NATIONAL WORKING GROUP REPORTS (in alphabetical order)



CLC NATIONAL COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Website: You will see a few changes on the front page of our website but what you won't see is all the hard work that is going on behind the scenes, our tech team is adding new technology which we hope will enable easier access to our valuable resources and members. STAY TUNED....

National Newsletter: The Update currently has four awesome issues per year with additional bulletins as important events need the community's attention. It is our hope that with the formation of new national working groups these bulletins will be used even more.

Facebook Page: Continues to post fruitful information about CLC Canada for members and non-members.

Tech Team: Has been utilized for Zoom Meetings as well as training in various technologies as we move forward in today's world.

CLC NATIONAL ECOLOGY FRONTIER WORKING GROUP

It has been five years since we assumed the role of the National Working Group for the Ecology Frontier. In keeping with the DSSE process, we have evaluated and reflected on our experience. We continue to use the Life, Death and Resurrection cycle as a tool in organizing and recording a process for our continued communal ministry.

The fruit of our reflection has led us to consider some changes. For instance, we sensed an awareness that, to have sufficient time for both our CLC meeting and the Ecology WG meeting, we need to gather at separate times to specifically address ecological issues. We also recognized the importance of recording our LDR process in preparation for a time when others will assume the role of WG on Ecology.

We expressed the hope that, in the future, we will have representation from each region of Canada. In that way we can become more sensitive to the urgent issues across our country.

In early February, we will have a retreat day with the intention of continuing to discerning our plan of action for the next year or two. We will brainstorm possible themes and choose which will take priority.

We have chosen Laudato Si as our prayer material for this year. This has proven to be an excellent option in that it keeps us grounded in ecological thought and reflection.

Sincerely,
Beulah Costain
Coordinator of the National WG on Ecology

CIRCLE OF ELDERS REPORT



As this new year continues to unfold warmest greetings and best wishes fromthe Circle of Elders (COE) Elaine Regan Nightingale, Lois and Kuruvila Zachariah, Mary Balfe and Ruth Chipman have met regularly since January 2019. The National Assembly was a grace filled highlight and it was affirming to see the diverse input and wisdom that Elders contributed to the Assembly discernment process.

Like any group we have had challenges throughout our journey which began in 2009. We started with high hopes and big dreams but life challenges, differing views on our role, and communication challenges were obstacles that took prayer, humility and patience to move through. We have been greatly blessed with a gifted and wise guide, Lois Campbell, CLC USA. Lois's commitment, her listening and encouragement fostered a deeper awareness of the gentle spirit and loving creator at work in the midst of us.

We find ourselves in a tender place, in that 'practical' place where God loves us as we are. Where love 'seizes our imagination and effects everything.' Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

We took time to discern and recommend Ruth Chipman as the Elder representative for General Council. Ruth is our 'yes' to stand with and support national leadership as CLC moves through challenging times. We continue to pray for Christian Life Community and for all of you. Please keep us in your prayers, especially Mary's husband, Tom, and Kuruvila as they deal with serious health concerns. Wishing you God's light and love for the journey ahead.

Elaine, Lois and Kuruvila, Mary, Ruth

CLC NATIONAL FORMATION WORKING GROUP

With prayer and scripture (The First Disciples of Jesus, John 1: 35-42), we moved to the spiritual conversion. We did three rounds; recognition, open and listen well where God calling us, travel light, and we found Jesus inviting all of us gently, and to learn from John to provide opportunity for others to respond to this gentle invitation. There were several items to discuss on our agenda, and we prioritized. From our discussion, we have the action items: 1. We offer formation session on graced history rather than doing the national graced history; short-term. 2. Working towards setting National Formation Committee's vision, mission, and goals as a working group; on-going. 3. Adopted pre-CLC material; long-term. We were amazed and grateful how the Spirit moved us to consensus and confirmation.

Submitted by Lidvina Yoon

CLC/CVX HAITI WORKING GROUP

CLC/CVX Haiti Report for Update Feb 2021

On 18th Feb. 2018 a letter was sent to the World ExCo that CLC Canada, with CVX Canada, would collaborate in the companioning (God-Parenting) CVX Haiti in their journey towards incorporation into the World CLC.

This was followed with the mandating of a CVX Haiti Work Group (WG) to help in implementing our mission project. Members of the WG are: Eleonore and Denis Tchuente from CVX Canada, Mary Balfe and Gilles Michaud (Coordinator) from CLC Canada.

Haiti, as you know, is a very impoverished country with many social instabilities. Consequently, this has been a challenging mission project for us. But I must say that Haiti mission project has been, and continues to be, a privilege and gift for all

of us in CLC Canada. God works in wonderful and sometime surprising ways. The decision taken by both CVX and CLC Canada to co-support CVX Haiti in this journey has been a genuine and authentic witness of communal discernment and apostolic action (DSSE). Without the generosity and solidarity of both of CVX and CLC our “mission project “could not have continued until now.

In 2018 both CVX/CLC Canada financially supported Sr Nadia Gbaguidi in attending the World Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina as an Observer. Sr. Nadia continues to guide one of the groups in Port au Prince. The national EA, Fr Jean Bertin sj, guides the other group. There is another group in Ouanaminthe, a town in the North-Est of Haiti. It is a large group, made up of 25 persons guided by Sr. Marie Francoise Lacaze. Unfortunately, we could not go to this town in Oct, 2019 because of the violence and roadblocks on the roads throughout the country.

In Oct 2019, Dominique Cyr from CVX Canada and I went to Haiti to conduct a Retreat/Workshop. During our 12 days at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Port au Prince we gave an introduction to Ignatian Spiritual Exercise in Community. Since that time 8 members of the Samaritaine group (senior group) have continued to meet with Sr. Nadia and Fr. Jean twice monthly both guiding them in the Communal Spiritual Exercises in daily life. They have continued to meet until this past July when, unfortunately they found it impossible to travel to the Spirituality Center. They decided that they would suspend the Spiritual Exercises until the conditions in Port au Prince would improve.

We continue to be in contact with Sr Nadia and Fr Jean Bertin on a regular basis either through video conference or emails. Although some of our meetings have not worked well because of the poor internet connection in Haiti. Since last March it has been especially a challenging time for all the CVX members because of the covid pandemic that has ravaged Haiti with the added burden of a social and economic situation that they are faced with on a daily basis.

In the meantime, both groups have been meeting with Nadia through cell phones and WhatsApp. This past November it was suggested that they look into organizing an Advent retreat at the Spirituality Center. Fr Jean sent an invitation to all CVX members and eleven members responded. Fr Jean said that the cost of accommodations at the Retreat Center would present a financial burden for the

retreatants. To ease this burden I asked Michelle, our national president, if we could financially support the retreat by offering 50% of the cost of accommodations. Our National GC decided that since we had a small amount in the CVX Haiti Fund we would be able to provide $500. toward the cost of the retreat.

The first retreat took place on Sunday, 20th Dec. with 6 members and it was followed by a 3 day retreat from the 21 to 24th Dec. for 5 other members.

Dominique and I have been asked to return in Oct 2021 to continue with the CLC formation. Let us keep CVX Haiti in our prayers as they try to return to a new normal this year. Let us continue to walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers during this Lent. Included is a suggested prayer exercise for Lenten 40 days as you spiritually join them and journey with the members of CVX Haiti.

Submitted by Gilles Michaud, Coordinator, CVX/CLC WG



A Prayer Exercise during 40 days of Lent

- Set up a sacred space for your prayer time: a candle, a symbol or a picture of Haiti, a candle, a bible and a container to receive your offering.
- Begin seated in a comfortable position. Take about five deep, slow breaths to flow in with each inhalation and out with each exhalation. After five deliberate breaths, turn your attention away from counting and allow your breath to find its natural pace.
- With your imagination allow yourself to be aware of as you enter in communion with members of CVX Haiti. Bring this deepest and truest longing for love and communion with God and your sisters and brothers at this moment. What is it that you seek from God?
- Give that longing a short phrase. For example, if your deep desire is, compassion, peace and/ justice for the Haiti community then let your phrase or word simply be that. Make sure that your phrase is not too long.

- What is your favorite name for God? How do you image the Creator? Choose whatever name seems to fit best for you. Some examples include: Jesus, Wisdom, Father, Mother, or Mystery. Be as creative as you want to be. But again, keep the name rather short.
- Combine your name for God with your longing for CVX Haiti. For example, if my phrase is communion and the name I choose for God is Christ, my prayer of the heart might be "Solidarity in Christ." Spend a few moments coming up with your two-part prayer.
- Begin to say—either aloud or silently—your phrase. You may inhale on the name of God and exhale on the desire or vice versa. Spend several minutes breathing this prayer. Make it your own. Allow God to inhabit this prayer.
- After several minutes, maybe 5 or 10 minutes, of repeating this prayer, sink into contemplative silence. Allow the love of God to fill you and surround you.
- Now come out of your meditation time and end with the Lord's Prayer or any other prayer.
- Place your offering (works of Love) into the container on the table that you have set up. This can be a looney or tooney or whatever you have decided will be your offering for that day.
- At the end of your forty day Lenten Prayer Exercise send the total of your offerings to CLC Canada: https://www.christianlifecommunity.ca/wordpress/donate/
- Please note in the donation form that it is for the National Haiti Solidarity/Reserve.

CLC NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Greetings from the National Implementation Working Group [NIWG], formerly known as the National Evaluation WG; Ruth from Prairies Region, Leanne from Rockies Region and Jane from Atlantic Region, and now with the wonderful addition of Susan Tomenson from Central Region.

We are feeling very grateful and amazed at the energy and work that has been done on the 12 National Priorities [NP] across Canada by individuals, CLCs, other working groups, Regional teams and General Council. Here are just 2 examples from the many bright lights we're seeing. Our 1st NP expressed the desire that- "CLC Canada will review formation across regions and determine how our national body can best support formation, including the viability and desirability of a renewed national formation program." We now have the Formation group doing just that! Our 7th NP stated - "CLC Canada will expand its outreach and better engage its members by developing a more interactive website and a stronger presence on social media." The Communication WG has already made much of this happen.

The NIWG continues to keep our National Priorities on the front burner but we have also felt a call to focus on CLC Leadership. At the moment, we are deepening and expanding our understanding of CLC and Ignatian leadership using resources ranging from our recently revised CLC Leadership manual to the website created by the Jesuits entitled Pilgrim Leadership. We're not sure where this will lead, but walk forward in the trust that God's flashlight will illuminate the way. We continue to pray for each of you and CLC Canada as we move forward together.

Submitted by Jane Abernethy Parker

