

**PROJECTS**  
*PROJETS*  
**PROYECTOS**



**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY**  
*COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE*  
**COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA**

No. 136, October 2007

Letter of communication between the Executive Council  
and the World Christian Life Community

## **Towards Fátima 2008**

Second preparatory input

Dear friends,

As announced in Projects 135, we continue our journey toward Fatima 2008. The spiritual setting which can facilitate our ability to move forward is that of “Three kinds of persons” (Spiritual Exercises 149 and following). This classic Ignatian meditation is not only meant to prepare the election, but it is also an ongoing exercise through which we try to keep ourselves faithful to the election. It helps us by removing obstacles, disordered affections or other situations which confuse us or get us lost in our process. We as CLC have made an election in the previous assemblies (a common mission as an apostolic body). However, we know that even great visions and elections may fail in bringing them into practice. In that moment resistances may appear that before were subtle or even hidden. So, in regard to God’s gifts we can respond like the three pairs of persons: we can postpone the election, accommodate it to our own interests, or welcome it fully. Three pairs of persons is an invitation to a permanent Examen in order to bring the means for implementation into the election and to embrace what will help us carry out the election. We know that our actual tendencies or habits are not immediately or automatically in line with our great dreams of holiness. So we have to examine our life as a community.

In this spiritual frame, we invite you now to use the scripture passage that we have chosen as inspiration for our Assembly:

*“The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they have done and taught”  
(Mk 6, 30)*

The invitation is to review your own experience, organize it and communicate it to the entire world body. In this way we can move forward toward embracing the gift that we received in Nairobi and Itai. Or if you prefer, to free ourselves to live better the election that we have made in God’s grace.

Concretely, we ask you now to take the following seven topics and to recollect, organize and share your experience for each of them, using the questions that we suggest. At a first look it may seem too much, but we suggest that you call upon many CLC members and distribute among them the six topics. You may perhaps convene national or regional meetings to reflect on the topics. You do not need to answer all questions in a topic, as they are meant to be a help and not a school work. However, we ask you to send us short and well-elaborated responses for each of these subjects.

### **1. The dynamic of discerning – sending – supporting – evaluating (DSSE)**

- *What we have done:* Is this dynamic well known by CLC members and local groups? What we have done to spread it within the community? How has it affected the local group meetings? How has it affected the process lived at the national ExCo?
- *What we have learned:* Which are the main difficulties in living this dynamics? What helps are needed?
- *What we have taught:* Have we some written guidelines to share with the World Community? Have we written articles or power points or other materials on this?

### **2. Formation (focus on apostolic body)**

- *What we have done:* Have we run guides courses? Have we run formation courses for membership? Do our members take part in formation events? Have we collaborated with others to make formation more available to our members?
- *What we have learned:* Which activities of formation are more suitable to our members? Which are the major difficulties that we face in this regard? What strategies do we recommend to develop on-going formation for our members?
- *What we have taught:* Have we some written guidelines to share with the World Community? Have we written articles or power points or other materials on this? Have we long term formation programs to share?

### **3. Leadership (connect to Rome course)**

- *What we have done:* Have we used or are we planning to use the leadership development course/materials from the international course held in Rome last November? Are our structures and leadership teams working well within our national community? Do we formulate annual operative plans? Do we regularly evaluate our plans? How have we used external programs for leadership formation? Have we taken advantage of the participation of our members in these sorts of programs?
- *What we have learned:* If we have offered leadership formation what have we learned? What are our main difficulties in having people available for

leadership positions? How do we prepare people for leadership? Given our experience in leadership, what are we envisioning? How do we benefit from people who have a large and deep experience in CLC but who are not longer in leadership positions?

- *What we have taught:* Do we have written material for leadership formation? Can we recommend readings, strategies, programs, activities or other ways of fostering CLC leadership?

#### 4. SJ - CLC collaboration

- *What we have done:* Have we progressed in a more effective collaboration with the Society of Jesus? Through which concrete forms? Have we a sustained dialogue with the Society's authorities, works, spiritual guides, etc? Have we received the helps that we need? Have we offered ourselves in ways we are able to help? Have we one or more concrete stories to tell on this subject?
- *What we have learned:* Which are our own main difficulties in this field? Which are the most difficult issues in our dialogue with the SJ? Which are the main opportunities/fields for actual collaboration? Have we worked/reflected upon the working document about CLC - SJ collaboration in the Church?
- *What we have taught:* Can we recommend readings, strategies, programs, activities or other ways of fostering CLC - SJ collaboration?

#### 5. Apostolic initiatives:

- *What we have done:* Have we initiated new apostolate activity since Nairobi? Which fields of apostolate are more developed and convoke more members in our national community? Have we developed some expertise within our national community that we can offer and share with others? Do we have an NGO Contact and is that person linked effectively to our structures? What communication network is in place to share the information from the UN Working Groups to the whole National Community? Have you shared information back from your National Community to the Working Groups?
- *What we have learned:* Which new elements have we brought to our apostolic reflection and involvement since Nairobi? Which reforms have we introduced in our traditional apostolate? How we deal with personal/communal dimension of apostolate?
- *What we have taught:* Which criteria do we use for selecting our apostolic engagements? Have we distributed the orientations coming from Itaiici (Common mission), Nairobi (DSSE), and further developments (Supplement to Progressio, articles, etc.) widely to our members?

## 6. Membership and commitment:

- *What we have done:* Are we attracting new members? How? Are our members persevering and deepening in the CLC way of life?
- *What we have learned:* Which are our main difficulties in this regard? What concrete proposals help more our members to grow in their vocation and become CLC committed members? What does not help, distract or disturb?
- *What we have taught:* Have we formulated clear orientations for temporal – permanent commitment? Do we have a “formula” for commitments, well accepted by everybody and that can be shared with the World Community?

## 7. Finances:

- *What have we done:* Does our National Community have sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of the community? Are we preparing a financial plan/ yearly budget taking into account our different activities and commitments? How well do our members support the National Community with dues or in other ways? What efforts are underway to improve the financial situation in our community?
- *What have we learned:* What have been the barriers to improving our financial situation? If we initiated efforts to become more financially viable, how have they worked?
- *What have we taught:* What has worked for us in this area? Do we have strategies or materials that we can share?

Finally, we ask you also to complete the enclosed community profile, which intends to have similar information from all national communities, and to be able to have a rapid screening of where we are, how many we are, what do we do, etc. A directory of these profiles will be available to all delegates at Fatima 2008.

Please do react before January 31 and if you need clarification please contact our Secretariat.

In Christ,

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President

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