

Community Lab: “Migration: does political tension prevent civic action?”

Description: To what extent can and should CLC communities practise civic engagement on social justice for migrants and refugees? This Community Lab will bring together perspectives and testimonies from Europe and the US to explore if and how we can contribute to social justice in a context that seems increasingly hostile to migrants.

Date/time: Thursday 11 June from 18:00-20:00 (CET/Rome time)/12:00-14:00 (Eastern Time)

Moderator: Hiske Gude, CLC The Netherlands, CLC in Europe Migration Core Team

Speakers:

Marco Rivas, CLC Spain

Lily De Leon, CLC USA

Bios of the speakers and the moderator

Hiske Gude is a member of CLC in the Netherlands and the CLC Europe Migration Core Team. She works for a faith-based humanitarian relief organization in the Netherlands.

Marco Rivas is a pharmacist and research & development project manager with a background in healthcare. He is a member of CLC Spain and the national migration mission team. He lived in several countries and is currently based in a small village in northern Spain. Marco has over 10 years of engagement in the migration field, working as volunteer in different settings: Greece, Balkan Route, Dom. Republic - Haiti and, most recently, in Morocco. He is affiliated with "Por un Mundo Más Justo - M+J", a Spanish political party that, among other actions, led an initiative which has ultimately resulted in the Extraordinary Regularization of Migrants in Spain, currently in progress.

Lily Hernández-De León is a Guatemalan-American Catholic speaker, communicator, and Ignatian lay leader based in Miami, Florida. She has more than 30 years of experience in communications, including radio production, hosting, voice training, and virtual media. She has worked extensively in radio and virtual television, producing and hosting programs focused on faith, family, and social issues.

Since 1997, Lily has served at the Ignatian Spirituality Center – Casa Manresa (Miami) as part of the apostolic movement Encuentros Familiares, accompanying families, many of them migrants like herself, especially those raising adolescents. She also collaborates with the Pedro Arrupe Jesuit Institute for Social Awareness and Transformation.

A committed member of Christian Life Community in the USA since 2014 (in the South Florida Region), Lily has served at the local, regional, national, and world levels. She is currently North American Region Coordinator, ExCo Secretary of CLC in USA, and a member of the CVX-CLC Global Safeguarding Committee. She also serves in the Globalization & Poverty Apostolic Initiative, contributing to global reflections on justice, migration, inequality, and mission. In 2025, she was invited to contribute to the CLC France National Congress in Strasbourg, offering an international testimony for a round table on global tensions affecting CLC.

For more than 25 years, Lily has been actively involved in advocacy for migrant communities, supporting immigrant families, organizing prayer vigils, and participating in national campaigns for migrant dignity. Her mission integrates Ignatian spirituality, communication, and a deep commitment to social justice.