

## CLC Canada Responds to Jesuit Ecology & Mission Commission – CLC Sent To the Frontiers

### Questions:

1. What concrete actions is your community/apostolate currently taking to integrate care for creation into its life and work? What have been your successes and failures so far?

North America as a World Region (USA, Eng and Fr. Canada) is ready to look again at how the Spirit is drawing us together to serve *in common*. A short history with ecology was centred around water in 2007, when national crisis (USA, English and Fr. Canada) stopped the growth of this budding relationship. A teleconference will take place before Pentecost among the CLC-CVX North American leaders.

### Experience of a discerned Regional Common Mission 2010 – approximately 25 lay communities

Presently CLC Central Region (Ontario) has entered into a long term relationship with Haitians (Hispanola) to help them rebuild their lives. There have been 3 insertion trips by lay members with JP Horrigan sj as guide and mentor. The mission has opened many avenues: in March 2014, particular to ecology, those mining practises by Canadian companies that are compromising the health of residents fatal birth defects, and animal fatality through water contamination not to mention the clear cutting of trees and open pit mining leaving what had been A1 agricultural soils destroyed. According to the DR Ministry of the Environment, Domingo Abrev shared there were no safe mining practises for Hispanola. Rather, economic growth through agriculture in the mountains is the means to go forward. The insertion team returned home with the PP Domingo uses to *strategically* inform local and in outlying area communities through 50 active members who advocate with them their rights in DR and in Haiti. Big money means devastation to land and persons now and for the future. *Mining companies sign contracts to make correction to environmental damage 75 years after the initial destruction!! Domingo is in opposition to the Gov't of DR who entertain the companies for profit (not the common good)*. This collaboration has come through Mario Seranno sj of Santo Domingo who works with CVX and numerous organizations. In 2012 the insertion team learned there was an emerging interest by Jesuits near Port au Prince to irrigate and develop agricultural lands and to re-forest. At that time we hoped Development and Peace might see this project as one to invest in. Where it is at now I am unsure. A large Fe Y' Alegria school has recently been built in the remote area.

### Central CLC-CVX/SJ Collaboration with Jesuits (Antilles Province) and CVX Dominican Republic and CVX Haiti

#### 1. Education and 5. Haitian – Dominican Relationships

#### Five Priorities

1. **Education**
2. **Accompaniment** of Displaced Persons
3. **Social Centre** to Strengthen Civil Society
4. **Spirituality Centre**
5. **Haitian-Dominican respectful relations**

Five Priorities of the five year plan  
announced August 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 in  
Port-au-Prince

What are your desires and ideas for further engagement in stewardship of creation, both at the level of your community/apostolate and at the province-wide level?

**Lay Apostolic Visibility through Formation for Mission - 2014** - Mario Seranno sj of Santo Domingo is prepared to receive young adults (University students) for insertion experiences. The team recommends David Shulist sj of University of Sudbury engage this opportunity with students/ with CLC support . CVX French Canda may choose to invite the same interaction. We want to continue to develop relationships with CVX DR members. Antonio Milagros (CVX) volunteers in a Haitian Bate with dreams of a sewage treatment plant to serve the community there.


### Growing Relationships

 Fr. Mario Serrano, SJ	 Fr. Max, SJ	 Fr. Eduardo "Macoby" SJ
 Sister Francesca	 Antonio Milagros, CVX-DR	

### Dinner with spiritual conversation ...dreaming ! Canada with CVX Santo Domingo, DR



### A Network... across nation, language and race



Laarni, Fr. Mario sj, Mary, Dominique, Isabel, Fr. J.P. Horrigan sj

## Mining.....

**Money in the bank**

**...means Poison  
in the Environment**

## Grave Consequences

- **Destruction of the mountain forest** with A1 soil for agriculture (clearcutting forests)
- **Contamination of drinking water, air and soil** (Mountain range soil for agriculture desimated).
- **Human health:** skin burns, birth defects
- **Animals:** dying
- **Long term CLIMATE effects**
- **Declining Tourism**

March 2014 - What CLC can begin to do in Canada among local and CVX international communities and friends.

## Mining

**Goals for Central Region:** Raising awareness of rape of the earth

**Objectives for CLC Central:**

- **Inform** communities
- **Collaborate** with like-minded groups
- **Use** social media
- **Disseminate** information
- **Familiarize** ourselves with

MINING WATCH CANADA

## Denationalization and Mining

### Recommendations:

- **Plan with CVX Dominican Republic** to jointly attend the Haitian W.Day of Prayer 2015.
- **Network/ Collaborate for YOUTH** with Fr. David Shulist sj of Sudbury / Fr. Mario Seranno of Santo Domingo

Develop long term relationships with CVX Young Adults/Jesuits in Haiti who will rebuild their country.



From a national standpoint, World delegates gathered in Lebanon with 60+ nationals.

## CLC – CVX 16<sup>th</sup> World Assembly Lebanon – July 2013

Fr. Pedro Walpole S.J. of South East Asia addressed the Assembly on the 3rd Assembly priority, **Ecology**.

*The central theme shared was of reconciliation : with creation, neighbour and God.*

**Simplicity of Action  
+ Commitment  
of Heart and Hands  
= a sense of**  
**HOPE**  
*we can share*

Fr. Pedro Walpole S.J. of South East Asia addressed the Assembly on the third Assembly priority, Ecology. His work has recently been in land management around issues of landslides. The central theme shared was of reconciliation: with creation, neighbour and God.

Fr. Pedro spoke of starting with a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of all life. He said sustainability is an exercise of the heart, going deeper than the facts and calling forth a genuine change in attitude, redirecting the carbon and poverty footprints of our generation. It is time for us to reconcile with Creation....to embrace poverty and beauty together through families where we speak what it is to be alive.

The converted heart will seek expression through: our institution and lifestyles, formation of young people and pastoral programs and governance of natural and mineral resources. The spiritual and social invitation above will move the ecology strategy and relationship with water, land, life and people.

We are encouraged to **"clean up our act first", that is, to change within, continue to learn and be prepared to advocate. "You can only see into the future with faith, hearts of hope and hands of commitment."** Fr. Pedro, we are ready to commit with the hearts and energy of a 25 year old, just like you asked!

Quoted from the hand out are possible guidelines for "ecological conversion." The converted heart will seek expression through: our institution and lifestyles, formation of young people and pastoral programs and governance of natural and mineral resources.

#### **"Our Environmental Way of Proceeding"**

1. We acknowledge the Creator of Life and find some quiet time each day to appreciate this with gratitude.
2. We as a family seek to reflect and speak about what we experience and discern our relationship with our responsibility for the earth's natural systems.
3. We recognize that young people we see today inherit this living world as we now choose to sustain it by finding God at work in all things and actively seek to engage them.
4. We reach out in hope in poor who are increasingly losing their livelihoods and ecological sustainability and incorporate their concerns in our care for the web of life.
5. We support good actions in contemporary culture and explore needed alternatives with decision, partnering with others in order to broaden our capacity to transform environmental attitudes and relations.
6. We seek the greater good of finding how people can work with the gifts of creation; we love life as a mission, to heal and share with others the fullness of life.
7. We accept the challenge of living sustainably in the world.

**Communication - Our website [www.christianlifecommunity.ca](http://www.christianlifecommunity.ca)**

#### **Broadening our information/communication base within the Ignatian family and beyond**

Use of links to Jesuit Networking, Eco Jesuit articles/websites

Jesuit Forum: OPEN SPACE – Periodical is snail mailed to General Council leaders.

CJI –

Jesuit Volunteers -

Mary Balfe

CLC Canada - April 2014