



Christian Life Communities-West

Sept-Oct.'18 Newsletter

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25: 35-36)

"I have called you friends... appointed you to go & bear fruit, fruit that will last ...This I command you: love one another." (John 15:15-17)

Greetings! Welcome! Breathing New Life!

The CLC-West Leadership Team welcomes you to CLC-West E-News. Our team combines older CLC-West leaders and newer CLC leaders who strive to be in tune with all CLC groups in the Western Region: on and off-campus, diaspora, cultural groups, new adult and YA groups. 2018-2019 is a **Time of Renewal and New Joy**, time for a **"Breathing New Life" Vision**. Please pray with us, that all of us in CLC-West can become a closer, stronger, spiritually-connected, mission-focused community, as in the song "One Bread, One Body." We are companions, all journeying together and, God willing, we will breathe new life into CLC-West, finding God in all things. As the poem states: "It is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

This prayer was first presented by Cardinal Dearden in 1979 and quoted by Pope Francis in 2015. (USCCB website)

What CLC Means to Me

Last summer, we sought advice on how to proceed with our “Breathing New Life” Vision. The #1 recommendation was that we have an online newsletter! After discerning, we came up with some simple contributions to begin this newsletter. Thanks to all CLC West members who contributed, for your time, heart and soul, gladly sharing what CLC means to you.

“CLC: Living out God’s Dream”: CLC means to me a way of living out God’s dream for each one of us. I did not know much about CLC until I joined the community thirteen years ago. Since then, I have learned so much the power of CLC, the community that reflects of the Triune God community. CLC brings people from different walks of life together. We share our high and low points of the week. We talk about things that matter such as our identity, how we experience God in a real way, how we pray, how to know God’s will. We strive to love God, neighbors, and ourselves.

— Father Manh, SJ (UCSD)

“What does CLC mean to me?”: I joined CLC about 40 years ago when I was a college student. Though I am now a diaspora member, CLC has had a profound effect on my faith life. Through numerous Ignatian retreats I have come to know the Lord in a personal way. Through Ignatian meditation and the Examen I have learned to discern God’s voice and direction in my life. Through small group sharing, I have learned to be open and vulnerable with others about my faith and life. Through its emphasis on social justice, I have stepped out of my comfort zone and participated in many activities with the poor and needy, for which I am very grateful. And, through large and small group gatherings, I have learned to know people of many different ages, cultures and backgrounds. CLC has been a blessing.

— Kathy Hicks (Salinas)

“What is CLC for me?”: CLC is family. It is church. It is a way of life. It’s community. It is something we love.

— Loretta Pehanich (Sacramento)

“CLC guided me”: CLC is a way to get to know my friends and, now, my students in a more meaningful way. As an undergraduate at LMU, being in a CLC group deepened my friendships with my classmates so that school felt like more than just an academic experience -- LMU became a home. Now, as a teacher at SCU, leading a CLC group helps me give back to the community that shaped me and guided me as I grew as an adult.

— Maria Judnick (Santa Clara University)

“Finding God in all things”: CLC, faith-sharing, and nightly examen were planted in my heart before I knew what CLC was. From my parents who were involved in CLC since the 50’s, I grew up learning how to pray, praying with the newspaper, reading the signs of the times, and getting involved very young in service: listening to “the cries of the poor” locally, nationally, and internationally. I attended my first CLC National Assembly in Miami, a turning point for me, and soon after, I found a spiritual guide and she guided me (19th Annotation) for about 2 years. Later, I helped form a local (bilingual) CLC group, Vine & Branches. Since then, I have made many retreats and continued to share CLC in Fresno. Since 2004, my journey has connected me to regional and national communities (CLC-USA’s Apostolic Action & Advocacy Team) and to Christus Ministries. And though I continue to be restless about my calling, it is in all these mini-journeys with companions I’ve met along the way, that I can share my passion for finding God in all things, near and far. A true blessing this summer was assisting with translations for CVX/CLC World Assembly in Buenos Aires.

— Beti Leone (Fresno)

“What CLC Means to Me”: Our Magis group is a community. We meet monthly, check-in, learn from each other and share. We keep alive our commitment to the Spiritual Exercises which helps us grow individually and collectively. And I am grateful for the tremendous leadership of our Deacon through these many years.

— Joan Harper (Los Angeles)

“What CLC means to me”: My friends, whom I see every other week, share their story of faith and I am uplifted, encouraged, and made the wiser. Even more so, I feel His presence while we are gathered during the meeting. I need this in my life, and when every other week comes around, I know it’s the best and most loving thing I can do for myself.

--Patrice Clemons (Sacramento)

“What CLC has meant to me”: CLC starts with an invitation to see God in everyday life through the lens of your personal lived life, through experience based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. CLC is an integration of the Spiritual Exercises into your daily life accomplished through spiritual direction over a period of nine months, several weekend or eight day silent retreats or a full 30 day retreat. And much formation is done in small faith communities.

Being part of a world community sharing faith together is awesome and life-giving. I often say, “Join CLC, travel the United States and experience the world. In Florida, in the summer of 2004, we met the world president from Germany.

Individual or group mission projects are discerned and carried out, and these energize both the organizers and the recipients. Over the years as a community, we sponsored three teenage boys from CFCA/Unbound. These families begin in poverty, but through supportive services the youth receive an education, medical care and proper nutrition. Parents learn a skill to provide for their family. This has been our small group mission for many years.

As a community, Diane, Ralph and I traveled to Ignatian Spirituality Institutes in Seattle and Ignatian Spirituality Conferences in St. Louis. Each time we went, it was like an extended family reunion. Countless lives have been changed due to experiencing the Spiritual Exercises. I know mine has.

– Sheila O’Connor (San Bruno/SF)

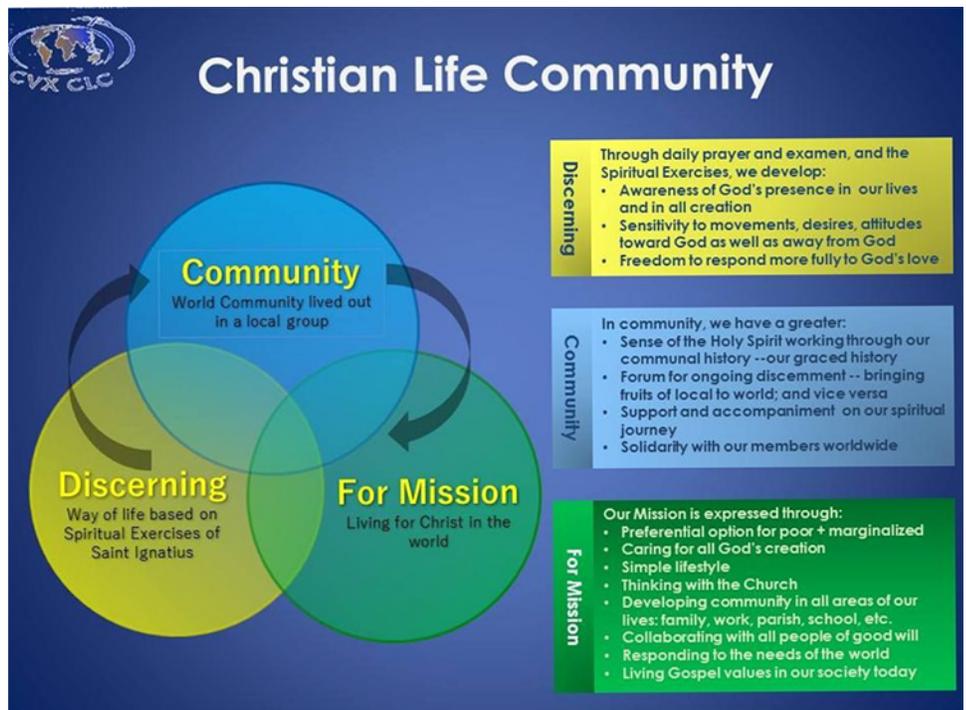
“What is CLC for me”: CLC brings me a community of strong believers; it brings me silence and peace. I am concerned about those involved in CLC, including you. But it is like many organizations I belong to or have belonged to, it requires an investment to truly belong. I am only on the peripherals, the outskirts of CLC. If you define CLC as a group, internationally, who love Ignatius of Loyola and want to follow his spirituality, then I believe all of us in our Magis group want to belong, we want community. Jesus wanted us to be in communion. So we try to practice the Exercises and in our little ways, we try to not say “no” to CLC involvement! CLC is too distant to dramatically affect my life, somewhat because I am 84 years old!

– Jack Labrie (Los Angeles)

What is Christian Life Community?

(Who / What are we?)

When we ask ourselves in CLC-West, “who are we” and “what are we called to do,” the best source we have found is from World CVX/CLC in the graphic below. We see our charism, the three pillars, and how they are interconnected. This is our identity, our way of life. (source: World CVX / CLC)



CLC-USA's Office of Apostolic Action and Advocacy (June, 2018)

“Inspired and guided by the CLC General Principles, CLC Charism, and World CLC Assembly Documents, and in service to the whole national community of CLC-USA, the AAA Office's role is to identify, foster, support, and communicate CLC's apostolic initiatives and ministries across the USA as one apostolic body on mission, including supporting the communal discernment processes (DSSE) leading to these works. The “umbrella priority” of World CLC since 2005 has been Multicultural Respect, Dialogue, Advocacy. The World CLC Priority areas affirmed at the World Assembly in Lebanon in 2013 were Ecology, Family, Poverty, and Youth. Also, Forced Migration has been a major concern in Europe and the Middle East and we have incorporated this into our AAA Mission as well.”

There is so much to tell about the history of AAA, the monthly ZOOM calls, the many activities that members of AAA are involved with, nationally, in their own regions, and with other CLC groups around the world. The Office of CLC-AAA also collaborates and uses as resources other apostolic groups such as USCCB, Ignatian Solidarity Network, Pax Christi, Justice for Migrants, Jesuit Refugee Service, Africa Faith and Justice Network, EcoJesuit, Jesuit Social Ministries and Advocacy, and many more. More in the next issue. **Searching:** We'd like 1 or 2 young adults to join the AAA monthly calls, 3rd Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m. Pacific time, to represent our region on the calls. Do you have time? Contact Beti for more information.

Sources for Criteria for action and advocacy are the US Bishops, Jesuits, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and CLC foundational documents. Web: <http://www.cvx-clc.net> <https://www.clc-usa.org/aaa-team-calls-to-action>

Mission and Co-Mission: Servant Leaders Needed for PR

Carta de Puerto Rico CLC (Letter from Puerto Rico)

TO: CLC-USA and CLC-USA's AAA Office
DATE: September 10, 2018
RE: Hurricanes Irma & Maria Mission and Co-Mission

Querido/as, beloved,
The most vulnerable in Puerto Rico still need our help...

Fraternalmente unidos en Comunidad como un sólo cuerpo, Fraternally united in Community as one body,

Tito
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Jesuit - CVX/CLC Collaboration Joint Service, in Mission

From Superior General, Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa:

“Working for reconciliation, or the unity of the human family, is a necessity and a task to which we, Jesuits and CLC, feel called. From our particular experiences we feel the call to contribute to that mission. We are encouraged by the same spirituality and by having traveled a long way together ... let's not hesitate to explore new forms of collaboration and deepen our joint service to the mission of Christ in the midst of this wounded world.”

From a talk by Fr. Arturo Sosa, July 26, 2018, at the CVX/CLC World Assembly, San Miguel, Buenos Aires.





The U.S. Catholic Climate Declaration

Everyone has heard of climate change by now, right? So, have you and your friends, your CLC group, your professors all signed the U.S. Catholic Climate Declaration? What about getting the entire campus to sign? Sign here: <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-climate-declaration> Below is an excerpt from the Declaration.

“As Catholic communities, organizations, and institutions in the United States, we join with state, tribal, and local governments, as well as businesses, financial institutions, and other faith organizations, to declare that we are still in on actions that meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.”

“The Catholic Church has long recognized – and 55 years ago Pope Paul VI eloquently described--the tragic consequences of unchecked human activity (*Laudato Si'*, 4). This reality includes the problem of excess greenhouse gas pollution and the reality of human-forced climate change. In 2001 the U.S Bishops said that “global climate is by its very nature a part of the planetary commons,” and that prudent action must be taken to protect it (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*, 2001). On numerous occasions Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have called for an international climate change agreement.”

“Climate change is an urgent moral issue because it compromises the future of our common home, threatens human life and human dignity, and adds to the hardships already experienced by the poorest and most vulnerable people both at home and abroad. We teach that governments exist to protect and promote the common good, and that “*the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.*” (*Laudato Si'*, 23).

“[A]t its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both ‘the human environment’ and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God’s creation and our responsibility to those who come after us.”

(U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*, 2001).

The prayer:

We invite you to pray this prayer from *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis’ 2015 Letter to the World about taking care of our common home, the earth, and the poor.

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of
this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and
destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

An Invitation to Young Adults in CLC: Discerning Community for Mission

We'd love to get some e-mail from young adults (YA) in CLC groups in the West, on-campus or off-campus, in Christus Ministries, in mission/service projects, undergrads, grads, or alumni CLC groups, and from those who are looking for a CLC group to join. Would you like to participate in CLC-West, to help in some way? We really need you very much, if you'd like to collaborate.

We need to get back to who we are, to our CLC identity: to promote greater community, to begin or join small CLC groups, to continue spiritual formation guiding you and us to a closer relationship with Jesus. Do you desire to become "servant leaders"? If you are involved with Christus Ministries, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Ignatian Solidarity Network, or other Ignatian-spirituality guided activities, how can we connect with you better? How can we support you?

In CLC-West, our hope is that in 2018-2019, our CLC-West-Jesuit University Liaison will be in touch with your campus CLC Director, inviting college/university YA into CLC-West leadership, discernment & planning, communications, AAA Zoom calls, e-news writing, and formation, to name a few. We need YA to assist CLC-West in several capacities: with discernment, leadership, planning, formation events, plus your attending the 2019 National CLC Assembly (July 18-21), being a CLC-West rep on AAA monthly calls, and helping with our CLC-West website and newsletter.

Jesuits (and their universities) and CLC have been journeying together for over 50 years, and now, more than ever, we need to re-invigorate and renew this collaboration between CLC-West and Jesuit Universities. Welcome to CLC-West! We need you and hope you accept our invitation to be a part of CLC-West.

About Finances

We know that dues have been an issue for those who have not paid. Why? We have had concerns about what was (or not) happening regionally and nationally, such as communications, leadership, lack of cultural diversity, weak community ties. When we look to our CLC charism, it's also about not being "one body." And some groups felt they didn't need CLC-USA anymore.

There have been questions: do new groups need to pay dues. No, pre-CLC groups do not pay dues in most CLC-USA regions. But some members donate as a "co-responsibility," even if just partially.

We need regional CLC funds to support what we'd like to do: stipends for retreats, funds for World CLC Day events, formation materials, speakers, and yearly immersion trips, to name a few.

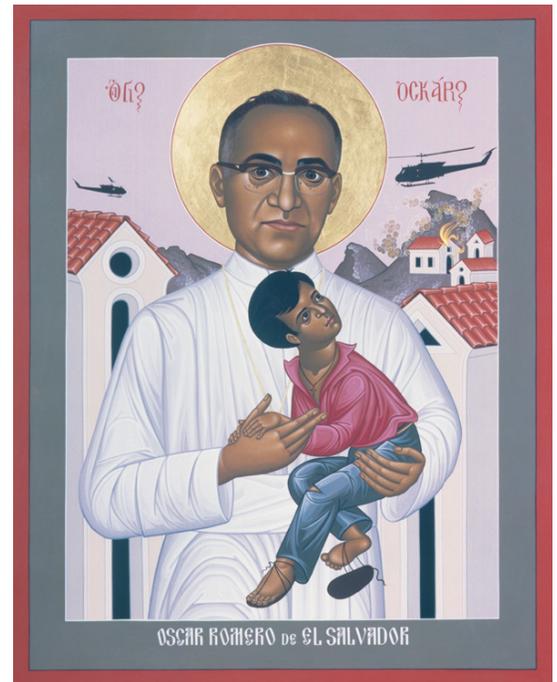
Announcements

- 1. University – CLC-West Collaboration** In this year of transition in CLC-West, we are getting ready to begin a "new" idea: a collaboration between CLC-West and colleges & universities in the CLC-West region. Our new Liaison will be Father Manh Tran, SJ, Associate Director of Newman Center at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). We will have more to share about this collaboration in the next issue of this CLC-West newsletter.
- 2. National CLC-USA Meeting** (Coordinating Council of CLC-USA Representatives) To learn more: <https://www.clc-usa.org>. One meeting a year, CLC regional representatives meet with the Executive Council for a long weekend. This year it was September 13-16 in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Jesuit Retreat House. The gathering was part-retreat and part-meeting. Sheila O'Connor and Beti Leone both attended.

3. **St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero** - "After a 38-year wait, it is now official. Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered in 1980 for speaking out against military oppression, will be made a saint of the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican Oct. 14, 2018. . . El Salvador's ambassador to the U.K. told NCR that Romero's coming sainthood "represents a unique opportunity" for the country "to heal our historical wounds, restore our social fabric and build a new sense of national identity based on common values, with social justice and respect for human dignity at its core. . . His teachings and legacy provide us, as a nation, a strong moral compass," said Hayek-Weinmann." (National Catholic Reporter, May 19, 2018)
4. **Request from CLC-Puerto Rico.** Since January, 2018, CLC-USA has been in contact with the President of CLC-PR, Tito. The ExCo of CLC-PR, representing all CLC groups in PR, have prepared a letter and invite you to contact them for ways to collaborate in mission, to help those in PR still devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Contact Luis ("Tito") at lemarini@gmail.com
5. **CLC-West dues for long-time members.** For CLC-West members who are able to pay, we ask that you send your dues to Kathy Hicks, 709 Palma Dr., Salinas, CA 93901 Her e-mail: kmhicks1954@sbcglobal.net. Let Kathy know how your check is to be distributed. CLC-USA requests \$110 from each person: \$30 for CLC-West, \$80 for CLC-USA. Please send what you can to Kathy by October 30 (U.S. mail) or part now and part by mid-December. Sending one check is o.k.; Kathy will divide it as you specify. Please send your contact information with your check: e-mail, group name, street address, zip, amount enclosed, and distribution of funds.
6. **Buenos Aires, 2018 CVX/CLC World Assembly.** In the next issue, we will have more details about the World Assembly in July. The final statement of the CVX World Assembly gives a glimpse of the outcome:

"We journeyed together desiring greater depth and integration in the living out of our CLC charism in the world today, and the Lord called us to deepen, share, and go forth."

Lots to view, read at <http://assembly.cvx-clc.net/en/>
7. **CLC-West Leadership Council for Western Region.** Please contact us if you are interested in being a part of a Regional Leadership Council for CLC-West. We need young adults (YA) and adults in Northern and Southern California, new or old leaders in Dong Hanh, Korean CLC, YA on campus and off campus. We have asked Father John Lan Tran, our National E.A., to guide us, as we "breathe new life" into the region, becoming "One Apostolic Body."



**From Saint Oscar Romero
martyred archbishop of El Salvador
(1917 - 1980)**

"We know that every effort to better society especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us."

"Those who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless." / "Ser voz de los sin voz."

Online Newsletter, CLC-West,
Sept., 2018

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