



# CLC In Europe Bulletin

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Dear friends,

Following the initiative of a small CLC group of young people from Genoa, in Italy, we have realised that time has come once again to speak about young adults in CLC Europe more intensively. There have been some marvellous occasions for young people to meet either it were holidays or formation courses. Unfortunately some were cancelled because the lack of participants. Hope that CLC Young Adults Summer Holidays we shall try to organize next summer 2007 will not have the same destiny. At the moment we are trying to set a team of people who would organize and discuss over all the necessary details. Therefore you will all be informed about it later this year when we shall have the exact information. That is one of the reasons why our latest ET Bulletin issue has a title Young Adults in CLC.

In the content of our bulletin you may find experiences from various CLC communities in Europe regarding the topic young adults. There are also some tempting proposals how to spend your summer holidays. Enjoy reading our ET Bulletin, share it with others in your NC's. May you have warm and sunny holidays.

With best wishes,

Agnes, Monika, Leonardo, Andrej and Martina

## In this Bulletin...

1. Euroteam Meeting
2. News from the National Communities
3. Coming up... Next European CLC events, summer 2006

**Euroteam meeting in Zagreb,  
Croatia  
March 2 – 5, 2006**

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

At the first weekend of Lent 2006 the ET was welcomed by the Croatian Community. We would like to thank the members who came to meet us and shared with us their joys, hopes and difficulties on Saturday evening. It is always a pleasure to be in touch with live apostolic body of CLC members in different NC's. This time we were having a wonderful surprise as one of our previous ET members Igor from Slovenia joined us on Sunday morning regarding CLC Ecumenical initiatives.

## Young Adults in the experiences of National Communities

### CLC England and Wales.

1. There are currently 4 young CLC groups, with a fifth being formed. They are all in London/South East.
2. The groups use the same CLC literature as other CLCEW groups, although the older established groups also use specific material – in particular, they tend to select a Lent and Advent book. At least one of the established groups has a Jesuit member/guide who will make suggestions.
3. The age range is about 22 to 35. There are a small number of students but most have graduated.
4. Most members seem to belong to professions. In particular, a number are teachers or chaplains. There are also management consultants and a lawyer or two.
5. The membership is international – in particular, there are members from South America (Colombia) and Jesuit scholastics.
6. The groups do not have specific missions – rather they provide support for the individual members in their day to day lives.
7. The First Sunday Masses are an important source for Young CLC. They also provide an occasion for meeting. (“First Sunday” is a Jesuit initiative, at Farm Street/Mount Street.) There are in fact two Masses each month on the first and third Sunday evenings. See <http://www.jesuit.ie/uk/youngadult/FSindex.htm> or [www.mountstreet.info](http://www.mountstreet.info) (and run pointer over young adults).
8. The original group came, I understand, from a week’s guided prayer in Cambridge University.
9. The groups are notably friendly and cheerful – the other evening, while waiting to start in a parlour in Mount Street, the noise level was such as to be noticeable in another MSJC course!

Joe Egerton

### CLC France

CLC France counts about 15% members below 35 years old which is not a lot. A reflection has started a few months ago to get to know better this part of the community: a survey has been launched in the region of Paris and will be extended to the whole country. The idea is to determine where these young adults are coming from, how they decided to come to CLC, how they feel in CLC and if they have expectations. The first results of the "Paris" survey show that before being in CLC most of young adults belonged to ignatian groups for young people and that they have heard about CLC by their family. This would incite the CLC France to encourage the development of relations with these ignatian groups because we strongly believe that CLC can be a good answer for young adults willing to pursue their spiritual path. Another interesting output is that these young adults feel well in CLC, they would appreciate more warmth and conviviality and they would be willing to do things for the community. Because being able to welcome young adults is important for the community, a team dedicated to this interesting subject is under constitution and shall propose concrete actions in the coming months.

Séverine Grosjean

## CLC Luxembourg

CLC in Luxembourg is very sensitive to the fact that the majority of our members are well over forty. Many of our members are involved with young people at work (teachers, social workers, doctors, psychologists, chaplains...). Although CLC has felt for some time that youth is one of its priorities, we have not been able to set up any long-term project until recently!!! The University of Luxembourg is expanding at the moment and CLC has been asked, along with other institutions, to provide for a chaplaincy. One of our members, famous Agnès Rausch, has left her job at Caritas and is charged with setting it up. This involves working out statutes as well as decorating rooms, meeting students also. We cannot yet say exactly in how far CLC will be involved in the practical running of the chaplaincy, but we certainly see it as a great concern of the whole community. We are trying to provide Agnès with any support we can give her, be it prayers, practical help, and help with ideas, experiences ....

Tessy Geimer-Biver May 06

### Youth! A common mission area: from a desire to a concrete project

After the world assembly in Itaici, our national community in Luxemburg discerned three areas of common concern:

1. Promotion of ignatian spirituality, realized later on through Spiritual Exercises in daily life in different parishes and 3-days-retreats open to all
2. Concern for social justice, which took form mainly through friendship to forced migrants
3. common challenge for youth. To bring it to live, a working group was set up, but it was hard to come to concrete steps

Also on European level we wanted to promote work with young people, but did not realize a sustainable project. What to do, where to be . . . ? I remained pregnant, keeping the challenge to be creative with and for young people, as CLC, in my mind, heart and prayers.

As Luxemburg had created in 2003 its own University, I was more and more convinced that our concern could not stay on the level of the desire, but had to be put in action. I decided to take the lead! With the support of Caritas-Luxemburg director, a working group was initiated on diocesan level, which brought together some ten persons interested in a student project.

We visited several chaplaincies in Belgium, Germany, Austria and before all, I visited CISED, a centre set up in Paris, by a Jesuit, Jean-Noel Gindre sj, together with CLC, the diocese and a religious order. I had heard a testimony by Jean-Noel a few years ago and I had the feeling that his way of doing could help us in Luxemburg to go ahead. Jean-Noel came to Luxemburg to explain and to “convince”.

And slowly a new service, which we called LISEL (lieu d’initiatives et de services des étudiants au Luxembourg) takes form; CLC-Luxemburg will be a founding member of this new service, together with the Jesuits, Caritas, the diocese and ALUC (Luxemburg catholic academics association). It will not be a chaplaincy, but a place where students can come with all their needs, mainly related to their studies. In Paris they propose f. ex. individual support in language training, computer handling aso. In Luxemburg the first needs which showed up already, come mainly from foreign students (search for training places or student jobs, clarification of social security questions). And for finding answers to these challenges a network of many volunteers will be set up slowly, in which all CLCers are invited to participate, according to their possibilities and knowledge. (You can imagine, that Tessy will be our expert for English!) I myself will work half-time in this service, mainly to make the service known, to connect students to volunteers and to help students to find their place in our society.

And what about more spiritual proposals? My experiences in Congo, then in Luxemburg with young homeless people and with refugees have confirmed the words of St Ignatius “chercher et trouver Dieu en toute chose- Gott in Allem suchen und finden- search and find God in all”. I relay on your prayers for the growth of our LISEL

Agnès Rausch, 6 June 2006

PS. I forgot to tell you, that I'm in contact with JEV and if I manage to convince my very dears from CLC and Society of Jesus, a JEV community can open its doors in autumn 2007 in Luxemburg.

### **CLC Malta**

In April 2003 a "Young Communities Team" (YCT) was set-up because CLC Malta felt the need to focus more directly on the younger members (16-25 yrs). The YCT is made up of five CLC'ers and is now part of the Formation Team for CLC. The aims of the team are:

1. To bring together young CLC'ers and CLC communities and help build strong bonds between them. This in turn would help foster a sense of belonging to CLC;
2. To follow communities from the early days and to act as a point of reference for them;
3. To help define CLC to young CLC'ers. The spiritual aspect as well as the structural and functional aspect of CLC needs to be presented to these people in an "inspiring" and enthusiastic way;
4. Act as a link between the Ignatian Youth Network and CLC
5. Establish good communication with guides of young communities and offer support and direction.

Over three years later we can confidently say that the YCT has been very effective in helping the younger members of CLC Malta to grow in all three dimensions of spirituality, community and mission. This they have done mainly through organising various activities both of a formative and social nature. For example, when the film "The Passion of the Christ" was being shown in the cinemas locally, the YCT organised an outing where the young CLCers all went to watch the film together. Before the film they gathered for some preparative input, after the film they met again for discussion and prayer. Other activities organised included a treasure hunt centred on two Jesuit sites, a traditional Passover Meal, camping, and many others. The YCT also encourages the members to have outward looking experiences and offer a variety of options to these youngsters.

Roberta Paze-Balzan

### **CLC Portugal**

In CLC Portugal, we are now beginning a special program for College graduates (3 new groups in Lisbon), which started this year, but, other than that, we have no special program for young adults. In fact, the bulk of people entering CLC is in their late 20's / mid-30's. The youngest groups follow processes similar to the remaining groups. In the case of groups mostly composed by couples with young children, they tend to adjust the schedule / rhythm / location of the meetings according to their own needs but the process of the meeting and the materials are very similar to the remaining groups.

Carla Rebelo

### **CLC Croatia**

Living our faith, between many other things, means sometimes to be together at the same place whether it is time for SpEx, spiritual retreats or holidays. By the providence of our Lord, CLC Croatia came to Žman, a small village at the island of Dugi otok in the middle of Adriatic coast. The bishop of Zadar gave us an old parish house that we may use for 10 years. During last seven years in Žman have been about 250 people from all over the Croatia but also from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina Serbia and Montenegro. Each group consist of approximately 20 holiday makers who spend at the house 10 days. The programme includes spiritual and recreational components. The spiritual part presumes usually one or two meditations in the morning and in the evening the liturgy, and certain topics of the day prepared by the animators. There is always a priest in each group who participate in all activities together with us. Recreational part includes swimming, sports, working around the house (grass cutting, painting, gardening etc.), cleaning the house, cooking, dish washing and similar.

During the stay we are accommodated in 3 rooms on the mattresses as there are not enough beds for everybody at the moment. There is electricity and since last year there is water in the house as well. Before last year we used water from the cistern. It was rain-water as at all island you must be aware of possible water shortage. Therefore there is just one bathroom and several showers out of the house at the meadow. Until this year most of the participants were CLC'ers from Croatia. But as it is not recommendable for families with small children we welcome some other young people willing to experience that kind of holidays that may be very exciting and challenging. This initiative we have been writing about many times already but we find it as a great way to meet each other and others from different religious groups in Croatia and surrounding countries. CLC Croatia is made of young adults as we like to call ourselves as all of our membership is in their mid thirties. We have no experience with well experienced CLC members in their best years that are over 40 years of age. That has some benefits but as well cause some problems that we try to solve successfully.

Kreso Martinis

### Coming Up... Next European Events

#### **CLC Belgium FR, Spain, Switzerland, Lithuania**

The mails coming from French speaking **Belgium, Spain** and **Switzerland** inform us that there is no specific program for young adults for several reasons: very few young people (Belgium and Switzerland) and the young people are integrated in the existing groups (Spain).

In **Lithuania**, the young CLC'ers organise days of 'walk and prayer'. This is a mix from holidays, sport and spiritual exercises with mass on the end of the day. They share about those experiences in their local group as a rich spiritual experience.

CLC of **Slovenia** and **United Kingdom** has many proposals for summer aimed to young people and families please look to our website at the link **Erasmus** proposals.

There you also may find some great initiatives for all who is going to visit Paris during the Jubilee Year.

You may find further information about mentioned proposals as many other interesting things at our web page: [clc-europe.org/Erasmus](http://clc-europe.org/Erasmus)

#### **For information and discussion:**

##### **They have entered the political stage**

*The adolescents from the suburban ghettos have discovered their power during some hours of fire*

Article from Françoise Blum, published in *Le Monde*, French daily newspaper, a few months ago, translated by Tessy, Luxemburg Eurolink.

There was a time (and it is not so long ago) when the identification with the oppressed was the determining attitude of a whole generation; there was a time when we were all German Jews. I persist in believing, and some hold that I am wrong, that this identification somehow widened the soul.

No such identification in the case of these young people from the suburban ghettos, apparently. At best, one understands their frustrations, at worst, one is afraid of them. At best, one concedes the right

to demonstrate their anger to them, but one feels that they express this right in an irresponsible way. At worst, one suspects the shadow of the imams behind their revolt.

Why not simply recognise the following: at this moment, in the only manner that is visible, namely via the media, for the first time, these young people are occupying a space that used to be unknown, inaccessible, strange or even forbidden to them, namely the domain of politics. They have entered the political stage; yes, those of whom we were told that they do not even vote and that they are completely indifferent to the public good.

Under the burden of insults (insults perhaps made worse by the fact that their very words were returned to them, these words from which we pretend to cure them in order to integrate them more), they have discovered their force. They have discovered a power that they had never had the opportunity to manifest before.

They are about to unsettle a minister that some had already seen as the new President of the Republic. They are about to demonstrate their existence and to show that they can also contribute to transform this Republic that aspires to be egalitarian and universal, after all. In one word: in some hours and nights of setting fire to cars, they have become actors, actors of the public space. They had always been told to integrate into this public space, but its access had always been denied to them.

The street, this place of aimless hanging around and aberration has become a place of manifestation for them. Let us not be astonished if they will not march from the Republic to the Bastille and if they will be unfaithful to a tradition and a memory that are not theirs. Paris is not their territory. When the students put fire to cars on the boulevard Saint Germain in May 1968, at a time, let us not forget it, when cars were rarer and more expensive than nowadays, the engines belonged to their parents.

Different times, different customs: those who opposed the consumer society in the happy days of the “trente glorieuses” have, despite all, much in common with those who dream of integrating into this society. They demand respect. The former suffered under the burden of a repressive society and denounced its discrimination against youth. The latter suffer under the burden of a society that degrades them to second class beings, that marginalises and despises them and crushes them by police control, and turns their skin colour and their names into social disabilities. What would their anger achieve without burning cars?? Would the television channels of the whole world have spotted them?? What should they have done: submit a petition to the Palais Bourbon?

In these days when the media do and undo the news, the means these young people espoused were the only effective ones. How many strikes of workers have been projected on the public scene simply because criminal threats were made? Let us dare to declare it: these revolts, these mutinies, these outbreaks of anger and violence (the semantic choice is ample) are a social movement. It is not a working class revolt, but the revolt of the children of working class parents. Their aims? At least respect and at best integration.

The political project? The fight against unemployment, against social precariousness. They also demand the abdication of a minister of interior affairs, in the same way as, at other times, one could demand that of a Marcelin. One feels like saying out loud: “well done” to those who, *with their disdain*, have furthered the emergence of a new collective actor. And such a collective actor in a France that is imprisoned in its petty rivalries and fears of the future isn't that in fact a chance??