

# CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY PRAIRIE REGION

Newsletter  
Fall 2008



**Prairie Representative:**  
**Sharon**

**National President:**  
**Ruth Chipman**

**Ecclesial Assistant:**  
**Fr. Charles Pottie-Pâté SJ**

**Editor:**  
**Mariette Ternowski**  
[marietteternowski@mts.net](mailto:marietteternowski@mts.net)

## **CLC PRARIE REGION:**

Winnipeg

Regina

Thunder Bay

[www.jesuits.ca/clc](http://www.jesuits.ca/clc)

Supporting the spiritual, communitarian, apostolic endeavors of CLC in the Prairie Region.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Regional Gathering  
St. Ignatius Ed. Centre  
September 27, 2008

General Council Meeting  
October 17-19, 2008

National Assembly  
Guelph, ON  
April 23-26, 2008

## **PRAIRIE REGION UPDATE**

A lot has happened over the last year that has challenged us to grow. Pain and sorrow have been a part of this challenge. For a weekend in September 2007, we welcomed the National General Council, during which time 3 new reps, including myself, were installed. Also, in September, a new group of 6 people began formation. In October, we were delighted to meet Fr. Alberto Brito, S.J., World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant. On November 1, 2007, Bob Gaul, member of Friends of Jesus died in a tragic accident. The very next day, with sorrow in our hearts, we gathered at St. Benedict's for our Regional Assembly. At the conclusion of our weekend of work together, during Mass, several members made a Temporary Commitment to CLC.

The new year brought the CLC World Day of Prayer Retreat day in March and shortly after, the Leadership Formation Encounter weekend in April, facilitated by Gilles Michaud from Atlantic Region and Lois Campbell from the US. Also in April, we said farewell to Kati Gumbmann, the National President and member of Koinonia.

Ruth Chipman, the President-Elect, filled in the gap of President for which we are deeply grateful.

Apostolic work, using the tools of social analysis and the Nairobi tools of discerning, sending, supporting and evaluating (DSSE), and preparing for the World Assembly have woven through this year. Regional Gatherings have taken place. Also during this year, we have been communicating with members in Thunder Bay and Regina. Mariette Ternowski took on the role of our Executive Assistant and is supported by her husband who assists as financial consultant.



With the World Assembly in Fatima concluded, we welcome back Fr. Charles and Ruth Chipman. We anticipate hearing about their experiences in Fatima and deepening our CLC way of life and acting more effectively as

an apostolic body. We look forward to preparing for the National Assembly in April, 2009.

Relating to the image of a tree that I have often seen as a symbol of CLC, these are times of evolving, change, growth and transformation as the Holy Spirit continues to draw us forward as one body in Christ, bearing fruit for God's purposes. May we receive the grace to keep our eyes on Christ throughout all experiences.

Sharon Baker

## **The Fatima Assembly and Collaboration on mission of the laity .....**

A view from a National Ecclesial Assistant

The deep and grace-filled experience of the World Assembly of CLC/CVX in Fatima, Portugal this past August is hard to put in words. There were so many themes discussed among the more than 225 delegates from over 60 different countries. One important one – that I have been asked to write a few paragraphs on – is that of the collaboration on mission with the Jesuits and the laity of the Christian Life Community in its worldwide, national, regional and local groups.

Continued Page 2

## CLC PRAIRIE REGION

### Fatima Assembly and Collaboration (Continued)

There were about 60 Jesuits present as National Ecclesial Assistants at the World Assembly. I was blessed to be part of this group, working with all the lay delegates and together reflecting on, praying over, celebrating our ongoing *“journey as an apostolic body and our response to this grace from God.”* As we shared informally the various apostolic initiatives and outreach of the national groups present, it was evident to me how much collaboration is already going on – whether in the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises, in educational and formational ministries, in the development of individual and communal discernment processes, and in the many outreach services to the marginalized and disadvantaged.

Fr. Nicolas, new Superior General of the Jesuits, and the world Ecclesial Assistant for CLC was so affirmative and encouraging of this partnership and collaboration that has developed over the years. And the final document of the General Assembly expressed the desire that this continue: *“Finally, reflecting on the World Community’s experience of collaboration with other ecclesial bodies in the Un and elsewhere, and especially our collaboration with the Society of Jesus, the Assembly recognizes **the urgent need to widen and deepen networks of joint discernment and action at world, regional, national local levels.**”* (par 2.11)



Jesuits of Missouri Province  
Ignatian Spirituality Conference  
and St. Louis University

The Nairobi Assembly had already called for this greater collaboration between the CLC and Society of Jesus. The past 5 years has shown an increase in this collaboration. The Fatima Assembly goes even further and desires that the collaboration be not only between individual Jesuits and CLC members but also *“between CLC as an apostolic body and the Society of Jesus as an apostolic body.”* (par 2.12) As a Jesuit involved so closely with CLC I cannot but rejoice that we will continue to find new ways to work together in our common mission in the Body of Christ.

One last word: at the recent 35<sup>th</sup> General Congregation of the Society of Jesuits, held in Rome, January to March 2008, Decree 6, entitled **“Collaboration at the Heart of Mission”**, affirmed the many individuals and groups that the Society continues to work with intimately in the same mission of Christ. It says that among these groups *“the Christian Life Community has roots that are deep in the charism and history of the Society. We wish to continue to support CLC in its journey towards ever greater apostolic effectiveness and collaboration with the Society. Likewise, other Ignatian groups.....”*(par 28)

As a lay association of the worldwide church, Christian Life Community is part of the same mission given to all of us by Christ Jesus. I believe St. Ignatius would be **(is!)** delighted to see the Society of Jesus and Christian Life Community working so closely together.

Charles Pottie-Pâté, sj

### LIVING LITURGY, A SUMMER REFLECTION

Thousands of miles, more than a hundred hours in meetings, workshops and plenary sessions; not a typical prairie summer.

In all the travel; many highlights, new acquaintances and learning experiences.

At the heart of the experience a deepening awareness of how life leavens liturgy.

The summer begins with a sense of sorrow and loss as our time at the Drop In Centre ends for the summer. Our weekly experience of organizing and serving a meal has taken on deeper meaning.

At the Drop In we encounter Christ present with some of Winnipeg’s most marginalized citizens.

In this service there is a sense that in some real way we prepare our mass, participate in it and it prepares us for life.

Summer celebrations unfolded in the light of this awareness:

- A family wedding, outdoors in the mountains of British Columbia.
- Celebration of St. Ignatius’ Feast Day at the Ignatian Spirituality Conference in St. Louis and in our Winnipeg parish of St. Ignatius.
- Outdoor mass with Fr. Adolfo Nicolas SJ at the Christian Life Community World Assembly in Fatima Portugal.
- A Eucharistic celebration for three while on holiday in Praia d’el rei, Portugal.
- Ordination of Roch Laplame SJ in Montreal.

These beautiful celebrations bring together head and heart, content and context in the Paschal Mystery.

John Paul II wrote in Ecclesia de Eucharista *“even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world.”*

The highlight that is the CLC World Assembly embodies the experience of Eucharist celebrated on the altar of the world and invites us to more deeply participate in living liturgy wherever we are called and sent.

Ruth Chipman

## CLC PRAIRIE REGION

### JOHN ENGLISH MEMORIAL CELEBRATION, JUNE 9, 2008



We have much gratitude in our hearts as we remember John English, S.J. (1924-2004). He was one of the major pioneers in the movement of renewal in the practice of personal spiritual guidance in North America. Many of his endeavors to foster the work of Ignatian spirituality include his involvement with Christian Life Communities. (Orientations for Spiritual Growth by John Veltrie. [www.spiritualorientations.com](http://www.spiritualorientations.com).)

Fr. Charles Pottie- Pâté celebrated Mass and this was followed by our traditional pot-luck supper. Included in our celebration was a ritual of sending for Ruth and Fr. Charles as Canadian delegates to the World Assembly in Fatima. Fr. Earl Smith from Atlantic Region joined in our celebration with a surprise phone call.

We remembered our deceased loved ones: CLC member Bob Gaul; Chris Butterill's husband, Ken; Nadia Malchuk's father; and Michelle St Croix's mother.

### SUMMER GRACES RECEIVED

"The summer has come and gone and I have not left the city limits. Summer used to be defined by travel and the beach. Instead, I have spent time with God in the beauty of my backyard and realized that typical summer activities bring joy but are not the source of our joy".  
Lorraine Mueller

"While sitting on the beach one day, watching huge waves wash over large rocks in the water and roll into shore, I received an image. In this image, I saw how resistance within me was like these huge rocks. Christ's love, the waves, is the only gift needed to wash over resistance and allow for the movement towards shore".  
Sharon Baker

"This summer, throughout my move to another apartment, my attitude surprised me. Instead of being one of anxiety, it was one of knowing that God would get me through".  
Sheila Sturley

### ROOTED IN CHRIST, THUNDER BAY:

Geri attended the Eucharistic congress in Quebec City. Geri's brother in Sault Ste. Marie is asking questions about CLC and there is not yet a program there.

The second CLC group in Thunder Bay (no name yet), had a Mass with Father Larry outside at Geri's cabin in the woods. Maureen felt blessed in that we were able to keep our CLC meeting going over the summer. Her health is improving daily and she is now considering her next project for the poor.

Mary Pat made a visit to FARM Sanctuary, in upstate New York where formally abused farm animals live out their lives in peace and joy. Around the same time she was reading, "Quantum Theology" by O' Murchu. She came to a deeper understanding of the connectedness of all beings.

Ann continues to be very involved in Thunder Bay's Pesticide Free Campaign.

### COMMUNITY

***"Our culture is 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 endeavor."***

***John English, SJ (Spiritual Freedom, 1995, 283)***

### IGNATIAN PASSION: THE CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Theme of the Ignatian Spirituality Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, 2008.

What does Ignatian Passion look like today?

It is found in those who give up their lives to be Jesus for the suffering of this world. A story is told of Irena Sendler from Warsaw, Poland whose father said to her as he was dying, "if you see someone drowning, you must try to rescue them even if you cannot swim". Later, during the war, Irena saw the Jewish people "drowning" and she resolved to risk her life to save others. She is an example of how the passion is lived out in our world today.

How is the passion of Christ alive in you?  
(excerpt from session by Maria Schwan, CSJ).

[www.slu.edu](http://www.slu.edu) and enter Ignatian Spirituality Conference

Contact [mjb@mjbcomm.com](mailto:mjb@mjbcomm.com) for purchase of CD's of the presentations.

## CLC PRAIRIE REGION

### APOSTOLIC ACTION AND STEWARDSHIP

#### DONATIONS TO CLC CANADA

Remember that our fiscal year end is now December 31. In order to have sufficient funds throughout the year, it is preferred if your donation is submitted to CLC Canada by the end of June. Your donations will be assigned to the year in which they are received unless you state otherwise on your cheque. Please send your donations to:

CLC Canada  
c/o Marilyn Heaton  
1120-30th Street South  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 2Y8

#### Solidarity Funds

In CLC Canada, we have three Solidarity Funds:

##### WORLD SOLIDARITY FUND:

A fund administered by the World Secretariat. The fund is created by donations from countries around the world to help delegates who need financial assistance to attend the World Assembly.

##### CANADIAN WORLD DELEGATE SOLIDARITY FUND:

This fund is set up to cover the travel costs of Canadian delegates to the World Assembly.

##### NATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND:

This fund is set up to support communities in CLC Canada who otherwise would not be able to send a delegate to the National Assembly.

#### CLC WORLD ASSEMBLY, FATIMA, PORTUGAL

Alfredo Steir- Young who spoke at the CLC World Assembly, August 14, 2008 in Fatima, Portugal states:

***“Spirituality must go to the people and not the people to the spirituality. If we impose an entry ticket on our way, it’s not spirituality”.***

[www.fatima2008.org](http://www.fatima2008.org)

#### GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

“All that we have is a gift from God, our health, our environment, our possessions. Jesus, in the Gospel of Matthew, in the parable on the talents is very clear on how a good servant or steward is to treat the property of the Master.

We must translate that instruction; that all that we have been given is from God. We care for it and we order it but it all really is the property of the Lord. Likewise, our relationships are also gifts from God and we are asked to show our gratitude to God by loving in return, not only our friends and families, but also the poor, the unlovely and the vulnerable.

Supporting the Ignatian Lay Volunteer group within CLC is a good way for us to live our our call to be the good steward, to show our gratitude for what we have been given and follow our Christian calling “Come and Follow Me”.  
Mike Radcliff

[www.ignatianlayvolunteer.spaces.live.com](http://www.ignatianlayvolunteer.spaces.live.com)

#### MISSION AND MINISTRY

With hearts transformed by the love of Jesus, we desire to be generous with our time, treasures and talents. It is through the generosity of it’s members that CLC Leadership endeavors to provide support and formation for apostolic ministry.

Michael Cooper, S.J. states that “the intended grace of the 3rd and 4th weeks of the Spiritual Exercises is apostolic; that is, to join Christ on mission and to help others after we ourselves have been helped”.

#### ANNOTATION 18 IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Starting this Fall, as part of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Renewal program, CLC members and other members of the Ignatian family will be co-facilitating Annotation 18 meetings in some parishes throughout the diocese. Please pray and support the facilitators and the participants.

#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DROP IN CENTRE



Each Sunday, CLC members along with volunteers from various organizations throughout Winnipeg experience joy and gratitude in “being with” and in serving the marginalized of our city.

Ruth Chipman, Coordinator of the Drop In states: “the hope is for all who attend the Drop In to be moved beyond acts of charity to a deeper examination of the human dynamics of poverty. At the heart of our experience is Christ who compels us to live and build the Kingdom of God from the perspective of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters”.