



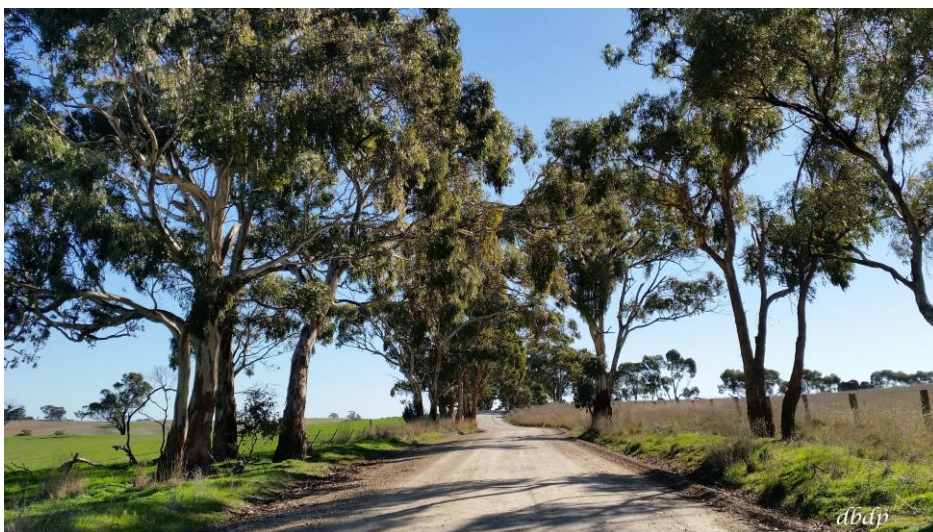
## REFLECTION 2: Deepening the Gift of CLC through the invitation of Pope Francis

**The theme:** "CLC, a gift for the Church and the world"

**Check In:** Share in a word, a phrase, or an image how you are at this moment.

**Grace:** We desire greater depth and integration in the living out of our CLC charism in the world today.

**Music:** *Open my Eyes* by Jesse Manibusan



**Opening Prayer:**

*A Prayer for our Earth*  
by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace

**Scripture:** (Ephesians 3:20) “Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”

The context of the passage: We take inspiration from Pope Francis who invites us to a new vision, depth and experience of contemporary Catholicism.

### 1. Evangelisation and Renewal- *Evangelii Gaudium*

The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him “to go forth”. Abraham received the call to set out for a new land, Moses heard God’s call: “Go, I send you” and led the people towards the promised land. To Jeremiah God says: “To all whom I send you, you shall go”. In our day Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples” echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church’s mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth”. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel. (#20)

### 2. Ecology, justice, and poverty – *Laudato Si’*

When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.... We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (#139)

### 3. Family – *Amoris Laetitia*

This effort calls for missionary conversion by everyone in the Church, that is, one that is not content to proclaim a merely theoretical message without connection to people’s real problems”. Pastoral care for families “needs to make it clear that the Gospel of the family responds to the deepest expectations of the human person: a response to each one’s dignity and fulfilment in reciprocity, communion and fruit- fulness. This consists not merely in presenting a set of rules, but in proposing values that are clearly needed today, even in the most secularizedof countries”. (#201)

### 4. Youth- from a homily of Pope Francis

Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world. Young people are a powerful engine for the Church and for society. (7/24/13, Aparecida)

#### **Questions for quiet reflection:**

- What is my initial response to Pope Francis’ call to conversion? What am I drawn to?
- How could these suggestions and appeals be heard and received by CLC, a Lay Ignatian Apostolic Community?
- How is Pope Francis’ invitation challenging CLC at all levels? (local, regional, national)

#### **Sharing/ Response**

**Prayer:** We trust in all that has already been given to us, to live it fully as part and parcel of our community, spirituality and apostolic vocation, and to give it to the world. From those to whom much has been given, much will be asked. And CLC has received a lot ... a whole lot. Let us take what we have received into the world with more courage and bravery.

## **Evaluation**

**Preparation for Meeting 3:** If you were drawn to any of the prompts, you might like to read it and reflect on what further action you or your group might consider.