



# CLC In Europe Bulletin

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Dear friends,

You remember certainly that one of the common challenges for formation mentioned by national communities is “**attracting and setting up new groups**”.

New members are very important for the life in our communities: they help us to stay young, to move, to be open.

Your answers prove us that you are convinced about this.

Thank you very much for your interesting work

With best wishes,  
Agnes, Martina, Leonardo, Andrej and Monika

## In this Bulletin...

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## Euroteam meeting in Warsaw, Poland October 12-15, 2006

**Present:** Agnes, Monika, Leonardo, Martina, Andrej SJ

This time our meeting took place at the Retreat House in Dewaytis Street, in outskirts of Warsaw. In the evening session as usual, we had a sharing time about the way how we spent our time in private and professional life since our last meeting. There were a lot of opportunities to see the pictures that Monika, Agnes and Leonardo brought and in such a way make the people they care about and live with more alive and present in our conversations.

Friday evening, a member of the Polish community took time for us to show us his wonderful city and Saturday in the evening we celebrate the mass with the polish ExCo and some of their members, we went out together to a very nice place for a dinner afterwards. We would like to thank the members who came to meet us and shared with us their joys, hopes and difficulties. It is very important for us to know better and better the European communities.

## ATTRACTING AND SETTING UP NEW GROUPS

### CLC AUSTRIA

In Austria we are indeed experiencing that people are increasingly seeking CLC and asking about it. On the one side two new groups have emerged in the last two years, one in Linz and one in Vienna. On the other side we have run a housing project in cooperation with SIGVOL and “Hogar de Cristo” in Ecuador. This gave quite a large number of young adults from various parts of Austria the opportunity of a social experience in the slums of Guayaquil (Ecuador). A good homepage (<http://ecuador.jgcl.at/>) has been created on this project, including a number of newsletters on its progress and this has definitely increased the “visibility” of CLC in our country.

The actual project is now coming to a close; the evaluation process is under way. The young people should now hopefully find ways of making use of their experience back home and our project team will try to support them in doing so. This may – or may not – lead to new CLC groups of mostly young members.

Now back to the new groups mentioned earlier: The one in Linz was initiated by a Jesuit, a gifted musician. Group members are university students and just beyond, a lot of them are artists of some sort. Quite interesting. They seem to be well under way as a group but have not yet reached the point where they are really interested in the wider community. Our leaders are in personal contact with the group but we don't want to force their development.

The other group started about a year ago and they are “adults”. They had a lay facilitator up till now (a CLC'er) and they have a spiritual guide, a Helper sister. (Helper sisters are part of the ignatian family.) Being in Vienna, it is easier for them to mix with other groups and they do it. The group is in the process of finding its own identity now.

We have no structures or curriculum to offer the new groups. However, a member of our ExCo has now taken on responsibility for formation. His intention is to cooperate especially with youth CLC – but also with our adult CLC groups – to offer formation in the direction of evaluation and retreat. As it is, we have an increasing lot of “good will” from our Jesuits, but little practical support. So it is up to the lay people to read the signs of the times and to act accordingly.

Gertrud Zeller

### CLC BELGIUM FL

First of all there are 3 ways to get in contact with CLC

- 1) People attend to a retreat or a lecture in one of the spiritual centres of the Jesuits.
- 2) People take part in the pilgrimage Loyola – Xavier during the summer (12 days) organised by the Jesuits
- 3) People follow the spiritual Exercises

In almost all cases, when they are interested in being a member of CLC we try to find a group that is suits the person:

- Meeting is not too far from home
- The average age of the people in the group is suiting (young or older people...)
- The group is not yet too large and open for new people.

If more people at once are interested we look for a possibility to start a completely new group. And hopefully we find an Ecclesiastical Assistant which is not evident.

We are also concerned about having that famous ‘feeling of unity’ with the national (and if possible the international CLC). Therefore we had a new try-out! We invited interested people to our national congress (a real ‘family meeting’ in the spirit of Ignatius) as a first acquaintance of CLC.

We are aware that sometimes it must be very difficult for new members to be dropped in a group that has gone already a long way, may be 10 years... So we are looking for a formation of a pre-CLC group during 1 year or at least several months to make the integration in existing groups easier.

Ann Sieuw

## CLC BELGIUM FR

The Belgium-South CLC is often working in “Stealth mode”. CLC members are present in lot of church organizations, but often not as representants or members of the CLC. Not all Jesuits know or support the CLC, so even after an ignatian retreat, people is seldom directed to CLC.

The Belgian Exco is aware of this situation, and in the previous years, a presentation leaflet and a web site (with a public and a private part) have been developed. Efforts are being made to distribute the leaflet in ignatian retreat houses.

A special and somewhat exceptional event was our presence during the “Toussaint 2006” event, which just finished in Brussels. Toussaint 2006 was one of a series of 5 congresses, in different European towns, to reflect on the subject “Evangelization in the City” (cf <http://bruxelles-toussaint2006.be> , also in English). CLC decided to present a stand, and to insure the animation of three workshops.

It has not been easy to set up this presence: we had nearly no ready-made material to present the CLC to the external world, and not much time. Nevertheless, thanks to the involvement of few people, mainly from the local Brussels community, a nice stand has been created, and the interested people were able to participate in the workshops. Presence in Toussaint 2006 has been a rich experience, both towards the community itself, and towards the people we had the opportunity to meet.

So currently, people arriving in the CLC do it essentially after having heard the “word of mouth” from a friend or relative. It also happens that young people having spent some time in one of the two student houses managed by the CLC wishes to continue their way in ignatian spirituality.

Due to the relatively small size of Belgium-South, the number of people arriving at a given moment is relatively low. There is seldom the critical mass needed to start a pre-CLC group. So in most cases, the interested persons are integrated in an existing group, or added to a group during a reorganization period. This way of doing things often gives good results. People are directly immersed in what constitute the living core of the CLC, the local community. One of the possible drawbacks is that, depending on the group in which they arrive, newcomers are not always introduced to the global picture: CLC as a World Community, formalised introduction to ignatian spirituality, etc.

Charles Bokor

## CLC CROATIA

1. Here are some ways how people became members of Community during the 15 years of existence of CLC in Croatia, since it has been found.
  - In the beginning the group became out of the student catechist communities in the way that after the three or four day’s spiritual renewals/exercises, Jesuit priest would offer a continuation of such spiritual life. That is how few first groups have been formed.
  - Once or twice there was a three day seminar about CLC. People who were not part of Community were invited to attend, and after the seminar they were invited in to Community.
  - One of the ways of arrival of new members was individual coming of people who had acquaintances or friends in CLC, they liked it and they want it to see it from the inside.
  - During one young people summer holiday in a camp, there was some talk about CLC. After that CLC group was formed from the very same young people.
  - At the Jesuit University of Philosophy, their resent spiritual guide of student population, offered as one of options, the CLC group.

- Today people who enter CLC have passed through spiritual exercise in everyday life, which is lead by Jesuit priest, who at the end of spiritual exercise, as a continuation, offers a possibility of entering CLC.
  - The other way is personal invitation to the people who are interested in CLC, who come to the groups or our activities and than see how much they like it.
2. Members of Community share their experience with other people, which is than encouragement for some people to join us.
  3. Reasons what people say why they want to enter into Community are mostly:
    - They want to share they spiritual experiences with people who understand them
    - They feel the need to be a part of some smaller community then the parish
    - They need encouragement and they want to be encouragement to others in fallowing Christ.
  4. We don't have a waiting time for interested persons. We invite the people who are interested to be present at the meeting of various groups to see if that is what they want. If they decide to enter the Community, we than normally show them the youngest group with which they continue to grow. If there are not enough new members to start a pre-CLC group, what are your experiences with introducing new persons in existing CLC groups?
  5. These experiences are different: if there is huge difference in spiritual experience of the new member and the group that he became a member, than there can be some difficulties at both sides. But never the less, it can equally mean enrichment of both sides. Since we are not very large community, we see that as an only way of involving new people in the Community since the waiting time would be too long.
  6. Only some members of Community have information about Erasmus. Since we have been without Eurolink for a long time, information about this project was not spread among members.

Dunja Villi

## CLC FRANCE

The integration of new members in the CLC follows a well formalised and structured process, the objective being to give clear insights on the community to the new comer's and to check that the aspirations of the new comer's match with the charisma of CLC.

The normal integration process is managed as follow at regional level:

- Early September: general information meeting on the CLC with testimony of CLC members on what it is for them to be part of the CLC
- September-October: face to face meeting with a CLC member for the new comer to express his motivations and for the CLC member to validate that there is a match. It is also the opportunity to give additional information on the community
- November: launch of pre-CLC teams which are going to follow during 1 to 2 years a type of induction program which introduces them in depth to the ignatian spirituality, to the experimentation of community life and to the CLC.
- July: at the end of the pre-CLC cycle each new comer expresses his intention to stay or to leave, the decision to stay is validated by the CLC member who led the pre-CLC team.

In regions where there are very few new comers each year, the new members are proposed to integrate directly a "normal" CLC team. There is no "integration" in the middle of the year, the applicants are asked to wait for October-November to a new cycle to start.

Today there is no strong communication to attract new members. Some regions are making some testimony during mass, some leaflet are sometimes displayed in churches. Most of the time new members have heard about CLC via: Friends or family, during retreats in spiritual centres where some leaflets are displayed, Jesuits - nuns – priests – guides.

In the near future and in order to attract young people, the intention of CLC France is to communicate more to "young Christian's movements".

S  verine Grosjean

## CLC GERMANY

The practices are very different in our regions: we propose to help starting groups or we give them spiritual guides. People are coming very often after spiritual exercises – also in daily life, spiritual proposals for an evening, and proposals in a Parish. Or they are sent by friends or Jesuits.

If it is not possible to create a local group, interested people are invited to different proposals: mass with social evening, world day, meetings in the diocese, evening proposals, and spiritual offers.

It is not very easy to integrate a new member in an existing group. It depends from the group, the members have to say if they are ready to welcome a new member or not. Welcome a new member means not only open the group but also start a new stage in the group.

Inge Hoepfl

## CLC IRELAND

We find it extremely hard here in Ireland to attract new members, especially young people. In Dublin during the last few years three or four new groups have been formed, all attracted by our E.A. Fr. Michael Gallagher.

Here in Edenderry where I live, last September with the help of a Religious Sister who is very involved in CLC we offered what is called "An Open Door" Retreat, to people by "word of mouth" which is of course an Ignation based retreat, over ten weeks, thirteen of us did this retreat which included our own existing group of six. Our hope was that when the retreat was over and having experienced a flavour of Ignation Spirituality they might consider joining CLC. The "Good News" is that we have now started a new pre CLC group meeting weekly with just 2 people from the retreat, one brought a friend along and also a lady that dropped out CLC years ago has returned to us, Sr. Mary steers this group and I help a little. We follow the English formation programme. We do feel we may have had another couple join us from the retreat, but driving at night proved a problem.

We do have another new member joining our existing group, it is early days for her so we are not too sure how it will work, although we have done this trough the years and it ha worked quite well.

For the future we may offer the retreat again, perhaps even in an adjoining parish, but we're talking of way down the line, and will see how the Lord guides us.

In the past we have had "Introduction to CLC" nights in our parish, which worked fairly well years back. Sadly a lot of our members around the country are finding it harder to attend our National Days and weekends due to their age.

Barbara Butler

## CLC LITHUANIA

Jesuits and old members invite new persons to participate in spiritual exercises (recollections). In case one has a desire to continue, one has a waiting time for gathering interested persons in a new pre-CLC group. There is no special program during this waiting period. When a pre-CLC group formed, people begin the program of 8 steps and after that join CLC group or not. If there are not enough new members to start a pre-CLC group, very rarely (exception!) new persons join existing CLC group. In this case the group decides if they repeat the program of 8 steps or not. Such is the situation.

It is useful to know about the experience of other communities.

Diana Dragataite

## CLC LUXEMBOURG

Attracting new members, especially younger ones (below 40), has been a heart-felt collective desire of CLC in Luxembourg especially for the last decade.

1. Practices for attracting new members have varied.

- About 10 years ago, information meetings were held in different parts of the country. CLC members invited people whom they believed to be interested selectively. These sessions were led by a mature member of CLC, perhaps a member of the ExCo, the ecclesiastical assistant and one or two “normal” CLC members, who gave a personal testimony of their CLC experience. The aim was to give a brief, but overall, impression of the manifold aspects of life in CLC.
- Later on, these same information evenings took place, with a general invitation addressed to parishes by their priests or publicised in parish information leaflets. However, it was felt that fewer people responded to this less targeted type of invitation.
- At the moment we are asking specific CLC members (whom we know to be actively involved in their parish) to present CLC in their parishes in the way they find most appropriate (personal testimony after mass, notice by the parish priest, parish information leaflet.....). We hope that a more personal presentation of CLC is more appealing and promising.
- On a less “official” level, many of our members tell their friends about CLC. The Jesuit parish in Luxembourg-city also attracts people to CLC. Only one or two members said that our CLC leaflet had raised their curiosity and enticed them to phone the number on the back. Ringing up “strangers” is not a typical procedure for Luxembourg.
- **Considerable interest in CLC has arisen from the various spiritual offers of our formation team** over the last four years. Most of their spiritual offers are open to the general public. People who had tasted thus of Ignatian spirituality eventually found their way into CLC.

Compiling this information, I notice that we have made few efforts to make CLC known outside the traditional ecclesiastical (parish) structures.

2. Ideally the ExCo would like every CLC member to nurture the shared responsibility to “recruit” new members. Some members certainly talk about CLC to their friends and even to colleagues at work. On the whole, however, CLC membership in Luxembourg is discreet, relegated to the domain of a private practice, although its effects are definitely evident in our private, public and professional lives. In this respect, CLC Luxembourg differs from other church movements like the Focolare or the Charismatic revival, whose members are more demonstrative about their allegiance. Specific events in the past (public statement by CLC on the European constitution, conferences or seminars co-organised with other church organisations) have made CLC in Luxembourg more publicly visible, but we have not managed yet to reach the degree of public awareness that CLC deserves.

3. The reasons why people enter CLC are as individual as people themselves and are rooted in the mystery of God’s call and human yearning. Yet, there are favourite channels through which people come into contact with CLC, such as the offers of our formation team, the Jesuits’ parish, involvement through friends and, to a lesser extent, information in parishes.

4. Yes, there is usually a waiting time. To people who manifest an interest in CLC, the ExCo proposes an initial meeting between the would-be member and two members of the ExCo. Depending on this meeting, various steps can be envisaged. The ExCo might suggest an Ignatian retreat to sharpen the person’s perspective of what CLC proposes. The person might be asked to wait until a pre-CLC group has been formed or until an appropriate group can welcome him or her. We really try to keep waiting times under 6 months.

5. Whenever possible, our ExCo encourage the formation of a pre-CLC group. After a discernment period, the members decide whether they want to continue in CLC or not. Depending on their numbers, they either continue in the same constellation, as a fully fledged CLC group, or they are divided up among existing groups. We have noticed that people who went through such a discerning pre-CLC phase tend to stick with their membership and find their place more easily in CLC. We have made varying experiences with “freshers” entering a functioning group:

-As we are a small community, the ExCo know all the groups and most of the members rather well. After the initial meeting with the interested persons and careful discernment, the ExCo “allocate” new members to specific group and ask the parties involved if they can agree with the decision. This might seem autocratic, but in most cases the combinations work well.



- It is always demanding on new members to enter a group who has journeyed for some time, like jumping on the bandwagon. The welcoming group has to slow down, change gear at least and revise some of its acquired habits and processes. This process of re-discovery and reinvention is usually considered as very enriching by the old members. At times we have tried to attenuate the initial solitude of the new member by inviting two new-comers into a group.

-What we have experienced as very risky, is the invitation of a member's personal friend into a group. Expectations on both sides may not always be realistic and the new member often leaves, after a short time, in an atmosphere of sobering disappointment.

Tessy Geimer-Biver

## CLC MALTA

1. In collaboration with the Jesuit Youth Network, InYgo, we invite new members from the 17/18 year old students attending the final year of studies prior to University at the Jesuit College on the Island. CLC provides two new guides for the two communities that usually emerge from this invitation. Interested students are initiated by means of a weekend Live-In that introduces the values of Spirituality, Community and Mission. The Groups are established and are distinct. Over the first five years, both groups work together on diverse projects - usually InYgo run projects within the University Chaplaincy and voluntary work but keep meeting apart to establish their own identity.
2. A further invitation to join a community, usually for University Freshers, is presented through the Jesuit-run University Chaplaincy. These communities are usually immersed into the Chaplaincy activities and services. Again for this community CLC provides a guide and the formation offered to these communities is Ignatian in the CLC spirit.
3. In Malta, Marriage Preparation Courses are obligatory for every couple wishing to enter the Sacrament of Marriage. The University Chaplaincy, run by the Maltese Jesuit Province, runs six courses annually involving around 24 couples a year. CLC (Malta) is in the process of taking over the running of these courses. We already have six CLC couples trained to lead these courses. The Chaplaincy's feedback is that a good number of couples who attend these courses express a desire to discover their faith more deeply. It is our intention to invite all those couples attending the University Marriage Preparation Courses to join a new Community that would be established once a year to accommodate those interested. The National Community needs to provide a further CLC couple per year to act as co-guides for these new Communities.
4. A large number of CLCers leave the Community once they get married and have very young children. Many still desire a Community, Ignatian Formation and training in Discernment. We are in the process of investigating the possibility of inviting them to re-join the National Community by establishing communities meeting monthly for prayer, sharing and discernment. This is an ongoing project with no concrete communities yet established. In every case CLC (Malta) follows the growth process of each new community through the Young Communities Team - a team within our Formation Team or through the Formation Team proper. In addition, from time to time individuals (around 6 a year) approach the National Community to join a Community. They would have heard of CLC through InYgo initiatives, the University Chaplaincy, through the Jesuit-run
5. College, through the weekly CLC produced Radio programme on social issues transmitted on the Church-run National Radio station or through some other member. A team of two persons meet these individuals to become acquainted, to understand their motivations and be clear on ground-rules. Once this process is complete the individuals are integrated within existing communities. There is a shortwaiting time for this integration to take place, usually until a suitable community is found. This is, in normal circumstances, around three months. No programme is offered or envisaged during this time.

In addition a large number of new members join existing communities directly as they would be invited to do so by the particular local community itself. These would usually be friends or partners of the existing members.

Not all members are involved in the formation of new communities and in the integration of new members to existing communities. Usually it is some members from the LC and from the Formation

Team that are involved. By and large all our Communities have integrated one or more new members in the course of their history. This is usually a slow but fruitful process.

Roberta Pace-Balzan

## CLC PORTUGAL

To begin with, why do people come to CLC? Our experience suggests it has to do with two basic features: either they have experienced Spiritual Exercises and want to continue living Ignatian Spirituality in daily life or they know CLC people and feel attracted to the most visible / “easy to explain” piece of our lifestyle: the fortnightly meeting as a privileged place to pray and share life driven by a strong sense of community and the need to unify life and prayer.

So, when it comes to new members, CLC Portugal benefits from two main channels: word-of-mouth of existing members and the Jesuit link, either through Spiritual Exercises (people who have done the experience) or through the Jesuit University Centres, which offer a very extensive activity yearly program including an “An Introduction to CLC” session, hosted by CLC people and normally held in October. The advantage here is that we are able to reach a much larger audience than the one we could aim at only by our means. A secondary advantage is that we make sure that every potential candidate becomes acquainted with CLC as a wide-world community with a specific charism (rather than a “lay group in which people meet fortnightly to share life and prayer”). For this purpose, we have produced some power-point presentations covering the basics of Ignatian Spirituality and CLC’s General Principles, which we will be pleased to share with those who can read Portuguese (...and would not mind translating it ...). The session also includes personal testimonies from older CLCers. A concluding remark: while many CLCers develop missions in specific parishes (a few of them run by Jesuits), the truth is that there are very few links between CLC and the traditional parish structure (personally, I do not know anyone in CLC who got acquainted with CLC through the Parish). Then again, I reckon that is a very common feature to other lay movements: in Portugal, there tends to be some split between the reality of the parishes (much stronger in rural, less populated areas) and lay movements, which are typically stronger in large cities (CLC is one of those cases).

Regardless of whether people come from this introductory course (in Lisbon, we had about 70 candidates in the last two years) or because of word-of-mouth, we then assess each candidate’s profile (previous experience of Church, Spiritual Exercises, personal history / situation) to see whether it makes sense to create new groups or just include the new members in existing groups. This process naturally takes some time - we have to contact the groups, ask that they discern whether it makes sense to receive somebody new, etc – so, sometimes, the candidates do wait a lot of time (months or a whole year). In this case, they can receive the newsletters and participate in any community event (Advent mass, CLC Day, etc). Doing Spiritual Exercises is also something highly encouraged to those willing to enter CLC but who have never done the experience. In the cases where candidates are included in existing groups, the feed-back is generally very positive, because the new members are seen as a bit of “fresh air”, enriching the group with a new way of relating to the Trinity / viewing and reflecting the world / sharing.

I hope this covers most of the issues you raised but, if not, do feel free to return with more specific questions.

Finally, regarding Erasmus: we will be holding our National Assembly next year, 27April/1May, in Fatima, which will focus on the concept of Apostolic Body (our slogan will “Many members, one sole body”). Although there is always the language problem, we will be pleased to welcome those who may be interested in deepening this theme. In any case, since Portugal will host the next World Assembly (August 2008), I think that will also be an excellent opportunity to visit Portugal ...

Carla Rebelo



## CLC SLOVENIA

- Jesuits that are linked to CLC usually invite candidates to join a CLC group after spiritual exercises. They do so if they are interested to continue the experience of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius.
- A contact person is appointed for all contacts with the interested persons. A telephone number and address is published in our bulletin (that CLC members can also inform all who are interested) and on the internet or on the Cristian radio.
- Other members attract a new one trough conversation and personal example.
- A new group is formed in autumn. Every interested person can previously participate in our Holy Masses, pilgrimages, SE or spiritual renewals in Easter and Advent.
- An interested person can (must) participate to introductory meetings during eight (8) weeks introducing elementary themes.
- A brochure about CLC is available in some churches.
- For the introductory meetings 2 people are responsible (a man and a woman). They also hold all introductory meetings. New candidates can join the group during the first 2 or 3 meetings.
- If there are not enough new members to start a pre-CLC group, a new group cannot be formed. Those that would like to participate can in communal events such as Hl. Mass, pilgrimages or spiritual renewals. Potential new members can not join the existing CLC group. It could happen that the last and penultimate groups are joined into one.
- An ideal group consists of 8-12 persons. Recently we have decided to start a group also with fewer people and then if they decide to stay can join the group of the previous year. This is so because in the last years we had problems organizing groups of 8-12 persons.

Tomaz Smid

### Coming Up... Next European Events

Euroteam prepares:

- Meeting of the **Ecclesiastic Assistants** in Drongen (Gent) in Belgium next January 26-28, 2007. The main topic will be the document on the relationship between CLC and SJ in the church.
- Stuttgart (Germany) May 10-13, 2007; this allows us to participate to the congress: **TOGETHER FOR EUROPE**, Christian Movements and Communities (May 10-12), taking place among the preparations for the ecumenical encounter in Sibiu, September 2007.
- **European Young Adults Holydays** in Palermo, Sicily (Italy), August 24 – September 1, 2007. Dear friends, if you are young professional between 20 – 35 years old you are welcomed to join us for holidays, prayer, fun, laugh, singing, swimming, sunbathing, enjoying in all things young people love. More details will be sent out in December 2006 to all European National communities together with the registration sheet. We are waiting for price and some more other necessary details to send out the flyers with detailed information. The dead line to decide about your summer holidays with other young CLC'ers from Europe is end of February 2007. Please send your registrations and questions of all kind to Martina ([martina.zupanic@zg.htnet.hr](mailto:martina.zupanic@zg.htnet.hr)). All the necessary details about your travel will be sent to you on time by the member of the hosting team at Sicily.
- Participation of Evelyne Maloret, Agnès Rausch, Monika Sander in Sibiu (Romania) to the **THIRD ECUMENICAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY (EEA3 – [www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org))** in September 2007, organized by the European Bishops Conference.
- Meeting with **eurolinks** in Rome October 18-21, 2007

## Short news from the European CLC

### Belgium fl:

CLC organised a national congress, Ann Sieuw prefers to say that it was a wonderful heart warming meeting. Father Wauthier sj gave an input about 'how to solve difficulties, tensions in a group' with the help of Ignatius. After this, they had a contemplative dialog concerning 'tensions in our live and how to solve them'. 90 persons participated, 8 new members, and 30 children with a special program.

Every group came with a picnic and in the afternoon they took a walk on the riverside (Lysse). The day was closed by mass. It was a great moment.

### Belgium fr

In March, the Belgian CLC had his first general assembly governed by the new bylaws.

In the past, Belgium F was split in 6 regional communities. Each regional "larger community" was delegating 3 members to the general assembly. With the new bylaws, each local community is directly invited to delegate one member to the General Assembly. Larger communities delegate a supplemental member to represent them.

This "direct democracy" permitted a real communion between the delegates of the whole community. One of the converging points in the sharing was the desire to emphasize the roots of our community (Ignatian Spirituality, Exercices, creating a real community).

The mission of the new ExCO and president, to be elected in October, will be to give the necessary impulsion towards the realisation of these goals.

### CLC Hungary

*(as you know CLC Hungary and CLC Lithuania will be full members in Fatima in 2008)*

A formation course of one-year long was from April 2005 till April 2006. Participants wanted to deepen in the Saint Ignatius spirituality. The leaders wanted to help them to become „salt in the group”. 24 persons began the course, and 20 ones finished one year later. During this year the participants obtained many personal experiences, findings, and they got a nice gift to become a real community, by the Holy Spirit who works in silence in our soul.

Some participants joined CLC work (group guide, spiritual exercises, organization work).

Alberto Britto SJ visited KÉK in January 2006. He wanted to get to know EA, leadership team and CLC groups. His visit was a nice experience for all the groups in Budapest and 3 towns in the county. We keep his friendly personality in our heart and his orientation, answers to our questions in our mind.

On the CLC World Day all the CLC groups met in Budapest, and spent a nice day together. Every group contributed to the theme of the day, in different ways. We keep the joy of this meeting with each other!

In the frame of supporting KÉK by GCL, Daniela Frank and Inge Hoepfl visited KÉK in June 2006. They gave us assistance on our way to become a national community. Daniela widened our view when she informed us about world CLC events and news. This was the second time that Inge came to Budapest. Inge's cordial personality brought us the love of GCL. It is a good feeling for us, that GCL pays attention to KÉK!

Zsófia Ercsey

**Ireland:** Mary O'Flaherty has been through a tough time, her dear Mam died some weeks back; she is slowly regaining some strength though and will be in touch soon. So Barbara Butler, the President, gave us the news from Ireland.

**Lithuania:** Jurga Sidiskyte is very busy and has not time enough, so **Diana Dragataite** [dianadragataite@yahoo.com](mailto:dianadragataite@yahoo.com) takes the „job“, welcome to Diana.

**CLC Portugal**

- First General Meeting of all the small-group coordinators, in May 2005 (80% attendance): explanations about the specific roles of coordinator and guide and on how to propose strategies for a continued growth, according to the Plan of Formation, avoiding routine and stagnation.
- Jesuits-CLC Meeting, September 2005 (60 jesuits accepted the invitation): one-day presentation of what CLC is in relationship with the Society of Jesus and of the CLC developments in the last twenty years.
- 4-day Workshop for new small-group coordinators, November 2005 (25 participants): in-depth formation on the Spiritual Exercises and the way they correlate to the sequence of stages proposed by the Plan of Formation and the CLC Charism; time for theoretical input, study of the documents and practical planning exercises.
- 1-day Workshop on CLC Commitment January 2006 (130 participants): previously prepared at the small group level with proposals by the Formation Team; originated lively discussion and uncovered some resistances, but, in the end, was well accepted by most. It has already given origin to some guidelines regarding the making of the Commitments, temporary and permanent, issued by the National Team.

Meanwhile the community has continued to grow, with new groups being formed each year, especially in the Lisbon Region, where the 1-day annual Workshop of introduction to CLC for interested would-be members has attracted around 70 people in each of the last two years.

**CLC Switzerland** created a home page: [www.gcl-cvx.ch](http://www.gcl-cvx.ch). : be curious and look to it.

**Special focus: to the eurolinks and national leaders, please help us to make it known !**

**European Young Adults *Holy...days* in Palermo, Sicily (Italy),**

**August 24 – September 1, 2007**

**for young professional between 20 – 35 years old**