



**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA**

September 2, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christian Life Community,

Greetings of Christ's Love and Peace to you, your families and your communities!

Our world CLC community is deeply concerned about the urgent situation in Syria. We fervently encourage the international community to promote dialogue, understanding and negotiation to achieve a lasting peace, and we strongly discourage further military strikes that may escalate the overall violence.

Just weeks ago at our World General Assembly, we heard from members of our community in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon. Our hearts were deeply saddened by their stories of suffering and forced migration due to the violence in their countries, as well as by the recent chemical weapons attacks. We feel called to pray in solidarity with the people of Syria and the Middle East and to act in ways where we may be able to contribute toward peace and stability in the region.

Pope Francis has professed his similar feelings of anguish and desire for peace. He declared this Saturday, September 7th, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for the people of Syria, the Middle East and the whole world. In union with our Holy Father and the Church, we passionately call on our CLC members around the world to raise our hearts and voices and advocate for peace on behalf of our brothers and sisters

Our mandate from the Lebanon Assembly calls us to be present at the frontiers. We strongly encourage members of CLC to reflect and pray to discern a personal, and even communal response. Here are four suggestions for your consideration:

- 1. Start a Prayer Campaign!** Join Pope Francis' call for prayer and fasting on September 7th for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and the whole world:
<http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-at-angelus-sept-7-day-of-prayer-for-p>
- 2. Sign a petition to world leaders** urging them to bring together the various factions to negotiate a peaceful, non-military, non-violent settlement for peace in the region. Our CLC Syrian delegation support one such petition written by Oxfam which can be found at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/don-t-let-syria-down>

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3. **Be informed.** Refer to resources that provide accurate information of the situation. Share your informed opinion with your friends and circles so that a critical voice about the conflict may provide a balanced, better understanding of the situation. We encourage you to read this interview with Fr. Samir Khalil Samir SJ who says all involved parties need to heed Pope Francis' advice and come together to work out the peace process: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/middle-east-scholar-paints-stark-but-realistic-picture-of-the-situations-in/>

4. **Contribute to the CLC Syrian Solidarity Fund.** Some money has already been collected through the sale of the 'Jubilee 450' medals and through a collection at Mass during the Assembly. A few CLC members have also made a voluntary offering. Those who wish to further contribute to this effort (as individuals or community) are asked to contact Franklin Ibañez at exsec@cvx-clc.net .

The region has many needs, and we can only respond to a small fraction of that. These funds will be dedicated to support projects which are proposed by CLC Syria. The funds will be dispatched only when there is a clear proposal for their use. We think it wise however to already go ahead with this collection, knowing that the needs are great and urgent.

Confident that the Lord hears the cries of the poor, we lift up our cries for peace. We do so through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Damascus and Queen of Peace.

Yours in Christ,

The World ExCo