

World CLC Day 2012 – CLC Canada, Prairie Region

Prairie Region celebrated the CLC World Day of Prayer in Winnipeg, MB at St Ignatius Parish on 26 March 2012. The evening opened with a Lenten supper with a focus on Uganda, and then transitioned into a prayer meeting on the theme of World CLC Day. The evening was attended by members across many of the Winnipeg communities. The group that gathered shared the following reflections based on the guiding questions from Projects No. 150 (Nov 2011) – World CLC Day 2012: The meaning of CLC membership.

How much have social, economic, political or cultural realities influenced my understanding of membership as a person, as a Christian and as a member of CLC?

Unlike economic status or other conditions or characteristics that bring people into a particular community, CLC draws together as a group people with similar social views based on Christian faith, such as social justice. CLC membership means we challenge and stand against some societal norms, speaking up against stereotypes. In community we can receive as much as give.

The call to membership is personal and there is a sense of constant inviting. We have freedom to choose membership, and make an active choice to join and to contribute. A sense of belonging is felt and also a desire not to take CLC for granted (since others do not have CLC available). CLC community extends through history and across time.

CLC membership supports focus on Christ vs struggle in our lives. We desire to dispose ourselves to the love of Christ. In membership, we feel as a group the importance of timing.

Three questions from Keys for understanding membership in CLC within our faith:

Through CLC membership we are accepted as we are, in our community and by God, leading to self-acceptance and then extending the love of acceptance to others. CLC provides a sense of being in the Body of Christ and the sense of being content in being in the Body of Christ vs doing.

Participating in CLC facilitates being surprised by God. We learn to expect great things. We experience God's abundance grace and learn to be attentive to God's grace. "God will give us a grace to fulfill our vocation".

CLC membership keeps us aware that we live in a world with spiritual poverty and dire consequences. Prayer and service encouraged by CLC manifests God's love in the world. The grace of vulnerability integrates loving action. CLC community encourages unity in mission and promotes solidarity for benefit inside and outside of CLC.

Membership in CLC, in the Canadian context, brings us in solidarity with the life, illness & death of Fr John English, SJ, pioneer of CLC in Canada.

What are the next steps in CLC membership?

Constantly we will listen for invitation, but also constantly invite. We resolve to share the graces of CLC with another person. We commit to fuller participation in our own community and beyond. We continue along the road down which CLC is helping lead us, to keep moving forward in prayer, in community, on mission.

We desire to continually have gratitude for God's love, to live and spread that love. We strive to continually appreciate the privilege of CLC and the active grace of committed membership. We hope for unfolding hearts.

We plan for discernment of God's call to us, our community and region. Strengthened by community, we will reach out, applying our gifts to the world.