

CLC Canada National Assembly 2014

CLCs have been planted, nourished, growing from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A mysterious sacred melody is heard carried across Canada by the faith, hope, and love of CLC members. The music notes were clearly seen on the faces in the DVD presentation at the social the Thursday evening.

Friday morning we confirmed our rootedness in the core of our Ignatian Spirituality- the Spiritual Exercises. We tuned in to the astonishing mystery of God's deep love for CLC. God calls us to be in solidarity with Jesus' mission. Our vocation is the chosen way we live God's call. Our chosen way is in, with and through Christian Life Community- locally, regionally, nationally and at the world level.

Recalling our CLC Canada history, we realized the seeds for CLC were sown on good ground, how the ground was lovingly tilled, watered, nurtured. Today we are young but sturdy sprouts fed by free love and commitment growing ever stronger in formation, common mission, communication and finances.

We look to our elders for wisdom and confidence that will allow us to step outward into social analysis of all levels of society- even globally.

We saw St. Ignatius come alive for us as we were re-told his sacred story. Like Ignatius we also say "take Lord, receive" as we lay our 'swords' on the altar.

We experienced communal consolation- a sense of unity and communal identity – when the Constitution was accepted with unanimous consensus.

We experienced gratefulness for the clarity in the presentation of our National Finances but were perplexed by the fact that only 40% of CLCers donate annually seemingly unaware of financial co-responsibility.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues, SJ , World Ecclesiastical Assistant, affirmed our deep roots as a lay community living Ignatian spirituality and encouraged us to be 100% mission, prophetic people in wisdom called to new frontiers, to be in collaboration with other groups as well as Jesuits.

We heard the delight in the letter from Fr. Peter Brisson, SJ, in the lay CLC growing Ignatian spirituality and in growing collaboration with the Society of Jesus. And we were delighted in his encouragement to make Christ more visible, to be proud, be passionate and to make CLC more visible.

Mariette Ternowski nourished the seeds of compassion as we discern how to be people of heart.

Mary Ann Brennan (World Exco) planted the seeds to look at the layers of CLC commitment; to till more soil expanding Christ's mission into the frontiers enveloping youth, family, ecology, poverty and globalization; to work toward a CLC North America; and being a true service to the world.



Then Saturday arrived. The Holy Spirit rained down on the assembly as dedicated, gifted participants gathered the bountiful harvest of dreams for CLC Canada for the next five years!

The Banquet supper was an eloquent affair with speeches, stories and sacred sharing in honour of our founder, Fr. John English, SJ. The joy, the music, the dancing, and the laughter at the party that followed celebrated God's generous, loving goodness to us.

We gratefully acknowledge all the work of the Assembly Planning Committee, the incredible attention to detail for our comfort, their gentle graciousness as host and hostess and their loving service to the Assembly. True love is 'wanting the good of the other for the other' and we were truly loved!

Pat Lawson, Atlantic Region