



## **Apostolic Directors' Meeting Sept 2013**

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Organization: Christian Life Community- English Canada**

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**Our National Mission statement is formed in direct relationship to our General Principle#4 (page 5) which guides the World Lay Apostolic Body:**

### **I. Mission Statement: II. Date of Mission Statement (year):1999**

#### **CLC Canada's Common Mission**

*The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.*

**As Christian Life Community of Canada we will act as communities, not as individual identities. We will develop leadership in CLC Canada that will move communities to action with special attention to youth/young adults. Through the apostolate of the Spiritual Exercises: Communication, Education, Social Justice in Action, we will strive to better love and serve the Blessed Trinity in our world community as the Canadian CLC.**

**English Canada has 4 regions** - Central and Prairie Regional statements are developed in relationship to Canada's Common Mission ...stepping stones to achieve concrete action.

#### **CENTRAL REGIONS' COMMON APOSTOLIC MISSION – September 2010**

We, the Central Region of CLC Canada, will commit ourselves to actively support the poor and disadvantaged Haitian people in their efforts to raise up and rebuild their country making every effort to collaborate with CVX, other North America CLC and the Society of Jesus, to be evaluated in an ongoing way annually.

#### **PRAIRIE REGION MISSION STATEMENT – May 2011**

Ignited by Christ's call, nourished by Ignatian Spirituality, CLC Prairie Region is sent to connect and collaborate with marginalized people, the Society of Jesus, First Nations, and others, challenging the root cause of isolation and poverty. For the Greater Glory of God- Discern – Send – Support – Evaluate.

#### **ATLANTIC REGION –August 2013**

Just discerned and not contextualized into a statement as yet....

- To focus on CLC development in its various aspects with a special attentiveness to the issue of poverty in our society.



**IIa) Our mission and the Society's mission:** Our organization promotes the 35<sup>th</sup> General Congregation (2008) “reconciliation with God, with each other and the rest of creation”:

Member formation with the Spiritual Exercises at the source of all Ignatian tools we grow individually in preparation for service focused to changes unjust structures, discerned and confirmed in the local, regional and/or national community. Collaboration with Jesuits and others who aspire to grow in just respect of human capacities to heal themselves and creation inspire a desire in us to make a common response in mission. Jesuit leadership is welcomed and cherished in example and signs such as farming at Loyola, Guelph.

**IIb) Our mission and the world:** In our work and in community we often encounter these patterns of anxieties and hopes in people:

People are asking ‘how’ to be authentic in today’s secular world where there are few signs of faith and leadership, leaving one overwhelmed by issues of injustice. From the need to be self-sufficient emotional suffering is experienced in fear of being vulnerable, distressing some to the point of illness. Financial stresses through job loss and economy in a culture of consumerism, and individualism leaves one empty.

Joyful hope is experienced when Christians take up their rightful place through their Baptism. It is encouraging to see looking back in history our consciousness is evolving (i.e. from slavery to a black President). Hope rises when shared voices and leadership are experienced with one another in areas of common concern. To experience FREEDOM is to experience the love of God...(a gift from anxiety when entering discernments with our own opinions).



### III How We Implement Our Mission:

#### Theory Of Change:

- **Ignatian prayer and the Spiritual Exercises, retreats** transforms our hearts as we become more like Christ in his desire to reach out to the poor.
- **Ongoing education and experiences** with the poor help us to learn the root causes of poverty and marginalization.
- **Awareness of our attitudes and a spirit of mindfulness** deepen our relationships with each other and our world.
- **Collaboration with others as CLC communities and with the Society of Jesus** and others strengthens our relationships and makes us all more effective in carrying out the work of the mission. Getting to know our members and their apostolates helps empowers us and appreciate each other's gifts.
- **Experiences in leadership and in apostolic outreach**, which help us to develop our gifts and to strengthen our efforts.
- **The effects of our theory of change are that we are becoming more compassionate like Jesus as we serve Him** in our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

#### Our Operational strategy:

- **Prayer, personal and communal** in the Ignatian Spirituality, cultivating an attitude of mindfulness of listening and compassion and discernment locally, regionally, nationally as members of a World Apostolic Body.
- **Ministry of Spiritual direction in Annotation 19** program with non – Aboriginal people and Aboriginal people.
- **Formation workshops for mission and retreats** which include elements of the Spiritual Exercises, retreats: i.e. ecology and the link with native spirituality, Pachamama Alliance workshops: Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream (the Amazon). CLC World involved with a Jesuit Project in the Amazon.
- **Experiences of working with the poor:** in a drop in center, prison ministry, teaching First Nations children, supporting people with HIV/AIDS, care of the poor , the elderly, the dying, First Nations, insertion trips at members 'personal cost to the Dominican slum school, Santo Domingo, E. A./ CLC collaboration with Jesuit Dominican Exec. director, extended relationships with CVX D.R. leaders ; Port au Prince, Young Adult CVX, Haiti, collaboration with French Canada CVX and E.A.
- **Budget and other resources**, such as human resources (personal commitment) and spaces to do our apostolic work are kept in mind as we plan our events as regions and a national.



## **Systematic and Analytical = Logic Chain**

**Inputs:** Leadership - General Council reporting and meetings 4X annually, Exco meetings 10 X annually, regional Guides of communities, coordinators, contacts, members, Circle of Elders; Formation – Manuals, Spiritual Exx.; Treasury – annual member donations; Workshops re; specific mission focus, communal relationships, Communication - Website and E-Newsletters, Minutes of meetings, blessed history.

**Operations:** as a World Apostolic Body – CLC as a way of life rests on three pillars: Community, Ignatian Spirituality, and Mission. Local communities of 6- 9 persons; Spiritual Exx.as source of our Charism, directors of Sp. Exx., CLC relationships with Spiritual directors of other Ignatian associations, regional Sp. Directors peer group guides; “Come and See “ for new groups, Seasonal Retreats – Week of Guided Prayer, Street Retreats; Assemblies – regionally every 2 years, once every 5 years a world assembly and a national assembly in the following year to disseminate the priorities *and make discerned decisions communally*.

**Outputs** - Formation Manuals (3) - approximately 2 years per manual meeting every 2 weeks ; Resources- Ignatian Tools including DSSE – Discernment, Supporting, Sending , Evaluating; Process of Growth document(s) , Orientation ‘Come and See’ sessions, Leadership manual, Guide workshops and materials, Constitution, Circle of Elders – a body of national members forming a discerning body as requested by our national General Council; Website [www.christianlifecommunity.ca](http://www.christianlifecommunity.ca) and monthly e-newsletters.

**Outcomes:** Regional Formation of leaders, bi-annual regional meetings of members and regular regional exco’s meetings, World day of prayer days (March 25<sup>th</sup>) retreat days – Budget finances National support of national lay leaders travel and E.A.’s travel, CLC Guide training, financial support of Provincial retreats, World solidarity Fund supports other nationals to attend a world assembly, to date generous member commitment through financial support of mission (consistent independent fundraising on the part of some communities).

**Impacts:** Our being in CLC, our being in the Church, our Ignatian heritage, everything that we are, is for the service of the Kingdom of God. We aim to become committed Christians in witnessing to those human and Gospel values within the Church and society. We experience growing awareness and desire among members to serve with a common focus for issues of justice in collaboration with Jesuits and E.A.’s and others , with the encouragement of the Provincial; Surprised by God’s grace in response to our YES! We are growing relationships more broadly, our visibility through service. .



## ***WORLD CVX-CLC Christian Life Community General Principle #4***

*“Our Community is made up of Christians: men and women, adults and youth, of all social conditions who want to follow Jesus Christ more closely and work with him for the building of the Kingdom, who have recognized Christian Life Community as their particular vocation within the Church.*

*We aim to become committed Christians in bearing witness to those human and Gospel values within the Church and society, which affect the dignity of the person, the welfare of the family and the integrity of creation.*

*We are particularly aware of the pressing need to work for justice through a preferential option for the poor and a simple life style, which expresses our freedom and solidarity with them.*

*To prepare our members more effectively for apostolic witness and service, especially in our daily environment, we assemble people in community who feel a more urgent need to unite their human life in all its dimensions with the fullness of their Christian faith according to our charism.*

*We seek to achieve this unity of life in response to the call of Christ from within the world in which we live.”*

### **Points for IIa) Our mission and the Society’s mission**

- **Individually** we grow in our faith by our being faithful to daily prayer in Ignatian Spirituality, such as the Examen, silence and contemplation in our daily life, making the Spiritual Exercises (Green exercises encouraged) and invitation to yearly retreats and living a simple life style.
- **Communally**, we promote faith and justice by sharing our faith with CLC members at our CLC meetings and with our families, at our places of work and in our outreach ministries and parishes.
- **Discerning** - At our local, regional and national meetings, we are mindful of listening attentively to each other, and then reflecting on what we have heard from each other and sharing this with each other (the second round); we are listening to discern action and listening for confirmation of our call.
- **Collaboration with the Society** in recognition of the priorities of various Jesuit Provinces, i.e. with CVX French Canada and the Caribbean Province (Haiti) in determining the mission focus and collaboration with the Jesuit Center in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in joining the CLC-CVX World Apostolic Body in the 4% for education campaign.

### **Points for IIb) Our mission and the world**

- **People in our culture and our society are fearful of being vulnerable** because there is a need to be seen as self-sufficient and in control. Many people even become ill because of their distress and their anxieties. They have no words for their feelings or a safe environment in which to share these feelings. They are suffering. They **hope** that someone will listen to them and that they will feel heard and loved unconditionally.
- **People are asking ‘how’ to be authentic in today’s secular world** where there are few signs of faith leaving one overwhelmed by issues of injustice and present issues in the Middle East.
- **Finances are an anxiety when determining ‘how’ we will spend?** ‘who’ we will support? (membership donations) and why? and where? (ethical funds) investing for our future.
- **People are longing for direction** from frustration and stagnation; to use their energy productively.
- **Hope** is experienced in seeing lay people taking up the responsibility of their Baptism.
- **Hope!** Growth of Hope in history i.e. from slavery to a black President. People evolve in making better choices.
- **Hope** in support and encouragement by those who invite CLC forward to serve more intentionally in areas of common concern, networking with others.
- Entering discernments without freedom from our own opinions leads to anxiety
- Anxiety when encountering attitudes in those who have lost their vigor or desire to actively seek justice.
- Hope rises when commitment to shared leadership is experienced with one another.

