

**CLC World Day of Prayer – 2010 – Projects #144 – Caritas in Veritate  
TO LEAD YOU INTO HOLY WEEK**

**Facilitators:** Tarcia Gerwing CLC, Fr. Bill Ryan s.j. (Jesuit Forum for Soc.Faith &Justice)

**Listeners:** Peter Peloso, Kathleen Crawford **Music:** Jean Leveck

**Organizing Committee:** Adrienne De Schutter , Andree Richard, Mary Balfe, Julie Dwyer-Young - Julie Dwyer-Young made contacts through the Hamilton Dioceses Justice Awareness Office to invite others beyond CLC to join us for the day. Grateful thanks to Central communities who generously offered much more than the soup and bread asked of them...a feast was prepared. Gratitude to Adrienne and to the other members of Holy Rosary Parish who attended and helped tremendously with preparing and serving lunch and refreshments. Also thanks to Fr. Bernie Carroll of Holy Rosary Parish, for making their church hall available for the day and welcoming us to join in celebrating mass.

**Christian Life Communities of Central Region had 35 members present with 15 people attending from outside CLC. We gathered at Holy Rosary Parish, Guelph, March 27<sup>th</sup> in light of CLC's World Day of Prayer.** Called as members of a World Apostolic Body to prophetic mission, and inspired by Projects #144 "WHO ARE THE POOR? ~Prepare for a new Reality", Central Region extended an invitation to Fr. Bill Ryan of the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice to address Pope Benedict's ground breaking document ...Caritas in Veritate (Love in Truth).

Tarcia Gerwing , spiritual director and member of 'Pilgrims on a Journey' community facilitated the morning and closing session inviting us to spiritual poverty before the Trinity, examining the question "who are the poor?", using reflections around the temptations of Christ and a CD presentation 'No More Turning Away'. She used repetition - Do you have a poor person in your life? If not, why not? Do you have poor person in your life? If not, why not? Do you have a poor person in your life? If not, why not? and guiding questions to consider who are the poor in our lives. Using music, prayerful reflections, diads/triads for sharing, Tarcia lead us to discover in the process of the day what had been ignited in us. Fr. Bill presented a summary of thoughts and reflections on the Caritas in Veritate document, offering question and answer sessions that were invigorating to the process and found most helpful by the participants.

**The interest in attending the day** encompassed a deeper understanding of 'Who are the Poor?', CLC community grassroots reality, community involvement and vision, a desire to hear leadership in the Church, to support the unfolding understanding of

Caritas in Veritate, hope of discovering concrete ways to encourage and engage others, and to take responsibility personally to be a sign in the world, while asking ‘what is the Spirit saying to us’?

**Seven groups, facilitated by CLC members**, gathered around tables to share their background and interest in the topics of poverty and justice. What was the first reaction to the talk by Fr. Bill Ryan? What are your hopes from what you heard? What question does your group have for the larger group?

**Though the intellectual level of the document Caritas in Veritate was scholarly and challenging;** requiring attentive listening without visual summaries of key points, or ‘flash bites’, and for some listening with English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language, **it was felt that the message had a deep impact on people.** For many there was a desire and fascination to explore more in small groups, parishes, and hopefully involving members of the business community, while others were overwhelmed with the question of “what does this mean for us?”

**Love is needed for social justice and vice versa.** Free self-giving love needs to be awakened in our hearts. This ‘love in truth’ is not sentimentality, when one offers another a kindness to feel good themselves, rather ‘Love in Truth’ leads to the personal human development of each and every individual! It is personal and concrete in discovering what we need to know as well as how we will implement it. The dream of Caritas is not just profit driven markets of the current culture but invites a new social imagination. What will this love look like? Harnessing this power is like discovering fire! (Theihard de Chardin). There was stilling urgency in the message of the document simply quoted “The mystic, the scholar, and the saint all tell us the same things: we must love or we must die.”(Barbara Ward) Could we imagine death and extinction because of lack of love? Are churches closing or falling asleep? It is a time of waking up!

**As the experience of God’s love ignites us** (as in the First Week of the Exercises) we are encouraged to work where the energy is at the grassroots, putting a more readily understood language on the encyclical, bringing the model of consolation and desolation, and open to discussions with business. A small group, ‘wearing the sandals of Jesus’, and inviting the involvement of parishioners, can make a difference as it becomes a venue for the voice of the people of God. It is hoped that CLC community

will work together toward a deeper understanding of the encyclical first in their communities.

**Appropriation: The Fire of God's Love made visible in us through igniting the following (written on paper flames, attached to a cross). This became our concrete sign 'announced' to one another, and carried in procession at the offertory in the parish's Eucharistic celebration the evening before Passion Sunday.**

Gift of Wisdom, Hope, Poverty, Love ~

To see that everyone is poor and to do something about it, especially those that I know ~

I am poor standing with the Poor ~

Develop gifts, share with the world ~

My zeal to remain in community has been ignited as I humbly seek to be in communion with the poverty in myself and in others, Your love and Your grace are enough for me ~

Deepened desire to honestly love with Christ's love ~

Compassion for the poor, look into every needy person and see Jesus in them, thank you for that grace! ~

Desire to love in more concrete ways the people I encounter ~

Renewed awareness, Desire for Prayer ~

Spiritual direction, CLC flame has ignited again with closeness to God ~

A deep desire to be present to the poor in my life, a deep desire to be a sign of your love, to be defenceless before you God ~

There is no social justice without LOVE Let social justice grow by one little step at a time. If we believe, the Fire of Christians is re-ignited.~

Trying to accept things I cannot change, leave it to God ~

Deep love of God in others will make the difference – release and surrender control. ~

You O Lord truly granted me the grace: enthusiastic in my calling to responding again, less self doubt.

Conviction of God's love and discipleship ~

I received a call to practice mindfully and with love any social justice interventions ~

You lit up my life again beloved Jesus through receiving the grace I asked for at the beginning of the day, I leave with your consolation ~

The birth of the spirit of discipleship. I can make a difference in my community!~

Enthusiasm for work of Social Justice, to be leader in this area has been renewed today. The fire has been ignited!

Excitement to spread the word about Caritas in Veritate. ~

The gift of being able to fail ~

Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly ~

Justice is indeed 'a community event' ~

The joy of old friends and new ones, trust and friendship ~

Gratitude for the consciousness of a sense of authentic spirituality ~

Re-ignited the flame of confidence that the world can enjoy a conversion ~

To the power of Real Love that will conquer poverty ~  
Completion and new direction (co-creating with all oppressed), ~  
Behold my beloved in whom I am well pleased ~  
Our God who is love, ignites me 'to hear the cry of the poor' ~  
Confidence that God loves and inspires me ~  
To carry with me the profound love God has for me, to bare Christ to the World ~  
Ignited in my conviction that together we can make a difference for good in our world. ~  
Freedom from fear of being silenced ~  
A Joy and enthusiasm to walk with Jesus and with others ~  
Renewed energy to enter Holy Week and guiding family into the paschal mystery . ~  
Deeper understanding of the poor in the world, the awareness of a particular person in my family who needs love and understanding, everyone deserves justice ~  
Mutual respect out of love ~  
In Christ I need to love my 'neighbour' on a one to one level, spiritually person to person: grass roots and to encourage others in our parish especially St. Vincent DePaul...not just food vouchers and food bags~.

An executive reflection: This day translated to Canada's desire to respond to the needs of Haiti...a question arose...In moving forward for Haiti as a national mission, does this limit a collective mission for English Canada?(Fr. General Adolpho Nicolas at the World Assembly, Fatima 2008 spoke of *groups* in mission being better able to effect change.) Could this Haitian mission be under a broader scope like 'poverty', as one response to a unified approach to mission in English Canada and in response to the question what does CLC do? Would we ask that a LOVE in TRUTH approach be used to rebuild Haiti where our dollars /efforts are concerned? Could we begin to discern a national focus for our poor as well?...our indigenous people, children?