

Highlights of CLC Central Assembly
September 13-15, 2013
Manresa Retreat Centre, Pickering, Ontario

*Theme: Rekindle the Grace of 2010: Christ Has Been
Born*

The Assembly was held as part of the CLC's celebration of its 3rd anniversary of the Common Apostolic Mission for the people of Haiti. The purpose was to revisit and reflect on the 2010 assembly, and to determine where God is leading us now.



Our communal graced history from 2010 to 2013 was one of the highlights of the weekend. It was facilitated by Jack Milan, our guide for the weekend. As we moved toward our apostolic mission, he reminded us that

“God's Providence is working with us and in us,”

a Presence we can listen for, that will bring greater understanding to our common apostolic mission.

Our eyes and ears were opened to an incredible movement within Central region affirming the Lord's Presence in our decision to move toward a mission and the need for commitment to it. The shared experiences of the insertion trips to Centro Bono in the Dominican Republic to support Haitian refugees riveted our awareness of the reality of poverty there. Central has been moved to act in collaboration with CVX and establish connection with our Haitian family. As life has it, there were challenges in setting up the logistics of that mission and some communal members withdrew, highlighting a need for improved communications in Central region.

Most of the positive responses to our history pointed to our regional and personal interior growth, our development of a collaborative model of sustainability for mission and deep gratitude for the many graces we have been given. The Lord does indeed surprise and bless us.

We asked where our history informed us of need. Risk stood out among many responses and a fear of being overwhelmed. In this place, we can join Jesus in the garden, not knowing what lies ahead, filled with fear and loneliness. Were it not for our deep rootedness in God's love, we might not rally to the cause.

A special visitor to the assembly from Centro Bono was Father Mario Serrano. His presentation demonstrated how a few people carrying umbrellas with 4% printed on them stirred enormous support locally and world wide, pushing the Dominican Republic Government to meet its mandate to provide 4% of the GDP for education. Such an example raised the bar on the possibilities within our mission and how many

strategies we have yet to explore. Another presenter through SKYPE, Leanne Salel, described how she and Gilles Michaud visited Port au Prince to meet with a group of young people who had asked for support in developing a pre-CLC. Their enthusiasm and hope came alive to us in that presentation.

It seems that our CLC community is expanding in leaps. This reminds us of the need to develop helpful communication and collaborative strategies as we are drawn toward the poorest of the poor. Our EA, Fr. JP Horrigan challenged us to look for inspiration, hope and strength through our contact with the poor, to build bridges and develop networks and to work with and not for, such poor people.

For a full report of the assembly, please follow the [link.....](#)