

## PROJECTS

### Annual Meeting of the World Executive Council.

Nº 176, June 2021

*Original: Spanish*

*"Hope is the gift of the Lord's Easter.  
To celebrate it is to accept that gift and to put our hands  
to work in the transformation of the world".  
(Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ. April 2021)*

#### **To the National Executive Councils and all CLC members:**

Dear friends in the Lord:

Our world is still affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is not yet clear to us when it will end. We are likely to feel weariness, fear, uncertainty, desolation. We have heard many stories of loss of friends or family members. We are aware that some are suffering from the after-effects of the disease, that health workers are exhausted and that this pandemic is causing other problems: job losses, economic hardship, worsening inequalities. We see these in our diverse world community. We do not all have the same opportunities.

It is in this context, and together with the Church, we have recently celebrated the Easter season. We hope that you have celebrated it by encountering and recognising the Risen One, who is the Crucified One, who comes to meet us to restore bonds and to offer us new life. He gives us back the hope that we need so much and that our world needs now.

#### **Annual World Executive Council meeting**

Unable, for the second year running, to hold an in person annual meeting of the World Executive Council, we dedicated the week of 5-9 April 2021 to prayer, reflection, and sharing online. We felt the strong desire as a Council, to meet in person but unable to do so, we reach out to you to ask you to redouble your prayers for us that, despite this obstacle, we continue to be attentive and open to the Spirit who guides us.

During the meeting, we had time for personal and communal prayer, sharing our lives and listening to where God has been present in our life-mission. We worked in small groups and met every day in plenary. We concluded by celebrating the Eucharist presided by José from the Cova of Saint Ignatius, in Manresa.

## World Community Survey and our perspectives in action

Our starting point for the Annual Meeting was to review the responses of the National Executive Councils to the Survey request of May 2020. We were eager to know the reality of the World Community around the two themes that we defined as priorities in these years: Youth and Formation.

We would like to thank you very much for the effort and the time you dedicated to share the reality of your national community with us. We trust that your input will help us to find new, creative, and dynamic ways to live our being an Ignatian lay apostolic body in today's world.

We received responses from 79% of the total number of communities. Our reality as one community, is that we faced different challenges, with lights and shadows. This reality also has a great shared potential, and in the CLC tradition, we can pray and ask ourselves how we can offer that potential to the World Community.

Based on what you shared here are the highlights and good news on how we want to move forward in Youth and Formation, putting the sustainability of CLC at the centre.

### Youth:

#### **What we read in the survey results:**

- Youth is one of the main concerns for most national communities.
- Almost 70% are dissatisfied with the low number of young people in their national community.
- Almost 50% have created a youth frontier.
- The most pressing concerns of the national communities, in relation to this issue, are:
  - Lack of youth participation
  - Accompaniment of young communities
  - Transmission of our CLC charism

#### **What we want to communicate to you from W-ExCo:**

- Three central ideas have guided our work:
  - We feel the desire and the need to listen to young people, to walk with them, and to accompany them.
  - We want to do this with a sense of openness, partnership, and empowerment.
  - We intend to work for young people, but also with young people.

- Actions we will take forward:
  - a. **Loyola World Youth Gathering 2021.** In the framework of the Ignatian Year, and at the initiative of CLC Spain, we will hold this meeting in the hope that it will be a real space for young people to share, give thanks, celebrate, and strengthen their faith. We want to invite them to "embrace the world in the Ignatian way".

- b. We will **co-opt two young members** to join the work of the World Executive Council. We want to give them a space to share their perspective and work with us.
- c. We will **create a World Youth Team**, consisting of one member from each of the six regions and some members of the World Executive Council.
- d. We will **reach out to those national communities** that are experiencing the greatest difficulty with Youth. We want to learn more about the reality, to dialogue, and together creatively look for ways to address the situation. We invite you, when you feel ready, to write to us.

### Formation:

#### **What we read in the survey results:**

- Most national communities perceive communal discernment as a call to reflection and action. However, almost 30% indicated that it is an interesting but still relatively unknown territory.
- About 40% of our national communities do not have a formation team. Several communities, out of the remaining 60%, experience some gaps in training.
- Almost 70% of the national communities feel very unfamiliar and uncomfortable with the DSSE (Discern, Send, Support, Evaluate) methodology.
- The most pressing concerns of the national communities, in relation to formation, were:
  - Communal discernment
  - Spiritual Exercises
  - Knowing and deepening our CLC Identity. Temporary Commitment + Permanent Commitment
  - Interpreting key messages, gestures, and realities of the Universal Church.
- In relation to **communal discernment**, the main challenges expressed are:
  - Training in communal discernment as a tool for use in communities.
  - Distinguishing and deepening the different discernments (personal, communal, apostolic, for work teams, etc.).
  - Incorporating communal discernment in our work on teams.
  - Lack of time and understanding of the process.
  - Lack of people who have the experience and training to guide these processes.
- Regarding the training of Group Guides, the main challenges are:
  - Neglect of one community to accompany another community.
  - Availability of people with a vocation to accompany a community.
  - Having a community for practice and learning.
  - Designing a process of ongoing training.
  - Generational gaps: knowledge and culture.
  - Lack of a common way of proceeding.

## What we want to communicate to you from W-ExCo:

- Formation is fundamental for the development and growth of CLC.
- It is essential to continue deepening our identity, sharing the gift that is CLC, and going forth to meet our brothers and sisters.

- Initiatives we want to develop:
  - a. International Formation Encounter (IFE)** for July 2022. We hope that it can be in person. We will inform you of the preparatory steps.
  - b.** We encourage national communities that have not yet developed a **Formation Team** to initiate a process to do so at the national level, to begin thinking of possible persons who could be part of it.
  - c.** We will create an **International Team of Trainers** that we will make available to the World Community to work on concrete demands. We will develop this team in all three languages.
  - d.** We will work, with a formation team, on **collecting, analysing, and classifying** different resources that exist in the national communities with the aim of systematising them and making them available through a virtual library. If your national community has resources that you think would be useful to the global community, please share them with us.

In both Youth and Formation, we have defined actions to take forward. The World Executive Council welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions. We will provide you with periodic updates on the progress of these initiatives.

### Other topics:

At our annual meeting we had exchanges on other important issues. We discussed the existence and diverse presence of the Regional Teams. We are grateful for the service they provide and believe that they are spaces that contribute to communicating our mission, promoting coordination, and collaboration. We will take steps to listen to the regional teams and to dialogue on future possibilities. Nor have we forgotten the apostolic frontiers discerned in Lebanon and other mission areas where CLC is present: family, ecology, presence in the United Nations, collaboration. We are aware of the commitment of CLC in these areas and we encourage further progress in the sharing and deepening in the many fields of mission. We will keep you informed of developments to support these efforts.

### Ignatian Year. An opportunity.

On 20 May 2021, the Ignatian Year began! On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Ignatius' wound in Pamplona and his conversion, the Society of Jesus invites us to unite with our Ignatian family, to recognise the Ignatian spirituality as a specific source of our CLC charism, and to join to celebrate an experience of conversion that inspires us, to "see all things new in Christ". We encourage you to find and participate in activities in your country and to celebrate the Ignatian Year, also a Jubilee Year in CLC.


The experience of Ignatius in Pamplona speaks to us of breaks and disruption, of forced changes in plans, of confinements. Recognising ourselves in the midst of this experience can also be a moment that opens us to conversion, to rediscover God, and to renew our hopes, dreams, and desires for new life. It is a time to turn this "storm" into an opportunity for growth and deepening in God. It is not about going back to the old, but about building something new.

This is what we have been desiring and now, as World Executive Council, we propose: that we continue to build our CLC, seeking to respond to God's ever surprising calls in bold and creative ways.

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Catherine WAIYAKI • Daphne HO • Diego PEREIRA  
Najat SAYEGH • Fernando VIDAL

Rome, 9 June 2021



**Prayer for the Ignatian Year**  
Loving God,

We come before You asking for Your special grace as we go through the year dedicated to the memory of the conversion of Saint Ignatius.

We remember the battle of Pamplona, the bravery of Ignatius, his recklessness, his ability to relate to his comrades.

We remember his wound; his broken dreams; his apparent failure; the vulnerability of his health; his return to Loyola and the long days of soul searching to try to find his way in life, finally surrendering his life to You as he listened to Your voice speaking to him through his reading, his dreams, his prayers and his imagination.

We remember his journey to Manresa; his inner struggles; his desire to reach out to others, helping souls to discover the consolation of Your Risen Son.

We ask, Lord, that You renew, also today, Ignatius' spirit in us.

May we grow closer to his total trust in the Holy Spirit, following Him faithfully, neither running ahead or falling behind.

May we make our own his ability to discern, his courage, his vulnerability, his search for companionship; his openness to young people, and his desire to share with them his wisdom.

May we learn from his fearlessness in going forward even if it meant, sometimes, making mistakes.

Grant, Lord, that we may be on fire with his apostolic zeal and full of love for this beautiful but broken world.

Help us, Lord to set aside our narrow views, our preconceptions of ourselves, of each other, of our world and to see everything with new eyes. Help us to live ever more deeply the Ignatian charism of *seeing all things new in Christ*, of seeing Your grace at work, even in darkness and suffering. May this Ignatian Year help us to know Jesus poor and humble, to love Him more dearly, and follow Him more closely.

We ask the intercession of Our Lady of the Way. May she help us journey with Your Son, Jesus, putting our hand in His, stepping out, every day, into the world with a sense of adventure, of love and hope.

Amen.

#ignatius500 [www.ignatius500.global](http://www.ignatius500.global)

Image: With his standard, Christ entrusts his mission to Ignatius. Andrea Pozzo, Church of the Gesù, Rome.