

Christian Life Community (CLC) Canada consists of small groups of people who are striving for a deeper spirituality that helps them find God in all things.

Each local CLC community belongs to a regional, a national and an international community of Christian men and women, young and old, of all social conditions, who have a desire to find the voice of God in and through the ordinary events of each day.

The spirituality of CLC is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius and is the specific source of its [Charism](#).

The [Villa Madonna Retreat House](#) in Rothesay, N.B. Thursday, May 29th - Sunday, June 1st, was the location for the CLC Canada National Assembly 2014.

It was hosted by the Atlantic Region with representatives attending from the other three regions in Canada: the Rockies, the Prairies and Central Region.

As well as representation nationally from across Canada, we had Father Luke Rodrigues SJ join us from Rome, representing our international relationship with the world CLC.

*The theme of the 2014 National Assembly was,
"Rooted in Blessed History - Sent to the Frontiers."*

The scripture for the Assembly was Matthew 13:23 - "And the seed sown in rich soil is someone who hears the word and understands it; this is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundred fold, now sixty, now thirty."

The Grace asked for, was to deepen our confidence and trust in God's love and



*Mary Balfé & Peter Chouinard
Co-President's 2011-2014*



however God calls us, we will respond with the power of the Risen Jesus.

The Assembly began Thursday evening with an evening liturgy, entitled, ["Preparing for the Next Steps,"](#) led by the Atlantic region.

A warm welcome and introductions were extended by National co-presidents Mary Balfe and Peter Chouinard. A welcome address letter from Father Charlie Pottie SJ was read by Father Trevor Scott SJ.

The four regional reps from the Rockies, the Prairies, Central and Atlantic Canada each presented a regional symbol and gave a brief summary of their graced history since the last National Assembly in 2009.

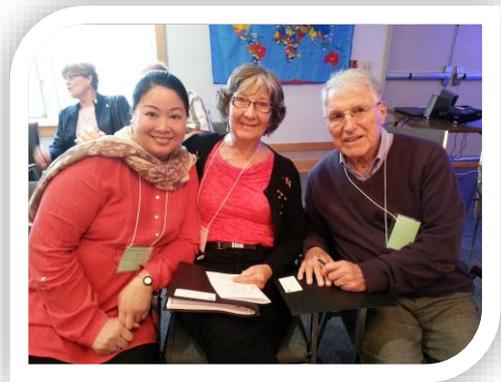
Each individual community present was invited to set up a kiosk, representing their community, for viewing and conversation.

The Assembly Process Guides, Barbara and Peter Peloso and Kyoko Leung (Central region) led us in a communal awareness examen.

Thursday evening concluded with music provided by Hilary Branch and a time for socializing.

Friday morning began with a meditation led by the Prairie region.

Mary Balfe (Central region) gave her report as CLC Canada President. She gave her heart felt thanks to Peter Chouinard and Father Charles Pottie SJ and all who give so graciously of their time and energy to CLC.



We were given a period of silence to pray with and reflect on our CLC Canada Constitution. The history and process of our Constitution was well explained by Elaine Regan Nightingale (Central region) and enriched by a dramatization of Saint Ignatius of Loyola surrendering his life to Jesus, (Atlantic region). A unanimous consensus was reached by the delegates to accept the proposed [Constitution of CLC Canada.](#)

Friday afternoon Karen Dysart Chuba (Central region) our National treasurer, gave us a clear and concise report of our financial status. Father Luke Rodrigues SJ, our World Ecclesiastical Assistant (Rome) addressed the Assembly. He gave us a passionate talk encouraging CLC Canada to persevere in developing a growing sense of vocation and to proclaim our CLC identity, being proud of who we are.



Anne Marie Brennan, the North American Representative on the World Exco, gave us an inspiring talk from the CLC World Exco perspective, encouraging us to honour people where they are at. ([World CLC Priority Wheel](#))

Mariette Ternowski (Prairies region) gave a presentation on Compassion, defining it as, wisdom language that guides the heart: our journey toward our deeper sense of purpose. She shared a compelling film about [Compassion](#), created by the Grey Nuns of Winnipeg, Manitoba, using the labyrinth walk and compassionate listening. She facilitated an interactive discussion based on the questions, what is compassion, what is not compassion and how does compassion show itself? There was much discussion over these questions. As compassion moves us to action, it was recommended that we CLC Canada send a letter of compassion to our CLC friends in Sudan, Syria and Lebanon at this time. Also it was shared that proceeds from a quilt raffle (Our Lady's Circle) raised over \$1000.00 and it will be sent to the Jesuit Relief Center in Haiti.

The afternoon concluded with Mass co-celebrated by Father Luke Rodrigues SJ and Father Trevor Scott SJ. A



commissioning service was held for Father Trevor Scott SJ, and he willingly accepted his new role as National Ecclesiastical Assistant.

Friday evening began in the chapel, with a communal awareness examen led by our Assembly Process Guides, Barbara, Peter and Kyoko.

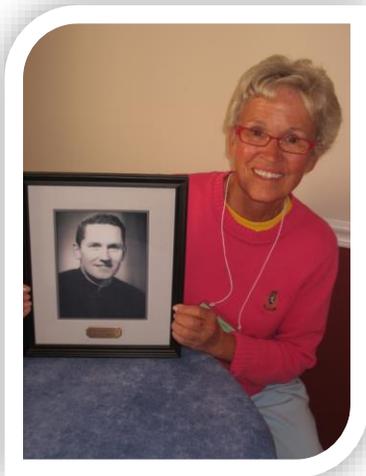
The evening concluded with a time to "get to know you" and socialize.

Saturday morning began with a meditation led by the Central region.

With our theme in mind, "Rooted in Blessed History," Mary Balfe our CLC Canada President, (Central region), gave a presentation on CLC Canada's Common Mission, written in 1999. Following this, we were divided into small groups to share our prayerful reflections. Using our method of sharing in rounds and attentive listening, we were asked what we were hearing that is in common, from the members input and to record it. A plenary followed this, with input shared by each group, with recommendations for our CLC Canada Common Mission submitted to our Assembly Writing Team (Atlantic region).

Continuing with our theme in mind, "Sent to the Frontiers," Leanne Salet (Prairies/Central region), gave a presentation from the Lebanon World Assembly experience and priorities. The World Assembly priorities are Ecology, Poverty and Family/Youth. Three separate presentations were given on these three priorities. Following a period of personal prayer time, participants returned for a plenary of questions and answers with a panel of the presenters. Participants were then divided into small groups for sharing what they had heard that moved them, in the presentations. They were also asked to make a recommendation to CLC Canada regarding it's growth as an apostolic body and submit it to the Writing Team.

The afternoon concluded with Mass celebrated with Father J.P. Horrigan SJ and a beautiful reflection from our Assembly Process Guides.



Father John English SJ, the Founder of CLC Canada was fondly remembered and celebrated, with the sharing of stories and photos. In celebration of the life and ministry of Father John English SJ, donations can be made to the John English Founder's Fund. This fund was created to give financial assistance to proposals which would help the growth of CLC Canada.



Saturday evening concluded with entertainment from The Men of Fundy and more socializing.

Sunday morning began with a meditation led by the CLC Canada General Council.

Mary Balfe, CLC Canada President, facilitated a consensus process of the Assembly statement and recommendations for CLC Canada; General Council's mandate for the next five years. An Assembly delegate consensus was also reached with plans to continue the assembly envisioning process through mandating a Common Mission working group to rewrite our national Common Mission statement by June 2015.

The Assembly concluded with Mass celebrated on the 7th Sunday of Easter with



Father Earl Smith SJ. The Gospel was from John 17: 6 - 9. As part of our celebration we remembered our deceased members of CLC. We renewed our permanent and temporary commitments to CLC. We had a commissioning ceremony for Leah Michaud, President elect, who willingly accepted to, along with Father Trevor and the General Council to implement CLC Canada's Common Mission.

We left the CLC Canada National Assembly 2014, with seeds to plant in good soil.

This was the 8th National Assembly in the 40th year of CLC in Canada. It was also the 200th Anniversary of the Jesuit Suppression and the closing of the 450th Anniversary year of Ignatian Lay Communities worldwide.

For more information on CLC Canada you can visit our website @



