



My name is Leah Michaud. I was raised in Sudbury Ontario and was fortunate to have an older sister and brother to keep an eye out for me. My childhood was filled with delightful days of playing outdoors with my friends in the surrounding fields, woods and “rocks” typical of the Northern Ontario environment. As a student, I was a member of the Sodality of our Lady but completely unaware of the Marion Congregation (MC) connection. Marriage to Gilles meant leaving Sudbury for various military bases ending up on PEI Canada. It was here, as a newly committed member in one of the first CLC groups in Atlantic Canada, I learned of the “lost” Ignatian underpinnings of the Sodality. In 1998, Gilles and I were invited to serve as Executive Secretary at the CLC Secretariat in Rome, Italy. We were the first couple to hold this position. In these five years, I spent hours going through the archives reading as much as I could about the early years of Jesuit – lay collaboration and the development of the MC that led to CLC as we know it today.

As a director of the Spiritual Exercises and a CLC Group Guide, my appreciation of how critical and central the Spiritual Exercises are in understanding and living CLC as a discerning community for mission was reinforced. The Fatima Assembly was an opportunity to hear from CLC around the world of the need for competent directors and guides.

In the years of our return to settle in Eastern Canada, I have particularly enjoyed being a grandparent to six grandchildren, to reconnect with my Ixthus family, to serve the CLC Atlantic Region as a Formation Co-ordinator and to continue to learn from a whole panorama of gifted folks who are identified as “*Maritimers*”!