#### Christian Life Community Canada - Common Mission Review: Where are We Now? - Jan 2014

### How is the specific mission of your organization doing with respect to your mission statement?

#### 'We will act as communities, not as individual identities' -

CLC groups are growing in awareness of being a discerning apostolic community and recognize the value of bringing personal and communal discernments to their community. They become, through their apostolic experiences, skillful in using the tool of discerning, sending, supporting and evaluation (DSSE) with the guidance of their Group Guides.

As a National body, we are set to evaluate our Common Mission, following the priorities that have been discerned at the World Assembly 2013: Ecology, Globalization and Poverty, Family and Youth.

### 'We will develop leadership in CLCCanada that will move communities to action with special attention to youth/young adults.' There are a number of Young Adult (YA) CLC groups that are developing across Canada.

In Winnipeg, **Prairie** Region high school student volunteers are taught leadership in the context of the Immaculate Conception Drop In Centre. CLC members are advocating for social justice among the local poor and marginalized, especially our Aboriginal people. One blessed impact of this form of leadership has been the creation of a family CLC with coordinator training within the group. Following the Haitian earthquake of 2012 Central Region members discerned regionally to support Haitians in rebuilding their lives, supporting a school for Haitian children in La Cinenauga slum in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. There soon developed a commitment to a YA pre CLC community in Port au Prince in collaboration with CVX French Canada. A YA leader and Elder were 'sent' to Port au Prince to facilitate a retreat for the maturing YA group at Central's expense. A second group in Port au Prince is in now in development stages. Eight Central members personally financed 2 insertion trips with Central's E.A. as mentor and guide. These trips served to begin building lasting relationships with youth and young adults supporting local leadership. Central has 12 young adults who have completed Ann 19. Presently 4 are making Annotation 19 while 6 are doing the Communal Exercises. CLC was asked to support young Jesuit Volunteers Canada (JVC's) through facilitating and mentoring regular community meetings in the CLC dynamic. Rockies Region has financially supported the Haitian mission of Central. In the Fall of 2013 CLC made invitation to UBC students (St. Mark's College and parish) to engage in Ignatian Spirituality in anticipation of a pre-CLC. A CLC member is serving as group guide for the YA 'Lighthouse' community, all members having made the Spiritual Exercises. A group of 12 persons of Ignatian persuasion are pursuing monthly Jesuit Ignatian talks for area parishes in Vancouver. The EA of Rockies serves as guide for the pre-CLC St. Augustine's group of about 10 members with some YA's.

Emerging as a focus on CLC development is an **Atlantic** regional discernment of common mission with particular attention to the issue of poverty. The PEI CLC members have been researching for the past 5 years the issue of poverty along with 16 other NGOs. They have presented an "action plan" to eradicate poverty to the Provincial Government. In March 2010 a New Brunswick community discerned a communal action to collaborate with St. Thomas University in offering an Ignatian retreat for 25 university students with the assistance of a member from Central Region's Young Adult's CLC whom Atlantic flew in. From an Ignatian sharing group of young professionals this new CLC group of young adults have decided to make the Spiritual Exercises (Ann 19) as a community supported by AASEA director. Presently 2 members in collaboration with the AASEA are offering a guided retreat for Young Adults, collaborating with a diocesan youth ministry couple in that initiative. In response to the papal document, Ecclesia In America a CLC community is discerning formation of young adults for diocesan catechesis ministry.

## '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.

CLC Canada is growing in the apostolate of the Spiritual Exercises. A number of CLC members have been trained in Spiritual Direction by the AASEA. Spiritual Directors and members alike share Ignatian tools in home parishes and universities by invitation. We share our Ignatian Spirituality by networking with groups like Development and Peace, Kairos, etc. Internationally, Central CLC collaborates with Centro Bono Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Santo Domingo. CLC Canada joined a ground breaking World CVX-CLC letter writing campaign questioning the lack of public education within the Dominican Republic. More recently Haitian citizenship has been contested within the D.R. while issues of Canadian Mining companies in the DR beg our attention. CLC National and regional newsletters serve to communicate with members and partners.

# How does your organization support and is supported by overall Jesuit mission- the qualities of your ministry relationship with the Society?

Annual visits with the Jesuit Provincial have helped us in getting to know each other. Gratefully, we acknowledge that our 4 CLC regions have Jesuit EAs collaborating with the CLC leadership. We are growing in our awareness of our oneness by learning to listen to each other at the General Council meeting when discerning and making decisions in a consensus process.

### Name the qualities of your organizations groundedness with Ignatian Spirituality.

The Spiritual Exercises remain the core source and 'grounding' of our CLC Charism. The foundation of the Exercises and integrating its vision helps us to mature in our CLC Spirituality. The 3 pillars; community, spirituality and mission are integral to our Formation Manuals. All are rooted in the structure and graces of the Spiritual Exercises. Through retreats, week of Guided Prayer, Formation days and World CLC Days of Prayer, we continue in our journey to find God in all things to better serve and bring about God's reign on earth.

Mary Balfe for General Council CLC Canada

### THE CANADIAN COMMON MISSION - June 26 - 28, 1999 CLC National Assembly - Winnipeg

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.