

Vancouver CLC Communities Celebrate Commitment Ceremony



On Sunday, January 24th, the Vancouver CLC communities celebrated the temporary commitments of four members of the St. Mark's CLC community. In addition, several Vancouver members renewed their temporary and/or permanent commitments. These commitments were made before the parish community at St. Mark's parish and presided over by Fr. Rob Allore, SJ. We then enjoyed fellowship and cake with the parish, followed by a reception for the Vancouver CLC communities. It was truly a joy to have the Vancouver communities gather together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The St. Mark's community, named for the Catholic college on UBC campus where they meet, is unique in a number of ways. First of all, it is an "open" CLC community. This means that while there are regularly committed "core" members, the group is open to welcoming individuals at any time who wish to "come and see". As one member recently put it, they invite newcomers to "come journey with us". The community has been richly blessed by those who have joined it in this manner. Significantly, St. Mark's has made a communal discernment to remain an open community, even after several members have now made their temporary commitments. The group feels strongly that it has a common apostolic mission to be a community of welcome and to offer the gift of Ignatian spirituality to seekers. This innovating approach, we believe, has been the initiative of the Holy Spirit and it continues to bear great fruit.

Further, the St. Mark's community is an ecumenical and international community, with members from New Zealand, Chile, the Philippines, Canada, the USA and other countries. I believe that this diversity has been one of the community's greatest strengths. The image it brings to mind is one of a rich tapestry of vibrant beauty and colour.

Third, many (though not all) of the St. Mark's CLC community are married with children. In fact, the members have at least a dozen children amongst them! At the reception, we honoured these children and the

spouses of our members, many of whom were present. The group desires to find ways to truly become a “family” CLC, one that allows all the family members to fully participate in the life of the community. (In this regard, we ask other communities to share how you do this with us!)

What a joy it was for the three Vancouver communities—St. Augustine’s, Lighthouse, and St. Mark’s— as well as some of our diaspora members to come together in celebration. We appreciate the prayers and support that were communicated to us by our regional Ecclesial Assistant Fr. Charlie Pottie-Pate SJ, our President, national EA, General Council, and several elders. We have been very blessed in Vancouver with the growth of our communities and an increased awareness of, and desire for, Ignatian spirituality generally in the Lower Mainland. It is our intention to offer leadership and guide training to BC members later this year in order to better respond to growing demand. We ask for your continued prayers for the BC/Rockies CLC region.

