

**ASSEMBLY THEME:**

*ROOTED IN BLESSED HISTORY - SENT TO THE FRONTIERS*

**PREPARATION MATERIAL FOR OUR 2014 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For CLC Group Members)**

**FOCUS:** Canada's Common Mission

**TASK:** **Evaluation.** Local CLCs are invited to engage a series of 'spiritual exercises' to EVALUATE CLC Canada's 1999 Common Mission.

**CONTEXT:** **Our Blessed History:** We will evaluate how we have lived out Canada's Common Mission since 1999. We will do this with a background awareness of not only our own Canadian reality, but also the Spirit's call to the World CLC through recent World Assemblies.

**TIME:** **3 months** – By early February, all Local CLCs in Canada are invited to determine how they will work with this Preparatory Material for feedback **by April 30.**

**DESIGN:** **FOR THE CLC MEMBER:** Suggestion: Three, 30 minute prayer/reflection periods.

**FOR THE CLC MEETING (S):** Suggestion: Three 30-60 minute communal exchanges during Part II of a regular CLC meeting.... A synopsis *from the communal conversation* is captured in writing for each part of the Common Mission evaluated, and later gathered in one feedback document for return **to the Regional Rep** by April 30.

You are encouraged to be as generous as possible with this preparatory material for the sake of our upcoming National Assembly and for CLC Canada's ongoing discernment of our Common Mission.

**DISPOSING ONESELF FOR EACH PRAYER AND REFLECTION:**

**Presence:**

"For the time it takes to say an Our Father" ... look at God looking at you and at CLC Canada **SE[75]**

**Grace:**

We ask for the grace of light and wisdom to **evaluate** how we have responded to CLC Canada's Common Mission since 1999 in terms of 'what we have done for Christ, what we are doing for Christ, what we ought to do for Christ.... ' **SE [53]**

**Assembly Scripture: Matthew 13:23**

*"As for the seed that fell on good soil, it is the one who hears the word of God and understands it: it bears fruit and produces a hundred, sixty or thirty times more."*

**CLC General Principle 8**

## CLC Canada's Common Mission (1999)

*The whole is greater than the sum of the parts*

*As Christian Life Community of Canada we will act as communities, not as individual identities. We will develop leadership in CLC Canada that will move communities to action with special attention to youth/young adults. Through the apostolate of the Spiritual Exercises: Communication, Education, Social Justice In Action, we will strive to better love and serve the Blessed Trinity in our world community as the Canadian CLC.*

## PART I

**Dispose** yourself for this exercise as suggested.

**Consider** the following goal from our Common Mission statement: “As Christian Life Community of Canada we will act as communities, not as individual identities.”

### **For Personal Prayer/Reflection:**

- Using your **memory-imagination**, recall your own personal experiences of being part of CLC in Canada acting as community (at the National, Regional or your local group level). Take the time to ‘be imaginatively present’ to your experience(s)
- Using **critical thinking**, focus on at least one experience and reflect on the following questions:
  - Who was present? What was the issue/need that prompted the need for concrete action?
  - What ways of proceeding, tools, or discernment processes were used?
  - To what extent was collaboration with other CLC communities or others part of this action?
  - Looking back, what particular strengths stand out for you in how you did what you did, ‘acting as community’? What limitations, weaknesses or blind spots stand out?
  - What deserves to be celebrated with gratitude? What were some discouragements? Challenges?
  - How could we, as CLC, become more faithful to this way of being on mission? Be specific.

### **For Communal Colloquy and Gatherings – Feedback Exercise:**

In your communal exchanges, take time to **think deeply and broadly about what you have discussed**. Then ...

- a.) Decide on how you will capture the **awarenesses, clarities or insights** which have surfaced.
- a.) In light of our recent World Assemblies, is this mission goal **still relevant?** Give specific reasons for your answer.
- b.) What **recommendations**, related to this first goal, would you like to include in your feedback?

## PART II

**Dispose** yourself for this exercise as usual.

**Consider** the second goal from our Common Mission statement: **(Part II A)** *“We will develop leadership in CLC Canada that will move communities to action (Part II B) with special attention to youth/young adults.”*

### **For Personal Prayer/Reflection: Part A: CLC Leadership Development:**

A key role for community leaders in CLC is to form members and groups that can MOVE towards concrete action. Our DSSE way of proceeding, sufficient grasp of the Spiritual Exercises, an experiential understanding of our CLC charism and Process of Growth, as well as various tools to assist group process are needed to do this effectively.

Based on your experience in CLC, you are invited to evaluate how well we have been responding to this first part of our Common Mission’s second goal (*We will develop leadership in CLC Canada that will move communities to action*):

- **Name** any formation events or opportunities which helped your local or Regional leaders develop knowledge or skills. How did these formative efforts help your leaders then help **move** your local community or your Region towards **action**?
- **Identify** any ‘well thought out’ steps (strategies) that seemed to assist this leadership development in your area. How effective was this way of developing ‘CLC leaders’ ? In the short term? (Be specific.) In the long term? (Be specific.)
- What deserves to be celebrated with gratitude? What were some discouragements? Challenges?

### **For Communal Colloquy and Gatherings- Feedback Exercise:**

In your communal exchanges, take time to **think deeply and broadly about what you have discussed.** Then ...

- a.) Decide on how you will capture any **awarenesses, clarities, or insights** which have surfaced.
- b.) In light of our recent World Assemblies, is this particular mission goal **still relevant** for CLC Canada? Give specific reasons for your answer.
- c.) What **recommendations**, related to this first part of the second goal, would you like to offer?

## **For Personal Prayer/Reflection: PART B. Youth/Young Adults**

**Prayerfully ponder** Luke 16:1-13 or Baruch 4:21-22, 37. How do you hear the Trinity's concern for this part of Canada's Common Mission? Within this scriptural context, how well do you sense we have furthered the desires of God's heart through **action** with special attention to youth/young adults? **What concrete efforts** or actions *are you aware of* that have focused CLC's energies on this goal? Be prepared to share about one and how it has inspired or impacted you, your group, or your Regional Community.

### **FOR SHARING and COMMUNAL EXCHANGE:**

After a round of sharing on your scriptural prayer and reflection, then use critical thinking in your communal conversation with the help of the following:

- What CLC concrete actions have given 'special attention' to youth/young adults in your area since 1999? How **relevant** were these actions given our Canadian reality?
- Clarify the needs and underlying assumptions that helped your CLC or your Region reach out to youth/young adults in that way?
- How significant was the role of CLC leaders in moving your community or Region to this action?
- What deserves to be celebrated with gratitude? What were some discouragements? Challenges?
- What kind of CLC leadership development might help us, as a National Community, be better equipped for this 'field' of mission?

### **For Communal Colloquy and Gatherings – Feedback Exercise:**

After your communal exchanges, take time to **think deeply and broadly about what you have discussed.** Then ...

- a.) Decide on how you will capture any **awarenesses, clarities, or insights** which have surfaced.
- b.) In light of our recent World Assemblies, is this particular mission goal **still relevant** for CLC Canada? Give specific reasons for your answer.
- c.) What **recommendations**, related to this second part of the second goal, would you like to offer?

## **PART III**

**Dispose** yourself for this exercise as usual.

**Consider** the following goal from our Common Mission statement: *Through the apostolate of the Spiritual Exercises: Communication, Education, Social Justice In Action, we will strive to better love and serve the Blessed Trinity in our world community as the Canadian CLC.*

### **For Personal Prayer/Reflection:**

For each of the above areas which apply to your local group, area, or Region....

- **List** any concrete actions which have been taken during this evaluation period (15 years).
- What specific **graces** have been given through our efforts?
- In what area have we been **most effective** in *loving and serving the Blessed Trinity in our world community as the Canadian CLC*? What short or long term **impacts** have our actions had on the many communities to which we belong? (Our own area ....church....country.... and beyond)?
- What deserves to be celebrated with gratitude? What were some discouragements? Challenges?
- Which area is our growing edge? Name the challenges in that area that most need prayerful and thoughtful response.

You may want to capture some of your observations on a flipchart. Then 'step back' and ponder what you have recorded. Make connections, notice any pattern of inter-relatedness. What meaning do you give to what has surfaced?

### **A Further Question:**

**"Rooted in Blessed History – Sent to the Frontiers"** is the theme of our 2014 National Assembly. Evaluation can help us connect with aspects of our blessed history. The frontiers to which God is inviting us is related to 'what ought we to do for Christ SE[53].

Our 2014 CLC World Assembly in Lebanon has discerned four 'frontiers' "in our time' that are calling for the gifts we, as CLC, have to offer: *Family, Globalization and Poverty, Ecology and Youth.*

- In light of:
1. having evaluated the three priority goals of CLC Canada's 1999 Common Mission
  2. our present Canadian reality – 'reading the signs of the times' and
  3. Lebanon's four priority frontiers,

**How do you sense the Spirit may be calling us, CLC Canada, forward on mission?**

**For Communal Colloquy and Gatherings – Feedback Exercise:**

In your communal exchanges, take time to **think deeply and broadly about what you have discussed.** Then ...

- a.) Decide on how you will capture any **awarenesses, clarities, or insights** which have surfaced.
- b.) In light of our recent World Assemblies, is this particular mission goal **still relevant** for CLC Canada? Give specific reasons for your answer.
- c.) What **recommendations**, related to this third goal, **and 'further question'** would you like to offer?

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