



CLC In Europe Bulletin

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www.clc-europe.org

Dear friends, when you look to our website, you find the information: "40th Anniversary of the General Principals". And you think: what, already 40 years... so this is a good moment to read the PG again... To help you, look to the world website (www.cvx-clc.net) there you can find Projects n° 133 and a very interesting consideration from José Reyes about our PG. What we would like to propose you, is to consider the PG as a personal task, look to them and find out what is specially speaking to you today, as a person, well rooted in your daily life, in the ignatian spirituality, in your social activities

For Monika, just coming back from the ecumenical meeting in Wittenberg, she finds very attractive n° 8 d: *The Community urges us to proclaim the Word of God and to work for the reform of structures of society, participating in efforts to liberate the victims from all sort of discrimination and especially to abolish differences between rich and poor. We wish to contribute to the evangelisation of cultures from within. We desire to do all this in an ecumenical spirit, ready to collaborate with those initiatives that bring about unity among Christians.*

Our life finds its permanent inspiration in the Gospel of the poor and humble Christ. This will be our prayer for our world day, March 25th.

We wish you a peaceful and joyful preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

With best wishes,

Agnes, Martina, Leonardo, Andrej and Monika

In this Bulletin...

1. News from Euroteam
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**Ecclesiastic Assistants meeting with
Euroteam in Gent,
Belgium
January 25 – 28, 2007**

Present:

Alberto Brito sj and Daniela Frank from the World ExCo

22 Jesuits from the different European countries
Agnes, Monika, Leonardo, Martina, Andrej SJ

This kind of meeting takes place once during the 5 years following the election of Euroteam. It is very important that the Ecclesiastic Assistants from the different European CLC's can share:

- about their experience like national EA in the last years: light, darks, challenges, opportunities in the national and European level
- about the relationship CLC-SJ within the Church – sharing based on the document coming from the world CLC with an introduction from the President Daniela Frank and the Assistant Peter-Hans Kolvenbach sj
- Expectations

It was a rich, fruitful and very peaceful meeting. You will find the power point presentation of Leo on our website, <http://www.clc-europe.org/news.htm> meeting of EAs. If you don't find it, we can send it to you by email, on request! It's really worth!

In February 2007, I (Monika) represented CLC Europe in Wittenberg (Germany) during the second preparation meeting for the Ecumenical Assembly taking place in September 2007 in Sibiu (Romania), organized by the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE). Through Euroteam, the European CLC took place among the other Christian movements and communities in Europe to bear witness of our ignatian spirituality, well rooted in daily life and very helpful in actual life. This was our 2nd presence (after Rome in January 2006) and the persons present remembered CLC very well. I asked Father Alois from the Taize Community if I may send him our documents and he promised that he will distribute our flyers to his young visitors. He wrote us that he feels linked to our Community.

Family Spirituality within CLC

CLC France

- Every year, CLC France proposes 8 days Exercises in Bassac (Charente) with a special time for children. In the afternoon, families and singles come together for 'holidays'.
- Every year, session "experiment the community" (for beginners), is proposed for families with a special time for children and time together on the end of the afternoon.
- In summer 2006 for the jubilee in Lourdes, there was a special preparation for children and 750 young people participated.
- In the regions, during the regional meetings, children are welcome.
- In our spiritual centres, Saint-Hugues de Biviers and Hautmont, many proposals for couples and families – they are open for 'not CLC'ers'.
- The financial question is very important, help is possible and the price is not the same if you come with one or 4 children ...

Christine Regaud, Secretary of the French ExCo

CLC GERMANY

- We propose Spiritual Exercises for families with children.
- Children are welcome for the celebration of the world day in the regions and for the regional meetings. The "Ignatian Foundation" gives financial help for the families.
- The workshop for fathers and mothers always meet once a year with children: this is the possibility for parents to share about their situation, to find support how to help their children to grow up. Our Ignatian spirituality is very helpful in this area. This year the topic of the workshop will be 'discussion in families'.

Inge Hoepfl

CLC Hungary

The topic "family spirituality" was very inspiring for many CLC members in Hungary. We are pleased to share our experiences and thoughts with you.

1. When we give **daily life spiritual exercises**, we meet every week, and we share our experiences in small groups. We often hear feedback from new persons that their relation to the members of their family changed. For example before participant wanted to change her husband, but after spiritual exercises, she does not want to do, because she received a new view of life. During prayers she experienced that God accepted her without conditions, and thanks to God she inwardly changed. And she will be able to change her relation to her child, too. She can recognize that she is not the owner of her child, she can nurture her child, and respect God's image in her child, but the time will come when she has to let the child go away on his own way. The conversations, spiritual guidance or spiritual exercises can offer for couples, widows and broken family a real help in their life. Sometimes we can not answer to their questions, but we listen to them attentively and they can find their own answer.
2. Many couples of the Hungarian CLC (KÉK) belong to the **Movement of Marriage Week-end**. They regularly go to the meetings, because these week-ends contribute to renew and develop their connection. Some CLC members are leading persons in the Movement of Marriage Week-end. Others take service up during these week-ends (prayer or housework). And others keep the books in MMW.
3. Some CLC members are professionals in **family therapy**. In Hungary there is a special network for assisting families in crises. Unfortunately religious families are also concerned in crises. An example: one CLC member offered her help at her parish, using a special advanced method called "Marriage is our fragile treasure". This course consists of the following elements. First a video film (20 minutes) presents the most frequent problems of family. Then participants discuss the theme. Conversations in small groups, then between the members of the couple will follow the discussion. Common play, silence and prayer can help to deepen the topic. Voila CLC member's talk about her experiences: "During the guidance and common prayer I had occasion to present my CLC identity. The participants become interested in our spirituality and they asked me to lead daily life spiritual exercises. I twice gave spiritual exercises in Easter time. During the special course participants become a real community, and since then (for 3 years) they have been together in the same group. They have learned that they have to face the problems and not to ignore them. If they have "little" problem, they can ask for help from the group of couples. If they have serious problem, they can ask for help from an expert of family therapy. I offered personal consultancy for couples, who needed. I can say that group of couples which was born and living at parish can be "sign" for the world. Group of couple's presents living example how marriage, our fragile treasure can and should be protected and saved."
4. A **new group**, a new sprout on the Hungarian CLC-tree was born in **Szeged** (south-Hungary) in May 2004 when Hungary joined European Union. They connect to Jesuit parish Saint Joseph. This group can well balance between prayer and activity. The source of their activity is the spirituality of Saint Ignatius. Their first initiative was to hold a family day, to invite the parish community to a farm near Szeged. The program (going bicycle, playing games, playful competition, cooking together dinner and singing) made the family day very joyful. Holy mass held on plain air was a real celebration of the Creator of nature. The family day gave occasion to get acquainted with each other, and to experience the joy of common play and work. After this program the members of group Saint Joseph evaluated the family day, shared experiences, thanked for fruits and they looked ahead the next activity.

The second initiative was to organize the day of Saint Ignatius. As in a family, it is very important to get to know the "family-tree", the ancestors, the history of family, and to create legends from special events of family, and to tell them to the next generation, the group Saint Joseph studied the life of Saint Ignatius, especially the most important periods of his life in order to get guidelines and learn this special way of life. The group drew up the program of day using symbols of the different life periods of Saint Ignatius, for example tourney, fencing between knights and saints, practice in perception (using 5 organs of sense), learning prayer, performance of stage ("theatre"), holy mass, dinner and dance-house.

The day of Saint Ignatius was very successful, and this encouraged the group to continue this work. They began to reviewed the life of other Saints in order to find and show models for the

next generation, children. On the 19th of November 2006 the Hungarian Episcopal Council introduced the jubilee year of Saint Elisabeth of Árpádház (anniversary of 800 years), and the group joined this yearly program. Saint Elisabeth of Árpádház can be model for children, women, singles, couples, wives, mothers, poor and rich people, too. During this year the group will organize special programs commemorating Saint Elisabeth's life and presenting her values, personality and activities. Next months they will arrange an education competition for children (together with students of Theology Academy) about Saint Elisabeth's life. The winners will visit to Sárospatak, native town of Saint Elisabeth Árpádház at Whitsun.

5. Finally, I can say that the topic "family spirituality" inspired very much the group Saint Joseph, and they deal with this theme during group meetings, they devote attention to family, in order to renew family life and thank for fruits of Holy Spirit present in family.

Zsófia Ercsey

CLC LITHUANIA

The Lithuanian CLC is very young. And there were not so many events. We had 4 camps every summer for 5-7 days long. We are thankful our Godparents – the French CLC – for the lecturers who shared experience in the camps and we also appreciate for the financial support. Part of money we got from the fund Renovabis (Germany) and the rest we paid ourselves.

The Lithuanian CLC for the third time organizes 2-days 06.09-10 the trip on foot in woods. The theme is "The integration of new members to the community". The provincial will deliver the lecture, St. Mass will be celebrated, and some time for silence and discussions will be devoted. The distance of the trip is about 15 -25km. We will prepare food on fire and sleep in tents.

If somebody would like to join us or get more information, please write lituaniecvx@gmail.com

Diana Dragataite

CLC MALTA

CLC Malta is giving the family – as an issue – priority. In the first instance, CLC is represented and involved in the structure within the Cana movement commissioned to proposing changes to the obligatory course that couples attend in preparation for marriage within the Church. We have been involved for a year now and, as such, this year modifications have been made to a third of the course content and these changes are now being introduced to the courses taking place across the island. Over the coming two years the commission shall be redesigning the whole course, updating the content and retraining the leader couples with the required changes in approach and content.

Also, as part of the project in favour of the family, six CLC couples have been trained as leader couples for marriage preparation courses. We are now, from this year, taking over the courses organised by the University Chaplaincy in collaboration with the Jesuits there.

Roberta Pace-Balzan

CLC POLAND

Ewa Dybowska sent this testimony from CLC Poland:

My name is Kate and my husband's name is Paul. We have been married for 8 years. Now, we are parents for three children: Christopher (6 years old), Gregory (4,5 years old) and Ann (1,8 years old).

We have been connected with CLC in Warsaw since 1994.

We are involved in work with married couples: firstly, in the Couple to Couple League and secondly, we help engaged couples to prepare for Sacrament of Matrimony.

The Couple to Couple League promote and teach Natural Family Planning (NFP). This association was established in the seventies of the 20th century in the USA and it was a response to Pope Paul VI's appeal in *Humanae vitae* (HV,26). Pope Paul VI asked Catholic married couples to show other married couples how to live in accordance with the rules which Catholic Church gives to the husband and wife. He called it an apostolic task.

In the Couple to Couple League only married couples are the teachers. They practise NFP in their life and during courses they teach other couples what they already know in theory and in practice. We talk about man's and woman's fertility and show how to use this God's gift.

Together with my husband, we also help engaged couples to prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. There are weekend meetings which take place every six months in ECCC in Warsaw (Falenica). Our team consists of: a Jesuit and two married couples. (The second married couple is not from CLC).

Why do we work with engaged and married couples?

When I was a student, I revealed that God wanted me to help people to be good wives and husbands and in order to be good and happy married couples. And I knew that the world nowadays does not need teachers but witnesses. And if I wanted to be credible, I should (had to) live in this way which I teach.

Fertility of married couple is only one of many aspects of matrimony, but especially now many groups want to destroy matrimony through contraception. I think that the Lord sent us to proclaim the Good News about man's fertility.

CLC SLOVENIA

- In Slovenia we have special 3-5 days retreats for families several times a year. While this happens we organize babysitting, so the parents can do their spiritual exercises.
 - Every time we come together as a Community, 1 day retreats or anything else, we think about families and organize babysitting (children 1-16 years).
Children have than they one program, often at the end they show the result of their activity (songs, pictures, sketches...).
- Some CLC-groups are family-groups.
- Several Jesuits are specialized on family, also family-therapy; some of them do retreats for families also within CLC.

Tomaz Smid

CLC SPAIN

A well known Spanish journalist once said with sarcasm in an interview made to him a couple of years ago, that the family is "a group of people who are surrounded a mortgage or a refrigerator...what you are able to accomplish is another thing..."

Certainly the subject about the family is taken nowadays from many perspectives and there are definitions of family for all tastes and all colours; also exist a defence, sometimes sadly and annoying about the called "traditional values" but we think that the Christian not only have to criticize, but it is necessary, more than ever, to Announce, to say what we want and what we live since the Gospel of Jesus.

A Christian, guided by the Spirit (Eph 3, 16-19) "can" and "must" risk a word to express what he/she wants to live: what the lively Christian love is able to build. So, in CLC Spain, we want to assume that for the Christian family and to emphasize it since the ignatian spirituality: the family in CLC.

The Spanish committee, in our visits to different local communities, has been seen and detected with emphasis a special sense and sensibility towards this topic. Actually we develop in the family our nowadays life, it is our first and essential field of mission and there we "play deeply and truly" our "being towards others": there is where the Lord calls us with priority "to love and serve in everything". This is clear from our laity condition but sometimes is (perhaps for its own evidence and clarity) not well explain in CLC: we talk very much about mission, about all that the mission implies and we are moved for the desire of following Jesus doing what He says to us... we try to look and find God in all the things but sometimes we are confused and believe wrongly that the mission is mainly "outside", out of our family reality.

We have seen in our meetings with local communities in Spain that is extremely important and essential today, to talk and to reflect together about life of the family and into the family, and how our society goes too urged in finding again the "full sense", and to leave from our illusion and without expectancy since that reality is so broken today in Europe.

A person, who loves, knows God. Learning to love, in the deep sense of the word, as "a son of God", is training, day by day, to live as God does: loving. In that way, men and women, the families they conform, and love each other at present live in truth, perhaps without knowing, a "divine life".

God created the man to its image, “man and woman God created”. It’s the couple (sign of love) not the creature alone, who is the image of God: So, the love lived through the Sacrament becomes in sign, concrete and tangible, too of God Itself, who is “the Love”.

The CLC Committee from Spain truly believes that we can bring a great richness to the marriage and the family life since our Ignatian spirituality. Let’s think for a while and analyze in that way our spirituality has helped us to live our marriage life and to bring up our children.

A spirituality, ours, that “built” and “make” persons and educate the affectivity, a spirituality, that based in the deep freedom, prepares that person to be responsible of that freedom and to give itself as a whole, from a real point of view, with a sensibility and opening, without being afraid of looking at oneself, from the own inside, and the others. Our spirituality that requires and prepares for a process of profound and wise humanity and encounter with the love of God, is a spirituality that is able to walk the different moments and stages that it is lived in family, dealing with the conflicts without fears, and assuming the unlike realities that are presenting: a joyful and painful history too, made of hurts and sharing forgiveness also ... that implies to be Sacrament: a sign of the Alliance of God and its people. Because, not only we have received a Sacrament, but we are called to go making it life, day by day: “this is” the vocation of the Christian spouses: To be Sacrament.

Our life in CLC help us, as spouses and parents, to accompany ours (family, friends...) in their personal way, to look for deeply inside themselves, to feel and discover, little by little, the profound and whole way about what they are living and feeling: to educate the inner and the outer look, the look to the world also: To look and discover, step by step, in that way is God itself Looking and Acting with Love inside people and inside facts. It is not wrong to think that the Ignatian spirituality has a lot of richness and possibilities in that field of mission. We believe that we can help very much to families today, and I dare to say, not only to families of CLC: we have here a treasure to offer to the Church and the world.

Besides, we believe that in CLC Spain (maybe in CLC Europe) its time to reveal and give all our capacity of help that is now being lived and experienced “in silence” inside the CLC family life.

For that reason, we are preparing the first Journeys of that work in CLC Spain, called “Family and CLC: Ignatian spirituality for the family” to be held the next January 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. Concerning to that matter we will communicate in the future about the possibilities of interchange through “Erasmus program”, but in the moment this is only “an enthusiastic project” for us.

Aurora Camps

CLC SWITZERLAND

Family spirituality

We find it a very important topic and would like to focus more on this domain of the family. For the moment we don’t have a reflected practice about family spirituality but all try to develop it in daily life. It was also missing time to write something for this bulletin now. Perhaps in a later moment...

News from Switzerland

In December we had the great joy and grace to receive Jean-Paul Biruru, president of The CLC in Congo in our country. Two years ago we started a partnership with the CLC in this African country, and this personal encounter was very precious for the process of developing our partnership. Even though the enormous political and social differences between both countries, we felt a strong alliance in faith and the same spirituality.

This year we celebrate as community the 40th anniversary of the General Principles and 25 years of presence of CLC in Switzerland. Therefore we planned in Switzerland a “deepening time” for the whole community. The ExCo prepared a proposal for three group meetings. Every local community should deal with (so to say meditate, exchange and pray) the same theme. The topics of the “deepening time” are the “Principle and Foundation” of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises as the main source of our spirituality and the no. 5 of our General Principles.

Our aim is to lead all our members to a renewing of their spiritual life in our special way, to animate all to participate to Sp. E. this year if even possible and to feel a greater alliance as a spiritual body in Christ.

This process will start in March with the meeting on the CLC World day on 25th of March and will end in September with a community's celebration.

Dorothee Fischer

Coming Up... Next European Events

- 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 22 – August 31, 2007.
The flyer (on our website) invites you to join us at the European summer holidays:
For whom? Young people between 20 – 35 years, members of European CLC communities, of other Ignatian groups or just interested in our lifestyle.
Where? Centro Educativo Ignaziano ,Palermo, Sicily
When? August 22 – 31, 2007
The week will start on Wednesday evening of August 22 and end after Friday lunch, August 31, 2007.

Why to join?

We shall have a lot of free time to discover Palermo and its beautiful surroundings as well as for swimming and sunbathing. As it is CLC holidays we shall also have time for individual and common reflection and meditation, different workshops, times to exchange our experiences, everyday celebration, visits to places of social services, contact with marginalised persons, social evenings, and beach picnics, tasting of delicious Italian desserts and

The overall cost is 290 euros. To make participation possible for all, we propose the following financial, solidarity scheme for your fee. Details: <http://www.clc-europe.org/palermo2007.htm>
Flyer Palermo

Mariella/Germany, Roberta/Malta, Giovanni and Pierluigi/Italy, Martina/euroteam
Guiding Team of the holidays.
Contact: Martina Zupanic martina.zupanic@zg.htnet.hr

- Participation of Evelyne Maloret, Agnès Rausch, Monika Sander in Sibiu (Romania) to the **THIRD ECUMENICAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY (EEA3 – www.eea3.org)** in September 2007, organized by the European Bishops Conference.
- Meeting with **eurolinks** in Rome, at the Sisters' Convent, via XX Settembre (10 minutes walk from Termini central station)
From Thursday 18 October 2007 to Sunday 21 October, 13.00. We start with the dinner and end with lunch.
Leo, together with the Italian host community will organize this encounter. Our focus will be of course on the realities of the national communities in Europe but also ways for CLC to be present in the mission field of social justice.

So, to get cheap tickets, dear eurolinks, make your reservation already now!!!