



Second ExCo Meeting - February 2005

The World ExCo met in Rome from February 13 -20 in a beautiful retreat house overlooking St. Peter's Basilica. We gathered as a subset of the world community and prayed each day for all of you.

Our major work during the meeting was to continue to carry forward the mandate from the Nairobi Assembly. Last November, we sent a Questionnaire to the National Communities asking for input on focus areas of Formation, Leadership, Apostolic Action, and relationship with the Society of Jesus and the Church. At the time of our meeting, we had received responses from 15 communities - about 25% of our membership. After our meeting, we sent another reminder to those who didn't react yet; until now, we received unfortunately only two more reply.

These responses, along with ExCo members' direct contact with National Communities during the past months, identified some of our strengths and needs in each focus area and made possible further planning.

Formation

The Formation input included the need to focus both on initial formation and ongoing formation. CLC members are in formation for life. The initial formation period usually ends with a temporary commitment celebration. The synthesis of the National Questionnaires and our discussion led to the establishment of a working group (Mari Carmen Mora de Peña, Sandra Chan and Guy Maginzi) which we gave the following mandate:

The Formation Working Group will develop a first draft of the formation processes to be used as the revision to the 2nd part of the CLC Charism. To accomplish this, the working group will gather elements of apostolic formation for initial, on-going and guide formation by:

- *Using the World Questionnaire as a basis of information*
- *Gathering formation resources and processes from the national communities*
- *Utilizing any regional meetings as a further source of information about Formation*
- *Having the option to consult with those with expertise in the Formation field, being considerate of drawing from diverse sources in the world.*

Leadership

Feedback on the Leadership questions pointed to the need for leadership development specifically focused on facilitating becoming an Apostolic Community. The dilemma of limited time and resources was named consistently in the Questionnaires. National communities also identified both general

leadership skills and the need for leadership to be deeply rooted in Ignatian Spirituality and focused on Apostolic Community.

Our discussion on this input led to a mandate for the Leadership Working Group (Levi Matseshe, Rita El Ramy, and Lois Campbell) to develop an International Formation Course on Leadership. The course would be designed to prepare participants to train and work with leadership in their own region. The Working Group will use input from the National Communities, from regional gatherings and from existing leadership programs in their work. Projects 130 will be developed by the working group with more information on this process.

Apostolic Initiatives

Feedback on Apostolic Initiatives identified a lot personal involvement in apostolic initiatives and a growing number of communities who are discerning, sending, supporting, and evaluating apostolic action. There were some national experiences of common mission identified and some indications that we are growing in this area. Communities reported significant involvement in migration, youth, in inter-religious dialogue, human rights issues, but also in some regions, a strong participation in the local church. Communities also asked for more support, sharing of stories and information on Apostolic Action.

The Apostolic Initiatives Working Group (Chris Micallef, Daniela Frank and Leah Michaud) will develop a list of frequently asked questions concerning apostolic undertakings, giving some framework on the planning of our initiatives and our actions to be published in *Progressio*. They will also organize and publish apostolic experiences and support networking with NGOs etc. that might be resources to communities. For this, the network of NGO contact persons, collaborating with the NGO working groups in Geneva and New York, could be a useful instrument.

SJ/CLC Relationship

Our discussion of the SJ/CLC Collaboration included the input from the National Communities and responses to Fr. Kolvenbach from 142 Jesuits on the role of the EA, collected in preparation for the Nairobi Assembly. Fr. Alberto Brito, vice-EA, is developing a summary of those responses. The next step for this Working Group (Alberto Brito, SJ and José Reyes) is to draft a preliminary document on the *Role of the Ecclesiastical Assistant*. You will receive this draft during the last quarter of 2005, asking for your input to it.

A second document on CLC and the Church, including the relationship with the Society of Jesus will be drafted, taking into account expectations, possible (new) ways of cooperation etc.

Resource materials for both documents will include the Jesuit respondents to Fr Kolvenbach's survey, the Nairobi Recommendations, existing manuals on EAs (e.g. from Spain) and the reports of the EA meetings which have taken place since 2004.

Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ, Ecclesiastical Assistant of CLC and Superior General of the Society of Jesus, joined us for a morning and shared in rich discussion on CLC and the Society of Jesus and the other topics mentioned before. Again, he expressed his strong commitment to CLC, challenging us in a very supportive way to further develop our specific charism, also in our relationship with the Jesuits. He also invited us to celebrate together with the Society of Jesus the forthcoming Ignatian Jubilee year 2006, commemorating St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, and Blessed Peter Faber. For us, this could also be an

excellent opportunity to reflect our Ignatian roots, leading us to the 40th anniversary of the approving of the General Principles in 2007.

Regional initiatives

Another focus of our reflections was collaboration on regional levels. The ExCo took the initiative to plan regional meetings in Africa and Asia.

- Three representatives from each National Community in Africa will meet October 9 – 14, 2005, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Together with Levi Matseshe, Guy Maginzi and Alberto Brito SJ, as ExCo representatives, they have chosen a focus on formation and developing a regional structure.
- It is proposed that Asian National Communities will come together April 19 – 23, 2006. The meeting agenda will be developed by the region, in collaboration with the ExCo (Sandra Chan, Leah Michaud and Alberto Brito SJ).
- North America will meet in Chicago, Illinois, USA on October 7-9, 2005. Their focus is also on formation. As well, they will explore how CLC North America can support the issue of water and the right to clean water that has been identified by the United Nations NGO Working Group in New York.
- During our meeting, we again had an opportunity to share with the Euroteam. A meeting of the Eurolinks (link persons from each of the national communities) is foreseen for mid-October 2005 in Germany.
- From Latin America, we heard with joy about the MAGIS formation programme, which had brought together about 60 CLC members from 12 different countries. The last intensive course took place in Quito, Ecuador, with the participation of three ExCo members, Mari Carmen Mora de Peña, José Reyes and Alberto Brito SJ. The current two-year programme finishes in 2005, and the ExCo joins deliberations whether and in which form this formation course could be offered again. Also other forms of closer collaboration among the Latin American communities will be considered.

Please keep the preparation for all of these meetings in your prayers.

Administrative and financial issues

As part of our duties as World ExCo, we had to discuss and approve the Financial Statements of 2004 and the new budget for 2005. These documents are sent separately to the National ExCos. Nevertheless, as all members are called to share responsibility for the world community, we would like to inform you that the financial situation of the world community is more than critical. For 2004, we suffered a deficit of nearly EUR 10,000.00, primarily because of the fact that some communities haven't paid their dues – a few even for a number of years. In 2004, the dues collected covered only 53% of the operational budget of the world community. In fact, we have no reserves left to compensate further losses in the future. Please, let's collaborate closely to sustain our world community! Please send your national dues in time – and don't forget: additional donations are not only most welcome, but urgently needed to allow us to carry out the recommendations from the Nairobi Assembly.

Final reflections

At the first Sunday of our meeting, we had the chance to pray the Angelus at St. Peter's Square with Pope John Paul II, who had recently returned from hospital. On April 2, our Lord called him to return to HIS joy and peace! As a world community, we thank God for him, his life, his deeply committed service rooted in a deep personal spirituality, his closeness to all peoples, his open heart for and convinced of

the specific role of the laity in our Church and in our world, and his tirelessly standing up for human dignity, justice and peace. In all dimensions of his life, he gave an outstanding testimony to how we are called to live as Christians today!

On April 19, the College of Cardinals elected Benedict XVI as his successor. May the Lord bless him with joy in his service, strength and open heart and mind, so that he may be able to guide our Church according to the will of God. Let's support him with our prayers, sharing with him the joy, the hope, the wounds and the suffering of our Church and our world!

United in our prayers and service in and for the Church,
In the name of the World ExCo

Daniela Frank
President

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