



World CLC day - 2009

“Deepening the Graces of Fatima to undertake our path to become a Prophetic Community as World CLC”¹

As members of the Christian Life Community, we feel specially united by our common faith and spirituality and particularly we feel called to be a true Apostolic Body that is a sign of hope and a factor in building the Kingdom today. The World Assembly that gathered in Fatima (August 2008) has been particularly sensitive to a call that invites us to assume with great “discerning creativity” the challenge of responding as an Apostolic Body facing the signs of the times in this very complex and ever changing world - especially in relation to situations of such widespread exclusion towards the most needy. Coupled with this, we recognize the importance of deepening and strengthening our membership and commitment as members of CLC, as well as finding ways to inspire others with this grace that brings the hope in which we live as followers of Christ and his Church.

Today, we are specially invited by the God of love to live as a community that gathers around Jesus (Mk 6, 30), in the presence of Mary our mother, to express to him what we have done, learned and taught in recent months and years. All of us, as members of CLC, feel invited to the table with Jesus to share with him what has been, and is, significant in our lives as Ignatian, as members of the church, and especially, as companions on the road in this Apostolic Body.

In Fatima, all the delegates received deep gifts as an Assembly. It was experienced as a true feast of the Lord, and we recognized the evident signs of the grace accompanying us as a community. Today, it is necessary that the spirit of Fatima continues inspiring the hope that we live as world CLC, so that all of us feel part of this banquet around the Lord. This deep and intense gift finds, as recipients in the first place, each and every member of CLC throughout the world, so that we truly feel called to grow in membership, hope and commitment to this CLC body.

For the past few months, we have witnessed a privileged moment of communitarian prayer around Jesus where we have been called to embrace the spirit of the previous world assemblies, and where it has become evident that we have grown in hope and clarity concerning our communitarian mission as an Apostolic Body. Therefore, in this moment of grace, we have the

¹ Original in Spanish. Translated by Mauricio Lopez; proofread by Christopher Hogan.

legacy of our communitarian history that becomes the impulse and gradual revelation of the Lord who now asks us to take a further step in our "Ignatian Magis" way.

We propose two moments for personal and community prayer, feeling genuinely in harmony with all Community members on this World CLC day 2009.

I. First Moment. The Graces of Fatima 2008 ²

The Lord has shared with us 5 signs of hope and challenges emanating from the experience of Fatima³, which represent a source of inspiration for the entire CLC today:

- Fidelity to the orientations of Nairobi. (They are the actual words from the Fatima doc)
- Unity in diversity.
- The call to live as a prophetic lay community.
- A closer identification with Christ's mission to bring the good news to the poor.
- Expand and deepen our collaborative networks.

With these hopes and challenges, which we have recognized as clear movements of the good spirit, we invite all members of the world CLC to pray with Jesus, deepening these invitations, and to recovering (could say - living) the graces of Fatima:

a) Personal Prayer

- What internal movements are produced by the prayer: as an individual, as a lay person, as a Christian, as a member of a family, and especially as a member of the CLC?
- Which of these movements produces more consolation within my heart?
- Which personal means have I chosen to savour these movements of Fatima, it being a few months since our World Assembly?
- What specific invitations am I invited to retake and continue; and what new impulses do I discover in this personal review of the graces of Fatima?

b) Share communally

- What is it that caught my attention the most, and resulted in consolation in my personal prayer? *Each shares their personal fruits.*
- In what movements did I encounter more affinity or communion among the members of this gathered community? *Write down shared movements so all can see them, and recognize consolations and desolations.*
- What specific means (activities, projects, prayer and discernment processes, etc.) have we endorsed as: small community, local and national, to support the motions and invitations we have received from Fatima? *Write down the fruits and difficulties of these first months after Fatima.*
- What specific invitations must be retaken and maintained, or even what new impulses must be captured after this review of our commitment to Fatima's Graces? *Write down the*

² We suggest a prayerful personal reading, in a meditation manner, of Part II from the final document of Fatima to enrich this first moment

³ Number 2.1 of "Walking as an Apostolic Body: Our response to this grace of God." XV CLC World Assembly. Fatima 2008..

invitations that we want to take over and maintain, and also the new impulses for the next few months / years.

We propose to recover the fruits of this first moment of prayer to share with other small local communities, with national and local councils, and with the world EXCO, so that there may be a recounting of the first steps after Fatima, as well as an energizing to the steps in the future.

II. Second Moment. Invited to be a Prophetic community.

A crucial moment for the World Assembly in Fatima was the inspiring and challenging contribution of our World Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr Adolfo Nicolas, S.J. His words echoed in the depths of our hearts, primarily because he addressed us as a Community already committed as an apostolic vocation, and recognized the strength of the spirit of Nairobi where it is stated that: *We are confirmed in our vocation to become a lay apostolic body which shares the responsibility for the mission of the Church (Nairobi 2003).*

Our World Ecclesiastical Assistant went one step further by recognizing the impulses and intentions of this apostolic community that is already on its way, so he challenged and confronted us, putting the following question on this CLC table around Jesus: Are we able to live as a prophetic community and respond to this grace of God? May this question of our prophetic vocation live in our hearts for years to come, and let it be a beacon for CLC in the world encouraging us to keep the light of Fatima alive.

We present, here, the main points shared by Fr. Nicolas. They are directed to each and every member of CLC. Through them, we invite you all to have a second moment of personal and communitarian prayer:

Can we live a Prophetic vocation as Christian Life Community? ⁴

1. The Prophet SEES the world with the eyes of God. *Jn 1, 6-9.* *Our Ignatian charism invites us to look at reality in the way of the contemplation of the Incarnation, so we may be witnesses of the light of God presented to us in the concrete faces and situations of our daily lives. When did I receive the grace of looking with the eyes of God, and what has been transformed in me by looking with those eyes?*

2. The Prophet LISTENS with his ears what God hears. *1 Sam 3, 10.* *As CLC members, we are invited to live in deep openness so we can hear God's call in the clamor of the signs of the times. How is the call of God that I hear today as a person and as CLC member?*

3. The Prophet FEELS with the Heart of God. *Mt 5, 1-12.* *The invitation to become prophets requires that we have the will to have the feelings that Jesus had when he was moved by the situation of his brothers and sisters in most need. What feelings do I experience knowing that we, as CLC, are invited to become a Prophetic Community?*

4. The Prophet DISCERNS, DECIDES and ACTS moved by the Spirit. *Lk 1, 38.* *To be a Prophetic Community in the spirit requires us to live with a free and open heart, so that God's will may be fulfilled through our lives. Mary is our model of availability and we pray with her to respond to our*

⁴ "Notes for a Prophetic Lay Community Guided by the Spirit." Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J. World Ecclesiastical Assistant of the CLC. Fatima, Portugal. August 2008

callings as CLC, seeking always to act in the spirit. When have we experienced this availability and grace throughout our CLC history?

5. The Prophet SPEAKS the Word of God. Acts 2, 1-4. *The Lord is the one who opens our mouths so we can express what we have done, learned and taught, and He is the same Lord who inspires us with his fire to spread the great hope in God that we live as Christians, members of CLC. What do I express to the Lord about what we have done, learned and taught as CLC since Fatima?*

* We suggest a personal prayerful reading, in a meditation way, of the document: "Notes for a Lay Prophetic Community Guided by the Spirit" of Fr. Nicolas.

a) Personal prayer

- What internal movements do I experience in this invitation to become a Prophetic Community as CLC?
- What invitations from the Lord do I sense that contributes, with my personal gifts and limitations, to becoming a Prophetic Community in CLC?

b) Share communally

- What is it that produced greater consolation in my personal prayer? *Each shares their personal concerns.*
- In what movements did I encounter more affinity or communion among the members of this gathered community? *Write down the shared motions for all to see them, and spend a brief moment of silent prayer before answering the following question.*
- What invitations do we feel, as a small community, to undertake the path to becoming a Prophetic Community at a local, national and global level? *Write down the new impulses which will illuminate the road for the upcoming years. Share this with your national council and with the world EXCO.*

III. Third moment. Communal Colloquy

Conclude with a colloquy as a final prayer:

- Dialogue with Mary so that she may intercede for us with her son, and for her to give us her light and strength to keep the Graces received in Fatima alive over the next few years.
- Dialogue with Jesus so He may help us and accompany us in our longing to be His close followers. We do this as an Apostolic and Prophetic Community in times to come, especially with a genuine commitment as CLC members.
- Pray an Our Father to call on "Abba" to give us the simplicity of heart, and thus be able to listen to His calls, knowing that we are part of a mission bigger than ourselves as individuals, than CLC, and even bigger than the church itself. For us to reach the fullness of His kingdom, always making an option for those in most need.

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