

<p style="text-align: center;">PROJECTS PROJETS PROYECTOS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Original : French</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA</p>
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No. 130, September 2005

Link between the Executive Council and the World CLC

World CLC day - 20 March 2006

Friends in the Lord

The official opening of the Ignatian jubilee year will take place at Navarra in Spain in less than a month on the 3 December, the day the Church celebrates throughout the world the feast of St Francis Xavier. For the occasion, Fr Kolvenbach, our World Ecclesiastical Assistant, has sent us a letter which the Executive Council has decided to use as the core for this edition of *Projects*.

This jubilee year invites us to deepen our Ignatian roots, to celebrate with our Jesuit brothers our common heritage, and to consider the inspiration that St Ignatius, Saint Francis Xavier and the Blessed Pierre Favre can bring to our CLC journey and our work together with the Society of Jesus. It is within the context of this triple invitation that the World ExCo strongly encourages your communities to join jubilee activities of the Jesuits in your country. We also invite you to intensify in 2006, the contacts with the Jesuits in order to deepen our common ignatian roots and our partnership. In this way, the Ignatian jubilee will introduce CLC to its own jubilee in 2007, as we will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of General Principles adopted in 1967 by the General Assembly of the Federation of Marian Congregations held in Rome.

CLC, friends in the Lord

The friendship of Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre was centred on Christ. Their friendship owed everything to their personal encounter with the Lord, and in that experience each one of them was moved to present to the Church and the world, according to their particular talent and personality, the first experiences of Ignatian spirituality.

Even in our time, those who like us follow in their footsteps will benefit by (re)discovering these friends in the Lord. The World ExCo invites you to make the best use of materials produced and events organized in 2006, to deepen our understanding of these three Jesuits. Certainly, it would be good to (re)discover each one of them, with perhaps a particular attention to Pierre Favre, the least known of the three. It is also important to ponder on their *friendship in the Lord*, so that we nourish our own relationship with the Lord. With them, we can deepen our Ignatian roots and strengthen the bonds of friendship in the Lord within our community.

CLC and Jesuits, friends in the Lord

Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre did not keep the Ignatian spirituality just for the Jesuits. They wanted lay people to *feel* and *taste* the experience of the Love of God that the Spiritual Exercises offer. That is why we want to express our gratitude for this common inheritance and to celebrate with the Society of Jesus. We recognise in this common treasure, the foundations of the special partnership, desired and acknowledged by our two bodies. Moreover, this jubilee gives us the opportunity to explore and experiment new avenues to always improve this partnership. In this way, we can satisfy the duty of loyalty we owe to the *magis*. Without doubt, this the sort of friendship in the Lord that Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre would wish for the CLC and the Society of Jesus.

Friends in the Lord, to serve

The service to the Church and the world is consubstantial with genuine friendship in the Lord. That is why our friendship within CLC, as well as that of the CLC with the Society of Jesus, has the effect of transforming us in women and men 'for the others'. It is in the same spirit that we detect one of the strong intuitions we received at our last World Assembly: to develop from a community of apostles into an apostolic community. It is fortunate that, at a time when we are trying steadfastly to give substance to this vision, our Ecclesiastical Assistant invites us to look closely at Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre. Not only will the example of their lives renew and confirm our motivation, but, like them, we shall let ourselves be touched, transformed and sent on mission by the Love of the Resurrected Christ.

Guy Maginzi,
Executive Secretary.



Rome, 4 November 2005

To the World Christian Life Community:

It is a real joy to share with all the members of the Christian Life Community the celebration of the birth of Saint Ignatius into heaven 450 years ago, and the birth into the world of Saint Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber exactly five centuries ago. Nearly everywhere in the world Jesuits are preparing to celebrate these first companions with all sorts of festivities and initiatives. Above all we have a great desire to draw forth a renewal of apostolic momentum from this source of spirituality which we hold in common with the CLC almost from our first origins. Even today the holiness of these first three Jesuits marks our life and yours.

Indeed it was as a lay person that Ignatius, the pilgrim, began to share the experience of the Spiritual Exercises as an authentic way to God, with so many lay people whom he met along the road. Thanks to this venture of Ignatius, so many men and women have discovered what the Lord wanted for them and what He wishes to build with them for the true life of the world. The CLC and the Jesuits are well aware that the Spiritual Exercises continue to enrich their communities with an undeniable spiritual force and with the gift of prayerful discernment to answer every time afresh the questions put by Ignatius: what have I done for Christ, what am I doing for Christ, what must I do for Christ?

This is where Saint Francis Xavier comes into the picture. When making the Spiritual Exercises with Ignatius, he did not remain deaf to the call of this Lord who went from town to town, from house to house, to announce the Good News. Seeing Francis Xavier, in his turn, crossing the roads of Asia as far as the gates of China, we are urged, personally and as a community, to continue the mission of the Lord among the men and women of our time who live around or with us. Let us thank the Lord that the CLC has never abandoned a missionary responsibility at the heart of everyday life, in work and leisure, in joys and sorrows, in the celebration of our faith and in the promotion of peace and justice; on the contrary it has become more aware of this responsibility.

This is where we will meet Blessed Peter Faber, perhaps less known by us but greatly appreciated by Ignatius who considered him to be the greatest expert in the Spiritual Exercises. Francis Xavier valued him as a great friend. When we see Peter Faber crossing the Europe of his day we discover the prime importance of spiritual accompaniment, person to person, heart to heart. When visiting a town or a village he looked for personal contact, meeting in the Lord, in order to fulfil the apostolic desire which Ignatius expressed as “helping people” to personally encounter this Lord who has called them into life and who will be there to welcome them for ever in a new heaven and a new earth. Our culture has made us very sensitive to everything which is visible and spectacular. It takes courage to believe in the apostolic fruitfulness of the mission of encounter and sharing, listening and advising, accompanying and “conversing” as the first Jesuits expressed themselves. However this is where true Christian life can grow and become the communion of the Church.

Without doubt, CLC and the Society of Jesus, in the spirit of Ignatius, Francis and Peter Faber, are living in a communion of prayer and work. However we must thank the Lord of the vineyard for the grace which is proper to the CLC. It is as “*Christi fideles laici*”, fully integrated into lay life, that they are given the responsibility of announcing the good news to all their neighbours and those close to them. It is a grace of the Church of our day to see the flowering of so many church based movements: strengthened by a secular experience, the CLC takes its full place within this birth of so many spiritual and apostolic forms within which the vocation and mission of Christian lay faithful express themselves. Saint Ignatius never wanted to found a third order, but already in his time, he favoured associations of the faithful who, themselves, wanted to live the experience of the Spiritual Exercises and to give to that a communitarian form according to the needs of the Church in the world.

On the threshold of the jubilee year, which will begin on 3rd December in Javier in Navarre, I was happy to share with all of you how the example of Saint Ignatius, Saint Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber continues to inspire the CLC and the Jesuits. I thank you for your union in the joy of this common celebration “*ad maiorem Dei gloriam*”.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.
Superior General