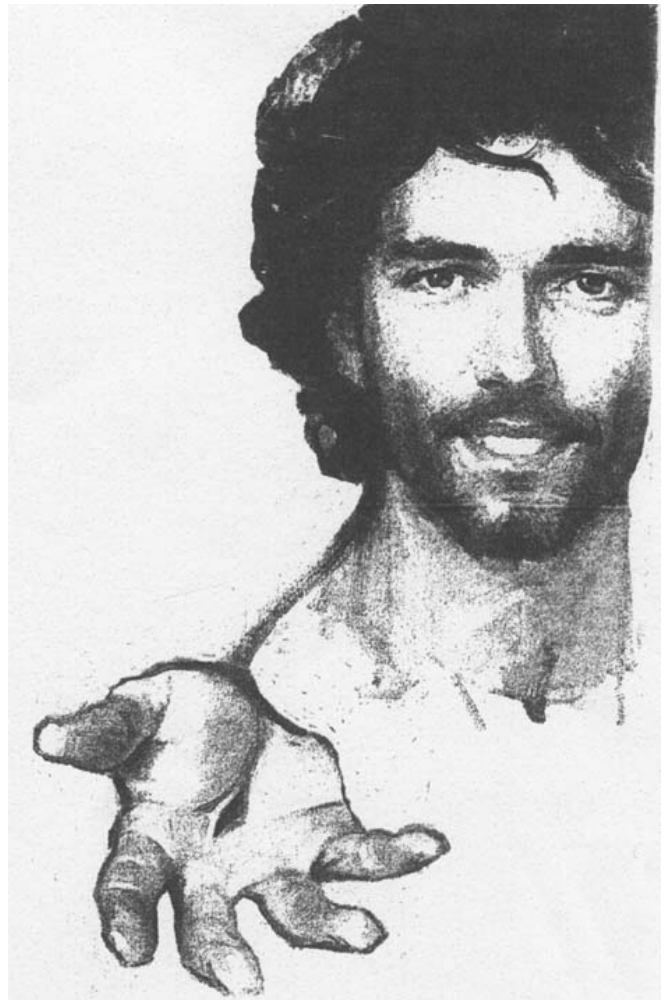




# COLLOQUY

Fall 2010  
Newsletter #20

At the end of our Liturgical year we always celebrate “Christ the King” recalling all that our Lord and King has done for us - the gifts of love, the gift of salvation, how he labours for us and how he invites us to labour with him. And we listen for his calls, his invitations to us. We listen to the Call of the King [Sp. Exx. 91-98]. Personally, I heard the invitation to compile and edit the Colloquy, our magnificent tool to help Atlantic CLCs share their faith stories, formation processes, mission stories and celebrations - gifts of the three pillars of our communities- spirituality, community, prophetic apostolic mission. I heard at the Atlantic Assembly in August the invitation to examine our myth and deepest desires. I heard at the Regional Council Meeting in October the invitation for the laity to work with the priests in our ‘Christ-poor’ Church. I heard the invitation to listen more deeply to the movements within our faith stories to hear our King’s call and to use the ‘Criteria for Mission’ document when discerning to labour with Christ in specific actions. I heard the invitation to awareness of the Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in Halifax and their offerings of retreats and programs. I was invited to let God lead in the dance of life, in our prophetic mission, in fulfilling God’s desires!



Our King calls us to work with God, a God who takes us seriously. And seriously, through the newly released Project 146 from World CLC, he invites us to look at world advocacy issues as well as local and national justice issues.

The Season of Advent begins November 28<sup>th</sup>. Let us listen to Christ our King. He calls, invites us to labour with him. We hear these invites through scriptures, through others and through the his Holy Spirit within. And let us pray for the grace to say ‘YES’ as Mary did, knowing that we will experience all the joys, discomforts, anticipation, wonderment and wondering that being pregnant with our ‘YES’ holds.

Pat Lawson, Editor

p.s. blessings to all who submitted articles, pictures, poems, humour and prayers..thank you!!



## *Atlantic CLC Regional Coordinator's Message*

Our Assembly in Halifax was a wonderful time of “reconnection” for our Atlantic community: a time to see old friends, to make new ones, to enjoy the gift of each other in song and laughter. Through our process lead by Barbara Peloso, it was also a time to get in touch with what stirs deeply inside us...our hopes, dreams, concerns, desires that calls us to risk, to be uncomfortable at times as we co-labour with Christ in His mission.

*Yves Daigle, Lynn Basker, Tim and Joanne McWade,  
Jocelyn Weirathmueller Black Socks skit by Living Water CLC, Fredericton*

Our discerning way of life continues to call us to be open to new possibilities in this, His mission. Advent is a special time of new expectations., new ADVENTures with all the inner movements that can accompany them: excitement, anticipation, resistance, peace, fear, joy.... As we continue our service in CLC, we will be asked to spend ourselves for the sake of the Kingdom: our time, our talent, our comfort, and even our financial resources at times.

We are blessed with a membership that does not hesitate to serve and not count the cost. A great example of that was how the Nova Scotia community welcomed and look after us in organizing the Assembly this past summer. We are grateful for their leadership and their gift to all of us.

Our group leaders also deserve our gratitude: the Coordinators, the Contacts and the Guides but it is important to remember that we are all leaders, some formal others informal...that's the beauty and the gift of our way of life. We are all called to contribute, to let God speak through us as we attempt to discern what He would have us do to further His Kingdom.

In the next while, arising out of our last Regional Council Meeting, we will need to look at areas that require our attention and discernment: Terms of Leadership Roles at the regional level, attendance at Regional Council Meetings and Financial Co-responsibility. As local groups you will be asked to have conversations in those areas and to discern if and what changes need to be made. Your Exco will be implementing a series of processes in the next number of months to see what may need to be done in those areas.

On your behalf, I would like to express our gratitude to Pat Lawson who, after a period of discernment, has so graciously agreed to become our new Colloquy editor. With all of our help and contributions as well as her creativity, I know the Colloquy will continue to be a blessing to our Atlantic community.

*Yves Daigle*  
Atlantic Regional Coordinator

## Atlantic Region Ecclesial Assistant's Message



Dear Friends;

This summer's Assembly in Halifax has revitalized our love for 'our' Ignatian based Christian community. God is good indeed. Now we are left to engage in communally discerned 'missions'. This step forward is not one of fear and apprehension. Rather, it is one born of love as we are God's beloved family. We are privileged to stand in God's presence and to contribute our talents in making God's Kingdom on earth! Do we believe it as does God, who believes in 'you' and 'us'?

Our gracious God is about the business of humanity's salvation and we are charged with the exhortation of the Lord Jesus to spread this Good News to the end of the earth! (Matt.28:16-20) How can we not notice that the fire of God's divine Spirit is glowing brightly within our human hearts? Was this not one of our many significant 2010 Assembly graces?

The Venerable Mary Ward once wrote, "I listened to God's great dream for me and felt a yearning to respond." That we (and not just me) are called to assist in the spread of this Good News is without doubt. Now it's time for us to learn how to realize God's dream. Could we desire anything greater in life?

How then do we discern, send, support and evaluate [DSSE] for one another in Mission? There are CLC members who have already well discerned 'their Mission'. Yet it could be time for them to evaluate their use of personal talents and abilities. Who does not benefit from a pat on the back once in a while *OR* an offer of fraternal encouragement? Many persons and local communities are engaged in viable Missions with potential to continue and flourish. Indeed, many of us find ourselves active in too many kinds of service; generous expressions of charity and justice that now require of us discerned prioritizations. The reasons for us to learn and practice the tools of communal discernment given to us are many.

I add a short quote about service. If we look for that natural connection between 'our Mission' and service it is all the more inspirational.

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and discovered that service is joy.*

(Anonymous)

This quote is especially well suited as it relates to 'our mission call' as wonderfully expressed in St. Ignatius' Call of the King meditation. 'My' call is 'our' call is a call given to me as a gift. I love these words found in Eucharist Prayer II; "*We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your present and serve you.*" Well, are we thankful? Do we feel honoured to labour in the building of God's Kingdom on earth with the Lord Jesus, no less! I believe the answer to this question is a profound *YES*. Therefore, let us be encouraged so to encourage one another in our communally 'celebrated' DSSE. Now is the time as another hopeful liturgical year begins to live with hearts wide open, and full of zeal for the coming of God's Kingdom. It is the gift of Our Lord Jesus Christ that we share with one another as His beloved friends.

+Bless you all friends. Be assured of my ongoing support of CLC Atlantic as we search for creative ways to live the three pillars of our life; spirituality, community and mission.

*Father Earl Smith, S.J.*

***Answering the call to our National CLC... CLC Canada Co-President Elect- Peter Chouinard***

I recently returned from my first face-to-face meeting with our General Council in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I, along with Mary Balfe of CLC Central region, have begun our one-year term as Co-President Elect(s) of CLC Canada. Mary and I will be mentored and supported by the current CLC Canada President, Ruth Chipman, during her last year as President. Ruth will then step into the Past President role for a further year as Mary and I begin our three-year term as Co-President(s).

I was very impressed by the commitment and by the level of generosity of all our General Council members – those long serving and those who are new to the National level. We bid a fond farewell to Sharon Baker (Prairies Rep.) and Mary Balfe in her role as (Central Rep.) and welcomed Mariette Ternowski (our new Prairies Rep.) and Andree Richard (our new Central Rep.). Mary will mentor Andree until January 2011.

As soon as we arrived in Winnipeg, we were each met at the airport by our billets who carted us off to their homes to get settled in before a light meal, and then off to our Friday night meeting. Throughout the entire weekend, our hosts treated us with such open hearts and a willingness to ensure our needs were met – even preparing and bringing bagged lunches for each of us on Saturday!

Meeting with representatives from each of our four Canadian CLC regions (Rockies, Prairies, Central and Atlantic) really brings home the reality of our 'larger' CLC. It brings into a 'clearer focus' that CLC is so much more than our own small local communities and that God is indeed at work throughout the world in CLC. The reality that we are part of something much bigger! We met in the Holy Names House of Peace Centre in downtown Winnipeg – a former



*Front row: Pat Bremner (Rockies Rep.), Marilyn Heaton (Executive Assistant), Mariette Ternowski (Prairies Rep.), Andree Richard (Central Rep.), Ruth Chipman (President)*

*Back Row: Sharon Baker (Out going Prairies Rep), Peter Chouinard (Co-President Elect), Michelle Mahoney (Atlantic Rep.), Mary Balfe (Co-President Elect), Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, sj (Ecclesial Assistant)*

Franciscan Friary which is now operated by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. They are an intercultural, life-affirming community that provides a sacred place for prayer and reflection, a safe home for women in transition and a place for organizations promoting justice, peace and understanding.

General Council meets in a similar fashion to our local groups and for our serious conversation uses the principles of Communal Apostolic Discernment, inviting all members to consider 'how God is leading us' in the topics presented. Our Atlantic Representative, Michelle Mahoney of P.E.I., is a wonderful voice for our Atlantic CLC'ers; Michelle has a heart that desires to be with Christ in all things. I hope to mirror closely her enthusiasm and her commitment to service in my new role.

I do ask all of our Atlantic CLC members to please carry our country in prayer and to specifically ask God how He desires to guide it. Where is the Magis for CLC Canada? Where should our energy and focus be centered? Please contact me with anything you wish to bring to the attention of our General Council. Your prayerful support is much appreciated.

I remain united with you in His service,  
*Peter Chouinard, Earthen Vessel CLC  
CLC Canada Co-President Elect*

|

*A Vision for CLC Canada - CLC Canada Co-President Elect - Mary Balfe*

It continues to be a gift for me to serve in the capacity of acting Central Region Rep until January 2011 on our General Council. This year also will be a mentoring year for me and for Peter Chouinard as we prepare to take responsibility for the president(s) role for CLC Canada the fall of 2011.

*How do I envision CLC Canada, from the little Island of Manitoulin on which I live?*

My vision for CLC is *FIRE ACROSS CANADA*, a fire that burns with love for Jesus Christ in the mission of 'the emerging church'. There is desire in me to shoulder this work with other members of CLC and collaborators bringing a balance and relief of workload. I experience this relief now in Central Region where the Rep's position has become a 'shared responsibility' of two very capable and gifted members Adrienne de Schutter and Andree Richard. In Central we experience our giftedness as multiplied along with potential creativity and morale.

Central is grateful to the Atlantic Region for your model of Regional Council. It has been a guide to Central members as we have gone forward in the development of a long awaited council. In just a few short years this same council of representatives meeting twice yearly has paved *A DISCERNING PATH FOR OUR IGNATIAN FORMATION* through building community, deepening our Ignatian spirituality and just recently in discerning with "a triumph of grace" (Jack Milan), a common apostolic mission for Haitians in collaboration with Jesuits, CVX French Canada and North American CLCs. The Spirit of God invited us through the World CLC to discern this opportunity and our trembling 'yes' has birthed in the region a 'yes' to risk our comfortable pews for the sake of 'effecting change'...for the sake of the Gospel and for the Kingdom. Much personal transformation is ahead for each one of us.

It is encouraging that CLC is beginning to become more visible to the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops (CCCCB) as an Ignatian lay organization. through an opportunity in Ottawa last year when Adrienne de Schutter represented CLC Canada to the bishops with grace. The bishops 'are listening'! As numbers of churches and vocations diminish, the core members of our faith become stronger and my hope is that *CLC COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP WILL RIPEN AND BE READY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED AS WE ARE NEEDED TO SERVE*. Already in remote areas this is becoming true. I see CLC becoming more welcomed in diocesan parishes as we become more visible as communities *particularly* as we grow in discerned apostolic mission. Imagine that we CLCers could be leaders in our own parish having a discerned apostolic mission for the parish! Common apostolic mission - a common thrust with multiple manifestations...the prophetic call and stance for our day.

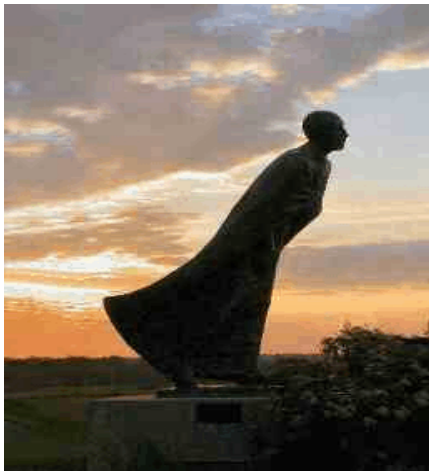
With the Spirit, regions could map out a plan of spreading this visible fire through *CONTINUING TO GROW CLCS*. Strategically, we can catalogue and share our resources more effectively between regions, provide these resources for each community guide, reflect the desire of well presented sessions in communities, encourage our dedicated group guides and coordinators in early formation using materials beyond our three formation manuals.

*ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTED GUIDES* with creativity is essential, trusting the way Ignatius did in the earliest days of his mission. This is precisely how CLC began in Canada. Under the guidance of a seasoned director one is mentored, with opportunities to grow through particular opportunities offered. Strategically, as in the LFE, I wonder if National formation ought to *send* chosen individuals to help form spiritual directors and guides in regions across Canada where needed.

Envisioning growth of CLC essentially envisions growth of financial support through

national transparency and *ANNUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF OUR MEMBERS* to the gift that CLC is to them. Do members know that a levy is paid on their behalf every year to the World CLC so that the work of Christ continues across the planet...we the beneficiaries? A thought arises that if we were more identified with the mainstream church, perhaps we could be somewhat financially supported within our dioceses for specific work....perhaps a week of guided prayer in parishes which has proven to be an exciting, practical, short, experience of prayer for everyone, with ongoing potential.

At this time in our CLC history, *COMMUNAL APOSTOLIC DISCERNMENT (CAD)* is crucial within our General Council and throughout our entire membership. It is our 'sign for the time'. Within the call to be an apostolic body follows the call to prophetic mission...a mission of hope for the poor we are learning to embrace as a nation, as regions and as individuals. I envision CLC Canada awakened to a discerned broad mission that will be specifically identified with CLC Canada and her regions with the same breadth of imagination and service from her members yet focused in a 'preferential option for the poor,' with eye and ear, heart and mind of Christ to change unjust structures. Will we follow Jesus? Will we gather together with those of the same communion of hearts, with St. Ignatius robe slapping gently at our sides as we go forward in Christ?



Open our eyes, Lord  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord  
we want to see Jesus.”



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**Greetings from Michele Mahoney, Atlantic Region Representative to National Council!**

I just returned from the General Council Meeting in Winnipeg where I felt carried on the wings of your prayer and support! I am in deep gratitude for all of you who prayed for the success of the meeting

We gathered in The House of Peace in downtown Winnipeg on Friday evening, having arrived from all over Canada and warmly welcomed by our Winnipeg hosts. I have always been a little concerned that we don't spend much time on Friday evening sharing the results of our prayer and reflection. As a result, it has been difficult to 'gel' as community-especially since we gather only once per year in a face to face meeting. This year was an exception. Ruth had sent out prayer material well ahead and we spent the bulk of Friday eve sharing deeply where we

are in our respective roles on General Council. Some of us referred to the many colours of the earth in this beautiful season and how they seem to relate to the colours of where we feel we are as individuals and community on the Life-Death-Resurrection Cycle. We all felt the Breath of the Spirit moving us forward in service of CLC Canada.

We spent most of Saturday morning talking about the issues throughout Canada as each Regional Representative discussed concerns of their region. Pat Bremner from the Rockies spoke of the difficulties that the Rockies are experiencing mostly due to geographical distance and lack of Formation. It was decided that a lay person of experience will be 'sent' to the Rockies to help form Group Guides and Peer Group Guide Supervision. The goal is to have someone in place and to begin this process by May, 2011. In the meantime, please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Rockies as well as the person to go. It may be that someone from the

**Atlantic is being called to this role!**

In Central, Mary Balfe explained about the discerned apostolic common mission of Central Region to support Haiti in the re-building of their nation. This was a discernment made at their Central Assembly with Jack Milan as their process guide. General Council wholeheartedly supports and celebrates their decision and looks forward to ongoing evaluation and updating. Mary Balfe and Andree Richard were “Sent” by Council as representatives of Central Region. As CLC Canada, we need to “Support” Central’s discernment with our prayer. Mary will be writing an article in the next UPDATE about this whole life-giving experience.

In the Prairies, there is still a need for support around the formation of Group Guides and finances. Sharon Baker who has mentored Mariette Ternowski over the past year has now stepped down from her role as Prairie Rep and Mariette has stepped up to the plate. We are so grateful for all the ‘seeds’ planted by Sharon and her commitment to the Ignatian Way in CLC Canada. Mariette is a newly retired Palliative Care Nurse and appreciates your prayerful support as she has been called and sent on this new mission.

As your Regional Rep, I did talk about the highlights of our Regional Assembly and where we are being moved by the Spirit in the Atlantic. I also spoke of our Regions’ desire for a clearer way of reporting on the financial issues. General council acknowledges that a recommendation of our National Assembly in Guelph was: *‘A working group with a clearly defined mandate, and accountable to the General Council on the topic of Membership, commitment/Financial co-responsibility’* Criteria for this working group are being drawn up so that people can discern a call to this committee. It is our sincere hope that this committee would be able to uncover root causes for reasons behind lack of membership to submit their annual donations. Historically, as Atlantic Canada we are better than most for paying dues; yet, we still have heard a clear request for better reporting of finances across the nation. Our National Executive Assistant, Marilynn Heaton will be

leaving her position next Spring after several years of faithful service. General Council will be actively seeking someone with accounting abilities and a deep understanding of CLC way of life to move into her place.

Fr. Charles gave an update of his continued and ongoing work on behalf of CLC Canada. We are deeply grateful for his commitment and the generosity of the Society of Jesus in mandating Fr. Charles as our National EA. He also is in the role of Regional EA for the Rockies and the Prairies. In the Atlantic, of course, we are blessed with the presence and commitment of Fr. Earl.

Other ‘hot’ topics on our agenda were ongoing commitment to the Amendments of our Constitution, the presence of an Elder and Young Adult on General Council and the Revision of Manual 2. If you have any questions around these issues, I would gladly accept your e-mails.

Last, but not least, we welcomed wholeheartedly and are grateful to Peter Chouinard and Mary Balfe as Co-Presidents Elect. It feels like a fresh breath of new life into CLC Canada! Of one thing I am convinced- that is that they- and we -cannot continue without God’s loving mercy and our support of each other through prayer for CLC- locally, regionally, nationally and universally! CLC is great gift but as one of our own so eloquently put at our last regional council meeting- CLC is ‘Not for Wimps’!

Blessings and Peace and a deep commitment of prayer and gratitude for each of you,

*Michelle Mahoney*

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#### WHO IS WHO....

National Representative	Formation Chair
Michelle Mahoney	Leah Michaud
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Ecclesial Assistant	Publications
Fr. Earl Smith,SJ	Pat Lawson
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Secretary	
Jim Doyle	
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## DID YOU KNOW ????????

There is an excellent CD compiled by Geraldine Tingley and Leah Michaud of the Atlantic Formation Committee called “Christian Life Community Atlantic Resource I “

Does your community know where their copy is?

A cry came from deep in communities for general access to resource material was heard by our Atlantic Regional Council. The response came in the form of a Resource CD filled with documents and power point presentations.

Have you or your group been struggling with your Awareness Examen? There are several documents on the Resource CD from prayers of the Examen to “An Awareness Exercise for a facilitator of a CLC Meeting”.

Is your group struggling with the Spiritual Movements in your group? Check out the adaptation of “Spiritual Movement in Groups” taken from the notes from a talk on CLC at a JRRM Conference.

What to know more about CLC? The Resource CD has “CLC Identity” and the “Lay Ignatian Way of Life” and a whole section on CLC Structure.

Is your group processing the DSSE? It’s on the CD!!!

If you haven’t checked it out yet please do! The resources contained within the CD are from many different sources, world documents an Atlantic guides.

You can also find this Resource CD at <http://jesuits.ca/clc/HPPage.html> - click on “REGION“ then “ATLANTIC” then “FORMATION”.

For more info, contact Gerri: [ggting@rogers.com](mailto:ggting@rogers.com)



The Jesuit Centre of Spirituality is a centre founded by the Jesuit Community of Halifax in 2006. The mission of the Centre is to make spiritual direction, daily prayer with scripture, and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius available to all people of God in Atlantic Canada. It provides training and continuing education for spiritual directors and supports the growth of faith communities. We extend a warm welcome to all people of faith. Our aim is to provide a safe space for people searching for what is important in their life. If you wish to register for a

programme, or make an inquiry, or ask for a printed brochure to be sent to you, our e-mail address is [registrar@jesuitspirit.ca](mailto:registrar@jesuitspirit.ca). You may also phone us at (902)-429-7344. Our programmes: Exploring your Faith, Exploring Your Spirituality, Retreats and Spiritual Direction, and Responding to your needs in the Maritimes. In all our activities we wish to include persons and groups who are not Roman Catholic.

Director of the Centre: Jean-Marc Laporte, S.J.

(Eh? the other fellow is Earl Smith, SJ)

Photos taken at CLC Assembly August 2010 by Bob McDermott



# YOU GOT MAIL!

*Hello everyone, Peace!*

*Well we are back home from a beautiful experience of being together with our brothers and sisters in CLC. Fifty seven registered delegates were warmly greeted in that wonderful down east hospitality. And what a beautiful assembly it was. The flow of the weekend was gentle allowing ample time for prayerful reflection as well as ample opportunity for socializing with each other – a valuable component of these assemblies.*

*The organizing committee was outstanding and the venue worked really well. There are so many mountain top moments on this assembly that it is difficult to name them all. I will say that the opportunity to reconnect with everyone from the Atlantic as well as to reconnect with Dominique from CVX and to have some time with Mary Balfe were treasures for me. Barbara's gentle leading and breaking open the theme and grace for the weekend enabled us all to enter into the space needed to gently listen for God's prophetic word to us all.*

*Fr. Earl's homily on Sunday touched me and I am sure many of us as we reflect on where God may be leading us, challenging us in the days and weeks ahead. It was gift as well to reconnect with Fr. Charles and for him to see his friends in Atlantic Canada.*

*The committee has set the bar very high for the next assembly and yet I know our New Brunswick communities will be up for the challenge, with God's grace of course.*

*As we all enter back into our routines at home, may we hold the fruit of this assembly as gifts for our onward journey.*

*Blessings, Peter*



*Hi Good Companions,*

*My feet are on Manitoulin soil once again, laundry flying and crab apple jelly on the counter....ordinary life to live in an extraordinary way for Christ.*

*The Atlantic assembly, Barbara's gentle leading, the people, prayer, music, hospitality, celebration and surroundings have blessed me. The combined words of 'risking radical transformation' to become prophetic, remain with me...as do the creative ways you were environmentally conscious and sharing responsibility....to be shared with your Central Companions, as a living sign of Atlantic brothers and sisters 'serving one another' ( I see your outstretched arms :) across regions as an Apostolic Body in Mission.*

*Clarence, commendations for your work with the committees and please pass on regards to all others for all the many hours spent to prepare a time of lasting blessing for so many Children of God.*

*Please keep your servants at the national level 'central' in your prayer, for the continued unfolding of God's grace among us.*

*With gratitude, may the blessings of the assembly and the peace of Christ be with us as we go forward 'to serve the Church in the world',*

*Mary+*



## Atlantic Regional CLC Assembly

### From a Facilitator's Viewpoint

Approximately 4 months ago I received an email with a request to consider facilitating the Aug. Atlantic Regional Assembly. So, in Ignatian form, I took this request to prayer and discernment.

For years Peter (my husband) and I worked with Fr. John English s.j. In time we gave him the nickname of John, "you can do it" English. This name came about because every time there was doubt about taking on a new challenge, John would say; "*you can do it*". One day at the kitchen sink as I was pondering the assembly invitation, I could hear John behind me saying... "*you can do it, go for it*". So I embarked on facilitating the assembly. John is still alive and working in CLC Canada and I certainly sensed his presence with us throughout the weekend.

I am so glad that I said "yes"!

The format of the assembly was the life-death-resurrection cycle, (found in the CLC Leaders Manual) along with the process of personal prayer, small group sharing and large group gathering. I had learned long ago that if one simply follows the process, the Spirit takes over and it works.

The participants were so open and eager to enter into the weekend. I was struck by the maturity of the CLC members in Atlantic and their openness to what the Trinity is doing in their midst. I was also very impressed with the warmth and camaraderie that existed among those present. This allowed the process to unfold smoothly and insightfully. It also made for a very fun Sat. Evening as we sang, ate, and laughed together.

My continuing prayer for all of you is that you will grow more and more in your understanding of what it means to be apostolic and prophetic for yourself personally and as communities. As we prayed with General Principle #8, "Apostolic Life", it became clear that the scope of apostolic activity is as broad as the variety of people who engage in it. The secret is to discover what really pulls at your heart (the myth) and gives meaning to your activities, be they involved with family, work, community, church etc. God is found in all

aspects of life.

It is with great gratitude that I recall my time with all of you. I thank you for your openness, warmth and desire to grow in your love of God and service of others.

St. Ignatius, pray for us. Peace and blessings.  
*Barbara Peloso*

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## ON MAKING A TEMPORARY COMMITMENT

I really don't know where to begin. When I was invited to consider making a temporary commitment during the Atlantic Assembly, I did not feel I was even close to being ready to take that step. As I read the information that was sent on temporary and permanent commitment, I began to pray with the material. As I prayed, something started to stir in me and I felt more comfortable with making this decision. I know that I still have a lot to learn on my journey, but what I do know in my heart is that this way of life is the only way of life for me. God's plan for me is still unfolding and I know that with the support and love of my CLC



community, I will better understand how to let God's love live in and shine through me. On the day that I made my Temporary Commitment to the CLC way of life, I woke up with a joyful heart, ready to embrace the graces the day would bring. When we were called forward to make our temporary commitment, I felt the overwhelming love and support from everyone in the room. As we spoke the words of our prayer, I felt enveloped in God's love. I looked out at everyone and saw it shining in their eyes. Warmth spread through me as I asked God to fill me with his Holy Spirit and pledged myself to His service. I know that I am not alone on this journey to know and serve my God and he has blessed me with Christian Life Community to help me on my way. *Karen Reeves, Our Lady's Circle CLC*

# LEADERSHIP!

## Wisdom of Flying Geese



In the Fall, when you see geese heading South for the Winter flying along in "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what scientists have discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

**Basic Truth #1-** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

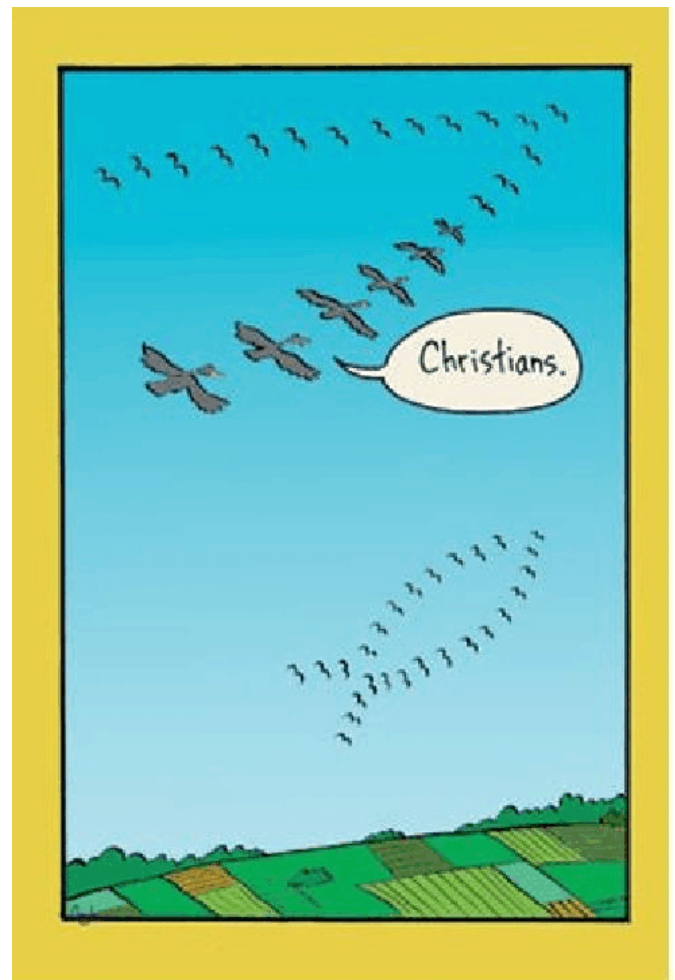
**Basic Truth #2-** If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are heading in the same direction as we are. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

**Basic Truth #3-** It pays to take turns doing hard jobs, with people or with flying geese. These geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. We need to be careful what we say when we honk from behind.

**Basic Truth #4-** Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with their group.

**Final Truth-** If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other, protect one another and sometimes make new friends who seem to be going in our direction.

Author unknown



## ***The 1<sup>st</sup> person to take the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Canada***

***-400 years ago!***

### **JOSEPH CHIWATENHWA**

When Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Canada in September, 1984, he visited the Shrine of St. Marie located in Midland, Ontario. He said that the Jesuits came in the 1620's and founded the first house of prayer in Huronia. The Jesuits were assisted by the Huron and relied on their support. One such person was Joseph Chiwatenhwa. The Pope spoke of him by saying, *of great importance to the Church of Huronia is Joseph Chiwatenwa, who together with his wife Aonnetta, his brother Joseph and other family members lived and witnessed to their faith in a heroic manner.*

This was probably the first time that the people of Canada heard of him. His story is contained in a book entitled *Friends of God*, written by Bruce Henry in 1991. Chiwatenhwa was his name. He was very touched by the teachings of the Jesuits when he met them in 1636. The sickness and epidemics that resulted among the Huron were blamed on the Jesuits. Chiwatenhwa was baptized on August 16, 1637 by Father Jean de Breuf, after he recovered from his illness. He was given the Christian name, *Joseph*. His wife, Aonette, was baptized on March 19, 1638. Her Christian name was *Marie*. They had their marriage blessed on the same day. This was the first Catholic wedding in Ontario. Joseph became the first lay administrator of the Catholic Church in Canada in 1639.

Joseph helped the Jesuits to translate the hymns and prayers from French into Huron. Joseph was impressed with their teachings of Saint Ignatius. He was the first person to do the *Spiritual Exercises* in Canada. During his eight day silent retreat, he composed a prayer. In it, he stated his profound experience with Jesus by stating, *You love us so deeply that all I can do in return is to offer myself to you. I chose you as my elder and chief. There is no one else.*

Joseph Chiwatenhwa had a premonition

that his life would be taken in a violent way because of his dedication to and fervent love of Jesus. He combined the spiritual teachings of his people and the teachings of the Catholic Church in his new faith. He spread the Good News to many members of his family and tribe. He was martyred on August 2, 1640 at the age of 38. Father Lalemant wrote a letter and described him *as a teacher of the Christian faith among the native people. In this past year, he has made himself their apostle.*

After his death, more members of the Huron were baptized into the Catholic Church. His wife Marie Aonette, his brother and other members continued to help and assist the Jesuits. This year, our Catholic Church celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the baptism of Grand Chief Henri Membertou of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and 21 members of his family which took place on June 24, 1610.

Pope John Paul II said at Huronia that, *the worthy traditions of the Indian tribes were strengthened and enriched by the Gospel message...not only is Christianity relevant to the Indian peoples, but Christ, in the members of his Body, is himself Indian.*

We celebrate National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal People on December 12. We can be inspired by the faith of Joseph Chiwatenhwa, his wife, Marie Aonette, and all of their families. They believed in their brother Jesus when he spoke the words in *John 20:29 You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.*

-Graydon Nicholas

visit [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

(Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council)

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Dec 12, 2010 - We celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe and we honour Joseph Chiwatenhwa.

**This information is for Catholics only. It must not be divulged to non- Catholics**  
*(The less they know about our rituals and top secret code words, the better off they are.)*



**AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

**BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending Mass.

**CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-sync.

**HOLY WATER:** A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

**HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** The last song at Mass often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

**INCENSE:** Holy Smoke!

**JESUITS:** An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

**JONAH:** The original 'Jaws' story.

**JUSTICE:** When kids have kids of their own.

**KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (for you non-Catholics it means Lord have mercy)

**MAGI:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

**MANGER:** Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO. (The Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.)

**PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in Catholic churches.

**PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

**RECESSIONAL:** The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

**RELICS:** People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

**TEN COMMANDMENTS:** The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.

**USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

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### **Little known facts about the Catholic Church** **in Las Vegas :**

**There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During Sunday services at the offertory, some worshiper contribute casino chips as opposed to cash. Some are sharing their winnings - some are hoping to win. Since they get chips from so many different casinos, and they are worth money, the Catholic churches are required to send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted into the respective casino chips, one junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to the casinos turning chips into cash. And he, of course, is known as The Chip Monk.**

# FORMATION

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To become a discerning community we must first learn to become a listening community.



In the first part of our CLC meetings, we listen to each faith sharing with 3 ears:

1<sup>st</sup> ear and 2<sup>nd</sup> ear are connected: we listen to the Word and to our experiences with the ear of our heart, i.e. the Holy Spirit within.

3<sup>rd</sup> ear and 2<sup>nd</sup> ear are connected: we listen to others sharing in the second round as we listen to the Holy Spirit within!

**Round One:** Personal discernment is listening to myself listening to God and sharing what I heard. It is personal faith sharing, listening to what God is speaking to me.

**1. Round Two:** Communal discernment is listening to ourselves *listening to God* and sharing what WE heard and discussing/exploring it together. We focus on the communal dialogue that is happening between God and the community.

When we grow as a listening Community and become more skilled in communal discernment, we may become more able to follow God's Spirit hearing what we need to carry into Part II of our meeting, where we explore what may need to be done and take hold of it in concrete ways. (Taken from notes by Pam and Betty - and notes from Reg. Council Mtg.)

# PROPHETIC APOSTOLIC MISSION

Gilles Michaud of CLC National Leadership Formation writes.....

## PART I:

*Called and Sent to be a Discerning Community on Mission- Challenged to be Prophetic".*

Since its beginnings in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century of what we now know as the Christian Life Community, the Spirit of God has been leading us into an ever deepening understanding of what it means to be a Discerning Community in the world of today. I believe that we are being challenged more and more by that same Spirit not only to discern the "signs of times" but to respond today in way that would be more 'Prophetic".

There has been an emerging pattern in CLC during these past decades through our World Assemblies. Everything was present right from the beginning but only step by step and deeply rooted in ones reality, while respecting the rhythm of each the national community, have we come to this time in our evolution. During the 1990's, the awareness of being an apostolic community deepened and was finally taken up by the 1998 Assembly in Itaiçi (Brasil), when the world community focussed on "*Deepening our Identity as an Apostolic Body – Clarifying our Common Mission*".

*In Fatima at the CLC world Assembly in 2008* we heard the inspiring and challenging contribution of our World E. A., Fr Adolfo Nicolas, S.J, reminding us of how CLC was already committed as an apostolic vocation from the grace of Nairobi (W.A. 2003) where it stated that: "*We are confirmed in our vocation to become a lay apostolic body which shares the responsibility for the mission of the Church*". Fr. Nicholas invited each member in CLC to consider these main points for a Prophetic Vocation:

1. The Prophet SEES the world with the eyes of God. (*Jn 1: 6-9*)
2. The Prophet LISTENS with his ears what God hears. (*1 Sam 3: 1*)
3. The Prophet FEELS with the Heart of God. (*Mt 5: 1-12*)
4. The Prophet DISCERNS, DECIDES and ACTS moved by the Spirit. (*Lk 1: 38*)

I have come to believe that today, there are three points to keep in mind as the

Community continues to grow in its spirituality and deepen what it means when we say, "Common Mission (*cf Criteria for Common Mission- Progressio Supplement # 1,2,3,4- 1998.*)

1. CLC's purpose is not to be a prayer group, not a support group, not a cultural group, not a social group. CLC's 'raison d'etre' is "a community for discerning mission".

2. That we are called to be grateful, generous, and courageous (*cf SE #5*); to live the Beatitudes, to feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, care for the sick etc. To live out our call to the CLC way of life means to live this Christian life in a particular way guided by the spirit of the SE, GP/GN, the CLC Charism, the Common Mission.

3. To see, listen, feel and act in a world with the Trinity asking: "what is the Spirit calling me/us to do in helping to continue building the reign of God? What is the most pressing need that will have the greatest impact on the greatest numbers to bring about the most good and will have a multiplying effect?

This "way of loving one another" is a characteristic of CLC and is defined by the discerning, sending, supporting and evaluating practises that are the normative function of a CLC group.

## PART II

### CLC CENTRAL Canada REGION ASSEMBLY September 17-19, 2010

I have recently witnessed this "way of loving one another" wherein the CLC Central Regional Assembly and its participants discerned a communal mission. A further decision was made that the community will support and evaluate the decision as they begin with the implementation of their "Common Mission". It was a privilege for me to be present in this communal discernment and to participate in it as a Process Guide.

The three day event took place at the Manresa Spirituality Centre in Pickering Ontario. On Friday, the 17th Sept. the CLC members began

arriving from parts of Ontario and some from other CLC regions as well a person from Haiti. We were offered fresh apples as we entered and registered for the Assembly. It was evident that the organizing team had put a great amount of effort in making us feel very much at home in these comfortable surroundings.

We began the Friday evening session with the President, Mary Balfe on behalf of the Regional ExCo welcoming us and inviting us to enter this CLC gathering with an open heart and mind; to listen, feel and discern.

The Facilitator, Jack Milan helped the 50 or more participants to enter a communal discernment by using the method often used in communal discerning, the "Power Cycle". Prayerfully we were invited to move toward the first step of the cycle. That first step consisted in evaluating the Haiti disaster and the felt need to respond as a community. The other steps of the Power Cycle, recommendation, decision, and action would be dealt with in the following two days of the Assembly. We began to break into small groups to dialogue and discern the question, "We will assist....We will not assist...." The community then came together in the plenary session bringing with them their decision, "We will assist the people of Haiti". The next morning we were given more information regarding the latest research on Haiti disaster. J.P. Horrigan sj, the Regional EA, with the aid of a power point presentation gave us an up to date picture of what had been done up to now. There were 5 recommendations on how to address the greatest needs in Haiti in a sustainable way (cf Newsletter of Canadian Jesuit International Vol. 45 #2).

The seed that was planted was beginning to bloom. The next steps in the Power Cycle unfolded in the following two days but not without struggle and pain, individually and communally. It was a clear indication that we were living the passion of Christ in the third week of SE but with a deep desire to move into the 4<sup>th</sup> week graces of the SE, "to be confirmed in the joy of being called as a community into mission with a grateful heart".

Sunday morning proceeding was focussed on leading the community into a decision. Jack animated the community by having the

delegates share in an open and honest dialogue in which every member delegate had the opportunity to state his/her position. This did not come easily but the delegates in the end felt that they had been heard by being allowed to present their concerns which were added to the discerned Mission Statement:

*We, the Central Region of CLC Canada, will commit ourselves to actively support the poor and disadvantaged Haitian people in their efforts to raise up and rebuild their country making every effort to collaborate with CVX, other North America CLC and the Society of Jesus, to be evaluated in an ongoing way annually. With the following cautions:*

- 1. Be respectful of relations with other regions*
- 2. Be Respectful (of Haitians) – do not take over*
- 3. Be open to a broader focus of needs beyond Haiti*
- 4. Make sure help gets to the poor*
- 5. Need to deepen CLC spirituality*

A consensus resulted with a clear sign of communal confirmation with, "an awareness of transcendence and experience of the beauty, truth, and goodness of God as well as union with God."

Gratefully submitted by Gilles Michaud

### **Haiti Earthquake Survivors Living in Appalling Conditions says Jesuit Refugee Service**

*1. Six months after the earthquake in Haiti, more than one million survivors continue to live in appalling conditions, with inadequate sanitation, limited access to basic services, insecurity and constant food shortages according to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Conditions in the nearly 1,400 internally displaced persons (IDP) camps around the capital, Port-au-Prince, are extremely critical. The case of the largest IDP camp, Automeca, with a population of 11,000, is typical: residents continue to live in shacks held together with rags and poles. There are no schools, nor is there electricity; sanitation is poor, the water barely drinkable and drainage, to say the least, is hazardous. When heavy rain falls, garbage flows through the camp.*

## **CLC Germany DISCERNS COMMUNAL MISSION- *Leah Michaud***

It was a bit of a shock in 1998, when Gilles and I worked at the CLC Secretariat in Rome, to hear that the face of Christ was disappearing in Europe. From this land, the missionaries spread around the world carrying the Good News to any who would listen. Now, it seemed that Europe was the country needing to be evangelized. Some years ago, in response to this deepening critical issue, CLC Germany searched out possibilities where they could be of service in the area of spirituality. One of their discerned communal missions (even before the rest of the world community became familiar with “common mission”) was the promotion and guiding of the Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius. Not all CLC members became engaged in this endeavour. Some of those who were well trained Spiritual Directors and discerned a specific call to do so, made themselves available to serve. The Bishops’ Conference, familiar with CLC, welcomed this offer of service and diocesan priests were encouraged to implement regular Ignatian formation and retreats for parish staff, parish catechists and pastoral workers etc. As a result, particularly in Bavaria, (south-ern Germany), CLC is busily engaged in many diocesan parishes on a regular basis facilitating days of prayer, giving spiritual guidance and holding formation sessions. Going on a yearly retreat (part of the fabric of life for CLC) is common for many lay persons. CLC Germany’s efforts in making a difference did not end here. It was customary that every two years, the Roman Catholic Church would gather for a congress; on the alternate year the Protestant denominations gathered. The Council of Laity of the Roman Catholic Church, that includes CLC representation, proposed that the two events become one resulting in the establishment of an Ecumenical Day assembly. CLC heartily supported this project. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Day gathering was held in May 2010 in Munich, a city of about 1.3 million inhabitants. A total of 400,000 participants were expected to gather from Germany and beyond at a huge Exhibition complex during the 4 days. All varieties of

groups and ministries within each denomination set up their displays reflecting their specific focus or mission, hosted information sessions, held inter-religious workshops and ecumenical prayer services reflecting the growing desire for unity in the midst of diversity.

The official opening of this event included the presence of Bishops (various denominations), the Papal Nuncio, the President and Chancellor of Germany, and the Presidents of Protestant Conferences as well as the usual civic dignitaries. It was a significant national affair!

We were delighted to receive tickets for the opening day and be able to experience the goals of the event: to know the other, to celebrate, to experience community. It might be hard to imagine how this could happen within a few hours in the midst of thousands of strangers moving about in a huge web of exhibition rooms (the vast majority being persons under 40) and in the streets of Munich but there was a spirit of knowing that we were somehow joined at a spiritual level. We were connected. This was exemplified at an evening concert that featured a well know Jewish clarinettist whose supporting musicians were both Jewish and Arabic young people from the Middle East. Music played a key role in modeling and fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration.

CLC Germany held an open house at the CLC Secretariat in Munich where we met CLC members from all over Germany, from France and from Luxembourg. It was a wonderful time to renew acquaintances with old friends and to reconnect with some Jesuits who were instrumental in supporting CLC over the years.

CLC Germany reflects a rich Ecumenical identity with the Lutheran denomination as the most prominent “Protestant” presence. Although all members of CLC journey together in a spirit of harmony, a sadness continues to be felt in the existing separation around the Eucharistic table. In spite of this, the commitment to carry on together in faith and hope has resulted in events such as the Ecumenical Days that honours various faith traditions and helps to familiarize one with the other. These are surely the building

Local Atlantic CLC Discerning Communal Apostolic Mission  
**ICHTHUS CLC, PEI**



Early in December 2009 our group held a day of reflection and planning. Following a spiritual ritual and quiet time we began the process of evaluating where we've been and where our mission calls us.

The first round of sharing spoke strongly of our desire to serve the poor. The question which followed was "Who are the poor today?". The day ended with us taking this question home and bringing our answers to the following meeting where we prioritized them. After a period of discernment we made a decision to contact the anti-poverty organization, "Poverty Bites". We invited Mary Boyd, co-founder of the group to speak to us about their advocating for a Poverty Eradication Strategy for PEI. A single mother, April and her young son, attended our meeting as well and she shared with us her experience of being a low income mother in today's society.

Since that time we have discerned that supporting this organization is our call to mission. We have appointed a representative from our group, Ann McIsaac, who will attend regular meetings and bring back information. A number of members have attended public meetings of "Poverty Bites" and we are presently studying the strategy paper they've prepared. We have as well, contacted our MLA's asking that

eradication of poverty be on their agenda for the present sitting of the Legislature.

A number of Ichthus members will attend a luncheon at the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Halifax on Nov. 13, when Mary Boyd will be the recipient of a Magis award in recognition of her work in social justice for 46 years. Mary is the founder and director of the MacKillopCentre for Social Justice, Charlottetown.

Submitted by Bill and Beulah Costain



The fish  
was an early symbol of  
Christian Faith

The Greek word for fish (ICHTUS),  
works nicely as an acrostic for  
"Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour"

**Fishers of People CLC, NB prepare to discern:** This poem/prayer, "*OUR CALFEDRAL*", surfaced during a prayer period dedicated to reflection upon the proposed 5 year visioning plan for our Saint John Diocese. As CLC, we are very much a part of a growing concern for our church in today's world. This has clearly been affirmed in the collated appropriations that surfaced at Atlantic CLC's 2010 Regional Assembly, and is qualified by our CLC Criteria for Mission (specifically under #4, which deals with "pastoral plans of the local and universal church"). Accordingly, our Fisher's of People CLC has been led into a discerning process around a proposed 5 year visioning plan for our Saint John Diocese, and a possible prophetic and apostolic call that may be surfacing in the unfolding of events associated with it. The poem/prayer surfaced during a recent prayer period reflecting upon this matter, and due to the nature of its content, I am drawn to share it with the greater CLC "ad majoriem dei gloriam".

Is our 'Calfedral' lined in gold,  
Reaching Babel heights foretold?  
Is language of our hierarchy  
Very different from you and me,

Losing sight of sacred mission,  
Obscuring kingdom come's fruition?  
Does Jesus weep at such a dying,  
With talents deep in earth still lying?

Is grain still stored in brick and mortar  
With hunger's patience growing shorter?  
Idolatry's vain attitudes  
Lurking 'neath beatitudes

That claim to serve in truth and spirit...  
Can prophetic hearts, in silence, hear it?  
And how shall we, God's prophets, act  
Against a tower so highly stacked?

Will fear cause us to hide and cower  
From apostolic call and hour?  
Or will we merge to meet this mission...  
Discerning, as church, our full contrition?

Will living sacrifice be blessed  
To honour this holy acceptable quest,  
Restoring sacred, saving core  
That Jesus lived and once died for?

The door of opportunity  
Swings open wide for you and me!  
Will we, as church, be Spirit led,  
Empowered to share in blood once shed?

Yes, we, God's People, are His church  
Broken, and in darkness lurch!  
So removed from Jesus' mission  
So in need of full contrition!

To cast out power, pride and greed  
That blinds us to our greatest need  
Let's raise our talents from the earth  
And forge ahead in our rebirth!!!

Christ-Bearers rise! In truth stand strong!  
'Tis time to sing our liberation song,  
As spirit of the law flies free  
And Love reclaims our destiny!!!

Gather in prayer! Be Spirit led!  
Walk with the living, not the dead...  
Make your voices heard on high  
Like heralding angels in the sky!

Christ-Bearers rise! In truth stand strong!  
'Tis time to sing our liberation song!  
With spirit of the Law set free  
Pure Love can empower our destiny!!!

Ad majoriem dei gloriam...  
From the heart,  
Sandy  
Mudge



# **An Individually Discerned Mission**

## **My Ministry as a University Teacher**

**John Sumarah,  
CLC Nova Scotia**

My Ministry as a University Teacher began in the fall of 1982. During that summer my family and I were visiting my extended family in Nova Scotia. We decided to spend a few hours in the Annapolis Valley. Little did we know that a ministry was waiting at the university. During those few hours in the Valley I was informed by a stranger that there was a position for someone with my qualifications at the University. I was not seeking employment at the time but interested in possible future opportunities. We were struck as many are by the beautiful campus not to mention earlier impression we had of Blomidon from the highway. It was spring and nature spoke volumes to us. After an informal chat with one of the search committee members I left my name and number in Halifax where I could be reached noting that I was scheduled to return to Toronto the following day.

I was called early the next day and asked to come for a series of formal interviews. Normally anxious about such encounters I was relatively relaxed given the fact that I was not seriously seeking “a job” at that particular time. I enjoyed meeting everyone and felt warming received at Acadia. On the airplane to Toronto I had the impression I was moving in the wrong direction. Knowing a little more about discernment I thought I would wait to see how events would unfold. I was open as was my family to an affirmative or negative response from Acadia.

From the beginning I perceived my work as a vocation or ministry. The work of a university teacher is easily defined in one sense. We have three areas of responsibility, namely, teaching, scholarship and service. Teaching involves the instruction of students in our disciple areas. Scholarship involves research and publication. Service involves university committee work and participation in professional and community events. Many academics pursue their work without interpreting it as a ministry. What does it mean then when an academic sees his work as a ministry?

I approach my work the way I approach life. Like many people I have beliefs, values and principles which govern my actions. My reference point and my inspiration is the person and life of Jesus Christ. My desire is to follow the path set for us by Jesus. I strive to live more like him knowing that I fall terribly short of the mark. But I am encouraged to discern each day whether I listen like him or speak like him or interact like him. Since my life has been deeply affected by Jesus I call on him often in my work and in my life.

In the area of teaching, for example, it has struck me that it is important for me to be as competent as I can to offer my students the most I have to offer. It is also important that I offer students more than my knowledge of subject matter. It is not only the formation of minds I am interested in nor would it be for Jesus. When I interact with my students it is not simply a mind in front of me but a person. My students want me to respect them not only for what they think but how they feel and who they are. They want me to listen to them and gently guide them on their journey. They don't expect me to be perfect but they want me to be genuine and authentic.

Teaching at any level is a noble profession that is both an honour and responsibility. What I say, how I listen, how I interact can impact in small but important ways for students. That is why I want Jesus in my life and in my work. What I am learning about my ministry is that I wish to be attentive, intentional and transformative. To be attentive I need to clear my mind of distractions and be available and present to my students. For me that involves prayer and meditation so I remind myself of who I am, where God is in my life and in our world. *John Sumarah*

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*In a broad sense, spirituality describes the way that we approach life in our relationship to God. It includes our sense of identity (who we are), vocation (how we are to be and what we are to do), mission (what we are to accomplish), and celebration (how we relate to others and to each other and to the earth).*

**John J. English,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Spiritual Freedom pg.275**

# SPIRITUALITY

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## ***My Heart, My Soul In my Prayer Room***

by Louise Barton,  
Potter's Clay CLC  
Saint John , NB

I have a little room  
That's as nice as it can be  
What used to be for baby  
Is now for God and me  
I get up from my bed  
And make a cup of tea  
And smile at the thinking  
Of quiet time that will be  
I light my little candle  
And gently close the door  
Then take a comfortable seat  
And look at Whom I adore  
I sip my tea and muse  
On where I am today  
And give over "my plans"  
To Him who leads the way  
I breathe in deeply  
And quiet my mind and soul  
And soon the prayers do come to me  
Even ones I didn't know  
To rise or deepen to a place  
No one in earth can replace

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*Our spiritual journey is an attempt to answer the question, "What is life all about?" Here is Ignatius's answer: a vision of God for our hearts, not our minds. It is a depiction of the Creator as a superabundant giver. He gives gifts that call forth a response on our part, a free choice to return ourselves to him in grateful thanks and love. It is a vision that only a heart can respond to.*

David L. Fleming, *What is Spirituality?*

## **Reflections After Hours and Days of Prayer** John Sumarah, Truth Given, Wolfville, NS

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Pain directs me to the Source of Love and Love calls me forward and outward beyond my pain. I seem to know more and less at the same time. Perhaps I am understanding something for the first time.

Becoming more of myself has a strange sense of becoming less of myself, but it seems like a good thing!

I am grateful for it all. I do not understand it all or even wish I had it all, but in the end it is what it is and my appreciation of it is a choice I prefer to make.

People are great when I recognize them for who they are rather than how they project themselves.

Thinking I am right does not leave much room for learning. Thinking things through for myself takes time but is much more satisfying even if my thinking on the matter will change soon.

As a young person I learned the "how". As an older person I am learning "why." The latter seems more compelling.

As I wonder and ponder more about life and its many questions, I find myself less harsh, more sympathetic and more interested in others' journeys.

I have deep gratitude of my parents. I find I am appreciating their ways more and more. I see parts of them I did not see when they were living. They comfort me and guide me in my affairs. I am surprised and pleased they continue to live in me this way.

I have deep gratitude of friends. They seem more like family. They remind me that the human family is concrete, not abstract.

I have always enjoyed solitude.  
Now, I simply require it.

# COMMUNITY



**Our Gathering with “Our Lady’s Circle” ...A Memorable Experience**  
*The inspiration to connect with another CLC group rose out of Regional Council meeting a few years ago - encouraging twinning - to learn from and encourage one another in living out our CLC charism.*

Our Living Water CLC was warmly greeted and welcomed by our dear friends of Our Lady's Circle, (Pat, Francois, Deborah, Karen, Sandy, Marsha, and Josie –regrets from Father Bill Brennan and Graydon Nicholas who were unable to attend), into our gathering space at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Centre in Nackawic. At the entrance to the gathering place - a display consisting of photos, artwork, and symbols (a blue shawl, Our Lady of Guadalupe, a painting of basin and towel, a boat and fishing net, etc) ... gave us a fuller idea of who they were and where they had been in terms of their life of ministry through the years.

A bountiful meal awaited us. George Bourque said a blessing after which we were catered to with delicious entrees, salads, desserts, etc. - making us feel special. The social interaction afforded us a chance to catch up and learn more about one another.

After the warm welcome, the chance to appreciate the environment, and the fellowship around the table, we moved to an enclosed space - a semicircle - where we heard proclaimed the story of Creation from Genesis 1-2.3. This was followed by a prayer experience with nature using a PowerPoint presentation of photos taken in natural settings in Nackawic, the Villa Madonna and the Bay of Chaleur accompanied by meditations of scripture quotes interspersed with poetry from Joyce Rupp, Rainer Marie

Rilke, etc., and quotes from Augustine, Therese of Lisieux, Luther, and Calvin and others. We then spent time in brief spiritual conversation, sharing how God’s Spirit moved within us as we watched, listened, and prayed.

The evening was a very moving experience that gave us much to contemplate and mull over on our journey back home and for the summer weeks to come. We give thanks to God for bringing our communities together, for having our eyes and minds turned toward Him ... for allowing Him to love and minister to us through one another that we might once more go forth strengthened for life, for mission, and for bearing fruit for the Kingdom.

Submitted by *Lynn Basker*,  
On behalf of Living Water CLC (Fredericton)

Reflections on my personal prophetic call to  
Community and how God Our Lord is  
supporting it...written after reading "Spiritual  
Consolation" and "Discerning the Will of  
God" by Tim Gallagher

## Dance of Love and Grace

I've grown to know with clarity,  
Your steadfast, limitless love for me,  
And I seek Your face relentlessly  
As you lead me t'ward my destiny.

With perseverance from on high  
And hymns of praise that reach the sky,  
I boldly search for wings to fly  
Beyond all thoughts of wondering why.

You breach my veil of ignorance,  
Preparing my soul to enter Your dance,  
And drawn by the timbre of its trance,  
You entice my spirit to gently advance.

We frolic mid fresh fields of grain...  
Cleansed, healed, nurtured by Your reign  
I come alive in You again,  
In ways this world would judge insane!

Your word roots deeply in my heart,  
Transforming through grace that You impart,  
And pierces my soul like bulls eye dart,  
Creating, in truth, rare works of art.

'Pon narrow road, my path, You blaze:  
A sacred trail that oft' displays  
Two choices pointing opposite ways...  
And I'm left to discern for countless days!

No clarity, nor end in sight,  
I feed on faith that shines Your light  
Upon the darkness of each night,  
And trust Your lead throughout its plight!

Quite often in my darkest hour,  
Left militating some evil power,  
I cling... and pray I will not cower,  
That the enemy's attack will not devour!

And alone... with no one else around,  
I listen for my Shepherd's sound.  
Like-minded creatures seldom found  
To help interpret holy ground.

Yet, 'pon this path, You now have placed  
Companionship, such gentle face;  
Community that walks in grace...  
'Fishers of People' as Your embrace.

For this, I offer thanks and praise  
In exultation of Your ways!

Through steadfast love, Your truth displays  
Such saving grace throughout my days!

Great blessings, have I come to know,  
Drifting gently as the snow  
Upon this narrow path I go,  
Supported by friend... challenged by foe!

Yet, Love and Grace shall blaze the trail,  
Ensuring that I do not fail,  
Nor cause Your glory to derail...  
Called forth to sever the serpent's tail!

From the heart,  
Sandy Mudge  
Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

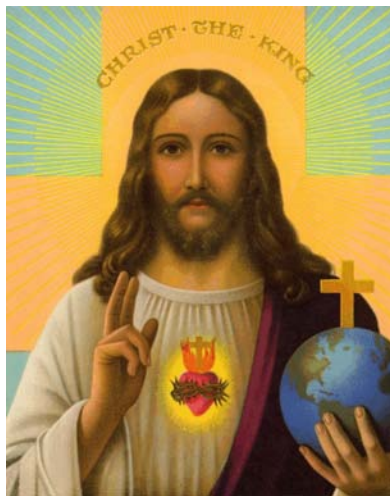
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*Our culture is becoming more and more aware that life is a  
community affair; that salvation is a community experience,  
and that building the realm of God here on earth is a  
community endeavour. John J English , Spiritual Freedom*

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### from the Earthen Vessel Community

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King  
and enter into the season of Advent, we wanted to  
express our solidarity with all of our Atlantic CLC  
brothers and sisters.



We continue to journey  
with each other in  
God's grace and  
mercy as we celebrate  
our 10<sup>th</sup> CLC  
anniversary this year.  
For most of us it's  
been 10+ years since  
we made the Spiritual  
Exercises. Our gift  
from God, shared with  
each other is making  
the Exercises  
together. We are in  
the first week of the

communal exercises led by our Group Guide, Pam  
Daigle. May the peace that passes all understanding  
be central in all we do this coming Advent season  
and always. We extend our prayers and blessings to  
each of you for a Christ centered Christmas.

Earthen Vessel CLC, Saint John N.B.

\*\*\*Please note the last page can be  
removed and cut into prayer 'cards'  
for your convenience\*\*\*\*\*

## DEAR GOD

Disturb us  
When we are too pleased  
with ourselves;  
when our dreams have  
come true because we  
dreamed too little; when  
we arrived safely  
because we sailed too  
close to the shore.

Disturb us  
When with the abundance  
of things we possess, we  
have lost our thirst for  
the waters of life; Having  
fallen in love with life, we  
have ceased to dream of  
eternity. In our efforts to  
build a new earth, we  
have allowed our vision  
of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us  
to dare more boldly, to  
venture on wilder seas  
where storms will show  
Your mastery, where  
losing sight of land we  
shall find the stars.  
We ask you to push back  
the horizons of our  
hopes, to push back the  
future in strength,  
courage, hope, and love.  
*(Francis Drake (revised))*

## DETACHMENT PRAYER

I beg of You, my Lord to  
remove anything which  
separates me from You  
and You from me.

Remove anything that  
makes me unworthy of  
Your sight, Your tender  
healing presence, Your  
correction; of Your  
speech, and  
conversation, of Your  
benevolence and love.

Cast me from every  
obstacle to your  
friendship that stands in  
the way of my seeing  
You, hearing, tasting,  
savouring, and touching  
You; choosing to keep  
distance and being  
conscious of Your  
presence knowing,  
trusting, loving,  
possessing You; and, as  
far as may be, enjoying  
You.

This is what I ask for myself  
and earnestly desire  
from You. Amen

*(Blessed Pierre Favre, SJ,  
Edited, May '09)*

## PRAYER OF TRUST

O Christ Jesus  
when all is darkness  
and we feel our  
weaknesses and helplessness,  
give us the sense  
of Your presence.  
Your love and Your strength.

Help us to have perfect trust in  
Your protecting love and  
strengthening power, so that  
nothing may frighten or  
worry us, for, living close to  
You,  
we shall see  
Your hand,  
Your purpose,  
Your will  
through all things.  
(St. Ignatius Loyola,  
1491-1556)

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## GENEROSITY + SERVICE

Lord Jesus, teach me to be  
generous: teach me to serve  
you as you deserve, to give  
and not to count the cost, to  
fight and not to heed the  
wounds, to toil and not to  
seek for rest, to labour and  
not to seek reward, except  
that of knowing that I do  
your will.

St. Ignatius Loyola 1491-1556

## Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, make me  
holy.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate  
me.

Water from the side of  
Christ, wash me clean.  
Passion of Christ,  
strengthen me.  
Kind Jesus, hear me.  
Hide me within your  
wounds.

Let me never be separated  
from you.

Defend me from evil.  
In the hour of my death  
call me to yourself,  
that with your saints I  
may praise you  
in everlasting life.

Amen

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jesus, Risen Lord, I ask you to bless our CLC family. I ask You to minister to our spirits at this very moment.

Where there is pain, give us Your peace and comfort.

Where there is self-doubt, release a new confidence in Your ability to work through us, helping us learn sensitivity to Your leading.

Where there is fatigue or exhaustion, I ask You to give us patience and strength.

Where there is fear, reveal Your love and release to us Your courage.

Where there is sin or unfreedom blocking our response, reveal it and break its power over us through Your mercy.

Where there is spiritual lethargy, I ask You to awaken us to Your nearness and draw us into greater intimacy with You.

Give us healing and through guides and friends support and encourage us.

AMEN

## FATHER GOD

You asked for my hands, that You might use them for Your purpose. I gave them for a moment then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak our against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life, that You might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve You- only when it was convenient to do so, only in those places where it was safe to do so, and only with people who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me. Open my hands, my eyes and my heart. Renew me, send me out as a usable instrument; help me take seriously the meaning of Your cross in the way I live my life.

## A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

O Divine Gift-giver, I stand beneath the endless waterfall of your abundant gifts to me.

I thank you especially for the blessings of life, the most precious of all your gifts to me.

I thank you, ever-generous One, for clothing to wear, for food and drink to nourish my body, for all the talents and skills that you have bestowed on me.

I thank you for the joys of my life: for family and friends; for work that gives me a sense of purpose and that invests my life with meaning.

I thank you as well for the sufferings and trials of my life which are also gifts and which together with my mistakes are among my most important teachers.

Grant that I may never greet a new day without awareness of some gift for which to give you thanks.

And may constant thanksgiving be my song of perpetual praise to you.

Creator God...a needy one stands before you. I that sing am that one.

-Source unknown – ascribed to a Native American

## SENSUS CHRISTI

Above all give me that “sensus Christi” that I may feel with your feelings.

Teach me your way of relating to friends and sinners, washing their feet.

Let me learn from you and your ways how to act when hungry, thirsty, tired.

Teach me how to be compassionate to the suffering, the poor, the blind, the lame.

Teach me your way of looking at people.

Teach me the secret of your close bond with and total dedication to God and humanity.

Give me that grace, that ‘sensus Christi’, your very heartbeat, that I may live my life proceeding and discerning with your spirit, exactly as you did during your mortal life.

*Adapted from Pedro Arrupe SJ*