



Quito, Ecuador | May 2017

**4th Letter from the President to the World Christian Life Community 2017
Convocation to the Buenos Aires 2018 World Assembly**
(original in Spanish)

With the eyes of faith, we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that "where sin increased, grace has abounded all the more" (Rom 5:20). Our faith is challenged to discern how wine can come from water and how wheat can grow in the midst of weeds... "In our times, divine Providence is leading us to a new order of human relations which, by human effort and even beyond all expectations, are directed to the fulfilment of God's superior and inscrutable designs, in which everything, even human setbacks, leads to the greater good of the Church"
(Evangelii Gaudium, 84)

Our Christian Life Community (CLC) is living a time of true grace. We are experiencing a genuine "kairos", that is, a special time in which God is with us to better enlighten our journey. This graceful time goes beyond what we can achieve by our work and best intentions, and it surpasses our limitations and frailties. In fact, this "kairos" is a permanent inner movement that is rooted in the deep experience of the kingdom of God as a grace present in our lives, and as a visible readiness to be touched more intimately by our reality while being able to respond to it with all of what we are and what we have. It has nothing to do with the chronological aspects of our life that are always subject to limitations. It is a matter of answering the question: do I acknowledge God's presence through my personal and community life as a profound grace; and do I discover the call that our Father-Mother makes to us as CLC to respond with all the best we have now in the Church and in the world today?

In the "contemplation of the Incarnation" (Sp. Exx. 106-108), a central element of the Spiritual Exercises, and gateway to understanding our CLC identity in the "Preamble" of our "General Principles" (PG No. 1-3), we recognize this wait for the fullness of time, and at the same time embrace the call of the Triune God to join Him in the work of redemption of the human race through a response to our times. The celebration of the 50 years of the Christian Life Community (CLC) reflects this special time. It is an invitation to enter deeper into the essential call of our spirituality which contemplates, falls in love with, and inserts us into the world: "What have I done, what do I do, and what will I do for Christ?" (Sp Ex 53).

We want to celebrate the jubilee grace of our first 50 years of journeying as CLC (1967-2017), by combining this celebration with the invitation to prepare as ONE community for our World Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in July 2018. May all of us, in CLC, immerse ourselves into the mystery of the God who reveals himself at the heart of the world. A mystery present in our 50 years of CLC journey, knowing full well that there is still so much to write and many doubts to solve, but letting ourselves be carried by the call to join in this universal project of the kingdom.

At the last meeting of the World Executive Council, united in prayer with the whole world CLC, and as a result of two years of deep and slow process of discernment, we received fruits that we shall offer to all the members of CLC in preparation for our Assembly 2018 through the "**Theme**", that

¹ Blessed John XXIII. Address for the Opening of the Second Vatican Council (11 October 1962): 4, 2-4: AAS 54 (1962), 789.

gives a characteristic and a special call to our Assembly, the "**passage of Scripture**", that illuminates our journey and encounter as a world body, and the "**Grace**" that we ask of God as a fruit of this celebration and this *kairos*. They are elements woven together, in fact they can only be understood in unity, and that is why we offer them to you for your interiorization (Sp Ex 1) for our 2018 World Assembly.

The theme:

"CLC, a gift for the Church and the world"

This special time of the Church and CLC points us towards an integration of the first 50 years of our community life with the renewing spirit of the Second Vatican Council that mobilized us to assume, with more openness and courage, the signs of the present times and a new way of being Church in the world. At the same time, we cannot fail to recognize the special hope that Pope Francis has brought to the whole Church and the world today. That is why we want to undertake a profound discernment on how to bring the unifying, healing, apostolic and renewing grace of our spirituality to the heart of the Church and the challenges and frontiers of the world today. To be a true Church and a CLC *always on the move* in the spirit of Vatican II and the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* that calls for a PASTORAL CONVERSION.

The passage of Scripture:

"How many loaves have you?... Go and see" (Mk 6:38)

We invite everyone to read the context of the Biblical passage that speaks of a process of conversion and response by welcoming the grace of God.

1. There is a special moment where the apostles experience deep friendship with Christ and meeting with Him to share all that we have travelled together, all that has been grace, and the need to rest in Him (Mark 6: 30-32);
2. Other people recognize Jesus, and He feels compassion for them, that is, Christ himself experiences the search for meaning of people who seem lost, takes on to Him the void in their hearts, and is willing to share His life and grace (Mk 6, 33-34);
3. The apostles, worried about the things of this world feel insecure because it is late and are overwhelmed by the situation in which they will not be able to offer food to so many people. Even though the Living Bread is among them, it seems that they cannot yet see it (Mark 6: 35-36);
4. Jesus affirms them in his call, commits them to the cries of the world, and moves them to recognize in themselves the grace they have already received by saying "Give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37); And although doubt and fear persist in the apostles (as in us), He makes the affirmation that will transform the faith and certainties of His followers. It is the one that now encourages us, as CLC, to recognize the grace we have already received and to share it with courage in the Church and in the world: "**How many loaves do you have? Go and see" (Mark 6:38)**

The Grace we ask the Lord in our Assembly:

"We desire greater depth and integration in the living out of our CLC charism in the world today"

To trust in all that has already been given to us, to live it fully as part and parcel of our community, spirituality and apostolic vocation, and to give it to the world. From those to whom much has been

given, much will be asked. And CLC has received a lot ... a whole lot. It is time to take what we have received into the world with more courage and bravery.

Through this communiqué, we **FORMALLY CONVOKE the CLC World Assembly in Buenos Aires, July 22 to 31, 2018** (arrival on July 21 and departure on August 1). May the God of life enlighten us at every step and give us a generous and attentive heart to listen to the movements of the Holy Spirit to look at the horizon of the next 50 years that we want to leave for those who come after us and to honour the life of those who went through CLC before, and making it what it is today.

More specific details and guidance regarding our Assembly are annexed to this letter.



Mauricio López Oropeza
World CLC President

THE 2018 WORLD ASSEMBLY – BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA***CLC, a gift for the Church and the World******“How many loaves have you? Go and see” (Mk 6:38)***

- The Grace we ask for:
 - “We desire greater depth and integration in the living out of our CLC charism in the world today”
- Dates: July 22 to 31, 2018 (arrival on July 21 and departure on August 1)
- Venue: Centro Loyola, San Miguel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

PREPARATORY REMINDERS

Preparatory “Movements” for the World Assembly

It has been a gifted journey of 50 years, and we have also been evolving as a community, responding to signs of the times, and discovering and forming our identity. We now see ourselves as a lay Ignatian apostolic body even as we are still finding our way in fulfilling this way of being one world community. It is time to relish this gifted moment, and the grace of the 50 years.

At the same time, we find ourselves in a key moment of the Church. Pope Francis’ papacy asks us to look at the fundamental meaning of being Church, to contemplate concrete reality, and to take action using the charisms that we have. He brings with him the experience of the Latin American Church, and a spirituality that is recognizably Ignatian.

Our 50 year journey of becoming a lay Ignatian apostolic body and the Pope’s inspiration have something to say to this moment of the Church in today’s world. These are the gifts that we also want to speak to us during our 50th year and in the assembly: two movements in the grace we ask for: **a greater depth and integration of our way of life, and living out this charism in the world today.**

Our communal, internal preparation for the assembly will then have 2 movements, or waves:

- **1st Movement: Projects 168** (September 2017)
This document will come out just before the 50th year anniversary of our 1967 Rome Assembly in Domus Pacis. It will be an invitation for a deeper look at our journey, and our charism as CLC, 50 years hence.
- **2nd Movement: Projects 169** (November 2017)
This is advanced preparation for World CLC Day, March 2018, when we ready ourselves to take bolder steps along the callings of the “kairos” of Pope Francis’ papacy.

Practical Assembly Preparatory Tasks

| | Details | Timelines |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Identification of Delegates | <p>It is important that delegates who will be sent to the assembly will have participated closely in the preparatory movements mentioned above, which will be mirrored and deepened together with the rest of the delegates in the Buenos Aires 2018 World Assembly.</p> <p>National Communities will be informed in advance of nominees coming from their communities so they can be considered in finalizing the assembly delegations.</p> | <p>15 November: National ExCos are given the names of nominated members from their national communities</p> <p>15 February 2018: Deadline for submission of World Assembly delegates</p> |

| | Details | Timelines |
|---|--|--|
| | The criteria for nominating delegates to the World Assembly can be found in Standing Order 2 (Annex B) | |
| Nomination of Candidates for the World Executive Council | <p>One of the major functions of the World Assembly is the election of the World Executive Council who will be servant leaders and co-discerners to the world community for a term after the Assembly. We invite the national communities to pray for, seek and identify persons whom we can send into this humble and challenging mission.</p> <p>The procedures and criteria for the nomination of World Executive Council candidates are in Standing Order 3 (Annex C).</p> | <p>1 October 2017: Last day for submission of nominations for World ExCo candidates</p> <p>16 October: Nominated candidates are informed of their nomination</p> <p>15 November: National ExCos are given the names of nominated members from their national communities</p> <p>15 January 2018: Last day of submission candidates' acceptance of nominations</p> <p>20 March: A list of candidates for presidency is presented to the Holy See (GN 29)</p> |
| Amendments to the General Principles & General Norms | GN 47: "Changes in the General Principles and General Norms are to be proposed in writing by national communities to the World Executive Council at least six months prior to a meeting of the General Assembly. Copies of formal amendments will be circulated to the national communities at least three months prior to the meeting.." | Proposed amendments for the General Principles and/or the General Norms should be sent to the World Secretariat by 21 January 2018 . |
| Financial Preparation | We ask you to begin allocating/ raising funds to send your delegates to the Assembly. You will need to cover airfares to and from Argentina as well as the delegates' fees. We will be sending you further details regarding registration fees once they are finalized (most likely higher than the previous Assembly's € 770.00) | N/A |
| Solidarity Fund | Once again, we are opening a Solidarity Fund to support National Communities who have difficulty sending their delegation due to the inadequacy of financial resources. We are asking for donations from from the world community (see Annex D) | <p>Acceptance of donations ongoing</p> <p>Pledges for the Solidarity Fund by December 2017</p> <p>Requests for support from the Solidarity Fund should be sent to the World Secretariat by 15 February 2018</p> |
| National Community Profile Update | Before the World Assembly, we would like to get a clearer picture of the National Communities. National Executive Councils need to send their updated community profiles to the world secretariat for database updating. | <p>Profile Update Forms to be sent by the World Secretariat to National Communities in July 2017</p> <p>Updated National Community profiles to be submitted by December 2017</p> |

DELEGATION SIZE UPDATE

In the last World ExCo meeting, a proposal regarding the national community delegation size was approved. Standing Order 2 has thus been revised to allow national communities with large memberships (in relation to the total world community membership) to send more delegates (see [Annex B](#)).

HOST TEAM

We are grateful for the passion and generosity that our host team, **UPA** (the CLC in Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina). Together with the World Secretariat, they have begun preparations to ensure that the assembly participants find a true home of discernment and fellowship during our 10-day gathering in Buenos Aires.

WORLD SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

Kindly send all submissions (delegate information, official nominations to the World ExCo, solidarity fund donations and requests), queries and feedback to Alwin Macalalad (exsec@cvx-clc.net), starting with the Subject heading: **WA2018**.

As always, the World Secretariat is here to serve you. Alwin, Rojean, Fr. Herminio SJ, and Van are working full-time (with a lot of people!) especially from this point onwards. Let us know if you have questions, concerns and comments pertaining to the World Assembly.

ANNEX B: STANDING ORDER 2: CRITERIA FOR THE NOMINATION OF DELEGATES TO THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

revised by the World ExCo Feb. 2017

General Norms 15):

The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of CLC. It is made up of the Executive Council and the delegation of each National Community. Each delegation will consist normally of three delegates, one of whom should be the Ecclesiastical Assistant or his representative. Difficulties, which may arise in making up the delegation, are to be settled by the Executive Council.

Those National Communities whose membership comprise 3% to 10% of the total world membership are entitled to send a delegation of four members. Those National Communities whose membership comprise over 10% of the total world membership are entitled to send a delegation of five members.²

Selection of delegates requires 'discernment of spirits' and preference should be given to those who best fulfill the following criteria. Every member in the National Community must understand that to be chosen as a delegate is not an 'honour bestowed' but a serious obligation and a mission received for the benefit of the World CLC.

Delegates should be truly representative of their National Community. As the delegates are missioned by the National Community to continue, on their behalf, the discernment process initiated in preparation and continued during the upcoming World Assembly, it is important that they:

1. have a commitment to CLC as a personal vocation in the Church and fully identify with the General Principles;
2. have an experience of the complete Spiritual Exercises (GN #4);
3. are members of a stable, local group living the CLC way of life which is essentially apostolic as expressed in the CLC Charism (cf PROGRESSIO SUPPLEMENT 2001);
4. have an awareness of and commitment to the World CLC;
5. are supported by the National CLC, family and the local CLC group where he/she lives;
6. are able to communicate in one of the official languages (English, French or Spanish);
7. have the ability and the time to:
 - a. prepare for the Assembly as a member of the National Preparatory Team
 - b. participate fully in the Assembly
 - c. convey the experience and the decisions of the World Assembly to his/her National Community
 - d. participate actively at the national level in the implementation of the decisions made at the World Assembly.

Further remarks:

Each National Community is asked to study these criteria carefully and use them to direct the process of choosing delegates and at least one substitute. If a National Community, for any reason, cannot find three delegates who fulfill the criteria, it should consider sending only the one or two members who fulfill most of the criteria.

A delegate, who is an Ecclesiastical Assistant, should remain in his/her position after the Assembly, at least until such time as the implementation of Assembly decisions is well established.

² Membership numbers used for computing the delegation size are based on the same set of official data submissions of national communities used to compute the membership contributions.

ANNEX C: STANDING ORDER 3 (GN 21A): PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE WORLD CLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

revised by the World ExCo Feb. 2007 and adapted to the changes of General Norms in Fatima 2008
General Norms 21a)

The elected members of the Executive Council are: the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and four consultors, all elected by the General Assembly for a period of five years. They may be re-elected only for three terms maximum and two terms maximum in one office.

1. PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Each National Community affiliated to the World Community is called to nominate candidates for all the elected positions (7) on the Executive Council: **President, Vice-President, Secretary and four Consultors**

The General Assembly elects the Executive Council for the period until the next Assembly (General Norm 16f). Each member community may nominate one person for each position, making a maximum of seven nominations. Those nominated can be members of the same National Community or from any other National Community.

According to General Norm 21a, an Executive Council member can be re-elected maximum for three terms and two terms maximum in one office.

Nominations should be forwarded to the World Secretariat as soon as possible through the National Executive Council. A respective deadline will be set by the Exco early enough, so that national communities could take candidates into account when nominating their delegates.

The World Secretariat will contact the nominated candidates to ask for their consent. At the same time they will receive a questionnaire.

The list of candidates, who have accepted nomination, with their answers to the questionnaire, will be sent in a further mailing to allow an initial discernment before the election itself.

The nomination of candidates is a great responsibility for the National Community. A prayerful approach is needed, as well as discernment on the basis of the following criteria.

2. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

When the Assembly elects the Executive Council, they are not called to add another task to the number of their activities. They are invited to amend and reform their personal life and state (Spiritual Exercises 189) according to the call they have received from the Lord by means of the Assembly that elects them. They learn to consider and ponder how all the dimensions of their life have to be reordered (Spiritual Exercises 21). Considering that CLC is called to be an apostolic body, Executive Council members are expected to respond in a spirit of love and be thorough in their commitment.

In order to be accountable and adequately discharge the responsibility that the World Assembly entrust into its care, the Executive Council perceives its work as a mission in which it discerns, sends its members, supports and annually evaluates its own performance.

According to General Norm 20, the Executive Council is responsible for the ordinary government of our World Christian Life Community. For this important task, mature personalities, with leadership qualities, are needed to govern an international association. Thus, the following basic criteria have to be met by the candidate:

1. commitment to CLC as his/her vocation;
2. identification with the General Principles of CLC and a personal life style that is not contradictory to them;

3. availability (willingness and time) to give priority to the obligations of an active, working member of the World ExCo and having the support of one's own National Community, family and CLC group;
4. awareness and commitment to the one World CLC;
5. have an experience of the complete Spiritual Exercises (GN 4);
6. a profound experience of the CLC way of life that includes:
 - a. an understanding and experience of the Spiritual Exercises as a life process,
 - b. membership in a small CLC group where communal discernment and sharing life and faith can be practiced,
 - c. an apostolic commitment and an understanding of mission;
7. leadership skills coming from a sound CLC formation
 - a. understanding of the group process and the process of personal growth,
 - b. experience of leadership in the National CLC or in the ecclesial, professional or civic fields.
8. a good relationship within the National CLC, the Church hierarchy and with the Society of Jesus;
9. a good knowledge of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Church;
10. the ability to work in a team
11. good knowledge of at least one of the official languages - English, Spanish or French.

3. PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Availability to prepare and actively participate in at least the annual Executive Council meeting(s). (8 days plus travel days)
2. Availability to be sent for periods ranging from two to ten days to any Regional or National Community that requires support in order to maintain an active and effective presence in the region.
3. Ability and readiness to discharge shared responsibility of ExCo in between ExCo meetings. This will involve availability and ability to communicate at least weekly with other members of the ExCo using required means such as e-mail etc.
4. Ability and willingness to work in English.

