

Recommendations of the CLC European Assembly of Lille 2004 towards the National Communities, the Euroteam and Eurolinks

1. Thanksgiving

The National Communities of CLC in Europe assembled in Lille, 27 – 30 May 2004, offer thanks to God for the journey travelled since Celje, 1999. We are gratefully aware of the rich diversity of talents, resources, apostolates and patterns of community life among them. We affirm the continuing relevance of the priorities chosen at Celje, and the value of National and cross border initiatives taken in the spirit of Itaiaci, Celje and Nairobi.

2. A common call and shared responsibility

The call to become an apostolic community that shares responsibility for mission as discerned in Nairobi challenges us:

- ✓ to live more intensely the pattern of discerning, sending, supporting, and evaluating
- ✓ to encourage individual persons, groups and National Communities to work together in areas such as formation, the promotion of social justice and other common needs, priorities or projects.

3. Attitudes and dispositions

This Assembly reminds us of dispositions of the heart, attitudes and habits of thought and action that develop the spirit of community and encourage the sharing of responsibility consistent with Europe's diversity. This includes profound respect for the discerned choices made by the world and national communities, by groups and individual persons and a sharing of responsibility that these choices involve.

4. The Euroteam's Role

The Assembly reaffirms the role of the Euroteam as defined in Celje and described in the European CLC Operating Procedures:

The Euroteam is a service team of the CLC European structure. It shall act as a discernment and service community called to assist the European National Communities, in close cooperation with the CLC World ExCo.

5. National Communities in Formation and in Crisis

Consistent with this role, the Assembly requests the Euroteam to be especially alert to the needs of National Communities that are in the early stages of formation and others that are in crisis. Together with the World Exco, the Euroteam should help and support them in their needs, encourage other European National Communities to foster new Communities and to support ones in difficulty. They should cooperate in evaluating their progress.

6. Eurolinks

The Eurolinks play a vital role in fostering a greater awareness of other National Communities and of the World Community. They are among the most important bonds in the European region. Appointing a Eurolink is a valuable opportunity for a national community to discern, send, support and evaluate. We are aware of the difficulties confronting Eurolinks, and ask the new Euroteam to take the lead in preparing a "survival kit" to support Eurolinks, and to create opportunities for them to meet and work together. For their part, we encourage Eurolinks to invite members of their national Communities to participate in their work, in order that more members may experience the world community at work.

7. Growing together more closely: formation for mission

Appropriate formation will facilitate the transition from *being* a community of apostles to *becoming* an apostolic community.

The Assembly is gratefully aware of the many initiatives taken to form our members in the spiritual exercises, to prepare them for discernment and for the service of the Kingdom. It values initiatives that see National Communities sharing resources and experiences with others. It encourages them to orientate their formation more clearly to meet the needs of an Apostolic Community. The Euroteam should:

- ✓ encourage and facilitate cross-border initiatives;
- ✓ lead a European attempt to pool the formation experiences, competencies and resources and to place them at the service of the National Communities.

8. Communicating more effectively: the backbone of the community

The large number of initiatives across Europe, and the rich diversity of experiences present opportunities and challenges. The biggest challenge is to communicate more effectively, in order that these initiatives and experiences should build our communities, not exhaust them.

We ask the Euroteam to use all possible resources in order to:

- ✓ promote the discerned choices and initiatives originating from the World Community or within the European region;
- ✓ share good practices among National Communities; and
- ✓ strengthen the bonds of Community by sharing stories of God's Grace at work among us.

It is necessary to review the effectiveness of the ET's website, the Euro-Bulletin and other means of communication.

9. Working together: networking and team efforts

The Assembly recalls the priority given to networking at Celje. It is gratefully aware of the efforts made to undertake common projects by means of European-wide networks. It seems prudent to evaluate the results of those initiatives and to draw lessons from them. In carrying out their own tasks, the ET and Eurolinks should offer an example of networking and team efforts. They should support initiatives taken by individual persons and groups at the grass roots and National Communities to establish networks in the common priority areas. The National Communities are encouraged to take the lead in establishing such networks, and thereby to show ourselves to be an Apostolic Community at the service of the Kingdom.

May the Spirit of Pentecost; blowing like the wind through our Church and our Communities, give life to our efforts and let them bear abundant fruits.

Lille, 30th of May 2004