked was *For enthusiasm and guidance of the Spirit, that we may remain faithful to the church and to the CLC way of life*. Fishers presented a dance entitled “Who am I” depicting transformation in Christ.

October 2007 – CLC of greater Toronto had their first Ecological retreat led by Marian Karsh. CLCers at Newman Centre initiated the event. It was held at Toronto Centre Island from morning till afternoon with more or less thirty (30) attendees.

November 2007 – CLC and Newman Centre sponsored a weekend retreat with Tim Gallagher OMV on the Examen for university students with 175 in attendance.

March 8, 2008 – Fishers and CLCers at Newman Centre hold their first retreat entitled “The Lord is within me, let us discover Him” with Fr. Patrick Goujon, SJ from France as the main guest. The retreat took place at Newman Centre with more or less fifty people young and old in attendance.

April 4-6, 2008 – Three from Fishers attended the Leaders Formation Encounter at Monsignor Fraser College in Toronto. Following this another Fisher participated in USA LFE in Pittsburg.

September 2008 – For the first time a young adult from the Fishers represents young adults on the executive of Central Region.

September 2008 – 7 young adults start the Exercises in Daily Life (Annotation 19)

September 2008 – 2 young adults (Fishers) act as start-up leaders for a new community of young adults

November 2008 – Core group at Newman Centre make commitment to larger CLC.

January 2009 – YA rep to Crexco and the two (2) Co-ordinators from Fishers and Newman started the Co-ordinators’ Peer Group Meeting to be held every quarter.

ATLANTIC REPORT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APRIL, 2009

Activities and Events since the last National Assembly:

- 5th Regional Assembly in 2004, held in Saint John, NB. Theme: One Community-Invited-Blessed-Sent. Speakers: John Sumarah and Leah Michaud
- 6th Regional Assembly in 2007, held in Charlottetown, PE. Theme: Deepening our CLC Identity- Commitment to a Way of Life. Speaker: Lois Campbell
- Retreats: 1) 2006; Atlantic CLC Retreat held in Pictou NS, facilitated by Fr. Charles Pottie, Pam Daigle and Doug Hubbard 2) 2007; Atlantic CLC Retreat held in Pictou NS, facilitated by Pam Daigle, Fr. George Leach, Fr. Dan Kelly and Doug Hubbard 3) 2008; Triduum Retreat held in Summerside PE facilitated by Fr. Earl Smith and Gilles Michaud 4) 2008; 37 CLC members gathered for a 1-day Retreat in Saint John at the Villa Madonna in honour of the Feast of St. Ignatius
- Formation: 1) 2004; Come and See held in Saint John at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish where 28 people came to inquire about CLC 2) 2004-2005; Group Guide Training Program where 6 dedicated CLC members took intense training and practicum to become formed Group Guides 3) 2007-2008; Gilles Michaud went to Rome to attend the World CLC Leader’s Workshop and then Facilitated a Leader’s

Formation Encounter along with Lois Campbell in Pictou NS. 24 CLC Leaders attended 4) Jan 2008; 17 Group Guides/Coordinators/Contact People attended a day of Prayer and Formation in Saint John 5) Two working documents compiled and ratified : CLC Leadership Roles (Group Contact, Group Coordinator and Group Guide) and Regional Communal Discernment Process

- Ongoing: Colloquy released quarterly; Regional Council Meetings twice per year; Regional ExCo Meetings twice per year plus Skype Calls
Community Updates and Membership Data

- There are 9 new CLC's in the Atlantic Region since our last National Assembly: 4 in New Brunswick, 4 in Nova Scotia and 1 in P.E.I.

- 2009 Current Atlantic ExCo:

Fr. Earl Smith, sj- Ecclesial Assistant (NS)

Michelle Mahoney-National Representative (PEI)

Yves Daigle-Regional Coordinator (NB)

Clarence DeSchiffart- Formation Committee (NS)

Jim Doyle- Secretary (PEI)

Bob McDermott- Treasurer (NB)

Peter Chouinard- Colloquy Editor/Communications Director (NB)

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Where you will find Atlantic CLC members involved in Apostolic works- Individually and or Communally:

Caregiving to Aging Parents and Elderly in our communities

Bereavement Ministries-in Parishes and Communities

Intercessory Prayer Ministries

Pastoral Visitation to the Elderly, Shut-Ins, Prisoners, Handicapped, Widowers

Fitness Classes for Seniors

Ministry to Prisoners and Homeless

Financial Assistance and Support to Co-CLCers whose barn collapsed this winter

Food Bank and Soup Kitchen

Liturgical Ministries: Eucharistic, Hospitality, Lectors, Music, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Lay Presiders

Parish Councils, Youth Ministry

Participation in Parish/Diocesan Renewal Initiatives

Religious Education, RCIA

Scripture Study Coordinator

Providing socks to Halifax Metro's homeless and poor

Service at Beacon House in Sackville NS-Hospitality and food/clothes depot

Spiritual Direction and Prayer Companionship in Partnership with AASEA

Formation of Directors in Training

Formation of Group Guides and other CLC Formation Endeavors

Leadership Roles in CLC's or CLC Committees or Regional ExCo

AIDS Saint John

Support of Children and Families in Third World Countries

Financial Support to CLC Kenya's service of St. Aloysius School (a school for AIDS Orphaned children in Nairobi)

Raising Awareness and Participation in Social Issues(eg Water, Fisheries, Handicapped, GMO's, Medicare, Aboriginal Issues, Environmental etc)

Collaboration, Support and/or Membership with other various

organizations(Development and Peace, Birthright, Right to Life, Foster Parenting,

L'Arche, Refugee committees, World Youth Day, CWL, Kof C, St. Vincent de Paul

Society, Mennonite Central Committee, Cursillo, Amnesty International, Children in Crisis)