ATLANTIC REGION REPORT



As I am writing this update, new measures have just been announced all over Canada reminding us that the pandemic is not over, and that COVID-19 remains a threat as we deal with this fourth wave. In spite of this we continue to move forward in hope and trust surrounded by the love, mercy and light of Jesus Christ.

Our CLC communities in Atlantic Canada continue to be active, working within the COVID-19 protocols. Some of the individual and missions our members have been involved with include: working towards a political and social structure that allows for the affordable, safe and secure homes in collaboration with a volunteer group advocating for affordable housing and tenant rights; political engagement with justice issues using written documents, letters and speaking invitations; responding to the needs of young people in dysfunctional family situations, working with governmental/educational systems where possible; hospital ministry; leadership positions within CLC at local, regional, and national levels; outreach to the poor; involvement with the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus; supporting caregivers; nursing care to the Sisters of Charity; listening with the heart of Jesus to those with mental illness; intercession for CLC in Canada and its leadership needs; collaboration with other organizations for the

National eradication of poverty; joining a number of farming organizations in asking the Government to implement a just "Water Act"; group guide ministry; and involvement with a refugee committee; local parish ministries; supporting members journeying with 2 Syrian families; supporting a self-help group in Kenya; gathering loved ones of partners with dementia in a support group; bringing food to the food bank and reaching out to those around us in love, compassion and prayer. Many of our members are involved with AASEA and are Spiritual Guides and/or Spiritual Companions. All of our members are responding to the natural call of supporting immediate and extended family including adult children and grandchildren.

Many of our members participated in the virtual National Formation event on Communal Apostolic Discernment; the Ignatian Family on-line retreat; attended on-line National and International Masses celebrating the feast day of St. Ignatius and the Ignatian 500 on-line celebration day. Our members also attended on-line retreat days hosted by other regions. Twenty-four of our members attended the NB Group Guide World Day of Prayer virtual gathering on the 5 faces of power. All of these virtual gatherings provided inspiration and a chance to draw closer to God and to each other

All communities in CLC New Brunswick continue to support the NB Group Guide/Group Coordinator community and specifically Graydon and Beth Nicholas in their mission of the Loaves and Fishes project and pray one decade of the Glorious Mysteries at each meeting.

The summer began with restrictions in the Atlantic Provinces being lessened as the number of people being vaccinated increased. Some communities whose members were able to gather for outdoor celebrations which included former members of their groups.

There are two members from Atlantic Canada who are participating in the virtual Group Guide formation Program hosted by CLC USA. The Group Guides from PEI/NS and NB are preparing for their first joint meeting to be held online on November 13th. A number of CLC members that are Spiritual Directors will be attending the AASEA virtual conference on Oct 1-2 on the 2nd week discernment – the election by Fr.Paul Panaretos.

Our Atlantic ExCo is busy making preparations for our virtual Atlantic Regional gathering to be held on November 19th and 20th which will end with the celebration of the Eucharist. On the forefront of all of our minds is Truth and Reconciliation and the suffering of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Our Atlantic ExCo has incorporated a land acknowledgement at the beginning of each meeting, as have many of our local communities. We are also still actively working on filling the positions of Treasurer and Formation Coordinator.

In September, a number of CLCers and many lay people in New Brunswick began the 2nd module of the First Spiritual Exercises being offered by the AASEA. They have begun meeting one-on-one with their Spiritual directors virtually and in person as a group at the Villa Madonna in Saint John following COVID protocols.

In other wonderful news, we in the Atlantic Region are blessed and thrilled to have Fr. Charles Pottie and Fr. Earl Smith back in Halifax to begin a renewed Ignatian presence in Atlantic Canada.

I will end with a couple of quotes from our local communities regarding their hopes and dreams:
"We dream and pray for an end to this pandemic and a time of resurrection from the restrictions" "Our dream is to return to normalcy so as to be able to resume our activities of developing our missions and sharing the gift of CLC that doesn't require wearing masks and social distancing."
"That hopefully we will take the graces given during COVID-19 and integrate them into our lives going forward."

The photo above is from Shogomoc, NB. The name Shogomoc has several meanings in Maliseet but the most predominately used is the derivation from *Seeogamook* meaning "place of chiefs" in reference to Governors Table a rock that was in the Saint John River before the flooding in 1967.

Submitted by Karen Reeves
Atlantic Representative

CENTRAL REGION REPORT



CREXCO is planning for our Assembly Oct 22nd to the 24th in which we'll be evaluating our Common Apostolic mission to Haitians. We've recently decided to go on-line again due to hesitancy among members over being indoors with the Delta variant active in the GTA. We have decided to have a land acknowledgement at the beginning of our meetings, as we seek to do or part in reconciliation with our indigenous brethren. There have been three inquiries about CLC over the summer and we're looking forward to meeting these new people.

Today I heard our emissions in Canada are %16 above what they were when

they pledged to reduce them. What more can we do as CLCers, to encourage our governments to take the climate crisis seriously. We have only to 2030 to make a significant reduction.

Below are reports from the Integral Ecology Working Group and from participation in "Listen to the Diverse Voices of Creation", by the Jesuit Forum.

Susan Rogers

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

START WITH A LINK TO THE SERENITY PRAYER FROM MICHAEL DOWD'S VIDEO: "Serenity prayer for Climate Anxiety and Environmental Dread"

New Serenity Prayer: Emotional Support for ... - YouTube

The Integral Ecology Working group has been tasked with making recommendations or providing information to you from our sources, so that we all may live in a way to benefit our planet and its life and to repair the harm done, in whatever way possible.

Water First sends out regular updates, usually with video links, by email. Please continue to support them with your donations. https://waterfirst.ngo

We have come upon a number of sites with cleaning products that reduce plastic waste and toxic chemicals: Blueland, Truearth, Nature Clean, etc. TruEarth can be purchased at some health food stores. Nature Clean is sold at Fortinos (and perhaps other Loblaws subsidiaries)

www.blueland.com (developed and manufactured in the U.S.A. - HQ is in New York)
www.tru.earth (Canadian owned - based in B.C.)

https://natureclean.ca (Canadian owned)

Beeswax wraps can be obtained at some health food stores or at www.abeego.com (I think they are based in Southern B.C) https://mapletuque.ca/ (Canadian owned)
https://www.tru.earth/

Corporate Knights have said that cutting methane production is the single, fastest, most effective way to slow the rate of global warming. Gas-fired plants and cattle produce this gas. Groups can become aware of sources in their area; e.g. industries & farms and advocate for cleaner emissions.https://www.corporateknights.com/climate-and-carbon/methane-burning-through-global-c arbon-budget/

Overshoot Day (the day when humanity consumes all the ecological resources our planet produces in a year) came on July 29th this year. Last year it was Aug 22nd. How can we decrease our consumption of resources? Eat more vegetarian, buy less, re-use, etc.

https://www.overshootday.org

The UN Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change has declared CODE RED. The Amazon is quickly reaching the point of no return. Are we acting according to the seriousness of the Climate crisis? https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097362

Project Drawdown: https://drawdown.org

"Serenity Prayer for Climate Anxiety & Environmental Dread" - well worth watching the whole video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFGHdOyyx74 (Rev. Michael Dowd - 25 minutes)

Post Doom (Michael Dowd) https://postdoom.com

Please share any suggestions you may have for information, products, events, etc.

Susan Rodgers Carmen Hurtubise Cecilia Pitawanakwat, Judith De Witt

LISTEN TO THE DIVERSE VOICES OF CREATION
JESUIT FORUM, JULY 20, 2021

At the Jesuit Forum's invitation to a zoom gathering, each of us shared one personal experience in Creation that brought us joy, and one that brought us pain.

These personal stories formed a virtual tapestry of deepening input which brought up emerging themes and insights.

Some of us shared the experiences of the destructive forces and consequences of a hurricane, a tornado, a flood, avalanches, landslides, earthquake, firestorms or drought, which resulted in serious damage and many deaths. Some others experienced the fear of driving in the middle of a storm.

On the other hand, many of us told our stories of having contemplated the Northern Lights, a starry night, the silver light of the moon, the rising sun, the sunbeams profusely illuminating the immediate surroundings of a new day, contemplating the morning mist or a beautiful sunset. We shared how we enjoyed the chirping of birds on the trees, with music of their own, the blooming of flowers, the simplicity, yet splendid scenery of Lake Superior, the ceaseless breeze of the river and the trees and all the wonderful diversity of living organisms. We all shared about the immense beauty of an endless God's loving Creation.

The incredible amount of richness of this contemplative sharing of our life experiences, led us to the awareness that stories engage our hearts, as Jesus engaged the hearts of his followers by speaking in parables. This spiritual conversation inspired us and moved us to action for social transformation.

We committed ourselves into practicing the Wisdom of God, revealed in the interconnectedness of Creation, seen as a loving community. To gaze with admiration and respect on every living organism, with Jesus as our Centre.

Respond to the fear of scarcity of water, avoid use of plastics and pesticides, participate in advocacy groups, sign petitions, look at the Bolivian example, reduce waste, reduce consumerism, defense of the environment.

In one short sentence: As contemplatives in action, we are filled with Hope, and working together for Our Common Home.

Submitted by Carmen Hurtubise