



Omaha CLC Cluster Co-Sponsors Lenten Reflection with Ignatian Volunteer Corps

On March 23, CLC and IVC organizations sponsored a Lenten Morning of Reflection, facilitated by Jesuit Fathers Larry Gillick and Greg Carlson. There were 96 attendees, which was an excellent turnout. As a recruiting tool, each of the sponsoring organizations provided brochures describing the purposes and attributes of its membership.

Fathers Gillick and Carlson highlighted the morning with several pearls of wisdom: Changes in our hearts are initiated by God, and through God's love we are able to become the persons we really are. The Lord has told us that we are his beloved children and he delights in us. Can we let these words speak to us and can they change our hearts? Can we individually let Jesus change our hearts?

Can we take away/off/give up anything that prevents us from being the person God wants

us to be? What is it that prevents me from being me? Where does sin and temptation take us? It changes our receptivity to others, and we feel we are not enough, and begin to fill ourselves with other "stuff" that is not of Christ. We turn to personal approval, admiration, desire for possessions, and an "I come first" attitude.

We learned that these attitudes are not welded in place. They can be moved and changed. The call from the Lord is "let Me give more of the real you." When you begin to recognize that you have brothers and sisters next door who need help, it is the Lord's call to have you serve them. At times this may be followed by our own fears and weaknesses. There is a fear of getting involved in humanity; that it could be seen as "sticky, dirty, and never ending." His call for us is to have a change in heart to become who we really are includes his guarantee to be with us in this situation.

National Assembly 2019 — Come and See

The first answer Jesus gives to his inquiring disciples in John's Gospel's is, "Come and see." His invitation is to an encounter, a new way of being in the world, and a deepening relationship. Such a loving invitation is offered to us for our CLC gathering this July. We are invited to come and see more clearly who we are as CLC. We are invited to see how our lives different as a result of being in this global community rooted in Ignatian spirituality. We are invited to see how the Lord may be calling us today.

Our theme is, "CLC: Gift to the Church and to the World." Our gathering will be a time for prayer, sharing with others, and fellowship. We will explore this theme and

grow in a greater appreciation of how we are part of one body. The assembly will take Ignatius' three key questions, "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ?" and collectively explore them. Scholarships are available. If you wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact Patrick Cleary-Burns at pclareyburns@gmail.com.

We are encouraged to have at least one representative from each group at the assembly, so please come and see, and I look forward to seeing you there!

-Michael Dante

Resources Available—

How to Find Harvest Magazine on the CLC-USA Website

Several CLC members have asked how to obtain a copy of the Harvest Magazine that is published quarterly by CLC-USA, our national organization. The easiest and least costly way to obtain a copy of the Harvest Magazine is via the internet. In addition, once you are on the CLC-USA website, there are many more resources available and recommended for members to use with their communities.

Begin by using the following steps: 1. Type the following into your web browser: CLC-USA.org 2. Once on the CLC-USA web page, look below the general heading: Christian Life Community—USA and just under the link entitled Contact CLC-USA, you will find a series of horizontal choices beginning with

HOME. Place your cursor on the NEWS/ EVENTS choice and double left-click the mouse. This action will take you to a new page. 3. On the new page you will see 10 main choices. One of these choices is the HARVEST MAGAZINE. When you click on the Face page of the current issue (on the right of the page), it will bring up the complete issue. From here you may peruse the issue, print it, or download it, to save on your computer. On the left side of the page and under Harvest Magazine, you may also refer back to archived issues of Harvest. These are also available to you electronically.

OR, EASIER YET: Type this into your web browser: <https://www.clc-usa.org/harvest>

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
C/O REV. LUIS RODRIGUEZ, S.J.
2500 CALIFORNIA PLAZA
OMAHA NE 68178

CLC-USA National Assembly Registration Has Begun

CLC-USA, our national Assembly, will hold its quinquennial (every five years) assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at Duquesne University, July 18-21. Registration for all CLC members is open, and early registration is highly encouraged.

Registration can be completed online by going to the CLC-USA.org website and clicking under NEWS/EVENTS. It will be the first link on the right side. (Or use this direct link to the registration site: <https://www.clc-usa.org/assemblies>.) Much more information is available on this site regarding the meetings,

accommodations and travel, and other necessary information. We recommend visiting the site for more specific information. Each CLC community should send at least one representative and encourage other members of the community to attend as well. Please consider attending this important gathering.

North Central ExCo has support dollars to attend this meeting. If you are interested in financial support, please contact Bob Smith (573-875-8787, rcsmith1961@cs.com) or any EXCO members to apply for funding.

The following excerpt is taken from the CLC-USA National Assembly website:

Join CLC members from all over the USA for the 2019 CLC-USA Assembly at Duquesne University in beautiful downtown Pittsburgh. Come to reconnect with long time CLC friends and meet new ones. Come to shape our direction for the next five years. We only gather once in five years, so you don't want to miss it.

The Assembly is a graced moment in the life of CLC-USA as CLC members come together from regions and cultural groups across five languages to pray, reflect, share and learn from each other.

Our theme is the World Assembly theme: **CLC a gift for the Church and for the World**

Concern for the Earth at National Assembly

"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another." Laudato Si'

Around the world people celebrated Earth Day on April 22, and all CLC members were asked to prayerfully discern how God invited them and their CLC group to observe the day.

Many of us also joined with people of faith, responding to World CLC's Lenten invitation to *Less Meat, Less Plastic*, too.

At National Assembly in Pittsburgh, attendees are invited to bring a photo, written reflection, or some symbol of their Earth Day Action to post on the Earth Day collage board at the CLC-USA National Assembly in Pittsburgh (July 18-21). Also include examples from your movement toward a plant-based diet and living with less SUP (single use plastics), contributing to significant, positive impacts on the sustainability of our common home – Earth!

Photos and reflections can be emailed ahead of time to pittsburghclc@gmail.com (put Earth Day/Lenten Actions in the subject line).

The Assembly will give us the opportunity to share our experiences with one another. At times we may feel what we can do is so little compared to the enormity .



And as we gather from across the country (and a few from around the world), Please bring a small container (<3 ounces) of water from your neck of the woods. We'll liturgically gather together this life symbol of our diversity and oneness in our opening rituals in Pittsburgh July 18.

North Central Region Directory

Coordinating council co-convener and national representative: Michael Dante

Iowa cluster promoter: Amy Hoover; Minnesota cluster promoter: Linda Bennett;

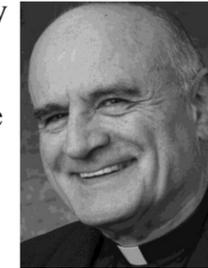
Omaha cluster promoter: Ken Keefner; Wisconsin cluster promoter: Jeanne Sieger; Treasurer: Bob Smith;

Bookkeeper: Mary Kuhlman; Ecclesial assistant: Father Luis Rodriguez, S.J.

Newsletter editors: Cindy McMahon (CindyMcMahon@creighton.edu); Deb Herink

From our Ecclesial Assistant—

After a very harsh February and part of March, we were perhaps afraid that spring would never arrive. Well, it did and I for one am very happy about it. I am a driver, not a skier, so my esthetic enjoyment of a snow-covered landscape lasts rather shortly. I do feel sorry for the many people affected by the snow storms and blizzards and by the destructive flooding that followed.



Fr. Luis

I made two trips to visit the CLC groups outside of Omaha. In May I visited two CLC groups in Iowa, in the Quad Cities and in Des Moines. In June, I will visit the CLC groups in Wisconsin: Sun Prairie on June 17 and Milwaukee on the 18th.

Looking beyond those visits, I will be attending the CLC National Assembly at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh on July 18-21. At this moment I do not know how many other members of

our North Central Region will attend. Judging by the experience of the previous National Assembly in St. Louis five years ago, it should be a fruitful gathering. I encourage other CLC members to represent our North Central Region at that Assembly. Information on registration is included in this newsletter.

On a strictly personal note, on April 11 I received a message from my brother informing me that our sister María Luisa had died suddenly that morning. As things are done in Spain, visitation was that afternoon (no embalming) and the funeral mass and burial on the next day. It would not have made any sense for me to attempt going there. Actually, I have not been there for any of the previous family deaths. Prayers for her eternal rest and for the consolation of her seven children and seven grandchildren are appreciated.

—Fr. Luis

In Memoriam: Sue Halambeck, 1954-2019

Sue Halambeck was involved with Sun Prairie CLC for many years and attended a number of regional retreats. She died suddenly on Feb. 9 after a training day to prepare for her new role as Rotary District Governor, planning to serve in 2020-2021. She was active in volunteering, with Rotary and Make-a-Wish Foundation in particular. The massive outpouring of love from her many friends, in the Sun Prairie community and beyond, was impressively warm and inspiring for her siblings, nieces and nephews. Sue enjoyed hosting many parties at her home; most notably was the annual Advent celebration, which was always close to her birthday. Sue was a master gardener and seasoned traveler. We are all grateful for her presence in our lives.

—Cleo Hall on behalf of the Prairie Mustard Seeds and Agape groups

Celebrating the Marriage of Michael McCann and Mary Shea Bachman

Longtime CLC member Michael McCann in Milwaukee recently married Mary Shea Bachman, a widow and mother of six and grandmother of nine. The marriage took place at Gesu Church on March 2, and the celebrant was Father Terry Brennan, SJ, who was the chaplain for the prayer group for many years. Congratulations to the couple!