



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

FOCUS

From our Roots to our Frontiers: A Reflection on the National Assembly

Around a month ago, in the throes of preparations for my final university exams, I registered for my first CLC National Assembly, with little idea of what it really involved. With days to go before it kicked off, I was still none the wiser, but what I discovered on arrival at the beautifully sunny site in Hertfordshire was a wonderful and grace-filled experience of fun, fellowship and reflection.

“We as CLC are called to witness to a world community that empowers its members to be prophets of justice and hope”

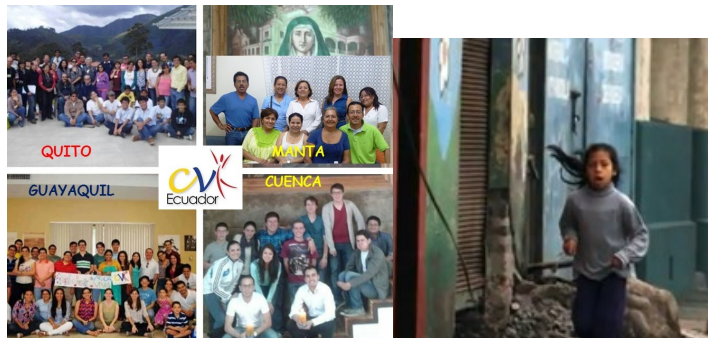
Our Common Mission, Itaici 1998

It is hard to describe the feeling of genuine welcome and encouragement which typified my encounters with members throughout the weekend; it was a surprise and a grace. A special mention must be made of Saturday’s evening entertainment, where members’ hidden talents for song, dance, and story-telling were delivered and, most importantly, received with incredible joy and gusto from everyone present. It is hard to imagine many other occasions where people from across the nation could come together with such ease and manifest such a sense of real community.

The theme of the weekend, *From Our Roots to Our Frontiers*, gave some insight into the source of this communion in the deeper charism of CLC, gradually expanding from the personal (our roots) to the work of CLC globally (our frontiers). I was especially moved by the final session, *The Wider World*, where we considered our mission to “be prophets of justice and hope” in the world, how this calls us to respond to those around us and abroad, and then heard from CLC representatives across the world (via video, and in the

case of CLC Latvia, in person) about their experience of this call and response.

In the week since the National Assembly, one idea which has remained with me is the response that God’s call produces in us; how our roots in His love naturally turn us out towards the world, and lead us on in his service. This has felt especially relevant as I leave university life and head into the world of work. Throughout my course I have considered how I might make my contribution to the world, but sharing with other members at the National Assembly we reflected that it is not just *my* mission but *ours*, and this mission is discerned and executed in community, whether our parishes, offices, or worldwide.



CLC projects in Chile and Ecuador

What struck me about the National Assembly was the clear reflection of the input and sharing in the attendees. As a relative new-comer to CLC, it was a great inspiration to see how the Spirit is active throughout the community, not just in the principle, but evident in the lives of the members individually and together. Perhaps this is what made the atmosphere of the weekend so distinctive: the appreciation of each person’s call in the context of our communities, whether local, national or global.

I went to the National Assembly somewhat on a whim, but fruits of the event were many. So if you’ve not been before, why not give it a go? — I look forward to meeting you next year!

John Lavery, Cornerstone CLC, Oxford

CLC in Paris



I recently had the privilege of attending a CLC international gathering in Paris. It was an unexpected pleasure but I found I would be in Paris on that day and

joined with Trish Coxhead who was also attending the gathering. It was a very worth-while day with good input and valuable sharing. My lack of French only made it the more enjoyable as I had so many willing interpreters.

I would like to take just one of several things which became clearer to me as I listened and we shared. That was the value of the International membership and extent of CLC. Perhaps in CLC E&W, and especially in London, where I am based, we are inclined to take this for granted. However, the value of this was enhanced for me by the input from one of the World Assembly Delegates, Jean Fumex. He said that having met people from all over the world as members of one community he would no longer look on those from other countries as immigrants but as people with their own hopes, dreams and concerns.

In our sharing from CLC E&W we spoke of the international membership of some of our groups, and the positive contribution brought to these groups by members from other countries. The challenge for us now is how to appreciate and use this international membership, especially in our deepening and formative programmes.

*Sister Sarah Anne Kane
Chaplain CLC Young Adult groups*

Oxford CLC Day

The Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy has been host to two CLC groups this last academic year. As term drew to an end in June, the chaplaincy CLC groups welcomed the Oxford Edmund Campion CLC, as well as some London Young Adults members, to a shared community event. As many of the chaplaincy members will be moving on from Oxford, it was a wonderful opportunity to get a taste for the wider CLC community. Fr Dushan Croos SJ provided the input for the day, which was a fascinating session on a few letters of St Ignatius; fruitful in themselves and also an exciting discovery of a wealth of spiritual material for those of us not familiar with St Ignatius's many letters! We enjoyed some private reflection time and sharing in small groups, followed by joining the regular Mass at the chaplaincy. We ended off our time together with a long and sociable lunch—a relaxed end to a lovely morning.



CLC FaceTime

One challenge CLC groups often come across is finding a meeting date that everyone can make. It is part of our commitment as a CLC member that we make attending meetings a priority... but sometimes the busy-ness of life gets in the way. Different groups have different approaches. Some groups use the same regular slot, others fix all the dates a long way in advance, others plan dates from one meeting to the next, taking account of the individual availability of the members. When physically getting together isn't an option would a virtual meeting work? For example by committing to pray at the same time and calling into the meeting by phone or over the internet...



Margaret Partridge shares her experience:

“Twice recently the Edmund Campion CLC, Oxford have held our meeting linking one member to the rest using FaceTime. The atrocious weather made it impossible to venture out by car. The experiment worked well considering the circumstances and we may well do it again. It enabled us to fulfil our spiritual need to share and pray together. Is this a first for CLC England and Wales? Have we set a precedent?”

**If you have experiences of virtual CLC meetings to share please send them to Focus
(contact details on the back page).**

DSSE: Sent By Christ, Members of One Body

This article is about the second and third steps of the **DSSE** process - to **SEND** and to **SUPPORT**.

First of all, what does it mean to **SEND** or to be **SENT**? Our principal role model here is Jesus Christ. Throughout His life, and especially from the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus was acutely aware of having been sent by His father. It was this awareness of being sent, of being entrusted with a mission, which gave meaning and purpose to His life. The Church is a continuation of the mission of Jesus, and therefore a continuation of the sending by His father.

"As the father sent me, I am also sending you" John 20:21 - 22

For our part, to be *apostolic* means we receive and recognise a call from Christ to place ourselves in His service. We accept being **SENT** by Christ to serve Him in accordance with what He desires of us in the concrete circumstances of our lives.

The first step of the **DSSE** process - to **Discern**, is about recognising our call from Christ, and discovering our own personal mission. The second step - to **SEND**, is about accepting and signifying the fact that we are being **SENT** by Christ to engage in our personal mission. As an apostolic community we discover and live out our personal mission as a **SHARED EXPERIENCE** with our CLC group. Therefore our acceptance and signifying of being **SENT** by Christ, must in some way be a communal experience. We are sent by Christ, members of **ONE** body.

This is described in our charism as follows:

"CLC as host community of a specific charism - the Ignatian charism of service in the mission of the church - expresses the sending or mission to its members through concrete forms, and as fruit of an apostolic communal discernment. They have a right to know that they are being sent by the community where they share their specific vocation. The community SENDS explicitly and at the same time accompanies the apostolic discernment as a development of the mission."

(Charism 96)

The rite of sending by the CLC group is a recognition and celebration of the sending by Christ, and it is also a pledge of **SUPPORT** by the group, for the one who is being sent.

To **SUPPORT** is the third step of the **DSSE** process, it follows on from sending, and is an on-going element of our CLC group life.

"To SUPPORT is fundamental in the development of the apostolic body. Although we are not always discerning and sending, we are nevertheless always helping. That is why we recognise the need of journeying together, supporting one another in weakness, and making use of each other's strengths. We recognise our total dependence on God, and our personal and communitarian need of a continual conversion to the Lord."

(PROJECTS 125)

The next article and final article will be about **EVALUATING**, which is the last step of the **DSSE** process.

The following is an example of a prayer used as a **SENDING /COMMISSIONING** rite used in the Midlands region of CLC England & Wales:

Commissioning Prayer

Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask you to bless.....in his/her/their mission of.....

(Pause) Extend right arm.

In the name of Christ we now send..... on this mission and pray that, with the help of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady's intercession, it will bear much fruit.

We, for our part, are committed to give our prayers and active support.

Eddie Langton, Corby Hall CLC

Noticeboard

MIDLANDS REGIONAL DAY

FINDING GOD'S WAY IN OUR LIVES:
exploring Ignatian Discernment

with Sr Margaret Harlock RLR
Saturday 18th October
10am for 10.30am start to 4pm.

At Manresa House , Albert Road, Harborne
Birmingham, B17 0AN

Please bring food for a shared lunch
Cost £8

Contact Peter & Margaret Dimambro
mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk 01926 428399

NORTH WEST REGIONAL DAY we invite you to

"CALLED TO BE FAMILY"

thoughts on the World Assembly Theme
Saturday 18th October

At **TABOR**, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8HE
Tel: 01772 717122

e-mail: tabor@carmelite.net www.carmelite.net

Tea/Coffee 10a.m Start 10.30 – 4pm

Please bring food for a shared lunch.

Contact Fiona Craven 01772 712052 or
Mary Sellers 01200 428653

Buses 19 or 23 from Bus station/ lifts from the train station

HELP WITH RESOURCES

THINKING OF HOLDING A CLC INFORMATION
SESSION?

There are many ideas of formats in :-

'Guidelines for an information session' available

FREE from administrator@clcew.org.uk

Please help HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust

See www.hcpt.org.uk

The Charity undertakes pilgrimages for disabled children to Lourdes each Easter

John O'Sullivan took part in the 3 Peaks Challenge on 28/29th June (Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike) 26 miles in 24 hours and would like help to raise the £10,000 needed to send disabled children to Lourdes at Easter time.

All donations—large and small warmly welcomed.
(£2 will buy an ice-cream!)

Either on line at

<https://www.justgiving.com/John-OSullivan-3peak2014/>
Or contact John at ohn_osullivan208@hotmail.com

DAY ON ACCOMPANIMENT

Saturday 29th November

Led by Brother Alan Harrison

St Francis Xavier, Salisbury Street, Liverpool, L3 8DR

(adjacent to Liverpool Hope at Everton)

Contact Kathryn Lydon 0151 733 2806

C A L E N D A R 2 0 1 4

13 SEPTEMBER National Team Meeting , Mount Street , London

20 SEPTEMBER Midlands Regional Team Meeting, St Peter's Leamington Spa 10.30am

20 SEPTEMBER North West Regional Team Meeting + planning for National Assembly. 1p.m. for 1.30 –4.30 meeting At Katherine House, 26, Singleton Road, Salford, M7 4WL Contact Kathryn Lydon 0151 7332806.

18 OCTOBER Midlands Regional Day. Manresa House, Harborne, Birmingham.

18 OCTOBER North West Regional Day , Tabor Carmelite Retreat House, Preston

25 OCTOBER National Formation Retreat Team, Manresa House , Birmingham

22 NOVEMBER National Team Meeting venue tbc

29 NOVEMBER Day on Accompaniment, Liverpool

14 –15 FEB 2015 National Formation Retreat Team , Manresa House, Birmingham

10 –12 JULY 2015 National Assembly, Hope University , Liverpool

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 3A

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

National President: Monica Francomb, tel: 0151 270 2128 email: president@clcew.org.uk

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

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

Next FOCUS Deadline

Please send
contributions for the next FOCUS
(SEPTEMBER)
ubuckley@gmail.com
by 23 August