



**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUT  DE VIE CHR TIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA**

August 2011

Dear brothers and sisters of the worldwide CLC-CVX groups,

Receive our warmest greetings with the hope that the light of the resurrected One will guide you in all your steps as you seek to walk together in wisdom and love; which we as CLC pursue in order to contribute to the building of the kingdom, and thereby, to find fullness as people and in community, which we as Ignatians endeavour to live out in an incarnated spirituality, and as Christians that desire to follow Jesus, responding the questions; what have I done for Christ?, what am I doing for Christ?, and what can I do for Christ?

Our General Principles define our community as a diverse expression of people, "men and women, adults and youth, of all social conditions who want to follow Jesus Christ more closely and work with him for the building of the Kingdom, who have recognized Christian Life Community as their particular vocation within the Church... We are particularly aware of the pressing need to work for justice through a preferential option for the poor... We seek to achieve this unity of life in response to the call of Christ from within the world in which we live". (G.P. No. 4). And this we do in union with the Church, reading the signs of the times and discerning the move of the Spirit so as to find Christ in the midst of our reality.

Within that framework, we recognize the need to seek specific ways to carry out our mission, always respecting the diversity of our Apostolic Body, which is in the process of consolidation, but assuming likewise that a significant and visible expression of our task as CLC-CVX is of fundamental importance, in order to achieve our calling to a common Mission. We wish to carry this out jointly with other groups and with those who are of a kindred spirit, especially with our brethren in the Society of Jesus, with whom we have walked in close communion, respect and affection due to our spirituality, which is the shared source of our vocation, and with whom we today assume an attitude of openness and availability, in order to seek specific paths for working together in the face of such complex realities.

As an Apostolic Body, we should prepare ourselves and rise to the occasion of these challenging times. Today we acknowledge the progressive revelation of God that has brought us to the point where we should assume, with hope, that call to serve as a Body by uniting our enormous capacities and gifts that we have as people, small communities, and as national communities, around common actions such as CLC in its enormous worldwide potential. Based upon the aforementioned, this message is meant to take a small, yet at the same time great, step in support of the mandate of Fatima, which sends us to undertake efficient actions in support of our option as a Body, establishing networks of apostolic initiatives that promote concrete supportive action, as well as close collaboration with the Society of Jesus (Fatima 3.12 and 3.1-f).

Likewise, we recognize the clarity of the voice of the Spirit all along our walk as a community, especially since our Assembly in Itaici 1998, where the invitation of Christ is clarified and to which we respond with force and determination to assume it as a "Common mission", placed in the heart of the world, in the social reality where Jesus shows us His liberating power, and above all, seeking to be a more efficient instrument in the service to the poor, in order to build a world that is more just. Knowing that we have the power to overcome all obstacles. Our letter of commitment with the world, originating from Itaici, confirms our pretension to be

prophets of hope and justice, acting in networks and encouraging social actions. We have clearly assumed the challenge to be "social entrepreneurs", giving testimony by our way of life, in which we discover an absolute certainty: "The CLC needs to act" (Itaici No. 4).

Along this line, and in coherence with the in-depth and intense work carried out since our World Assembly of Fatima, especially since our project No. 146, "Advocacy and international networks", which incorporates the contributions of many national communities as regards to the experiences and actions carried out by CLC members and communities in this field. In this sense, it is necessary to point out that some changes in the coordination of apostolic initiatives and incidence have taken place, maintaining all contributions and processes started previously, given that important steps have been taken in the definition of orientations for the world community along this line:

1. The sense and conceptualization of advocacy-incidence is something in progress and has different meanings, therefore we have assumed that in building our own perspective as CLC, we have to recover the work carried out up to date in consultations, work groups, and exchanges with the Society of Jesus; but this will be refined and clarified according to our own experiences as community. Two keys that we should keep in mind are: a. Every action of advocacy-incidence should be directed towards transforming the conditions of injustice that affect the most vulnerable groups, and, b. As CLC we have recognized that our option of advocacy-incidence should start from the grass root processes that represent specific expressions, where we act and work as CLC, and from there, to continue building a process that gives meaning to a global perspective, as the one that is carried out in the decision-making forums of international nature, such as the United Nations or others. That is to say, a perspective that is predominantly bottom-up in its origin, and complemented by expressions that are from the top and downward in their implementation.
2. In any case, in order for our projection towards expressions of advocacy-incidence as CLC to have force and meaning, as presented by our inspirational documents, they should be based upon an incarnated common and personal option. That is to say, as CLC we should get involved in actions of this nature where we thus achieve the fulfillment of our mission as a community, where we place our potential, as national groups and a worldwide community, at the service of life, and where we experience the power of learning and understanding the sense of advocacy-incidence through specific actions. We acknowledge that we are a community that wants to practice the DSSE, therefore, in the clarity of the Discernment and Sending originating from our World Assemblies, we now should Support concrete actions, in order to Evaluate them and obtain results from the same.

From this decisive moment in which we currently find ourselves, and where we feel the need to be involved in expressions that respond to our calling as CLC, acknowledging our limitations and inexperience in the perspective of world apostolic articulation, but likewise considering with hope that this is the opportune moment to undertake joint actions that enable us to learn from them; and looking towards the future where we desire to be in our next World Assembly, achieving specific fruit that arises from the seeds of the Spirit that we have received in the past, above all from Fatima, Nairobi and Itaici in this sense.

Therefore, we now call the entire world communities to take part in a specific process of advocacy-incidence, where we have had an important and constant presence as CLC, ever since the start, and in which we now see the notion of a bottom-up process becoming a reality that requires our solidarity as worldwide CLC.

In the Annexes, you will find a series of documents that explain in detail the initiative that has been called "Coalition of Worthy Education" (CED) in our neighbouring country of the Dominican Republic (<http://educaciondigna.com>) specifying the role of Dominican Republic CLC within this process encouraged by the Juan Montalvo Centre, social work of the Society of Jesus engaged in the promotion of social policies, and the specific request from CLC to endorse this initiative on a worldwide basis, which is the result of an apostolic discernment of the Dominican Republic CLC, in response to an invitation of the Society of Jesus, and in coordination with other related groups.

The goal of this initiative is that the government of the Dominican Republic should comply with what is currently established in the regulations, to allocate at least 4% of the Gross Domestic Product of the country to education; a situation that is very far from reality, in which less than 2% is allocated and where limitations and inequity in access to the same can be observed. The perspective is based upon the laws in force in the country, in the Universal Statement of Human Rights, and in others of great regional and international relevance. In order to demand compliance with this obligation, a great number of social actors have been mobilized, given that in October a discussion will begin regarding the budget which will be allocated to education the following year. Therefore the solidarity of the worldwide CLC is requested in support of this process, in which the Dominican Republic CLC has played an active and important role.

October 4, 2011 has been defined as the "Yellow Tuesday" (this colour has been assumed as the one representing the proposal of the Coalition), and on that day it is proposed that there be an international presence in all the Embassies of the Dominican Republic around the world, so as to deliver a document that establishes the position of the Coalition of Worthy Education –CED- and where CLC is requested to take part in coordinating those communities present, so as to deliver said letter, and if possible, to join with other international organizations that are also supporting the initiative. The explanation of the proposal is specified in the Annexes, as well as the context of the initiative and the sustainability of the same. In this first communications the specific request is: **1. That the National EXCOs carry out an in depth reading of this document and of the Annexes, to see how they can support the initiative;** and **2., that all the national communities, where an embassy of the Dominican Republic is present (the list of said countries is specified below¹), define an official link, specified by the National EXCO, for this initiative.** It should be a person closely related to the National EXCO, with a lot of dynamism, because there is barely enough time to carry out the proposed activities, and if possible, one who is interested in the field of advocacy².

For organising, clarifying doubts and coordinating with the grass-root process in the Dominican Republic, please write to Mauricio López mauriciol@cvx-clc.net, who will be connecting the support of worldwide CLC with the initiative and coordinating team of CLC in Dominican Republic.

Mauricio López

Coordinator for Apostolic Initiatives
and Advocacy CLC-WEXCO

Daniela Frank

President of the World CLC

¹ Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Taiwan, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, France, England, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Egypt, South Africa, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as the permanent team of the Dominican Republic in the United Nations in New York.

² In some countries there are already links of the national community with the groups of the United Nations. We leave to the criteria of the National EXCOs the decision of whether that same person will be the contact for this initiative. What is important is that these people be very dynamic, very capable in the area of communication, and seriously committed to promoting this proposal.