

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Forum

for Movements and Associations, Sept. 2014

“The Door to Missionary Evangelization”

Ste. Anne-de-Beaupre, Quebec

The ‘Standing Committee’ for Relations with Catholic Movements:

The Most Rev. Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria BC , Chair

Mgr. Luc Cyr Arch bishop of Sherbrooke, QC

The Most Rev. Anthony Daniels, Bishop of Grand Falls, NL

Who was invited to the Forum?:

Those listed with the Holy See, and those that are a national movement.

How many movements/associations were represented? 36

With whom did I make significant contact?

1. Aid to the Church in Need – Marie Claude Lalonde - collaborates with Jesuits in Syria. Iraq through Canadian Jesuits International (Jenny Cafisco)
2. Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada- Dr. Terrance J. Downey -
3. Association of Catholic Communicators of Canada – Br. John Frampton OFM Cap.
4. Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry – Lori Neale
5. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace -
6. Canadian Catholic Student Association – Daniella Dabrowski
7. Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Canada) -
8. Catholic Womens’ League
9. L’Arche Canada – Mary Bastedo – Ignatian Spiritual Director
10. NET Ministries of Canada - Joe Vogel – evangelical teams encouraging Youth encounter with Christ
11. Catholic Organization for Life and Family Mme. Michele Boulva - readymade free workshop materials for the asking. (4 themes)
12. Pontifical Mission Societies – Fr. Alex Osei CSSp
13. Madonna House – Mme Jeanne Guillemette - consecrated lay
14. Presenter: Brian Mac Donough, Archdiocese of Montreal

Having been sent by CLC Canada to the Forum (held every other year) I'll put together my experience in summary.

I am very grateful to have represented CLC Canada at the Forum and recommend to General Council to keep the calendar open for 2016 for the next Forum *watching for the invitational letter and registration form in the Spring of that year* (setting aside about \$400.00 for travel and \$200.00 registration *from Ontario*. I went armed with 40 CLC brochures (Staples \$50.00) that I think could use ``refreshing`` since 2011 copyright. About ½ were taken. The remainder were shared with the Ignatian Centre in Montreal and prospective CLC persons there.

Getting organized to go always leaves some mystery as to 'if' I will meet the intended person at the airport and get to my destination on time in an unfamiliar setting etc. All registrants had to find their own way to Ste. Anne-de-Beaupre, north of Quebec city. The list of participants sent by the registrar helped me identify those I might connect with. All worked out very well with a connection with Lori Neale (Charlie of Board for Jesuit Volunteers) who took the same flight! My connection with Lori last year with JVC was proving to be an entry into the University student milieu and the real possibility of CLC establishing a deeper and meaningful relationship across Canada through Chaplaincies. Is this an invitation from the Holy Spirit, leading 'a way' forward to 'nourish' a need for community among youth and support the ground workers through lively online, Young Adult Ignatian resources from the USA?

Arrival: A warm welcome and a 3rd floor room (I never went up and down stairs so many times in 3 days!) before meeting in the plenary room...

Each representative had 2 minutes to introduce ourselves and tell succinctly what our organization's mission and purpose was and how each of us witnessed to Christ in the World. Below is what I shared....

Christian Life Communities: Mission and Purpose?

"We invite lay people of all ages through faith communities to live a committed 'way of life' that is intentional in meeting the challenges in living the Gospel. CLC is 450 years old , 40 years in Canada with 4 regions . We promote our core

formation; the Spiritual Exx. of St. Ignatius where one is opened to be transformed through praying with Scripture. The model of discipleship is Mary our Mother who is always leading us outward in a deeper relationship with her son Jesus.

How do we Witness to Christ in the World?

A scripture that perhaps frames CLC is from Micah 6:8 *'And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?'*

Our members are invited to move from what is comfortable. Through personal transformation we want to make the kingdom of God present in our world in our history : to articulate our experiences, evaluate through social analysis and discern in community a call to change structures that affect the poor and marginalized. World CLC unites every 5 years as a lay apostolic body to discern what is most urgent and universal while each national responds to its needs. The frontiers named in 2013 were family, ecology, globalization and poverty and Youth. We collaborate with Jesuits and other organisations and strive to serve in common, from local to regional and international missions. We exist to the serve the church in the world, aware of the signs of the times.

Presenters:

La Famille Marie-Jeunesse Consecrated Sisters and Priests known as La Famille Marie-Jeunesse of Sherbrooke Quebec spoke of their work with youth making a place for them to meet in homes (the Order`s place of work); they are places for youth to resist the present allure of consumerism and exploitation and to protect the sanctity of their lives, through joy, beauty, friendship and hope. *The consecrated members pray 4 hours a day.* They spoke of the value and art of the 'welcome' smile, loss of points of reference for youth in family breakups, consumerism, present day sexuality. Saint Jean Paul II`s' Theology of the Body was referenced as a resource.

Catholic Christian Outreach - CCO - 'Seek the Lost' - on university campuses

Andre and Angele Regnier co-founders 1989-

Andre referenced Pope Francis' : the church's deepest identity is in

evangelization , to be missionary is her very nature....the call to mission is the call to become holy....they are 2 sides of the same coin.

Andre sees 4 steps in evangelizing toward intentional discipleship: 1) to Proclaim the word (kerigyma) 2) to Invite encounter (the Holy Spirit) 3) to Choose' Christ (the will) and 4)to See the change.

CCO has 80 student ministers across university/college campuses. Students' raise a years' pay so that they can serve for one year evangelizing on campus. He says most Roman Catholic students do not have fundamental Christian teaching.

Brian MacDonough- Archdioceses of Montreal

Brian gave a very thoughtful overview of *Evangelii Gaudium*. It can be summed up in saying that we are called to radically, authentic faith in a new solidarity with the poor at the centre of the church. READ IT.

Resources: Compendium – church`s teaching on Social thought.

Building Peace: a) Work for the long term b) unity prevails over conflict, live with it to transform c) Realities are more important than ideas d) the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Fr. Thomas Rosica C.S.B. – (The Priest from Salt and Light TV who translates daily the Holy Father`s homilies.) The remarkable presentation by Thomas was so inspiring . He is completely captivated by Pope Francis and his teaching.

The Challenge of Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium for the Universal Church: (attached)

Closing remarks: In thanking all the members and the presenters for their participation on the weekend Bishop Gary Gordon warmly invited us to live with a ``pierced heart`` of Mary as we enter into more fully into the journey of the new evangelization. We left one another with hope and joy. Celebration of mass at the Basilica but I needed to get to Montreal for meetings set up up with those interested in hearing about CLC.

Submitted September 17, 2014

Peace+Mary Balfe