

PROJECTS: World ExCo Meeting 2015

No.162, April 2015

Original : English

Dear friends in the Lord,

Greetings: We bring you news of the World Executive Council meeting held from 14th to 22nd February 2015 at Casa di Nazareth, Rome. W-ExCo members enjoyed the opportunity of coming together again in person to reflect on CLC matters and discern on future directions. As in the past, all enjoyed the excellent accommodation and hospitality provided at this venue.

The meeting began with a ½ day retreat focussing on our experience of “our favourite parables”, how this might be so, and all this especially in the context of wisdom language. W-ExCo members then shared their particular personal experience of these reflections.



Top Row (L-R): Denis Dobbstein, Alwin Macalalad, Luke Rodrigues SJ, Chris Hogan
Bottom Row (L-R): Edel Churu, Rojean Macalalad, Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, Josephine Shamwana-Lungu, Mauricio Lopez, Anne-Marie Brenan, Najat Sayegh

Review of Lebanon mandate and reformulation of W-ExCo work

At a practical level, this W-ExCo meeting was one of consolidation of past work, fine-tuning our understanding of the purpose of the various commissions, combining and reallocating tasks, and establishing revised timeframes and milestones for the completion of the work of each commission.

At another level, we experienced a deepening of our sense of community - among ourselves (on W-ExCo) and with the CLC global community – all engaged in Common Mission, Christ’s mission and that of the Church.

In reviewing our work, we were pleased with the progress of the Wisdom Language commission with the publication of Projects 160. Wisdom language would continue as a priority, but as a transverse one, relevant to all W-ExCo work and becoming ever more a characteristic of global CLC communication. Progress was reviewed of all other individual commissions resulting in refinements as mentioned above.

Another two significant areas of discussion were CLC Regional priorities and how these might be achieved thereby strengthening CLC Regional structures and advocacy. On this latter point of advocacy, W-ExCo felt we might strive for more eg., by CLC seeking a more significant international presence, engaging more actively in political and national issues be they dealing with natural catastrophes, inter-religious dialogue or the growing violence in the world.

The collective task of W-ExCo for its current term continues to be its priority areas (with commissions) relating to our frontiers of Poverty, Ecology, Family, Youth as well as Membership, General Principles and Norms, Formation, and Collaboration – all displayed graphically in the attached “Wheel” diagram. All these reflections helped W-ExCo appreciate the growth of CLC as a one world community on mission. More than this, as we reflected on our (W-ExCo) gifts and limitations, we took consolation in the knowledge of the great diversity and availability of gifts of the CLC world community thereby deepening our sense of being one world community on mission. We will be seeking to engage with CLC national communities to assist us with future work on the commissions.

CLC Regional news

In the period of a year or so, 60% of CLC national communities were visited – either directly (for the purpose) or as part of W-ExCo members’ other business travels. Some of the highlights that were a part of CLC Regional reports included:

- **Asia-Pacific:** The Asia-Pacific Region recently concluded a successful Regional Assembly in Taiwan. The Assembly final document encouraged future directions in Youth (including the Asian Youth Day in Indonesia in 2017), web-based and social media communications, and Asia-Pacific wide formation. A 5 person Asia-Pacific Animating team was elected to help facilitate achievement of the Assembly outcomes, along with CLC national communities, for the coming 5 years.
- **Africa:** In a continent where travel within the region is extremely expensive, CLC in Africa has explored other ways of accompanying each other as national community leaders. Some useful and fruitful experiences with group Skype and social media are appreciated in the region. . Africa is scheduled to have an All Africa Assembly in 2016. Planning of this assembly is to begin in earnest during this year. We ask the World community to support this Assembly in prayer
- **Europe:** The new Euroteam elected at the 2014 European Assembly is addressing matters of identity and a strategic approach to mission through new ways of collaboration. Special challenges exist around the transmission of faith, Ignatian spirituality and CLC culture to the next generation of young people. Another issue of special importance is the training of lay guides.
- **Latin America:** Latin America continues with its regional meetings, its formation programs, its Amazon volunteering program, and its various networking initiatives. A challenging process is being undertaken regarding the family frontier. The region hopes to grow into a more open perspective on “Family” - the core of our societies - acknowledging challenging situations while continuing to support existing initiatives. Other areas of concern are: engaging more widely with people, facilitating the transition of young people from school to adult CLC, accompanying newly incorporated national CLC communities and assisting Ignatian prayer groups wishing to become CLC groups.
- **North America:** The North American Region continues its process of conversation and dialogue, sharing resources related to formation and discerned mission. Although distances within and between countries are great (making in-person gatherings difficult), teleconferences are held and hopefully a regional meeting will be held in due course.

- **Middle East:** CLC life in the Middle East is strongly influenced by the political situations in member countries. For the region generally, commissions have been established for all CLC frontiers. Circumstances have limited the availability of people and resources but help and accompaniment is provided where possible. In Syria, the three regions are renewing their committees in preparation for election of a new national coordinator. The thoughts and prayers of the wider CLC community are greatly appreciated.

Finances

A presentation was made of the various CLC accounts, some in a revised format, making for a clear and transparent understanding of the all details. The good news is that the accounts are balanced, we are not in debt anymore (thanks to the past initiatives), and there are modest amounts of money available to continue funding future works in Formation, Apostolic works and Advocacy and Networking. We thank those national communities who have been able to continue with that extra donation to support the transition process to full financial security. Suggestions were also made about some revised financial practices to enhance the integrity and transparency of accounts - all of which were accepted.

Executive Secretary transition

ExCo welcomed its new Executive Secretaries, Alwin and Rojean Macalalad (along with their 4 yr old daughter, Aeraele). At the same time, W-ExCo thanks the outgoing Executive Secretary, Franklin Ibañez and his wife Sofia Montanez, for their great contribution over the previous 5 years. W-ExCo is appreciative of how well this transition has taken place and is especially thankful to the assistance of our Office Secretary Van Ngyen (with 22 years' experience in the CLC Secretariat) and our Vice EA, Fr Luke Rodrigues SJ. ExCo looks forward to working with the new Secretariat over coming years.

Communications

A plan was presented for managing CLC communications over the coming years. Emphasis was given to enhancing communication between W-ExCo, the Secretariat and the CLC world community and also furthering ways to enable world CLC to access its already very significant knowledge bank. W-ExCo responded with suggestions and decisions in relation to CLC's publication schedule for 2015, future possibilities for the World CLC website, and how to best use social media communications (eg Facebook) and other internet-based communication.

Other visits and meetings

- **Visit to the Pontifical Council for the Laity:** As in previous years, W-ExCo visited the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The President, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko was very encouraging, speaking of the ever fresh and life-giving characteristics of Ignatian spirituality, the emerging collaborative role of the laity and the significance of the CLC frontiers, especially "Youth".
- **Meeting with the Euroteam:** Matters discussed included the settling down of the new recently elected Euroteam, its priorities, allocation of tasks and refinement of understanding of its role. Special consideration was being given youth, migration and formation. Other priorities are as described above. Concerning migration, of immediate concern has been the establishment of a new migration network,

being managed by CLC (Spain). Work is continuing on how such a network will function and the various roles within CLC at national, regional and world levels.

- **Meeting with our EA, Fr Adolfo Nicolás SJ:** Fr Nicolás addressed the issue of “Family”, being a CLC frontier and a topic of special focus in the Church at the moment ie through the Church’s Synod on "Family". Fr Nicolás’ address brought some deep and refreshing new insights to the subject and also a few challenges.

Making a parallel with St Ignatius’ contemplation on divine love, he elaborated on the meaning of the Sacrament explaining marriage as a mission, an ongoing growing community, and not just a ceremony. His words were very enlightening, consoling and encouraging.

- **Visit to Pope Francis’ morning Mass:** This occasion was attended by President, Mauricio Lopez and Vice-President, Edel Churu. Both were deeply moved by the experience and W-ExCo was fortunate to be able to share this with them appreciating something of their encounter with the Pope and, through him, the wider Church.



CLC World Assembly, 2018

The W-ExCo briefly considered arrangements for the next CLC World Assembly creating a tentative timeline of events that need to take place for an orderly progression to this event. CLC national communities would be involved in a consultation process to help arrive at the best possibilities for a theme and location. This consultation process begins now with an invitation to National Communities to consider the possibility of hosting this event in 2018. Please see the invitation in the attachment in this document.

Concluding prayer

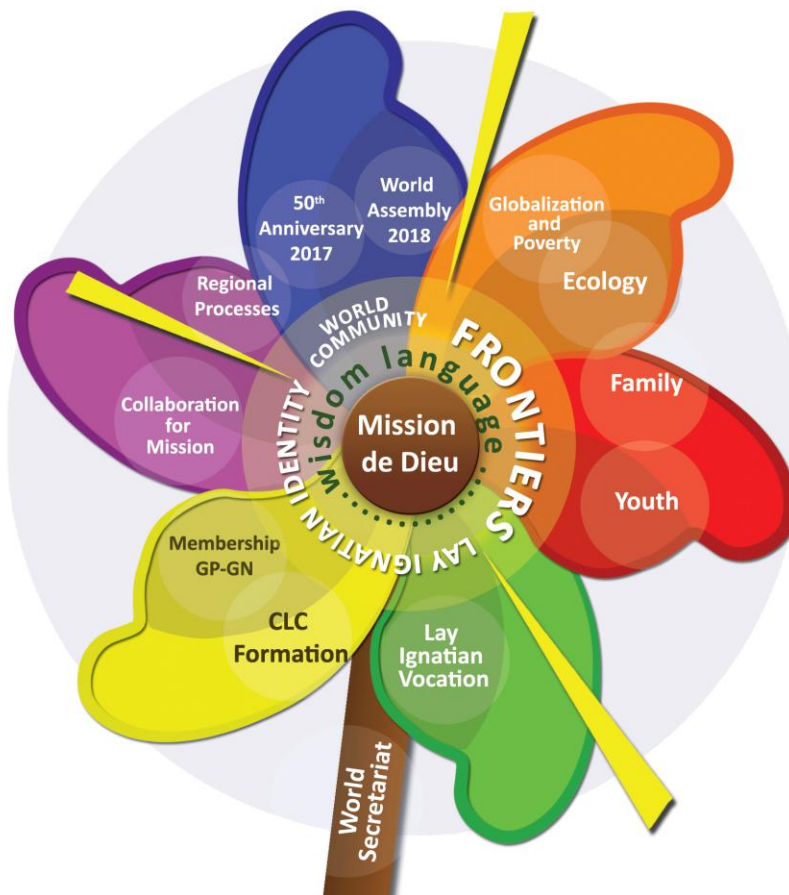
We ask God’s grace to help us continue on our path towards the frontiers, collaborating in God’s mission in this beautiful yet suffering world, being aware of our Ignatian Lay Identity, and having compassion with each other. “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1Cor 12:26-27). We wish you a happy Easter.

United in prayer and service,

Chris Hogan, Consultor & Najat Sayegh, Secretary
With and on behalf of CLC W-Executive Council

Attachment to Projects 162

1. The Wheel expressing the W-ExCo agenda for its term as derived from the Lebanon mandate:



2. For consideration and response: W-ExCo is keen to hear from CLC national communities on the following matters:

- 1) **Concerning CLC national community reflections on Family:** Many CLC national communities are currently involved with reflections on Family (eg as part of World CLC Day reflections or in other ways). We request that such communities kindly share these reflections with the World secretariat at exsec@cvx-clc.net. Your input may be aimed at the Synod process and hence be going through your local channels. However, it is also good to share such reflections with the CLC world community. The ExCo commission on family is charged with seeing how such reflections can be shared for furthering our CLC mission on the family frontier.
- 2) **The next CLC World Assembly:** This is to be held in 2018. We invite you to reflect on whether your national community would be interested and willing to host the Assembly. Please inform the Secretariat exsec@cvx-clc.net of your intention by 31 July, 2015. More details about the requirements will be provided to those who express their interest.