



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

# HORIZONS



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### Being One Community

### Walking Together in God's Path

Nº 184, March 2025

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Dear Friends,

We write to you after our annual in-person meeting held February 1-8 in Cairo, Egypt. The CLC community in Egypt invited and warmly welcomed us. We hope that our presence in the holy land of Egypt and amongst the community was a small sign of our companionship with the CLC community in the country and the region. Members of CLC in this region are a living witness to the hope we speak about in CLC and the Church, a hope that is centred on Christ.

As the world community continues to experience the transition from being a federation of communities to one community, our leadership structures at all levels of the community need to transition. Even the world executive council is transitioning into a structure more in tune with being one community. Since our sending in Amiens, we have been forming a small community of leaders who are guiding the world community till the next world assembly. We have been experimenting with how to form and live as a community of leadership when we are living in 8 different countries and 16 hours difference in between! So far, the journey together has been very positive.

Another key aspect of this transition is our way of proceeding in the mission for which we were sent. The Discern-Send-Support-Evaluate (DSSE) cycle is essential for our leadership style in all aspects of our life in the community. We have been experimenting with and learning how to proceed as one leadership community using the DSSE cycle.

Thus, we planned a lived experience of community using DSSE for our way of proceeding for our annual in-person meeting. We hope that our experience inspires and energizes you as members and leaders to walk this path of change together.

- ✓ Does the DSSE way of proceeding resonate with your experience of leadership in your country or region?
- ✓ What joys and difficulties do you experience with this style of leadership and way of proceeding?

### Our Journey

**Listening to the Whisper** We started our week together in a day of silence, retreat and prayer. Even though it was very emotional to be in this holy land and meet each other in person after a



year, we wanted to start our meeting contemplating the presence of God amongst us. We used the text from 1Kings 19:9-13 where God speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb (or Mount Sinai) in Egypt and asks Elijah, “What are you doing here?” Incidentally, this reading was also part of the sending Mass in Amiens. We remember the paintings of Estela showing the chaos of the wind, the earthquake and fire, and then the gentle whisper of God. Similarly, we spent a week seeking the gentle whisper of God’s guidance amidst the sounds of Cairo, the traffic and airplane noise, the barking of the stray dogs, the wind blowing sand from the desert.

Our time of sharing was deep, honest and loving, just like any of our small community meetings. This sense of closeness carried us through the week. It was a true experience of community.

**Listening to Evaluate** Our actual meeting started with the E of the DSSE. An evaluation of our work in the past 12 months. This day started with the Executive Secretary’s report for 2024 in which we thanked Manuel Martinez for his dedication and support to the community for the past 5 years and welcomed Elena Yeyati into the role. Then we listened to the commission tasked with revising the text of our General Principles and General Norms (GP/GN Commission). In the afternoon, we listened to the teams that support our work and are vital to the life of our world community. We met the Regional Teams and the Apostolic Teams in separate sessions to listen to their dreams, their challenges and their work. This day was a day of deep listening but also one of great joy and gratitude for the many members who dedicate so much time and energy to our world community. Members from the various teams enjoyed meeting each other and hearing each other’s stories, finding encouragement in each other. Thank you to all our members who have offered their time, energy, and love to our world community.

Our evaluation process, the next day, continued in more prayer, silence and community sharing. Reflecting on the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:1-9), we examined our world community identifying where seeds have fallen on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and on good soil? We deepened our evaluation honestly with hope and love.



**Discerning Springs of Living Water** We began the “D” of Discernment reflecting on the Story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:7-15). Using the image of the Nile River, which is so vital to life in Egypt, we reflected on the life of the community. We asked ourselves, where are the springs of fresh water feeding our river, the places where the water is feeding fertile soil? Where do we need to intervene and clear the stagnant water? Where are the rapids in the river of CLC that create energy and oxygen in the water to become more fruitful? Where are the slow meandering parts that lead the river into the estuary and sea of the world?

**Universal Calls: Revising GPs/GNs, Supporting Teams** Over the next two days, our discernment led us (in two distinct rounds) to plan our work for 2025. We worked together as a small sharing community, discerning our next steps in our journey. We identified the more urgent and more universal calls we perceived, including the need to create more institutional structures to support the growth of our one world community. One visible step in creating this structure is the review and revision of our General Principles. The GP/GN Commission is undertaking a deep reading of the text, the

mandates and recommendations of the World Assembly in Amiens and the recommendations of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life...and listening to the community. Soon you will see the first fruits of this effort when we seek your feedback on a number of important topics in our life as a community. As we continue on this journey we ask you, like Elijah, to remain attentive to the gentle whisper of the Spirit. We are aware that our journey of revising the General Principles will not be silent. There will be noise from within ourselves (our attachments to what we know, our fears of letting go to explore new avenues) and noise from outside.



**Regional and Apostolic Teams** Our discernment also revealed our deep desire to be with you and the community in its various aspects of life. This year we celebrate two regional assemblies in the Asia Pacific region and in Africa. By the time this *Horizons* reaches you the AP Assembly will have been celebrated. We also commit our time and energy to the 6 global regional teams who work tirelessly to serve each member of CLC and are an important part of our life as a community. Each regional team has a member of our leadership community who walks with them. While we are not a

formal part of the regional team, we are an important link for the whole community to see and feel that we journey as one. Another commitment we renewed is supporting our apostolic works and the teams who are sent to serve. These include our Global Formation Team, the World Youth/Young Adults Team, the Ecology Team and the UN Team. Each one of these teams has specific work and seeks our support which we freely give.

**Celebrating Anniversaries: *Laudato Si* and CLC as NGO at UN** We recall two important anniversaries this year: the 10-year anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si* and the 50-year anniversary of CLC serving as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations (UN). Beginning last year, we experimented with giving space in *Horizons* (Horizons 183) to one of the teams. Last year the Ecology Team invited us to pray and reflect on the meaning of the 10-year anniversary of *Laudato Si* and to start our individual and communitarian ecological conversion from where we are now. We encourage you to re-read *Horizons* 183 and give us feedback on the activities you undertake to celebrate this important anniversary.

As a way to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CLC registered as an NGO at the UN, we plan to reflect on what it means to have a global voice, how we currently use that voice and how we may be called to use that voice. We invite all communities, and especially those that have a UN office in their country or city, to reflect on this call. Our plan is to dedicate the next *Progressio* to our NGO status at the UN.

- ✓ Do you have an UN office in your country? Are there CLC members who work there professionally? Please let us know if you have either.

**Communications: New Logo, Data Platforms, Translating** We began to examine the quality of our internal and external communications. Communications are how we implement the 3 C's of Amiens: Connect, Cooperate and Collaborate. We continue to have a part-time person dedicated to guiding our communication strategy. We thank Isaac Sanchez for his availability in this role and Manuel Martinez and Daniela Ochoa who support him. We are focusing on three important aspects of communication. The first, the process of creating a new logo for the one world community has advanced. We thank the people who have submitted designs. The leadership has narrowed down to one theme. We await the final version so we can review it and confirm it. We are eager to share the



new logo with you. We know some communities are waiting to adopt it as their own new logo. The second aspect involves data storage and sharing information among the whole world community. Today we use tools provided by a service provider and these are being configured to handle both the storage and dissemination of the information. For example, we have storage locations for formation materials, ecology-related materials and young adult materials. The respective apostolic teams are compiling these resources for the benefit of the world community. Third, we heard that we need to keep our messages short since they need to be translated into many languages. The key for us in translating is that the spirit of the text is conveyed rather than the exact words.

**Support: Finances and Financial Co-Responsibility** We also discussed our community finances and financial co-responsibility within the community. We approved the accounts for 2024 and the budget for 2025 for which you will receive a detailed report and letter. We note with deep gratitude the generosity of our members to support to the life of the community. We also noticed with concern that not all communities plan financially for future projects such as regional and world assemblies or other missions. We suggest communities (local, national, regional) start planning and reserving funds for the next world assembly in 2028 and regional assemblies. This year, 2025, we will expend many of our reserves to support three big events: the two regional assemblies in Asia Pacific and Africa, and the international youth gathering in Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth (July 28-August 5).

**Sending** Finally, we send ourselves individually and as one leadership community to you, the world community, and to the projects and dreams we have for 2025. On behalf of the world community, we also sent Elena Yeyati on her mission to serve the community as our executive secretary.

**Egyptian Welcome and Context** In Cairo, we met with the local (Roman Catholic) church. Meeting Bishop Claudio Lurati was inspirational for us. The Roman Catholic rite in Egypt is a minority within a minority group. Christians represent 10% of the population in Egypt. Listening to the daily life concerns in this context was eye opening. Seeing how much people invest in their faith, a faith that is never taken for granted, was an important lesson.

The CLC community in Egypt and the Jesuit community warmly welcomed us with true joy. Encountering our brothers and sisters of the community and our important partners on our journey (the Jesuits) energized us. The Jesuit college in Cairo is an oasis in the chaos of the city. We had time to pray together and to feast and dance. Thank you to the community and the Jesuits in Cairo for your welcome!



As we look ahead to the rest of 2025, we will continue to practice the (S)ending and (S)upporting of our service. Please pray for us as we continue this mission, serving the community. Remain alert to our initiatives.

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