

Christian Life Community Canada
Central Region Formation Report 2016, March 9

Formation in Canada looks a bit different in each region. For the purpose of sharing and comparing how our regions stand today, each region has prepared a summary of its infrastructure and progress. The following report is from Central Region, submitted by Magee McGuire, Rep to National General Council.

Community Development

The Formation Team has several members facilitating at different stages. Three members are a Welcoming committee to newcomers and travel the journey of Stage one with Manual One. Two members do the same in Stage two with Manual Two. Three members follow with Stage Three, coordinating Communities through the Spiritual Exercises, using Manual Three or facilitating the approach through Annotation 19. Finally, an Elder community, Holy Ground, in support of Elder, Peter Peloso, coordinates and facilitates the growth in communities in Stage Four (the Peer Group) after the final commitment. Each community has access to a guide though there is a need to roster a few more guides as the region expands.

On reflection, CLC Central during 2016 has been blessed with a strong communal infrastructure, set with committed communities all pursuing some stage of Spiritual and Communal growth and moving toward Mission. The Pillars are once again settling deep.

Spiritual Formation:

All formation is based on the Canadian CLC Formation Manual, augmented by the Process of Growth World Document, guiding each member to discern a Permanent commitment, in order to form leaders and to focus on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

There are 89 members in 18 communities in Central Region; 36 have made their Permanent Commitment to CLC (12 just last June). 7 of our members are in diaspora at this time. The Formation Team has asked them to join a community within 12 months time. Now that we have three SKYPE Communities, that issue may be easily resolved.

Several communities discerned or decided to exit CLC as a way of Life. In all, 9 communities were sent forward with a letter and prayer for their future spiritual journey.

There are 5 communities working through Manual One. We have 6 members, and possibly 1 more, in 2 communities, taking Annotation 19.

One group with 7 members has started the communal exercises in Manual three. They have been praying through the disposition days with 2 guides, plus each member has a CLC Spiritual Director to accompany them on this journey to discerning their Lay Vocation and their group's Common Apostolic Mission

Peter and Barbara Peloso have started to plan a series of gatherings for Stage Four Permanent Members. These could cover such things as the Life-Death-Resurrection Cycle, an annual CLC retreat, a review of methods of Ignatian Prayer, praying over parts of the Spiritual Exercises, for example 'the Call of the King', reviewing our apostolate with each other, etc. These meetings remind us that our work for CLC is best motivated by gratitude and “ the exchange of gifts”. The support for Stage Four involves more than prayer and evaluation. It requires focused retreats, communal gatherings and peer group instruction. Peter Peloso, with the assistance of his CLC, Holy Ground, will coordinate this Stage. The following events are part of this year's Calendar for growth.

Events:

- * Jan. 9 - Epiphany Party - for Toronto cluster - Eucharist, Pot luck dinner, Video on CLC in Port-au-Prince - exchange of gifts with lots of fun and laughter
- * Feb. 6 - Retreat for 55 and under - Feb. at Our Lady of Lourdes in Toronto - topic 'Mercy' - presented by Trevor Scott, National EA
- * March 5 - Stage Four Meeting on Skype with CLCers who have made their Permanent Commitment - to vision
- * March 13 - Formation Peer Group - with Guides and Formation Team - face-to-face in Toronto plus Skype for those from away

It goes without saying that the tremendous restructuring of the Formation Team could not have done so without the dedication and

loyalty of elder members. We salute them graciously for their dedication and love. For this reason, the Formation Team was moved to send Peter Peloso a special thank you for his all time contribution to CLC Canada. It is with gratitude that we will receive the benefit of his ongoing involvement in guiding the development of Stage Four with sanctity and effective mission in Central Region. Thank you, Peter.

Mission

The Common Apostolic Mission was discerned by the region to support education in the Dominican Republic for displaced and orphaned Haitian children who live in La Cienaga (which translates 'the swamp'). This project is directed by Fr. Mario Serrano, s.j. who has since expanded the mission of his office to other projects in the D.R. One such site is a developing boarding school for boys in Dajabon. Each year our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. J.P. Horrigan, s.j., organizes an insertion trip to Hispaniola to visit all the projects and which also extends to a visit to Port-au-Prince in Haiti, where three pre-CLC groups are in formation and are hoping that Canada will officially sponsor Haiti into World CLC. There is a plan to evaluate our mission in 2016. This will be the focus of our Spring Council Meeting on June 4th at St. Joseph's School in Streetsville.

Other

Central held its regional assembly June 5-7, 2015. From this came a final statement that resounded unanimously. It is as follows;

"CLC Central Region assembled June 5-7, 2015. Our theme was 'Building the Body of Christ through Family'. We deepened our awareness that family includes all of God's creation. Accepting and sharing our brokenness and vulnerability, we are called to live our Ignatian gifts, extending love, compassion and forgiveness to ourselves and to our world, as Jesus does."