



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY  
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE  
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA

## Convocation of the 18<sup>th</sup> CLC General Assembly.

*“We commit ourselves to act at the four frontiers  
wherever our desire and discernment lead us.”*  
(Final Document, Lebanon General Assembly 2013)

*“We journeyed together desiring greater depth and integration  
in the living out of our CLC charism in the world today,  
and the Lord called us to DEEPEN, SHARE, and GO FORTH.”*  
(Final Document, Buenos Aires General Assembly 2018)

## Convocation of the CLC General Assembly Amiens, 3 August to 12 August 2023

On the 31st of October of last year, the CLC World Executive Council made public a firm decision: that of holding the next World Assembly in **Amiens** (France). In the same mail, the Council shared a wish: that of holding the Assembly in 2023, thus respecting the quinquennial rhythm of the assemblies.

Today, in the name of the Executive Council, I have the immense pleasure to formally convene the **CLC General Assembly**<sup>1</sup>. It is to take place from the **3rd to the 12th of August 2023**<sup>2</sup>.

With this present convocation, we express both our will and our hope. The pandemic, economic crises, and wars have each shaken the world with a dramatic intensity. We cannot and do not want to project ourselves as if we have been sheltered from these realities. While this state of mind does involve the material preparation of the event, on one level, more fundamentally it is the cultivation of an essential attitude to value and cherish. An attitude of openness and trust. Let us keep our hearts open to the suffering of the world. Let us come together in Amiens with a desire to serve that is connected to reality.

Summoning a general assembly means expressing an intention in the name of the whole community. To do that, we revisited the fruits of previous assemblies. Furthermore, during our visits, both virtual and in person, we probed the heart as well as the will of the community. And, most of all, we made ourselves available to the Spirit, by sharing our intuitions, and then taking the time to let them be simplified and clarified. This process lasted almost a year, from May 2021 to April 2022.

It was when we were able to express in clear terms the **grace** to ask for that everything “fell into place”. That is why we invite you to discover first the grace, then the extract from the Scripture, and finally the theme.

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<sup>1</sup> See General Norms 17.

<sup>2</sup> The arrival of the delegates is fixed on the 2nd of August and the departure on the 13th.



May the words that follow arouse a concrete commitment in the delegates, the Assembly, and the whole community, because words only make sense if they are transformed into actions.

### **The grace we shall ask for**

***Lord, help us to go forth; show us the way.***

To ask for a grace means, at the same time, to express a desire and to hope for movement. Our asking for the grace clearly expresses our desire to go forth, to move forward. "Go forth" was the third verb in Buenos Aires. It is the starting point of the Assembly in Amiens.

By asking that the Lord "show us the way", we also express that we wish again and again to better articulate the three pillars of our charism (spirituality, community, mission); to better conjugate the three verbs (to deepen, to share, to go forth) as three inseparable dimensions of our commitment, rather than three chronological moments; and to apply each one of the three verbs to the three pillars.

### **The text from the Scripture**

***"You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth"*** (Acts 1:8)

Let us hear as if for the first time that we are called to be witnesses to Christ. In deeds much more than in words.

Let us receive the call to go to the ends of the earth, since *the field of our CLC mission knows no limits* (GP 8), and in Lebanon we committed ourselves *to act at the four frontiers discernment lead us*.

Let us remain faithful to the call we heard in Buenos Aires that helped us to realize that our charism supposes a deep personal and communal integration of faith and commitment.

Let us repeatedly return to the General Principles, which are not just a simple suggestion for reading, but more particularly an invitation to live our vocation "*according to the Spirit of the Gospel and the interior law of love*". This law "*which the Spirit inscribes in our hearts, expresses itself anew in each situation of daily life. It respects the uniqueness of each personal vocation and enables us to be open and free, always at the disposal of God. It challenges us to see our serious responsibilities and to seek constantly the answers to the needs of our times and to work together with the entire People of God and all those of good will for progress and peace, justice and charity, liberty, and the dignity of all people*".



## The theme of the 2023 Assembly

### *Discerning paths for hope*

We shall discern, that is we shall seek and choose together. Buenos Aires revealed that this “exercise” of discernment, which goes beyond understanding, is possible as long as it is based on a clear methodology and the assembly’s attitude of faith. The Assembly, discerning together, is much more than the sum of its participants.

Now, if Buenos Aires was a founding experience, the way of proceeding in Amiens will be different, because the object of our discernment will be more concrete. The discernment will be in direct contact with the frontiers, those identified in Lebanon and those our discernment will lead us to.

We want to share and deepen the question of “how to go forth,” that is to clearly formulate ways of proceeding that are coherent with our charism, wherever our commitment leads us.

Where? In what spirit? How? These three questions summarise the journey that leads CLC from Lebanon, passing through Buenos Aires, towards Amiens. We want to believe that it is a path of maturity, without, however, leaving any member or any community by the roadside.

In August, next year, all CLC roads will lead to Amiens. There, we shall discern the paths that will lead us beyond: beyond what the community already is, beyond our comfort zones, beyond declarations of intent.

We want to be concrete and explicit, while respecting the limits of our expertise: we shall look for ways to promote hope, which is always a gift of God; a theological virtue that produces facts and changes life.

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We invite you to read attentively the annexes, for precious indications regarding the preparation process. Some essential steps start immediately. Others will be explained later. From the start the delegates will be invited to prepare and bring with them the material for the discernment to be carried out in Amiens.

We invite you also, right now, to enter the joy of the assembly. May the Lord accompany us on our journey. We know He will be waiting for us in Amiens.

In the name of the CLC World Executive Council,

**Denis Dobbstein**  
President

Brussels, 21 June 2022

(Original: French)