



CLC EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY
Regensburg
Pentecost 2014

"COME AND SEE"
The call of Christ from the world
in which we live.

In a little over six weeks time delegates from our national communities in Europe will be gathering in Regensburg, Germany for our European Assembly. This is an opportunity for us as a European Region to reflect on the mandate from the World Assembly last year in Lebanon and to consolidate our understanding of the challenges it offers, so that we may respond wholeheartedly to the call of Christ to live more fully as authentic lay persons within our Ignatian vocation.

The final document of Lebanon reminded us that:

"The lay Ignatian body of CLC is apostolic, at the service of God's mission. As with our spirituality, so with our apostolate – it must be authentically lay. CLC members may be involved in personal apostolates, and CLC as a body may have an institutional presence or engage in international action. But the ground of all these levels of mission is the foundational call of every CLC member to live their Ignatian lay vocation in daily life. This means being contemplatively active and present in the home, in the family, at work, in civil society, in political and cultural life, living a simple lifestyle".

In our days together we will pray, reflect, share and seek to discern the way forward for us as a community in Europe, especially how we can commit ourselves more fully to "explore how we might engage with the contemporary world in terms of wisdom" (Fr Adolfo Nicolas in his address to the World Assembly 2013)

This will also be the occasion when we will elect the new Euro team, so we invite all our members in each of our national communities to pray with and for us as we come together at Pentecost, that the Spirit of God may inspire and guide each one, helping all of us to really listen to the invitation God extends to us.

O Lord, today your Spirit invites us to be present at the ever changing frontiers of faith and justice. Relying on the intercession of the Virgin Mary and St. Ignatius, we pray for those who participate in our European Assembly and for all members of CLC in our region as we seek to deepen our identity and act effectively as a Lay Apostolic Body in the Church. May your love and grace empower us along this journey. Amen

Wishing you all the peace and joy of this Easter season.

Evelyne Maloret

Encountering Jesus Christ, a risk, an eternal newness

Pope Francis invites all Christians to rediscover the joy of the Gospel through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ or at the very least an openness to letting Him encounter us. However, doesn't the story of the blind man in the gospel according to St John (9, 1-41) demonstrate that meeting Jesus is more trouble than it's worth?

I suggest (a) taking the time to read the passage in St John Gospel on the man born blind (9, 1-41), (b) meditating upon it with paragraph 1 and 11 of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation The Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*) in mind, and (c) to ask for the grace (in the way of Ignatius) to be healed from our blindness in order to better know Jesus, love and follow Him in his Paschal Mystery.

The verses **1-7 (of John 9)** talk of suffering and of the innumerable questions it raises in men. Jesus does not enter into any discussion but offers a concrete action, that allows us to discover at the heart of human suffering, the liberating force of God of which He is the instrument. Still we must learn to trust (believe) in Him when He ask us to "go wash yourself".

Reflection: what steps could help me to go beyond my questions in order to express my faith in Christ (fasting, reading, prayer, sacrament of reconciliation, gesture of solidarity)?

The blind man's environment completely changes at the verses **8-34 (of John 9)**. Before, his disability put him on the margin of people's conversations and preoccupations. He is now at the center of their curiosity, their questions, their indifference, their mistrust, their contempt even as far as to say their rejection... Because the truth of Jesus and his freedom are disconcerting!

Reflection: what are the habits and thoughts

- that prevent me from breaking with the tedious patterns in which I pretend to enclose Jesus;
- that prevent me from trusting in the "eternal newness of JC" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 11);
- that prevent me from entering into the gaze of JC to see the unseen, the invisible in the visible, the love of God in conjugal love, the Word in the Scriptures, the Kingdom of God in everyday life, the signs of the time in history, God at work in my daily life... ?

Jesus in **verses 35-38 (of Saint John 9)** helps the healed man to discover himself, faced with the "source" of everything: his healing, an un-hoped for liberation from his lot of defamation, suffering and humiliation! In short, Jesus is for him the start of a new life, of a new life that comes from God. As Pope Francis says: "*Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always "new"*" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 11).

Reflection: would I dare to give thanks to God for everything that has happened to me (throughout my life) following my encounter with Jesus Christ?... To ask Him for the strength to articulate "on the frontiers" the eternal newness of the Resurrection?

Pierre Meyers sj

Member of Euro Team