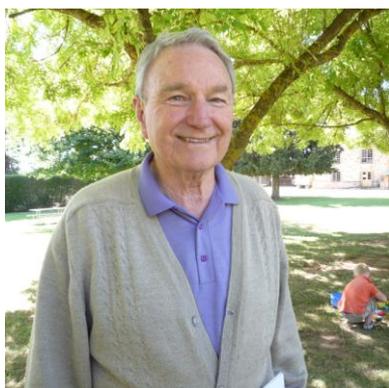




**Christian Life Community**  
Australia

## TRIBUTE TO

### FR NOEL BRADFORD SJ



When pondering on behalf of CLC South Australia as to what we want to say to Fr Noel Bradford SJ as he journeys to another phase of his life, retirement, I am left with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for a beautiful and humble man.

I often tell others Fr Noel is one of the most gentle, wise and good people I have ever met. He is known and loved by many for the way he lives the spirit of Jesus in his life. He treats all with dignity and respect. He is always available in his unique quiet supportive way and lets heart rule over intellect to bring the spirit of love to the midst of those everyday experiences.

I have known Fr Noel through CLC for over 25 years and through my involvement in the Sevenhill Parish where Fr Noel

has lived and worked for the last 14 years. Fr Noel has the ability to make everyone feel accepted and valued, he doesn't place judgement and quietly encourages people to strive for getting in touch with their inner being. For those on the edge of religion he is graciously inclusive.

CLC started in Australia after Fr Noel Bradford SJ and Maxine Hogan returned from a CLC world Assembly in Manila. Maxine began the first group in South Australia in 1976 and together with Fr Noel they both quietly began to grow this Ignatian spiritual opportunity for lay people across Australia.

Fr Noel has always had an understanding of the essential charism of CLC and has shown wisdom to impart this knowledge of CLC process. He has always had very good recollection of CLC development around the world and that has been a wonderful gift for those he has worked closely with to deepen understandings of Ignatian Spirituality and how to live this in the context of Christian Life Communities.

On behalf of CLC South Australia and all those who have known Fr Noel through CLC we would like to say a huge thank you and God's Blessings for your retirement in 2012. We look forward to hearing news and especially hope you find more time to enjoy going to the cricket and catching up on things for yourself.

Our Blessings,  
**Judy Foster**  
Chairperson SA EXCO

## Middleton guides training weekend

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March 2012

We were 12 CLC members of which 7 were guides to enjoy a spiritually nourishing and community-building weekend at Middleton. On Friday night and Saturday, Rachel McLoughlin talked about the life of Ignatius and his "Principle and Foundation." We allowed ourselves to revel in the feeling of God's love for each of us; calling us by name.

*".....(your name),The goal of your life is to live with me forever.*

*I gave you life because I love you.*

*Your response of love*

*Allows my life to flow into you without limit."*

In this sacred ground of Middleton Jesuit house, we "drank deep from spiritual worlds". But on Sunday morning, it was time for CLC dreaming when we looked at challenges facing guides. Some were:

*1 How do we deal with group members at different spiritual stages and with different levels of desire?*

*2 How do we provide opportunities for spiritual direction when the costs are so high?*

*3 How do we make CLC documents more accessible when their language – CLC speak – can be so much a barrier?*

*4 How do we bring the outside world into our group which can become so comfortable and insular?*

These questions were not all answered: but we felt the Holy Spirit stirring us up in the joys of sharing and the confidence that it was all in the hands of God . We grew in knowledge and understanding of the joys and difficulties of being a guide. The signs of growth in our

groups prompted hope in our hearts. We felt that the deep connection which has been growing within the guiding community over the last 3 training weekends and reflection days is building a stronger foundation for our wider SA community. In our evaluation, we reflected on the enrichment and delight of community life over 3 days, in its spiritual and social dimensions. All were so grateful for Rachel's wisdom and faith and her talent in communicating them to us.



*With Father Peter Sheedy after 6pm mass at Victor Harbor*

## **CLC Retreat at Sevenhill**

On the weekend of May 4-6 nineteen members of South Australia's CLC movement and four Spiritual Directors attended the annual CLC retreat at Sevenhill Retreat House, Sevenhill. The weather was very kind to us, with glorious autumn sunsets, clear days and brisk air – perfect for walking and contemplating on where we are on our CLC journey.

The Retreat was led by Rachel McLoughlin, assisted by Anne Maloney, Deidre Mc Innerney and Frances from Queensland. Rachel's gentle leadership and guidance through the introductory stages of the Spiritual Exercises provided a wonderful opportunity for us to experience and deepen our understanding of the Ignatian way. The idea of the Exercises can seem a little daunting, but the resources used by Rachel (shortly to be published in Michael Hansen's new book), provided a clear and simple spiritual framework for us to

begin to connect in beautiful ways with God. I especially loved the emphasis on tapping into our physical senses in prayer. We were led by Rachel in a meditative exercise, where we first imagined breathing in life from plants and trees around us, which then led into "Breathing in the Creator" as we imagined the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing into us as we breathe out to nurture and renew others. This was a powerful way in which to feel God's breath in us and "the relationship between creature and Creator, God and myself".

We also explored the Gifts and the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Patience, Kindness, Peace, Gentleness and Generosity. We were asked to consider where these gifts are present in our

own lives right now – where they are absent and to develop the habit of choosing one Gift each day and trying to live it in our relationships, work and homes.



Being together in silence was an integral part of the Retreat, but we were all encouraged to meet with one of the four Spiritual Directors for individual spiritual direction. Many people took advantage of this opportunity to speak at a very personal level about our own journeys and the challenges and rewards of being a part of the CLC community.

Whenever I drive into the Jesuit property at Sevenhill it always feels like a lovely little homecoming, and this Retreat was no exception. Thank you to all who made it a very special time: the Jesuit community for welcoming and nurturing us over the weekend, Father Michael Ryan's hospitality and very personal Mass on Saturday, all the Spiritual Directors, the open sharing of all retreatants, Liz and Terri who drove all the way from Millicent and last, but never least, the wonderful cook who provided delicious and sustaining meals for us all.

**June Duffy**  
**The Pilgrims CLC group**

## **Temporary and Permanent commitment**

I am now very glad I took part in the national colloquy on commitment, but it has been quite a journey! There has been a lot of reading and rereading to get my head around the preparation material, a lot of reflection and some wonderful meetings.

The two points that have stayed with me and been most helpful are – "CLC is a colouration of baptism" and the comparison of growth in CLC to growth and maturation of a relationship such as marriage, with attraction leading to increasing knowledge and involvement, the acceptance of the whole person and the acceptance of a certain responsibility.

I have come to the conclusion that commitment in CLC is very simple. It is the fruit of the discernment that CLC is the best place to live out one's baptism in the love and service of Christ. As a consequence, one accepts the totality of CLC as a world community of communities united by the one charism and feels a sense of responsibility to support and serve CLC according to one's life circumstances and talents.

Some members may choose to make a formal declaration of this commitment before the community because they feel that this will strengthen their commitment and help them to live out their CLC vocation. The making of a formal commitment is in no way a permanent vow or binding promise. It is simply a statement of a present personal conviction and intention.

We often in Australia have a suspicion of formalities and 'tall poppies', but the making of a formal commitment does not indicate a commitment which is superior in degree or in quality to that of those who prefer their commitment to remain informal. It is a personal choice made for personal reasons. CLC members remain equals – brothers and sisters in the family of Jesus.

**Louise Howell**

## **My understanding of commitment to CLC**

I had never really pondered over the meaning of my baptism before the colloquy. I suppose I took it for granted as a born and bred catholic. Now I understand it as a covenant God made with me through my parents. God has called me throughout my life through my upbringing and my later belonging to Faith and Life in Mauritius: this was my first response as a fully fledged adult to God's invitation to say yes to following Him.

Having studied the texts for the colloquy, I see now how this invitation to a formal commitment is another loving response to God who has called me first and keeps calling. This is a new Yes in the spirit of Mary's yes. I trust in the Spirit for why am I here, in CLC, in Adelaide? I know how the Spirit works, so I trust one more time.

I want to formalize my choice of this particular community of Christians, this body that has given me so much and helped me deepen my faith. This is the body where I want to live my following of Christ. I have a strong sense of belonging to that body. It is bigger than my little self and has been life giving to me over a period of 15 years. I see CLC as a cell of the body of Christ, of Christians who have in common the experience of the Spiritual exercises and who try to live the Gospel according to our founder, Ignatius. I am bound and connected to CLC members at all levels and recognise my inter dependency. This is where we need to work at becoming like brothers and sisters in the Lord. I identify with CLC; this is who I am, this is how I want to live. I accept the GPs, the Charism and want to live a CLC way of life. This body is where the Spirit works in a particular way that suits my temperament and faith.

I see my CLC vocation as a journey, a process, a relationship with its highs and lows. But I want to have a new vision with this commitment: focus on the positives and the qualities and ride the negatives. I see this commitment as a promise, a hope in the future of the church. By proclaiming my identification with the CLC community and way of life, I ask the community to help me be faithful to my Yes, knowing that I will be supported.

This commitment is an opportunity for a renewal of faith and a release of new energy that can revitalize our movement. I see us giving more of ourselves, being free and available for service, having a greater sense of responsibility and of mission. The words we will say in the midst of our community will be a visible sign of what we have discerned in our hearts and are already living.

**Jocelyne Randabel-Williamson**

## **SA celebrates World CLC day**

To celebrate World CLC Day 2012, 15 of us gathered at the Loyola Spirituality Centre in Norwood on the evening of Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Father Joe Dooley joined us to celebrate the Mass of the Annunciation. His words on Mary's

courageous 'yes' touched us all. Next we read and discussed in groups of three The Projects 150 document on '*The Meaning of CLC Membership*', attempting to summarise the article in 5 main points or share 3 points that spoke to our CLC group experience. Following this we viewed an inspirational video from the CVX CLC website "Answering Some Calls – Some CLC Works" which highlighted the CLC apostolic works in 8 countries across the globe. How uplifting it was to see the 'discern, support and send' model active in the world. Next we were given time for personal reflection on "My Life: living my apostolic call and how CLC has affected that". This was followed by a rich sharing time as each of us offered a glimpse of the significant ways that CLC is helping us live our lives for Christ. We finished our evening with an evaluation followed by supper and friendly conversations.

*A comment on the evening 'I was delighted to have Kushia, whom I have heard of and prayed for over the years, join us while visiting from the Pitjantjatjara Lands and to have Chris Hogan back from Rome and Margaret Tang join us from Singapore. It imbued our group with an international flavour that so befits the celebration of World CLC Day. ( Paris).*



## Projects 151 News from Rome

Dear CLC friends,

Recently, Projects 151 was distributed to CLC members. It contained news from CLC Rome following its February Exco meeting. I mention it because it contains a comprehensive summary of the many important matters CLC is addressing at the moment. A few of the items include:

- **The immanence of our forthcoming World Assembly 2013:** This event is to take place in Lebanon with the unique circumstances in place and time that it presents. The theme is “From our Roots to the Frontiers”. Preparations have now begun and CLC members are invited to participate in the discernment and preparation processes involved.
- **The 450th anniversary of CLC and Ignatian Lay communities:** This

anniversary takes place next year. It provides a great opportunity for us to review our 450 year history, our

collaboration with the Society of Jesus, and where the Holy Spirit might be drawing us in the future. All are invited to join in this celebration. Possible Australian events are being considered now.

- **Progress with the Rome “Apartment Project”:** Progress has been very good. About €250,000 of the target of \$340,000 has been reached with the balance being provided by an interest free loan. Australia made a significant contribution being about €23,000 in donations and €50,000 as an interest free loan for which the CLC world community is very grateful. With this modest nearby apartment, CLC now stands to save €17-19,000 per annum in rent – this will go to apostolic projects around the world. All this is a significant sign of CLC growth, maturation, generosity and financial co-responsibility.
- **Further development of our Advocacy and Networking initiative:** CLC

has had an identity as an NGO for some years. Advocacy is part of the apostolic process of service, accompaniment and advocacy. Learning to use this status, firstly in our own right, but also in collaboration with the Society of Jesus and other Ignatian inspired organisations, takes time and considerable skill. Projects 151 elaborates on progress being made in various forums on such matters ecology and migration. Australia will have the opportunity to contribute to these projects. Read more about this in Projects 151.(on the Australian CLC website )

- **Reports of CLC life and spirit being lived around the world:** Reports of CLC activities around the world are quite inspiring. Of special interest is the report on the CLC “All African Regional Assembly” held recently in Cameroon. This event is helpful preparation for the Pan-African Congress of the Catholic Laity in September (in which CLC will be involved) being sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL). The Catholic faith is growing considerably in Africa.

Projects 151 also includes news about our improving financial

situation and management, developments in Communications, updating our Standing Orders (to be posted soon on the CLC (Rome) website), and meetings with Cardinal Stanislaw Rilko (PCL) and Fr Nicolás SJ, General of the Society of Jesus and World Ecclesial Assistant of CLC. I urge you to read this issue of Projects. Guides might make a special effort to encourage this and discussion of it at your CLC meetings.

With blessings and prayers for our forthcoming Australian Assembly.

**Chris Hogan**

### **Important dates:**

**Visit of the World Vice-Ecclesial assistant: Fr Luke Rodrigues SJ**

When: Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup>  
7.30-9.30

Where: Norwood Parish Hall

**Reflection day for guides/Keen members:**

***Growing in our understanding of the Spiritual Exercises***

September 16<sup>th</sup>

**End of Year Gathering:**  
November 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday evening

## **Ignatius Principle and Foundation**

*(Insert Your name).....*

The goal of your life is to live with me forever.

I gave you life because I love you.

Your response of love allows my life to flow into you without limit.

All things in this world are gifts, presented to you so that you can know me more easily and return your love to me more readily.

I want you to appreciate and use all my gifts insofar as they help you to develop as a loving person.

But if any of my gifts become the centre of your life, they displace me and so hinder your growth toward your goal.

In everyday life, then you must hold yourself in balance before all my created gifts insofar as you have a choice and aren't bound by some obligation.

You should not fix your desire on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure and a long life or a short one.

For everything has the potential of calling forth in you a deeper response to your life in me.

Your only desire and one choice should be this: to want and

choose what better leads to my deepening my life in you.

## **Aboriginal Our Father**

Our Father who are in heaven  
May we talk about your name  
in a good way  
May you be boss of our lives  
May we follow your feeling here  
As they do above  
Give us bread today  
We have hurt your feelings, we  
feel sorry  
Others have hurt our feelings,  
we feel sorry for them  
Stop us from doing wrong  
Save us all from the evil one.

## **Hail Mary**

Hello Mary,  
You are truly good in your heart  
You are with the Lord  
Of all women, you are truly  
good  
Good is your son Jesus  
Pray for us when we have done  
wrong  
Right now and when we fall  
down.

