



Link between the Executive Council and the World Christian Life Community



Echoes from Lebanon 2013

From our Roots to the Frontiers

This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him (Mk 9:7)

Dear sisters and brothers in CLC,

Warm greetings! The World Community met for its General Assembly at Beirut, Lebanon, from 30 July to 08 August 2013. We contemplated the transfigured Christ and heard the voice of the Father expressing his deep love for the Son and all his followers. We heard the call of Jesus and reflected on our identity, vocation and mission to discern how best to follow him on his journey to the frontiers. There were 66 national communities present, three of whom (Botswana, Guatemala and Lithuania) received full incorporation into the world community.

As a community gathered in full, we experienced our unity with the Church in celebrating the Year of Faith. With joy and gratitude, we reflected on the richness of our roots as we celebrate 450 years of Lay Ignatian communities and responded to the call to move towards the frontiers. We had opted to hold our Assembly in Lebanon – a land rich in culture, history and faith, but also troubled with great pain and upheavals. Right through the preparation process, we did face a number of obstacles which raised questions about the feasibility of coming to Lebanon. We realize however that it was indeed the Lord who inspired us to take this decision and who enabled us to bring it to completion. Our presence in this region has left us with a stronger commitment to work for justice and peace in the Middle East.

This Assembly helped us to recognize the gifts we have received as a community during the past five years. It was a time to hearken to the Spirit who calls us, as a Lay Ignatian Community in the Church, to respond to the needs of the day in collaboration with the Society of Jesus and all persons of good will. This Assembly also enabled us to deepen the process of DSSE as lived out in all areas of CLC life. This is seen in the processes at the local and national levels and also in the efforts at regional and international levels which have been recognized since Fatima as prophetic challenges in our journey as an apostolic body.

The challenge today is even greater. Taking our roots seriously, we wish to honour our identity, our foundational documents and the concrete experiences of men and women who offer their lives in service of CLC. We also wish to recognize Christ incarnate in our midst and to continue committing ourselves to the greater and more universal good. Herein lies the new call of our frontiers. At this Assembly, we recognized the frontiers of Globalization & Poverty, Family and Ecology. From the deliberations of the Assembly, Youth emerged as another frontier.

Our World Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas SJ helped us gain a deeper perspective on our work at the frontiers. He reminded us that Pope Francis has asked the Church to go out and encounter Christ at the periphery while at the same time continuing the work of reflection and discernment at the centre. This reflection will enable us to bring depth and wisdom to our work at the frontiers. We are faced with the challenge of the globalization of superficiality. How can CLC respond effectively to this challenge?

So then, “What does it mean to be an Apostolic Body that is both Ignatian and Lay?” We wish to deepen this identity, offering a space for men and women to discover meaning in life. We feel called to seriously discern the different areas of Mission – daily life, apostolic services, institutional work and international actions. The strength of our community lies in properly travelling this path, always seeking inner freedom and willingness to follow Christ more closely.

It is important that this issue of *Projects* be read in conjunction with the final document of the Assembly (which has already been sent to national communities). We invite each and every member of CLC to pray and discern on what this call of the Spirit means for the future. This first step will be a time of Listening. The World ExCo will then give certain guidelines to move into Discernment which in turn will lead to Action. In the coming months you will receive Progressio Supplements which cover the process and fruits of the Assembly. Furthermore, World CLC Day in 2014 will be dedicated to gratitude for and discernment on the graces of the Assembly.

The new ExCo will meet in Rome in February 2014 to outline the next steps forward. At this moment we offer our heartfelt thanks to those who have served the world community on the previous ExCo. The composition of the new ExCo is as follows

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| President | Mauricio Lopez (Mexico) |
| Vice President | Edel Churu (Kenya) |
| Secretary | Najat Sayegh (Lebanon) |
| Consultor | Denis Dobbstein (Belgium) |
| Consultor | Chris Hogan (Australia) |
| Consultor | Ann Marie Brennan (United States) |
| Consultor | Josephine Shamwana-Lungu (Zambia) |
| Executive Secretary | Franklin Ibañez (Peru) |
| | Sofia Montanez (Columbia) |
| Ecclesiastical Assistant | Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J. |
| Vice E.A | Fr. Luke Rodrigues, S.J. |

In a recent homily, Pope Francis reminded us that the Virgin Mary reflects the ideal attitude of a disciple through Listening, Discernment and Action. May the Lord grant us that freedom and commitment of Mary so that our service to the Church and world may be deep and transformative.

Mauricio López
President

Daniela Frank
Former President