World Christian Life Community Day.

“Christian hope, nourished by the light of Christ, makes the resurrection and life shine even in the world’s darkest nights.” (Pope Francis)

Dear World Community:

Happy World CLC Day! On March 25th each year, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, CLC celebrates the World CLC Day. Let us give thanks to God for so much good received throughout our history, and particularly, in what we have experienced in the last year.

The World ExCo, through Projects N°173 - Young people are an indispensable part of the CLC apostolic body, sent you our proposal so that, as a community, you can reflect on and prepare the celebration of this day. We know that several communities in different parts of the world, respecting the different measures taken in their country because of the Coronavirus outbreak, have made the decision to cancel meetings and face-to-face celebrations.

Our world is living a particular time and many of us are called to be at home to #StoptheSpread to help slow down the exponential increase of contagion. It is a time when we find ourselves more "isolated" in a hyper-connected world. With the possibility of turning this "desert" into an opportunity. An opportunity to meet from the deep silence of prayer, to learn, to read, to share with the family, to live mercy, charity, the encounter with the Lord. It is an opportunity to be creative in our desire to deepen, to share and to go out that we express in Buenos Aires. In many places, where the situation is particularly difficult at this time, different initiatives are being shared to stay together, to pray, to have a moment of community, to give encouragement or simply to accompany each other-especially those who may feel more alone.

The God in whom we believe, who became incarnate and was born of Mary, accompanies our journey. He lives in us and through many, today he makes himself present by caring for others, being in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. To them we want to extend our gratitude and our support.

Each national, regional or local community will see how it can best celebrate the World CLC Day. We, from the World ExCo, would like to invite you to prepare to celebrate it as ONE world community, united in prayer. There, before the Lord, we ask ourselves: How can we create renewed, innovative and attractive experiences of Ignatian discernment and encounter with Jesus for and with young people?
May this time we are living, in the framework of Lent, be a time for God to continue doing, in us and with us, great things.

Denis DOBBELSTEIN • Ann Marie BRENNAN • Catherine WAIYAKI
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Rome, 23rd March 2020

(Original : Spanish)

And so, without having foreseen it, all our urgencies, the full agenda, the scheduled activities, the essential... we drop it.

And we enter a desert where perhaps the truth awaits us that we never have time for.

And Lent is beginning to be more so.

*Poem by José María Rodríguez Olaizola S.J. (original Spanish version, translation by the Secretariat)