

ATLANTIC REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23-35, 2013



THEME: Crossing the Bridge, Carrying the Torch – On Mission with Christ

GRACE: Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of Your love, that we might join Christ on mission with greater freedom for prophetic and loving service

SCRIPTURE: “I have come to set the world on fire... so that, through you, I can do infinitely more than you can ask or imagine.” (Lk.12:49 and Eph.3:20).



Session 1... Friday Evening

“Celebrating who we are” started the weekend with a focus on...Poverty...CLC Development...Evangelization and introduction of observation table including Fr Charles Pottie-Pate, SJ (NEA), Mary Balfe (President), Fr Earl Smith, SJ (REA), Dominique Cyr (CVX) and special guest bishop Robert Harris.

The Prayer Ritual began with Yves Daigle (Regional Coordinator) carrying the large main torch, representing our Regional desire to move toward an Atlantic CLC common mission over the bridge. Followed by all thirteen Atlantic community representatives with a smaller torch to represent the desire of their community to participate in this journey towards a Regional common mission. They were placed into the



environment while we all sang “Enflame our Hearts” by Monica Brown.

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Sharing time followed by reflective questions at 10 tables. The evening closed with comments/Examen by our process guide Gilles Michaud, to pray for grace of spiritual freedom. We are living in 2nd week when practising discernment, there being great spirit of generosity toward our Lord as expressed by openness of each tables sharing and invitation for each of us to take to prayer whatever came to us. Socializing as desired followed.



SESSION 2 ... Saturday AM

"Bridging the past to the present" ... With the soft drumbeats from nearby Dragon-boat races, we started with reflective prayer and an Ignatius enactment done by Our Lady's Circle...

followed by a power presentation, recalling recent past Regional assemblies themes. An overall sense of gratitude for those who came before, a sense of God with us/Is being on Mission our next step? Are we ready?



SESSION 3 ... "Fanning the Flame" witnessing to what have we done/are doing for Christ? The letters DSSE and a flower were added to environment (symbolizing roots, stem, blossom). This session disposed us for an "Emmaus walk" where we went 2by2's to talk/witness/share our own communal stories of mission. Feedback of shared experiences offered to the assembly. Ex: what encourages us? i.e. hearing another's mission, to take risks, deepening of DSSE process of discernment...Challenging?? i.e. time schedules, aging membership...

Process guide queued; Where are we on this bridge? What movements? Pulling us to God or away? School of apostleship leads us to school of discipleship.

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SESSION 4/5 (after lunch)

“Holding the Torch...”

Two regional priorities “Poverty” and “Evangelization”.

Two DSSE stories of communal apostolic action

SESSION 6

Began with a short skit by Our Lady’s Circle based on book ‘Just call me Lopez’ (by Margaret Silf).

Ixthus presented an apostolic action they undertook by walking 250km on PEI to draw attention to poverty in PEI.

Pam Daigle gave a presentation on Evangelization and the invitation of what the 'New Evangelization' means...Followed by a shared narrative by 'Fishers of People' and their action taken to start a Bereavement Ministry in their church when confronted by someone in great need.

Yves presented a session on CLC Formation focusing in on membership. Followed by a short photo presentation by Fr Pottie/Mary/Dominique on XVI CLC World Assembly in Lebanon.

Our process guide; started from prayer... Ask for fire of the Holy Spirit... Remember the fidelity of the DSSE process. What is Christ asking us to do?

After this session a Saturday social was enjoyed by all with great musical entertainment/singing/dancing/food/beverages

SESSION 7... Sunday

‘Crossing the Bridge, Carrying the Torch into the Future’ towards a regional common mission direction.

Morning Prayer lead by Gilles prepared us for a presentation by Leah Michaud and Jane Abernathy looking into possibility of Common Mission.

QUESTION: What more at this time in our CLC history can we do for Christ??

After periods of reflective pauses rounds of votes were taken with the results being 6 tables voted on CLC Development and 3 tables voted on Poverty with strong input of evangelization. It was decided to pass these results to EXCO due to time commitments,

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remembering that this is the first time this process has been attempted and it is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

APPROPRIATION:

Grateful, stressed, hopeful, enlightened, peaceful, stretched, encouraged, ok, patient, informed, energized, clarification, anchored & tired.

Closing the sessions with the main candle was sung out of the room, to be placed in front of the alter for Eucharist.

Eucharist was con-celebrated by Bishop Harris, Fr Pottie & Fr Earl.

The Commitment Ritual was facilitated by Fr. Earl Smith & Yves with Temporary Commitment for the first time by Doreen Reid & Grant Curtis (Companions on the Way, PE); Sandra Roy (Nativity); Hilary Branch, Brenda Garnett & Joceyln Worster (Siloam) (NB) {shown below}



Permanent commitment by Charlena Keenan-Bourque (River of Life, NB)

The weekend was concluded by passing our Regional Banner passed to PEI the 2016 Regional Assembly host province.