



A mean of communication between the World Leadership Community in discernment and every member of the World Community

# HORIZONS



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### Discerning Paths for Hope

#### *Seeking our horizons*

Nº 182, April 2024

*Original: English*

Dear friends,

As the World Leadership Community in discernment (W-ExCo) we write to you after our first in-person meeting in Rome held between the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. As we worked through the week, we prayed for all of you and could feel your prayers for us. This meeting has been very energising for all of us and an important experience of lived community. We hope this letter will convey the same energy and hope for the future that the meeting instilled in us.

#### **ONE Community in Creative Evolution**

The feeling of ONE community is very strong, however another strong feeling is that our community is in movement, moving forward with the Lord. As the community moves forward, we need to be attentive to the signs that require us to change. We change not for the sake of change but as a visible sign of growth. Growth, by definition, is change.



The first obvious sign of change is in the title of this letter. Up until 2023 this communication was known as “Projects”. In our prayer and conversation during the week we felt that this no longer reflected our leadership team and what we want to convey to the community. So, with a lot of thanks to the people who went before us and had the vision to initiate this communication channel that was very much a project for them, today we can safely say that this evolved into an important means of communication and is no longer a project but our privileged means of communication with you, every member of CLC. With this new name “Horizons” we want to show that as a world community we are on a journey, a pilgrimage with Christ. We walk together towards different horizons. Horizons where the earth touches the heavens, the human touches the spiritual. This is the journey as an ExCo, a world leadership community sent in mission by the Holy Spirit working through the Assembly, to discern, send, support, and evaluate in common.

You will also notice that we carried on the numbering of this communication, now at 182, as a demonstration of this evolution. We do not start from 1, but we continue to walk together as one and evolve as one. We are at 182!

We are on a pilgrimage with the Church. This means that as our journey takes us forth, we will need to remain attentive to the quiet voice of God who leads the way. We will need to be courageous and creative as we journey towards our horizons. Always seeking the paths, the Holy Spirit invites us to travel, evolving as we travel and changing our horizons if necessary.

## Our Community of Discerned Leadership



We spent the first day and a half of our meeting forming the leadership community called in Amiens to serve you. We too needed to move from the “I” to the “We” as one community sent on discerned leadership. We invested time to build the team as a community of service within CLC.

This day was spent with two members of the Discerning Leadership Accompaniment Network<sup>1</sup> who organised a day of community building. This was a great time to get to know each other. We are such a varied group of people with **so many skills and different views**. It was a real experience of unity in our diversity clearly showing that in unity there is much more than the sum of the individual parts. Just to be clear, we are not talking about uniformity but unity.

The morning of the second day was spent deepening and sharing our experience of communal discernment and seeking to understand what a “discerned consensus” looks like in a community. Great support from Fr. Jose de Pablo S.J. (our Vice Ecclesiastical Assistant) who provided all the material for this half day. We really got ourselves knotted (even literally) but with careful thought and direction we managed to unknot ourselves.

These experiences and those of the rest of the week were a clear sign that our method of leadership in CLC is another area that needs to evolve. It needs to evolve into a discerned leadership right across our world community. We need to deepen our discerned leadership seeking discerned consensus within the DSSE (Discern-Sent-Support-Evaluate) process as our way of proceeding as leaders at the service of our community.



## Listening to our Community

An experiment in our meeting was to involve the community very directly. Rather than reading reports or listening to stories second hand from the members of the team who serve us as ExCo links, we decided to invite members of the past ExCo, the international apostolic teams and the regional teams into the meeting. We spent the next one and a half days listening to the community. A good discernment requires very good listening skills, listening to the signs and voices, in this case, of the community.

<sup>1</sup> Discerning Leadership: <https://discerningleadership.org/>



We had three separate sessions with the three groups who all made an extraordinary effort to join us. We thank them for their effort and enthusiasm to join the meeting. You really injected more energy into us and we are truly graced to have so many generous and passionate people in our community!

## **Our Vision for the Community**

A large part of our meeting was spent on **absorbing all we had heard from the people we invited and the final document of Amiens. After some time in prayer, we presented all that we had heard to the Lord** and asked for the grace to enlighten us so that we could plan our work for the next five years. The sharing that followed was a time of grace. We followed the practice of the three rounds of sharing and found 12 main areas of work that emerged. Of these 9 seemed to gravitate around the three pillars of CLC, our spirituality/formation; our apostolic response; our community. We therefore took more time to deepen these three areas.

### ***Our Spirituality/Formation:***

The World ExCo would like to empower the Formation Apostolic Team to continue the good work it has already done. We wish to remain in dialogue with them as they discern their tasks to identify needs and resources to continue to enliven the formation of our one world community. We encourage all members of the community but especially our leaders and prospective leaders to engage in personal development and experiment with the practice of leadership in communal discernment, using the DSSE process as the overall guiding process for their leadership.

### ***To Support and Develop our Community's Apostolic Response:***

As a world apostolic community, we approach the frontiers, with the collaboration and concrete efforts of our apostolic and regional teams to engage our members on different levels of mission.

From the first mission level, which is the regular day-to-day activities of daily living, to the subsequent mission levels, such as volunteering, various services, and institutional (retreat homes, schools, etc.), we reach the global level of mission, which aims to accomplish an internally felt apostolic life in addition to increasing our visibility as a community externally.

Much like an iceberg, our daily lives harbor hidden depths, unseen yet vital, supporting the visible tip. Often unacknowledged by ourselves and others, these submerged layers sustain our journey of being part of the apostolic community.

To intensify the apostolic aspect of everyday life, as lay people we need to deepen our faith, cultivate our spirituality, and engage in apostolic actions. We need to be attentive to the signs of the times and the needs of our brothers and sisters. We need to collaborate with other members of the Church in the common mission of the Lord. We need to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit while being joyful and hopeful, as we share in the joys and sorrows of the world.

We would also like to try to act as one World Community and engage our members on a global level of mission. Thus, we are recommending the following actions:

- Encourage the Apostolic Teams<sup>2</sup> to clarify their roles and duties to better identify and meet the needs of the Frontiers.
- Create a FRAMEWORK that connects our missions at various levels of CLC mission.
- Equip the Apostolic Teams with this FRAMEWORK through formation.
- Take actions to implement at least two worldwide apostolic campaigns and create the necessary processes and resources for each one.

### ***Building Our Community:***

Our vision for our community can be described as “We are One Lay, Ignatian, Apostolic Community: The world community moved from the "I" to the "WE". We want to foster co-responsibility for our charism to enhance our sense of belonging and responsiveness to reality.”

In this vision we saw three lines of action (goals):

- Governance and Authority:* Clarification and development of CLC governance and authority to incorporate DSSE in the governing of the community (local, regional, and international) and its mission as one apostolic community.
- Support Communities and Individuals:* Support and walk with fragile communities and individuals.
- Embracing our Diversity:* Create safe spaces to discover, explore, understand, and embrace our diversity.

We also defined our long-term five-year action plan to achieve these goals. This will help us define the actual tasks we want to achieve each year and evaluate with you (the community) as we move forth with our tasks. We will evaluate whether the tasks are in fact helping us achieve our goals. For this year, 2024, we are tasking ourselves with:

- Undertake a community wide deliberation regarding the roles and responsibilities and the use of DSSE in our processes for appointing and developing the service of the World ExCo links, the regional and apostolic teams. These may need to be revised again as part of the work on the revision of the GPs and GNs.
- Support the international commission for the review of the General Principles and General Norms in the areas of governance of the community with the shared perspectives gained from (i) above.
- Walk with the community at all levels to support the use of DSSE as our core way of proceeding, especially in all levels of leadership within our community including our national leadership teams, the apostolic and regional teams.
- Explore and implement mechanisms to remain attentive to the calls of the community and members who may need us to accompany them on their journey.
- Create safe spaces within which our community can embrace and deepen our diversity giving grace to God for this diversity, learning to live with it and walking together as one.

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<sup>2</sup> For now, we have four apostolic teams: The Youth Apostolic Team, The Ecology Apostolic Team, The UN Apostolic Team and the Formation Apostolic Team. We hope to encourage, engage and start new ones as we continue to walk our pilgrimage of faith and hope.



## The review process of our General Principles (GPs) and General Norms (GNs)

The review process of our GPs and GNs is a fourth area of work for the team that was given to us very clearly in Amiens. Rarely does an assembly give a “mandate” to the new leadership team. It is more likely that the assembly gives recommendations. However, in this case the message from the assembly was clear. We want to do our best in accomplishing this and we discerned to form a five-member team along with the World Leadership Community (W-ExCO). A lot of ideas have already been shared, so the commission does not start from scratch. We are also clear that we want this process to be a lived synodal process. This means that during the 4 years of consultations with you (the community) we want to involve as many people as possible. Today we have the technology to support this process and we intend to use it. All we can say for now is that the process has commenced, and please pray for the people whom we are approaching, that the Lord enlightens them and gives them the freedom and confidence to undertake this project together with us. We will certainly be communicating in more depth in a future letter in which we will describe the process and how the community will be invited to engage.



Other issues related to technology and communications, the creation of a common identity, finances, the upcoming World Assembly were also in our prayer and analysis, and we want to continue to take time for reflection so that we can share our perspectives with you in future communications.

The final document of our Assembly in Amiens invited us to better CONNECT, COOPERATE and COLLABORATE in CREATIVE ways. We hope the design of our first Exco meeting and the initial plan for our way forward have shown our determination in responding to this invitation. But this mission would not be successful without your participation and support. So, may we invite you to work with us on this journey by:

1. Sharing this letter with as many members around you as possible.
2. Spending one or two small group meetings to read, pray over and share your reflections about this document using the following tool.
  - i. **SEE**—Read the document carefully. What do you notice?
  - ii. **THINK**—What thoughts do you have about *our* work and the way forward?
  - iii. **ME**—What connections can you make between you and our work? Where can you see God’s invitation to YOU?
  - iv. **WE**—How might *our* work be connected to the bigger stories—about your local and/or regional community, apostolic teams, our Church, and the World?
3. Sharing your reflections with our global community via the following QR Code.



<https://padlet.com/it474/horizontes-182-horizons-182-qrh0j5t8vy7ixy77>

Once again, we are grateful to each and every one of you who have made every effort to live out our charism in our daily life. May the risen Christ continue to bless and guide us on this journey together towards our Horizons (old and new).

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Chris MICALLEF • Daphne HO • Catherine WAIYAKI  
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**Rome, April 10th 2024**