ATLANTIC REGION UPDATE



The CLC Atlantic Region Spring Council was held virtually via Microsoft Teams April 23 – 24th, 2021. The Council meeting consisted of 3 sessions beginning on Friday evening and concluding Saturday afternoon. There were 25 members present, including our CLC in Canada President, Michelle Mahoney and our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr Charles Pottie.

The theme of our gathering was: ***"Seeking Ongoing Spiritual Freedom towards Communal Discernment."*** The Grace was: ***"that together we may gain greater insight into what it truly means to obtain spiritual freedom in choosing the will of God."*** The Scripture we prayed with was **John 8: 31-32** and the General Principles were #2 and #5.

Part 1 of our Spiritual Conversation began Friday evening, following greetings from Michelle, representing CLC in Canada. We used an adapted excerpt from Projects 175 and went into breakout rooms for our small group discussions using a focus question and returning to the large group for the plenary.

Part 11 of our Serious Conversation included a presentation on Spiritual Freedom by Father Charles Pottie (EA) and Julia Donahoe-MacDougald (Formation Coordinator for the Atlantic Region). This presentation was again followed by small group discussions in breakout rooms and a return to the large group for the plenary. Our gathering closed with Celebration of Eucharist for the day at 2 pm. Group reports and reports from ExCo members were circulated to members prior to the gathering and we had a short time period for questions or comments within the large group. This was our second online council meeting, the first having been held in the fall of 2020. It has been a learning curve, condensing and adapting our format to the virtual media. Thanks to the use of virtual technology, we were able to invite all CLC Atlantic members to attend the gathering. Past face-to-face meetings had included ExCo members, Group Contacts and Coordinators only.

Something new for us was the use of an opening song and video for our opening prayer on Friday evening and it was replayed again on Saturday morning. Another highly effective initiative was a meeting the night before the gathering with Julia and the appointed facilitators for the small groups. This proved extremely beneficial and supportive in encouraging new facilitators to take on the role. The focus questions were also shared in advance.

The Evaluation forms were sent out following the gathering and the Appropriation was done online via Chat following communion during the Celebration of the Eucharist. As always, the Evaluations indicated what we did well and what we can do better next time.

We used Microsoft Teams for the first time to host this event and Gerri Tingley our tech guide made everything go smoothly. It was Lorraine Bird's first time in the role of secretary. She did a wonderful job preparing us and recording our council meeting. Thanks to Gerri, all Atlantic ExCo members have now been added to the Microsoft Teams Christian Life Community account. Our Atlantic ExCo is now using Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. Time has been set aside at some of our ExCo meetings for a question-and-answer session on Microsoft Teams. This has been invaluable in increasing our knowledge and comfort level with using this technology. A couple of local communities have also been added to Microsoft Teams and we are working towards eventually having all local communities added and using this technology for their virtual meetings and events as required in the future.
We continue to prayerfully discern names for the leadership roles of Formation Coordinator and Treasurer. Julia Donahoe-MacDougald has served two terms in the role of Formation Coordinator and Gerri Tingley has been in the interim role of Treasurer since Tim McWade's term ended.

We in the Atlantic Region continue to prayerfully support GC in their task of filling leadership roles.

Ongoing prayers continue to be needed for our members dealing with serious health issues.

Update submitted by Karen Reeves (Atlantic Regional Representative) with input from Linda Adams (outgoing Publications Coordinator)