


<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROJECTS</b> <i>PROJETS</i> <b>PROYECTOS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Original : English</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY</b> <i>COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE</i> <i>CHRÉTIENNE</i> <b>COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA</b></p>
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Link between the Executive Council and the World CLC

## Annual ExCo Meeting 2006

Dear friends,

This February 10 - 19<sup>th</sup> World ExCo meeting, held in Rodízio, Portugal, a beautiful Jesuit Retreat house north of Lisbon, marked the midpoint of the current ExCo's mandate. We continued to work on the initiatives begun in Nairobi and began to look ahead to the next World CLC Assembly in 2008. Since we were not in Rome, Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach SJ, our World Ecclesiastical Assistant was unable to be with us. But we used the opportunity to meet with CLC Portugal's Regional and National Community Leaders, with the Jesuit Provincial and with Jesuits working with CLC.

### **Around the World**

Our meeting always begins with regional reports from each ExCo member on what has happened in the regions and national communities during the year. In 2005, regional meetings have taken place in Europe, Africa, North America and the Middle East. In addition major formation programs were held for both youth and adults in Latin America. The Asia Pacific Region has scheduled a regional meeting for July 13 to 17, 2006 in the Philippines.

The World ExCo supported the organization of the **All African Encounter**, including financial support from the World Community. The Encounter included one or two leaders and Ecclesial Assistants from nearly all of the African National Communities and communities in formation. The Regional meeting's focus was formation and developing a strategy for moving forward as a region.

The North American meeting focused on Formation as an apostolic community. Participants reflected together on the issue of water, the right to clean water, and the growing problem of the privatization of water around the world.

In the Middle East representatives from Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria met, agreeing to a closer collaboration and mutual support among the three countries.

Europe has the longest history as an organized region. This past year, Eurolinks (representatives from each National Community) met in Germany with the Euroteam, focusing on "Ignatian communication" and the formation survey realized previously.

In Latin America, two formation programs were offered this past year. The Mini Manila program for young adult leaders was held in Chile. CLC Chile welcomed participants from eight national communities. The Magis participants completed their three year comprehensive formation program with a week for conclusion and evaluation in Bogotá, Colombia, meeting at the same time as we met as ExCo. The group discussed ways to continue Magis as it has been very important in the formation journey of many current leaders, and in facilitating closer contact among national communities in Latin America.

### **Nairobi Initiatives:**

The **Formation Working Group** (Mari Carmen Mora de Peña, Sandra Chan, and Guy Maginzi) has gathered information and formation resources over the past year and will work toward a re-write of the second part of the Charism document. The first part of the document on the "Criteria of CLC formation" was revised after the Itaici assembly and published in 2001 as Progressio supplement N° 56. The document currently in preparation will focus on the "how" of formation. They will be recruiting two or three additional working group members and asking for National Community for their input on the document as it develops.

A working document on the **relationship between CLC and the Society of Jesus in the Church** will be ready for distribution to the National communities and our Jesuit colleagues within the next two months. It explores CLC as an association within the Church and our very particular relationship with the Society of Jesus. For this reason, both National Communities and Jesuit partners will be asked to reflect on the document and share the fruits of their reflections.

Also in preparation is a short document outlining the changing role of the Ecclesial Assistant in the National Community as it grows through different stages of maturity. The document is grounded in the Appendix to the Recommendations from the Nairobi Assembly "CLC - Society of Jesus Collaboration" and is being pulled together by Alberto Brito, S.J., our Vice-ecclesial Assistant, from the work done by Ecclesial Assistants in regional meetings around the world.

The **Leadership Working Group** (Levi Matseshe, Rita El Ramy, and Lois Campbell) will coordinate a CLC Leadership Formation Workshop in Rome from November 25 to December 2, 2006. Participants will work together to develop resource materials and formats for leadership development in the National Communities and Regions. The course will focus on leadership skills to support our national and regional communities becoming an apostolic body.

The **Apostolic Initiative working group** (Leah Michaud, Chris Micallef and Daniela Frank) is gathering examples of Apostolic Initiatives in CLC so that we can share these stories with the world community. Please email information to them or the Secretariat if you want to share a story. ExCo email addresses can be found on the Website.

The November 2005 letter from Daniela Frank as president asked for information on **membership and commitment** processes in National Communities. Up to our meeting, we heard from 27 National Communities who described the current situation of their

community and how commitment is prepared for and celebrated. The National leaders shared some common struggles related to membership and commitment as well as some helpful processes to call members to full commitment. A comprehensive summary of the responses received will be prepared over the next few months. If your national community has not responded to the letter, please still do so, as this information is very important for our work. The Secretariat can provide a copy of the letter and questions should you need them. Evidently, membership and commitment is a concern for many of our communities. Therefore, a reflection group of the ExCo will follow-up this important issue of "being in CLC and being CLC".

**Finances** continue to be a struggle for the World Community. During 2005 a number of National Communities paid past dues. In addition several Communities and members continue to be very generous with additional gifts. Nonetheless, we again were forced to approve a budget that requires a significant increase in contributions to balance it. During the next weeks, we will send a more extensive finance letter to all national leaders. Please look for opportunities to support the World Community. Any donation is most welcome!

#### **Some other concerns:**

\* For the **World Assembly 2008**, we have received invitations from Portugal and Lebanon. With both national communities, we are in close contact to clarify some remaining questions. Until July this year, a final decision on the place and date will be taken.

\* **Communication:** During 2006, we will prepare a new concept for our Website. We will also reflect on possibilities to develop PROGRESSIO as a more effective means of communications of our World Community.

\* The New York NGO Working group has started to publish an e-mail "CLC NGO Bulletin" with useful links to UN and NGO related information, especially related to the main focuses of our **NGO working groups** in New York and Geneva, "water" and "migration". To date, 18 national communities have nominated their national NGO contact, who will facilitate the information flow between the two NGO groups and the grassroots experiences in CLC. For those who did not yet name a contact person, please do so!

\* In 2007, CLC will celebrate the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our General Principles**, approved (in their first version) by the World Assembly Oct 21, 1967, and confirmed by the Holy See on March 25, 1968. On this occasion, we will publish a PROGRESSIO Supplement looking back on the 40 years of our development of CLC. Further activities have not yet been planned. Please inform the World Secretariat (Guy Maginzi, e-mail: [exsec@cvx-clc.net](mailto:exsec@cvx-clc.net)) of any celebrations or special actions you might foresee.

\* The next **World Social Forum** will be held in Nairobi (Kenya) in January 2007. CLC has had a presence both locally and from the larger World Community at the last two forums in Mumbai (India) and Porto Alegre (Brazil). For Nairobi, CLC is coordinating with the Society of Jesus ways of being present and possibly providing some inputs during the Forum. We would be very grateful to be informed at the World Secretariat about CLCers who plan to participate in Nairobi to facilitate coordination.

\* The **Society of Jesus** has started to prepare its next **General Congregation** for the beginning of 2008. The process includes congregations in all the Jesuit provinces during the next ten months. As the Jesuit - lay collaboration will be an important issue; we strongly encourage CLC national communities to foster contacts with the Jesuits in their regions. The working document on the "Relationship between CLC and the Society of Jesus in the Church" to be published in the next few months, might invite deepening the dialogue and collaboration between Jesuits and CLC.

\* We received an invitation from the Pontifical Council for a delegation of three to participate in the **Second World Congress of Church Movements and New Religious Communities** from May 30 to June 2. On June 3, at 16:00 hrs., our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. will meet members and friends of these movements and associations at St. Peter's Square. A strong presence of CLC would be most welcome! Thus, if you have a chance to be in Rome for Pentecost, please join us!

Please receive this brief report as an attempt to share the important movements and decisions of our time together. As always, we ask you to distribute this *Projects* to your National Community. We also invite you to connect with any ExCo member or the World Secretariat to further explore the issues summarized here.

United in our prayers and service as one apostolic community,  
In the name of the World ExCo

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