ATLANTIC REGION UPDATE



Winter is upon us once again and the colours of the Fall have been replaced with the beauty of glistening snow on the treetops. The season of Advent has begun as we await with joyful anticipation the coming of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is a guarded hope for a more normal Christmas this year amidst the continuing high numbers of new COVID cases. We continue to find new and creative ways of moving our Region forward in spite of present circumstances.

Our virtual Atlantic Regional gathering was held via Zoom on November 19th and 20th. The gathering was attended by 31 members from NB, NS and PEI. The theme of our gathering was***: "An Exploration of our Social Responsibilities toward the Indigenous Peoples of Canada."*** The Grace we prayed for was: ***"We ask for an increased awareness of our CLC participation in the call to greater truth, justice and reconciliation, reading the signs of the times in our Canadian society."*** The scriptures we prayed with were ***Isaiah 58:6-11,*** and/or ***Micah 6: 6-8*** and the General Principle was # 8.

We began our gathering on Friday evening by acknowledging how the Atlantic Region has contributed and continues to contribute to National Leadership. We also acknowledged that this is the Ignatian Year and that we are called to Celebrate who we are. Following a land acknowledgement, we watched the music video ***"Christ Be our Light".*** We then heard our Scripture, the ***"Holy Spirit Prayer for the Ignatian Year"*** and a reading of the CLC Areas of Common Mission for World, National, and our Atlantic Region. This was followed by a "How We Come" round of sharing. We then had a second round of sharing where we heard from just the group contacts on where their community is at this time. A third round of sharing followed on

"What did you hear? What insights?" Jane Abernethy-Parker then brought greetings from the National Implementation Working Group after which we began Part I of our Spiritual Conversation using the focus question: ***"How do you see yourself/your community/our Atlantic Region living out the call to deepen, share, discern and act through the lens of "Truth and Reconciliation' with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada?"*** The evening ended with a closing prayer by Fr. Charles Pottie.

Saturday morning started with a repetition of the music video from Friday evening followed by a brief introduction of the films we would be viewing: ***"The Legacy of Residential Schools"*** *and* ***"Stolen Children"***. After a reflective silence, we began Part II of our spiritual conversation. The focus questions for our discussions were: ***"What stood out/challenged/stayed with you in viewing these videos? How do you see CLC moving forward in light of Truth and Reconciliation?"***

Saturday afternoon began with National Updates from the NIWG and our Atlantic Representative to National. We then heard an update of the Atlantic Ignatian Spirituality Mission from Fr. Charles. The ***"Experiencing Prayer and Spiritual Conversation"*** sessions being offered on-line by Fr. Charles and Fr. Earl Smith have started and are being held every Thursday evening during Advent. We were then led through an Appropriation round on ***"What am I taking away from this gathering? How can I/we sustain this experience."*** We concluded our gathering with Fr Charles presiding over a Celebration of the Eucharist during which there was a Blessing Rite for Michelle Mahoney and Linda Adams as they take leave of their completed leadership terms as President and Regional Publications Coordinator respectively.

The Group Guides from PEI/NS and NB held their first joint meeting online on November 13th. A number of CLC members who are Spiritual Directors attended the AASEA virtual conference on October 1st-2nd. As a result of the NB Group Guide/Group Coordinator "Come and See" project, there is a newly formed community eager to be part of CLC. In the Fall, five members discerned to continue their journey and made the commitment to complete the Phase I manual. The group now consists of 4 members as one of their members recently passed away. Let us keep them all in our prayers. Since they have not reached the stage of discerning a name, they are referred to as "Loaves and Fishes" after the name of the NB Group Guide/Group Coordinator "Come and See" project.

Module II of the First Spiritual Exercises being offered by the AASEA finished with a virtual gathering on the evening of November 26th during which the many graces received on the journey were shared. Module III began with an all-day virtual retreat on December 5th and will continue until June 2022.

The Atlantic Region continues to actively search for members to fill the ExCo positions of Treasurer and Formation Coordinator

Submitted by Karen Reeves, Atlantic Representative

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS' IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR

APOSTOLIC MISSION ON INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

OUR MOTO: "THINK BIG; ACT SMALL; GO DEEP", FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS WILL BECOME A TESTIMONY FOR A JOURNEY OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY, STEP BY STEP.

STATEMENT

Faithful Followers, conscious of the effects caused by climate crisis – especially on all who suffer poverty, as well as on generations to come, starting from our own personal and family life- we commit ourselves, as an urgent matter, (starting on the month of August 2020 throughout the month of May, 2021) to: a path of action, starting as individuals, then as community-to regional-to national and to global concern, to:

- Careful disposing of garbage, recyclables and compost each in its place,
- Complete avoidance of water bottles and plastic shopping bags,
- Conscientious use of water and electricity,
- Watch for littering,
- Weekly Water and Ecology Examen,
- Weekly Contemplation on God's Creation, the Spiritual Exercises, Laudato Si or similar other.
- (OTHER CLC GROUPS, PLEASE COME UP WITH MORE PRACTICAL ACTIONS.)

This is done as a contemplative-action experience, a continuous "Care for Our Common Home". The message is: "simple, but important, daily tasks, done with a global vision of concern, especially for the those who suffer the effects of poverty in this climate crisis"

Out of our CLC contemplation and experience of Our Care for Our Common Home, we need to be visionaries and speak up in the spirit of Saint Ignatius.

At this stage, Faithful Followers, as part of CLC Regional Integral Ecology Common Apostolic Mission, and as Church, wants to create awareness, willingness and concern about this URGENT MATTER. Our desires are to contacting our parishes, communities, government, as a call for

change, using in-person encounters and social media. Due to the pandemic, we have not yet been able to make these contacts.

EVALUATION, 2021: Guided by Our Moto" Think Big, act small, go deep" and weekly contemplation of Creation, Laudato Si, Ecology Examens, and similar expressions, each of us committed to all the actions mentioned for our "Care for the Planet"

Accomplishments:

- The individual tasks were relevant; each took a serious responsibility for the environment and sustainability of our mission.
- Our personal contemplation on ecology matters, was done, on the one hand, through the contemplation of Creation in itself, as well as the reading, meditation and sharing of Laudato Si, Chapter IV, Integral Ecology, at every meeting. Summaries of our experiences and reflections, were written and sent to each Faithful Followers member. We believe that the reading, meditation and discussion on Laudato Si, resulted in a valuable instrument of education and inspiration in regards to our progress in the understanding and practice of integral ecology.

Conclusions:

- We will take seriously, the ecological examens, on our personal life. We will also dedicate some time for such examens, during some of the meetings, for example, on our coming meeting.
- We invite to the other Central Regional groups, to join Faithful Followers for the implementation of these integral ecology tasks, as well as give us other suggestions to complement this endeavor.
- Presently we are dedicating part of our meetings, to the exploration and discussion of Chapter V, "Lines of Approach and Action"

Submitted by Carmen Hurtubise

Contact person for Faithful Followers

See below for two articles related to Integral Ecology, submitted by Susan Rogers, Central Region Representative.

Greetings! I believe you are dealing with "Climate Change" Project at the National level. So I humbly submit the following as coming out of a reflection after watching the multi-Faith meeting organised by the Vatican.

So far there has been much talk about 'humans destroying the planet', 'interfering with weather change' , all negative and while humanity needs to admit error and sin, there must be 'reconciliation' to bring about newness.

The first week of the Sp.Exercises of St.Ignatius after looking at our faults and sins leads to reconciliation and closes with:

What have I done for Christ?

What am I doing for Christ?

What will I do for Christ?

In the light of this Reflection, I propose the following positive actions as reconciliation to our CLC s so that they may influence a Campaign by involving political leaders, Societies (Jesuits to mention one) and more, Churches,Local Communities and Worldwide Communities and even United Nations Office.

1. At the local level: One day a week/month refrain from use of all vehicles that run on gas. Stay Home (what we have learnt from Covid Culture) except in emergency. Write to our MPs and even the National Leader to make this statutory. Can you imagine how much carbon percentage would be reduced?

2.In winter (according to each country) choose one day

a week to refrain from shower and full bath except in emergencies. Can you imagine the amount of water that could be saved to share with poorest nations?

3.One day a week/month refrain from a full meal. Have soup and send your savings in donations to poorer brother s and sisters for food.

4.One day a week/month no use of phones, smart phones /computers etc. Business Houses will have to cooperate. During Covid Culture many items of technology were shut down for much longer periods.
This would free energy for more important works.

5.Walk and Shop locally. Make sure on the days when vehicles are not used that you walk in your locality and discover people and availability of groceries/etc.

These are some suggestions and maybe CLCers could add to the list. These suggestions would help change people's mindset and perhaps introduce a better culture of life.

There might be more to do on the level of accepted values.

The suggestions made are very much in line with Ignatian Spirituality.

This perhaps will need discernment at our Central meeting.

If God's Will, we will need a good team , involving SJs and others.

Humbly in the Lord,

TEA HAS A STRATEGY FOR A TORONTO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. PERHAPS CLC MEMBERS CAN ASK WHAT THEIR MUNICIPALITY IS DOING TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.

TORONTO ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Toronto's new TransformTO Net Zero Strategy

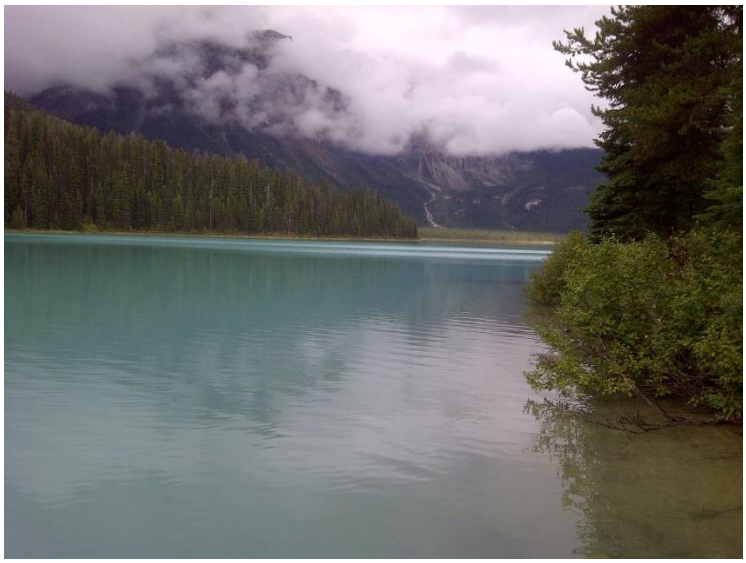
Toronto is updating its climate action plan, with a new target of net zero emissions by 2040! This is an ambitious step up in Toronto's climate ambition, but to make these commitments become reality, we'll need a strong implementation plan, accountability mechanisms to make sure we stay on track, and robust and sustained funding for climate action.

We are in a climate emergency, and we have to get this strategy right. We can't afford more delays.

Our team has been doing a detailed analysis of the new and updated TransformTO Net Zero Strategy to make recommendations directly to the City. These recommendations will also support other organizations and individual residents to advocate for bold and ambitious climate action. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) will be reviewing and discussing the Net Zero Strategy on December 2nd, and then the strategy will be voted on at City Council on December 15th.

Get informed and get involved:

1. Read our analysis of the draft TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. We looked at several key areas, including targets, high-impact areas for accelerated action, equity, accountability, and funding. Read the blog.
2. Ahead of the release of the strategy, we published an explainer on Toronto's climate strategies, from the original TransformTO climate action plan, to the Climate Emergency Declaration, to the new TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. If you want to understand the background and journey of this strategy, read the blog.



BC/ROCKIES REGION – SOLIDARITY, GROWTH, UNITY IN MISSION

Greetings from the BC/Rockies region! It has been a time of growth and capacity building here in the West. We have approximately 64 individuals journeying with CLC Canada in this region. Of those, 38 have made a temporary or permanent commitment to CLC, with the others at the pre-commitment stage. We anticipate that additional members will be making their first temporary commitments at our next commitment ceremony, likely in the spring.

Currently, our communities exist in British Columbia in Richmond, Gibsons, Courtenay, and Vancouver with members joining from across metro-Vancouver, both in-person and virtually. We also have members in Edmonton, Calgary and Taber, Alberta; and Vernon and Victoria, BC, some of whom are in diaspora, while others are part of online communities in other parts of the region. Plus, individuals in Edmonton AB and Victoria BC would like to start new communities.

Over the last few years, our region has seen an influx of new members from around the world, such as Hong Kong, the Philippines, Syria, Ethiopia and as well as locally. Many come with CLC experience from their home countries or have received a Jesuit education and are seeking an Ignatian family here. They have brought enthusiasm, deep faith and strong leadership skills to their communities and the region.

One of our blessings includes 17 of the region's members participating in the Guide Formation Program which CLC USA is offering. Coming together with members from across CLC Canada and USA to pray and share our experiences together has been a profound grace. The training responds to a long-standing prayer -- given the exponential growth in our region and requests to start new communities – and helps us build capacity for expansion.

Catherine Kelly hosted appropriation evenings for our region at the end of the first two guide training modules so we could come together to share how the Spirit has been moving

members. We prayed about and shared our responses to the following questions: 1. Where have I experienced God in the training? 2. What insights have I gained? and 3. How am I feeling invited going forward? There has been a sense of energy, solidarity, and unity in mission in these gatherings. This increased collaboration with our sisters and brothers in CLC USA has also forged new connections and opportunities for us to collaborate in areas such as young adult outreach, synodal training, etc. Members will be completing the third and final module in February 2022.

Catherine Kelly hosted two Ignatian Advent retreats on Dec 4 in Vancouver and December 11 in Courtenay, BC, with in-person and online options available. Members of the public and CLC attended both the sharing was profound. For the Vancouver retreat, 27 people attended, including several from the four CLC groups at St. Mark's Parish; and 25 people registered for the Courtenay retreat, many of whom were CLCers from the three communities there on the Island, an area which continues to experience growth, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Emmaus community, with support from the region.

This year the region established a formalized regional council. Felipe Banados-Schwerter is our new regional Formation Coordinator, Evangelina Risueno del Pizzo is our new Treasurer, and Whitney Nagasan is our new Coordinator of Communities. Leanne Salel is filling in temporarily as Regional Representative until a permanent representative steps forward. We will be connecting with each community early in the new year and bringing on local community representatives and collaborating with our regional EA. Our thanks to Janet Ho and Pat Bremner for all of their hard work as the former regional representative and treasurer, respectively.

On December 1st, we also had an annual gathering of members of the Ignatian family in the western provinces with the Jesuit Provincial of Canada, Fr. Erik Oland, SJ. The online gathering offered an update on the Jesuits in Canada and an opportunity for questions and answers from the participants.

I continue to be humbled by the generosity and tireless service our members give to CLC Canada in our region, whether it is guiding (or co-guiding) communities, participating on regional council or national working groups, offering retreats or offering their skills as facilitators for Listening to Indigenous Voices (through the Jesuit Forum for Faith and Social Justice) or for the Synod.

Submitted by Leanne Salal