

## March 25<sup>th</sup> World CLC Day

### Why do CLCers celebrate World CLC Day on Mar. 25, the feast of the Annunciation?

- **Because on March 24, 1522, the eve of the feast of the Annunciation, Ignatius laid down his sword at the altar of Mary,** a symbol of his commitment to live out Christian values in his life. From that time on, he gathered laymen and women at dining room tables to enter into 'spiritual conversation' about Jesus. As a layman, Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises and gave them to other laymen and women to grow in their relationship with Jesus and to use the tools of discernment just as we do today. Some of them became great leaders in the Church. In 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was founded by Ignatius.
- **On March 25, 1563, on the feast of the Annunciation,** one of Ignatius' companions, Jean Leunis SJ, started the first 'Sodality of Our Lady' for those who wished to follow this discerning way of life. For 200 years these Sodalities of Ignatian lay people were committed to daily meditation, the awareness examen, regular reception of the Sacraments and the pursuit of works of charity...
  - running publishing houses
  - running what today would be called Credit Unions
  - seeking to establish schools run by Jesuits
  - staffing hospitalsToday, we can see these are the roots of being **lay apostolic communities**. In those early days, Jesuits and lay people often worked as teams (one of our current goals for deeper collaboration between Jesuits and Christian Life Community.)
- **It was on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1968, the feast of the Annunciation,** that Pope Paul VI confirmed the 'General Principles' of CLC and announced our new name: "Christian Life Community". Up until then it was called the Marian Congregation or Sodality of Our Lady. Mary is our model in living out our commitment to CLC. Her feast day also connects CLC to its roots – Mary, the 'first' disciple of Jesus.

Because of this history, March 25<sup>th</sup> is set aside each year as our World CLC Day of Prayer. On or around this date, CLCers, worldwide, celebrate all that God has done and is doing with us through the particular identity and call that is ours in the church and in the world.

In Canada, since 1991, it has been our custom to have a 24 hour 'wave' of prayer from coast to coast on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This practice has also been adopted in many other countries within our World CLC. For the **Atlantic Region**: 4 am – 9 am, **Central Region**: 8 am – 1 pm, **Prairies Region**: 12 pm – 5 pm. **Rockies Region**: 4 pm – 12 am. All are encouraged to pray in solidarity.\* \*