

PROJECTS

World CLC Day 2019: Called to Deepen, Share, Go Forth

Nº 171, January 2019

“God is with us!” – Matthew 1:23

Dear Friends in the Lord,

1. This World CLC Day 2019, our world community will gather in many points around the Earth—as we do each year—to rejoice in the Incarnation of our loving and compassionate God!
2. In Projects 170 we promised, as a preparation for this day, to invite the whole community to take an active part in the effort of understanding the call that was heard during the 2018 World Assembly in Buenos Aires. It is a matter of listening to a call that is universal, and at the same time, to engage ourselves concretely in a particular context.

Today's World

3. We live in different contextual realities according to our local circumstances, yet we observe, together, similar realities the world over. Our General Principles and Norms challenge us to ... *seek constantly the answers to the needs of our times and to work together with the entire People of God.* (GP #2)
4. The assembly was aware of three contextual realities as outlined in the final document:
 - a. The 50th Anniversary of the renewal that led to Christian Life Community,
 - b. A papacy renewing the Church, and
 - c. The renewed call for the laity in our world today.
5. There are many examples of this reality. In the Barrios of San Miguel, for the World assembly, was the reality of the poor neighbourhood in which we were immersed. Around the world, especially in the Amazon, there is the destruction of our environment, our Mother Earth. We are aware of increasing numbers of migrants, devastating conflicts in several countries, and more. The Pope calls the laity to be more present in our own realities, together discerning response.
6. Our spirituality is centered on Christ and on participation in the Paschal Mystery. Christ is present here and now, continuing His message of salvation. We are part of His Church, listening to His call through the Church, calling us here and now.

The Word of God

7. The scriptural readings for these days, close to the Annunciation, highlight God's desire to be present with us and call on us to notice God's presence in our midst.
 - Exodus 3:1-8 God calls out to Moses, “Here I am.”
 - Matthew 1:22-23 “The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us.”
 - Luke 1:46-55 “My soul glorifies the Lord!”

The Call to Deepen, Share, Go Forth

8. Through a series of exercises of prayer and spiritual conversations during the days of discernment, the delegates at the assembly sensed convergence around the call to:
- Deepen** our identity through inner conversion that allows us to be more faithful and caring about our charism in all its dimensions,
 - Share** humbly with others the gift of Ignatian Spirituality as lived out in our lay vocation, including precious gifts of discernment and Ignatian tools, and
 - Go Forth** to serve those most in need and sow seeds of mercy, joy and hope in the world in order to follow Jesus more closely and work with him for the building of the Kingdom.

Deepen

9. CLC is a gift to the church, to the world; we have and are the loaves and the fish that can and will be multiplied at the Lord's Table. Christ tells us to go and see, to open our hearts and minds to recognize God's presence and saving action in ourselves, and in our community.
10. We express this gift in a personal commitment to the World Community through a freely chosen local community. (GP #7) The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, with its array of tools, are our source of spirituality.
11. We are called to go beyond the gift of discernment for self, to experiencing it in community, trusting wholly in the Lord as the guide of the process leading us to His will. The process brings doubts; however, in the letting go of all our fears, of our lack of trust—especially in the other, of our paralysis especially arising from sin, we find liberation in letting go and letting God.
- *What is this specific gift we hold together, that has been freely given?*
 - *How are we being called to deepen and to care for our common heritage in CLC, our identity?*

Share

12. Any gift freely given cannot be savoured if it is not shared, freely, with others. Our chosen spirituality opens and disposes us to whatever God wishes in each concrete situation of our daily life. What a joy! When you find this gift, this treasure, the joy derived from it fills one so much that it overflows, cannot be contained, and must be shared with others. We have many gifts to offer, including the experience of the assembly that affirmed the value of engaging in communal discernment processes.
- *How can our being a community of discernment be understood as a gift for developing a laity capable of individual and communal discernment? Both within CLC and with others?*

Go Forth

13. The Lord is always calling us to share in His mission. The more we listen, and the greater our desire to act, the deeper we need to be. Any CLC development in mission needs to encourage the engagement of all our members and local communities. The call for CLC in this hungry world is enormous.
14. *Our life is essentially apostolic. The CLC mission knows no limits: it extends both to the Church and the world, in order to bring the gospel of salvation to all people and to serve individual persons and society by opening hearts to conversion and struggling to change oppressive structures. (GP #8)*
15. Pope Francis encourages us to give apostolic meaning to all of our activities—to make Christ present in all of our surroundings: family, school, work, parish, town, country, in all of creation.

He stated in his letter to CLC, “We can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ.” This poses the questions of **where** do we see the wounds of Christ in our concrete circumstances, **which** do we choose to respond to, and **how** do we respond? Our Ignatian tools for discernment can help us in addressing these critical questions. We are reminded to discern the magis—seeking the greater good, for the glory of God, in freedom and without disordered attachments; this may include a practical matching of the most urgent needs before us with our availability, experience and competence so as to make the greatest impact. We can do this individually with the support of community, or we can do this as a community. In her Magnificat, Mary recognized how our God lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, and offers mercy to those who fear Him. As we look around, we can ask and observe:

- *How is our gift present to each person we encounter, each being a Face of Christ?*
- *How is CLC present in the social and existential peripheries?*
- *Do I notice more specific promptings or invitations—interior or exterior—to Go Forth? What might they be?*

Our Invitation

16. We invite all CLC members to participate in an experience of the assembly by engaging in communal discernment to listen to this **Call to CLC: To Deepen, Share and Go Forth**; a single call to CLC in today’s world expressed in three verbs.
 - *What does this call mean to me, to my small group, my national community?*
 - *How am I/are we listening to this call?*
 - *What might the fundamental connection between the three attitudes be?*

17. **For personal prayer**, we invite each to pray with this document, including the scriptural texts and reflection questions. Record the main points of your prayer that you wish to share with your small group.

18. **In small groups**, we propose using **Three Rounds** of sharing in Spiritual Conversation after personal prayer. This was a process used actively for several days during the assembly. Some communities have already been engaging this process, but not all. The basics are provided here, but you may wish to supplement this process with greater explanation.

19. The main attitude is respectful, grateful and prayerful listening. Each person describes their own experience in a short and clear way, speaking in the first person “I” and not in the third person. Each is an “expert” of his own experience. Silence between speakers is good. Silence does not mean simply waiting, but silently and prayerfully listening to what the speaker is genuinely saying. As you listen to others, pay attention to the movements within...this is where the Spirit is working.

20. Someone in the group should take on the role of timekeeper to ensure that in the available time, everyone has the space to express themselves.

21. **First Round.** In turn, each one shares the fruit of their personal prayer, using the notes taken from the prayer period. During this first round, do NOT react to what is being shared, except to ask for a clarification. After the first round of sharing, the group spends some moments of silent reflection.

Silent Reflection. Consider those feelings and movements experienced when listening to others. What feelings arose within me? When did I feel in harmony with others? Where did I feel resistance? Did I sense greater clarity on a particular point? Did I discover something new?

22. **Second Round.** Share the significant point(s) from your silent reflection.

23. **Third Round.** Try to name the consensus that might have arisen among you. What are some similarities and common movements among members of the group?

Suggestions for Ways to Observe World CLC Day 2019

- a. Encourage the reflection and appropriation of the call for CLC to Deepen, Share, and Go Forth. What do each of these terms mean for you in your particular context? How do you feel called to respond to this call? (*A reading or a review of the final document is recommended to fully appreciate this call.*)
- b. Faith Sharing Encounter! Arrange for the community to have an encounter with members of a local parish or school—similar to the encounters in the Barrios of San Miguel in Buenos Aires. Arrange people to meet in small groups, and provide a format for them to pray and share their faith with one another. Then gather the whole group to evaluate their experience.
- c. Invite the community to have their own experience of prayer and communal discernment! Consider the context of your community. Using one aspect of the final document, or the scripture passages mentioned earlier, arrange for participants to have time for personal prayer, to meet in small groups using the Three Rounds of Sharing, and then to gather altogether in the plenary.
- d. Share the program and the experience of your community on our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cvx.clc/>

United in Christ,

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