



## **Update on assistance to Puerto Rico**

Since December 2017, CLC's Apostolic Advocacy and Action (AAA) task force has been leading an effort in financial and material assistance, as well as spiritual support, to CVX-Puerto Rico in San Juan and to the Brigada Solidaria del Oeste in the western end of Puerto Rico.

These initiatives began with simple WhatsApp and Facebook communications and then developed into friendship, with heart-sharing emails and a growing understanding of the dire situation for all Puerto Rican people as a result of Hurricane Maria. Despite the storm occurring in September 2017, many people still remained without electricity or water, and their badly damaged homes are still in need of repair.

Throughout the winter, the North Central Region joined in with CLC-USA groups coast to coast and sent scores of "Magi Gift Boxes" with school supplies, toiletries and other items. Several CLC groups donated to Caritas Puerto Rico at the recommendation of Luis Marini, president of CVX-Puerto Rico.

After some creative research on the needs in Puerto Rico, members discovered some companies that were willing to collaborate on the delivery of milk and solar lamps. Bob's Red Mill generously donated powdered milk and CLC mailed 125 pounds of the milk in January. Then, in February, 144 inflatable solar lamps from MPOWERD were delivered in February. CLC-USA members and groups donated funds to help with shipping and the cost of the lamps. A member of Omaha CLC community Beloved, Ramon Calzada reported on his efforts to purchase and install water filtration systems.

From CLC's connection to CVX-Puerto Rico, we learn that problems continue as many of

Puerto Rico's people struggle with suicides and concerns for the next hurricane season. Monsignor Roberto González, archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese San Juan de Puerto Rico, along with Rev. Heriberto Martínez, secretary general of Puerto Rico's Bible Society, the Rev. Enrique Camacho, executive director of Catholic Charities (Caritas) Puerto Rico, and Eric LeCompte, executive director of Jubilee USA Network, share the same desire for Puerto Rico's freedom from debt, corruption and constraining economic policies.

Those who joined in on a March AAA teleconference call reflected on what they learned, graces asked for, and graces received from the Puerto Rico "Call to Accompany." The collective spirit at the end of reflection included: "feeling and being connected;" "opportunities to learn about CVX in Puerto Rico;" "one world community made real to me;" "commitment to CLC-CVX and all people of good will;" and "the need to be involved not just in prayer and almsgiving, but also in social justice, to address the systems that cause poverty and injustice."

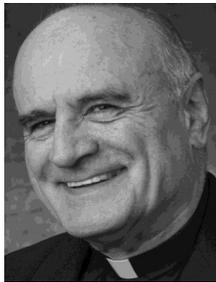


**Omaha Beloved community member Ramon Calzada provided this photo of volunteers in Puerto Rico.**

**Deadline for next issue: Aug. 1**

**From our Ecclesial Assistant—****This is a time for transitions**

This is the first time that our newsletter is not prepared by Dave Haberman after many years of faithful and patient service to our CLC region. As I thank Dave for that service, I also thank Cindy McMahon for accepting the responsibility of publish-

**Fr. Luis**

ing and mailing the newsletter. Cindy is the coordinator of our Omaha group *Emmaus* and she was recommended by name by Dave as his successor.

We in the Executive Committee (Exco) are also going through a transition of our own. For quite a few years J. Berry was the *convener* of our Exco, but his time is now significantly taken up helping his wife Marti, whose health condition requires a lot of assis-

tance. Fortunately, Michael Dante of the Milwaukee group *Gesu Companions* has accepted that responsibility and is doing a great job as the new *convener*.

Last month we received from the Omaha Archdiocese an invitation to participate in the first gathering of English-speaking ecclesial movements and lay associations in the Archdiocese. Although the invitation was extended to Ken Keefner (*Oasis* coordinator) and myself, we were encouraged to invite four other members of our community. Since it is an Omaha event, I have invited the other Omaha members of our Exco and others, who are known to the Archdiocese. The four invited are: Maryanne Rouse (*QM*), Marianne Hall (*Siloam*), Marge Brennan (*Remnant*) and Colleen Chiacchere (*Remnant*).

May all of you have a blessed remainder of the Easter season.

— Fr. Luis

**NC CLC Biennial Retreat —****Save the Date, October 5-7, for 'Our Holy Journey'**

The North Central CLC EXCO has planned an exceptional Biennial Fall Retreat for the Region. Jesuit Father Kevin Schneider, S.J., has agreed to be the director of our retreat in October. He is in demand as a spiritual director and provider of retreats in the Midwest. Several of us have experienced mornings of reflections he has directed and found them to be inspiring and faith-filled. This is a special opportunity to commune with Jesus with Fr. Kevin's insight. The title of his retreat is "**Our Holy Journey.**" Our

retreat will invite us to recognize the gift of holiness that is in the world and in our lives. This gift then is an invitation to guide our lives. Let us grow in holiness!

Fr. Kevin was born and raised just outside of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is the second eldest of six boys. He is a 1982 grad of Creighton University and joined the Society of Jesus that fall. His formation led him to Omaha, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was ordained a priest in the Society of Jesus at Gesu in Mil-

**North Central Region Directory**

Coordinating council co-convener and national representative: Michael Dante  
 Iowa cluster promoter: Amy Hoover; Minnesota cluster promoter: Linda Bennett;  
 Omaha cluster promoter: Ken Keefner; Wisconsin cluster promoter: Jeanne Sieger; Treasurer: Bob Smith;  
 Bookkeeper: Mary Kuhlman; Ecclesial assistant: Father Luis Rodriguez, S.J.  
 Newsletter editor: Cindy McMahon (CindyMcMahon@creighton.edu)

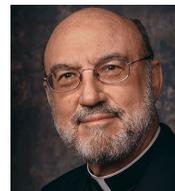
**Retreat—**

waukee in 1994.

He is a member of the Jesuit Community at Creighton Preparatory High School and is the director of spiritual programs for the adult community at Creighton Prep. He has taught theology and is chaplain for many athletic teams. Fr. Schneider also offers retreats and days of recollection for schools and parish missions and has offered retreats at Jesuit retreat houses in the upper Midwest. He has found that offering retreats over the past few years has filled him with joy and hope. He is a life-long Packers fan and an avid fan of the Creighton Bluejays. Please know he is praying for you.

**In Memoriam**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Fr. Dick Hauser, S.J., the recipient of the *Writer's Award in Spirituality* at this year's Hearts on Fire.



Fr. Hauser was born June 22, 1937, and entered eternal life on Monday, April 3, after a quick decline with aggressive cancer, diagnosed a couple months ago.

Our sadness is met with hope and trust in God's unwavering love during this Easter season; we hold his brother, sisters, and all who mourn him in our prayers.

A dear friend of Fr. Hauser, his brother, and sister will be present at Hearts on Fire to accept the *Writer's Award in Spirituality*.

We invite you to join us at Hearts on Fire to honor the life and legacy of Fr. Dick Hauser.

**North Central CLC's Regional Biennial Fall Retreat**

**Oct. 5 -7, 2018**

**American Martyrs Retreat House**

**2209 N Union Rd, Cedar Falls, IA 50613**

2-night accommodations, meals and retreat house fees \$150.00 per person

Youth, \$60.00 per person

1-night accommodations (*No Sunday meals or Friday supper, depending upon which night you will be here*) \$105.00

Non-overnight guests, including meals: \$65.00

*A flyer with full details, costs and directions will be provided shortly with registration information via mail and email.*

**Welcome to our new newsletter editor**

The North Central EXCO and the region wish to welcome Cindy (Murphy) McMahon to the post of editor for our regional newsletter. Cindy graduated from Creighton University in journalism in 1974 and Dave Haberman was one of her beloved professors and mentors. She has worked at the Omaha World-Herald as a photographer, reporter and copy editor, and also worked at Boys Town in public relations. She was a freelance writer and editor for 16 years before joining the communications team at Creighton

12 years ago, where she is currently associate director of communications. Cindy and her husband, Tom, have three sons, all Creighton Prep-educated, and five grandchildren. Tom and Cindy have been members of the Emmaus Community since Sarah Ferneding and Ken Keefner helped to form their community in 2005. We do appreciate Cindy's willingness to accept this position in keeping our CLC communities informed on happenings and events around our region.

**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY  
C/O REV. LUIS RODRIGUEZ, S.J.  
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