



**Christian Life
Community**
praying our life
and living our prayer

FOCUS

Celebrating 450 years of CLC

450 years ago, in 1563, a Jesuit teacher by the name of Jean Leunis gathered a group of students together in Rome for spiritual advancement. This first group quickly became a model for other congregations throughout the world. The 'Prima Primaria', origin of the Sodality of Our Lady and the forerunner of Christian Life Community, was born.

On World CLC Day 25 March, The Feast of the Annunciation, we begin a Jubilee year celebrating these 450 years of our history. We are encouraged to find ways to celebrate what CLC means to us as a world community and at national, regional and local group level. Just as the Year of Faith is a special time of renewal for the Church, this Jubilee year offers a time of grace to deepen our understanding of what it means to live our Christian vocation as members of CLC. Projects 151, the world CLC newsletter suggests three steps for our reflection:-

- 1) Grateful remembrance of our history. We recognise our own roots thereby strengthening our identity.
- 2) Renewed enthusiasm for the present. We refresh our understanding of our CLC charism, alongside other Ignatian partners and in the face of the challenges facing the World today.
- 3) Looking ahead with hope—look for ways to further strengthen our commitment as CLC members for God's mission in the world.

Over the year Focus will share details of the events and celebrations planned, and material to help us reflect. Here are some ways in which you and your group can participate.

What we are doing as a National Community

Pilgrimage to Rome: We will be visiting Ignatian Sites in Rome from 24 -27 May. (see back page for more information).

National Assembly: Taking place 12-14 July, this year's national gathering will be a celebration of our CLC journey. (see page 3 for more details).



Celebrate CLC 450: We would like to organise a special CLC Mass and community celebration in 2014 to mark the end of our Jubilee year. If you would like to be involved please contact secretary@clcew.org.uk

What you can do as a CLC group

"Discovering the Way" – This material for mature groups (5 plus years) helps you to reflect on your graced history as a group. It has been updated for groups to use during our Jubilee.

Group examen – later in the year we will publish material to help CLC groups reflect on how they are living out the CLC Way of Life.

If your group is interested in reflecting on our CLC identity and history, why not spend some time reading and praying with the CLC Charism and General Principles. These documents are available electronically or as a printed copy from the CLC Office. You might also like to read the History of CLC—"God works like that".

What you can do as an individual member

Write your experience of CLC for Focus – we would like to share reflections from CLC members at different stages of their journey on "What CLC means to me". If you would like to write your story, please send to president@clcew.org.uk or to the CLC office (address on the back page).

Best of Focus - We are planning to republish some articles from past editions of Focus, to reflect significant moments in our community history. If you remember a particular Focus article which stood out for you, please let us know.

Finally, to help us pray together as a community, please pray this Jubilee prayer for the renewal of CLC England & Wales.

CLC England and Wales 450th anniversary prayer

Holy Spirit give us eyes to see the world with the eyes of God

Holy Spirit give us ears to listen so that we hear what God hears, and we hear what He is saying to us.

Holy Spirit help us to feel the pain and suffering of others

Holy Spirit, help us to discern, decide, and use our hands, our feet, all of ourselves, in loving compassionate service

Holy Spirit help us to be totally available as Mary was and to deepen our YES to God.

Una Buckley, President CLC EW

Extended National Team meeting 24-25 February

“Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole” St Paul 1 Corinthians 12

At the end of February the Extended National Team met in St Mary’s Convent Handsworth, Birmingham for a weekend of prayer, reflection and planning. The extended team is made up of representatives from CLC regions, working groups and other national representatives.

It was disappointing that some people could not join us due to illness or other commitments, however we held them in our prayers over the weekend. It was a great joy to have with us two new, younger CLC members: Katherine Richardson who is part of Salt group, one of the young adult groups at Farm St London and Christina Garcia who is working alongside the Jesuits in Manchester University Chaplaincy to explore possibilities for CLC there.

We began the weekend with a reflection on how we are all part of Christ’s body, and share responsibility for one another. “If one part is hurt all the parts share it’s pain, if one part is honoured all the parts share it’s joy”. We spent some time looking back at the past year, and then looking forward at the challenges facing us.

Alan Harrison SJ shared a very helpful reflection on the disciples caught up on stormy waters in the boat with Jesus. Jesus calms the storm and says to them: “Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?” Renewed with confidence in God’s presence with us and the whole community we spent time working on three priority areas:

Leadership & Ways of working, Guides and Accompaniers, Social Mission & DSSE (Discern, Send, Support, Evaluate). We also spent some time thinking about how we can celebrate our 450 anniversary year which begins in March

We had an encouraging update on our finances. Our income has increased since last year, so thank you very much for your generous membership subscriptions. This is the first year for a while where our income has exceeded our expenditure—so that is good news.

All in all it was a very fruitful weekend.

John O’Sullivan, Magis CLC, Farm St, London.



Retreats Questionnaire

The National Formation team are keen to know how members can be supported to experience the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola, through retreats or in other ways. They have developed a short questionnaire to find out your needs and preferences and would be grateful for your responses. The questionnaire will be emailed/posted out over the next month. The deadline for response is 8 April.. If you would like to complete it online please go to

www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLC-retreats

Pat Callaghan, National Formation Team Convener

Discovering the Way

‘You saw how God carried you along the road you travelled on the way to this place’

‘Discovering the Way’ is a set of material to help mature CLC groups to reflect on their graced history together. It has recently been updated as part of our 450th anniversary preparations. We are encouraging groups to use the material to reflect on their shared story, the graces of the past, both joys and difficulties, and to see more clearly how God is calling the group to move forward. Copies will be available from the office soon.

Janice Austin, Leamington Spa

World Assembly preparation

The next CLC World Assembly takes place in Lebanon from 29 July to 9 August. The Assembly helps to set the direction of CLC as a World Community for the next five years. It is also the

body which elects the World Executive. This will be the 16th World Assembly, and over 60 countries are expected to send delegates. For the first time the assembly will take place in the Middle East, and it is hoped it will be a sign of solidarity with Christians and CLC members within the region. There are three national communities in the Middle East, in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

We have set up a team to help with our preparations for the assembly. Part of their role is to share material for members to reflect on.



Watch out for this in Future editions of Focus. If anyone would like to be involved in the team please contact Monica Francomb (details on the back page).

National Assembly 2013, 12-14 July Swanwick, Derbyshire

Let's celebrate our CLC journey: past gifts, present blessings, future hopes

The National Assembly is an annual weekend gathering for the CLC community in England and Wales. It is an opportunity:

- to meet other CLC members
- to learn more about Ignatian spirituality and the CLC way of life
- to gain a broader perspective of CLC nationally and worldwide
- for listening, private prayer, reflection and small group sharing
- for communal prayer and Mass
- to relax, with social time and entertainment
- to enjoy full board and lodging at a reasonable price in beautiful surroundings.

National Assembly 2013—12-14 July, The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire



The Assembly is open to all CLC members and anyone who is interested in Ignatian spirituality or CLC. The cost of the weekend is £150 or £130 for those on low income.

Preparations are well underway for our national celebration of 450 years of CLC. It will be a time for us to give thanks for the founders of CLC and to show our gratitude for the many ways in which CLC has affected our lives. We will also be looking at ways of ensuring the continued growth of CLC in England and Wales.

There will be a celebratory theme throughout the weekend with displays, photos (some dating from the 1960s) and, of course, the customary Saturday evening entertainment, so get practising now!!

The Annual General Meeting and election of officers will also take place. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

To reduce printing and postage costs, the booking form is not being sent out with paper copies of Focus. The form will be available to download on the CLC website www.clcew.org.uk or, if you require a copy to be sent by post, contact Debbie Cottam on 01452 416987, deborahcottam@blueyonder.co.uk

For further information please contact Margaret & Peter Dimambro, Midlands regional reps, 01926 428399 or email mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk

Margaret & Peter Dimambro, Midlands Regional Reps.

Permanent Commitment to CLC

Eddie Langton, Corby CLC, writes about permanent commitment.

In 2011 we began the tradition for members who have discerned their permanent commitment to CLC to make a visible statement of this at our National Assembly. The formal expression of our commitment, in this way, is regarded by the world EXCO as an important characteristic of our being a lay apostolic body.

When we make our permanent commitment to CLC in this way, we don't suddenly "bind" ourselves and become committed there and then; rather, we express and celebrate the fact that we experience ourselves as being already committed, as having grown in commitment over a period of time. Our growth in commitment is an expression of, and a response to, God's love for us and for the gift of CLC in our lives. If God has called us to the CLC way of life, then CLC will be for us the place where we will grow in faith, hope and love, and in the service of others. We will experience the CLC way of life as positive and life enriching.

The formal expression of our commitment usually takes place during the celebration of Mass at the National Assembly.



It is a brief, but quite beautiful ceremony.

You may wish to reflect on your own experience of growing in commitment to the CLC way of life, and on whether God may be inviting you to express your commitment at this year's National Assembly.

If you would like further information about this, please contact me: **Eddie Langton 0191 5211 555 (evenings) or our National Chaplain Brother Alan Harrison SJ 020 7493 7811**

Noticeboard

NORTH WEST REGIONAL DAY

CLC - a work of God -

beginning of the 450th Jubilee Year of Grace

Loyola Hall Warrington Rd Rainhill Merseyside L35 6NZ

Saturday, March 23rd

10.00 for 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Please bring food for a shared lunch

Suggested donation £10 (£8 unwaged)

Contact: kathrynlydon@hotmail.com

0151 733 2806 (evenings)

MIDLANDS REGION WORLD CLC DAY AND AGM

CLC A WORK OF GOD

with National Chaplain, Alan Harrison, SJ

Saturday 23rd March

at St. Peter's, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

10am for 10.30am start. Mass at 4pm.

Cost £7. Please bring food for shared lunch

Contacts: Margaret and Peter Dimambro

01926 428399 or mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk

Pilgrimage in Europe April 2013

... to follow the footsteps of Jean Leunis, who went from Belgium to Rome in 1556 to meet St Ignatius and join the Society of Jesus. 6 years later Jean formed 'Prima Primaria' – the origin of CLC. 450 years later this Pilgrimage will emulate that journey. There will be 4 stages in Belgium, Switzerland, France, Italy. Please contact the organiser of the stage you wish to join.

Belgium 6-7th April - presidence@cvx-belgique.org

Switzerland 8-14th April - pelerinage@gmx.ch

France 19-21st April - ma.jamin@free.fr

Italy 26-28th April - cvxit@gesuiti.it

For general information - safia@cvx-clc.net

A WEEK LONG HOLIDAY IN TRANSYLVANIA 11-17 August 13.

ORGANISED BY ROMANIAN CLC

An invitation to all CLC members, interested friends and family to join them on a picturesque campsite and to enjoy an intimate encounter with God, through recreation, prayer, games and community.

Contact Magda Robu dusika@yahoo.com 0040743123464.

Boglarka Balazs Petz balazspetz@freemail.hu 0040744621806

Camp website www.protraditio.ro

PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CLC Individually Guided Retreat

Barmouth, Wales

27 July—3 August 2013

Information from Pat Fitzpatrick

01326 316566/07407673686

Email patfitz60@btinternet.com

£275 totally inclusive for the week

(financial assistance available)

CLC Roman Experience

A CLC Visit to the Ignatian Sites
in Rome,

Friday 24th, Saturday 25th, Sunday
26th, Monday 27th May

We have an [Information Sheet](#) about
this available from

clc@31cv311tp.freeseve.co.uk or mobile 07989667106

If you are interested in joining the party, please make this
known to us as soon as possible

CALENDAR 2013 - 14

23 MARCH: Midlands World CLC Day, Leamington Spa

23 MARCH: North West Regional Day, Loyola Hall

6-28 APRIL: CLC EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE

19 APRIL: WORLD ASSEMBLY PREPARATION TEAM, Mount St.

20 APRIL: NATIONAL TEAM MEETING, London

27 APRIL: Formation-Retreat Team, Birmingham

24-27 MAY CLC VISIT TO ROME - 450 YEARS PILGRIMAGE

12-14 JULY

CLC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY & AGM, Hayes Centre, Swanwick, Derbs.
'Let's celebrate our CLC journey—past gifts, present blessings,
future hopes'.

27 JULY - 3 AUGUST: Ignatian Individually Guided Retreat
Barmouth, Wales

30 JULY - 8 AUGUST

WORLD ASSEMBLY of CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY, Lebanon

11-17 AUGUST: CLC HOLIDAY IN ROMANIA

21 SEPTEMBER, National Team Meeting

20-22 JUNE 2014 National Assembly, High Leigh, Herts.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY

Inspired by St Ignatius Loyola and his Spiritual Exercises, CLC is a lay organisation, a world community of small groups of 4-10 people, helping members from all walks of life to integrate prayer and action in daily life, to respond more fully to God's loving desire for them.

Address for all correspondence, including subscriptions and membership, contributions to FOCUS and orders for literature:

CLC England & Wales: 114 Mount St, London W1K 3AH

email: info@clcew.org.uk website: www.clcew.org.uk World CLC: www.cvx-clc.net

National President: Una Buckley tel: 07816 754443 or 020 7831 5081 email: ubuckley@gmail.com

National Chaplain: Br Alan Harrison SJ, tel: 020 7493 7811 email: alanh46@gmail.com

CLC Secretary: Monica Francomb, tel: 0151 270 2128 email: secretary@clcew.org.uk

CLC Treasurer: Brian Austin tel: 01926 428635 email: treasurer@clcew.org.uk

Administrator: David Formosa: CLC 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH administrator@clcew.org.uk

The annual subscription for *Focus only* (non-members) is now £10 or £5 for e-FOCUS

CLC is a Registered Charity, Number 1056891

Next FOCUS
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Please send
contributions for the next FOCUS
to
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