WORLD CLC YOUTH GATHERING, JULY 29 – 31, 2021: ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATALYTIC WOUND LEADING TO ST.IGNATIUS' CONVERSION.



A DELEGATE'S REFLECTION ON THE WORLD YOUTH GATHERING

On July 29th-31st, I was beyond blessed to be one of four delegates representing CLC Canada at the World Youth Gathering. It was broadcast live from Loyola, Spain. The theme was "Embrace the World in an Ignatian Way". The 3-day online gathering was attended by 150 participants from 52 countries, across different time zones. The speakers talked about their lived experiences; how they embraced the vulnerable, the poor, and the marginalized, and how youth played an important part in building a just humanity.

Here are some of main points from the gathering:

Fr. Arturo Sosa, Father General of the Society of Jesus, in his recorded video message encouraged us to: recognize and enjoy the diversity of our own distinct cultures, develop the creativity necessary to integrate the complexity of the situations that we live in, and imagine new forms of more human relationships. He also added that "the greatest contribution of us, young people, would be to become aware of what happened, deepen its meaning, and confirm the commitment to the transformation of the unjust structures that dominate humanity".

I was also stirred by the message of Fr. Jose Maria Rodríguez Olaizola, SJ in his talk "Ignatius as a Pilgrim". He said pilgrims, as they travel, do not avoid difficulties, they face them. He invited us to be prepared to face the difficulties thrown at us and go beyond them, and trust that God is leading us to the right destination.

I was also challenged with what the CLC Spain president, Eduardo Escobes shared with us. He said that the CLC way of life is an opportunity to give our best to the church and to the world. We can contribute the habit of discernment through sharing the gift of communal discernment to our societies and cultures. In his own words he said "discernment cannot and should not remain individual, but must be collective". He added that "the world CLC needs to go out and dialogue with social, political, and ecclesial life with today's society, its challenges and contradictions, and its conflicts, and so we need to find our space and role to do this".

Here are some of my personal takeaways and reflections from the gathering and the celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius.

We need a community now more than ever. We need to take care of and support each other, especially in these trying times. We need to be fully present (online or in-person) and actively listen to someone wants to be heard.

Eduardo Escobes mentioned that CLC has a future in the heart of the world. Discernment and community are necessary to live the faith in order to help heal the wounded world. We need to discern individually and communally and help one another. **SUBMITTED BY WHITNEY NAGASAN**



HELLO CLC CANADA MEMBERS,

My name is Claudia and I am a 4th year UBC student who represented Canada in the World CLC Youth Assembly. To be completely sincere I didn't think that I was going to feel any sort of connection through an online gathering, but I am very glad I was wrong. Throughout the three days of the gathering my soul and spirit were enriched with a multicultural view of what it means to be a young Christian in today's society. I found myself inspired by the acts of service different CLC communities around the world practice, and how their actions drove them closer to God. In the same way, I felt comfort when I realized that many other young Christians shared my views in many controversial topics for the church. I was touched by the stories of resilient believers who struggled to keep their faith alive during the pandemic. And at the end of it, I was thankful that I was given the opportunity to hear how the youth from different parts of the world have been called to walk the same path.

This gathering was a very pleasant reminder of why I chose to be Catholic, that is to live my life in service of others, and not only for myself. **SUBMITTED BY CLAUDIA BARRETO**

Below is a link to the World Youth Assembly. Look for the videos that are subtitled in English.

CVXESP - YouTube



CLC YOUTH MANIFIESTO

IgnatiuSoo

At the end of the World Gathering, which we have held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius' wound, we would like to share the manifesto we have created.

1. Moved by the experience of the wound of Ignatius of Loyola, we young people recognise that our wounds and those of the world are an essential starting point for personal and social transformation.

2.- We offer ourselves to collaborate in building a Church that is more open and closer to all people, especially those who suffer most.

3.- We want to offer space in our lives to encounter those who are poorest, whether materially, psychologically or spiritually.

4.- We offer our desire to work to restore the dignity of the individual, walking with all as our equals, and placing integral human development as a place of reconciliation.

5.- We want to welcome plurality as a source of richness by building bridges of encounter and dialogue between the full diversity of cultures and people, beyond all frontiers.

6.- We want to offer presence, care, listening and accompaniment to all, as part of God's embrace of the world.

7.- Welcoming Pope Francis' call in Christus Vivit, we want to be active builders of intergenerational dialogue and be open to share our spirituality with people from all walks of life.

8.- We offer ourselves to work in collaboration and networking with entities of the Ignatian family, the Church, other religions and civil society.

9.- We wish to continue growing as committed citizens in order to generate more just, sustainable and fraternal structures.

10.- We wish to continue to creatively use the Spiritual Exercises and Ignatian tools to transform life and thus continue our pilgrimage, together with St. Ignatius, to love and serve in all things.

We want that, as Father Arturo Sosa SJ tells us, interior freedom, life in the spirit and community life be the characteristics of our identity as young Ignatian.

Loyola, 31 July 2021 Feast of St. Ignatius