

PROJECTS
PROJETS
PROYECTOS



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA

No. 139, June 2008

Letter of communication between the Executive Council
and the World Christian Life Community

Dear National Community,

We send greetings to all and share with you the joy of our growing enthusiastic anticipation of the gathering of the world community in Fatima, Portugal at the CLC General Assembly. There, stories of our personal, and community life, our preparations as well as our physical journeys will be told and heard. It will be a time of joyful sounds. In this **Project 139**, we give an overview of the road we have been travelling since the convocation of this 15th General Assembly.

The theme of the upcoming General Assembly in Fatima, ***Journeying as an Apostolic Body: Our Response to this Grace from God***, challenges us to be in touch, to know, the road traveled by CLC so as to prepare and plan the route forward for the next 5 years. To this end, we offer a brief recap of the preparatory materials. In **Project 134**, we announced the launching of procedures for the 15th General Assembly, thus setting in motion the preparations that have been on going. **Project 135** conveyed the first preparation input. In this communication, we reflected on the theme of the Assembly which aimed to bridge the Nairobi and Itaiçi Assemblies. We encouraged an intensive look on our graced history not only as a world community, but also, as national communities. In **Project 136**, we were invited to reflect on the spiritual setting that facilitates our moving forward: “Three kinds of persons”. As well, we were invited to renew our own national experiences in areas such as: the dynamics of discerning – sending – supporting and evaluating, formation, leadership, SJ-CLC Collaboration, apostolic initiative, membership and commitment. The responses from national communities informed the process for the Fatima Assembly. We recognize with joy and gratitude that preparations in your national communities are going on in earnest.

As Christians and citizens of this world, the importance of contemplation on history is most relevant today. **For instance**, the Genesis creation narratives in the Hebrew Scripture, remind us that in the beginning, “God saw everything that He made and indeed it was very good” (Gen 1:31). The significance of looking back, particularly in these times, helps us to get in touch with the past to realize how far we have come in building or tearing down that which was created “good”. As a result, in this case, there is growing acknowledgement for the need to reform human relationships as well as our

relationship to all of creation and to change the way of moving forward if life is to be sustained on this planet.

In the same vein, we contemplate our recent CLC history. In Itaici, the delegates, representing the world community, continued to learn, to dialogue, to pray and concluded the Assembly in gratitude for the concrete statement outlining the CLC Common Mission. This document identified **where** CLC is to be engaged as an apostolic body. In Nairobi, the world community delegates identified specific areas of needed concentration to enable **how** to be more effective in the desire to deepen and grow CLC as a discerning community in mission (Nairobi Recommendations). Now, we will gather again in Fatima, Portugal and do as the early followers of Jesus did, ***"The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him what they had done and taught" (Mk 6, 30-34)***. CLC will tell what has been done, learnt and taught in these years since Nairobi so as to face the world better prepared to move forward.

In these last weeks of preparation, though, it is important to continue to reflect on our collective history of CLC to see where we have been, to know where we are, so that we can discern the way forward. The way of life of CLC is still a history in the making and, by looking back in order to move forward, we are in touch with the Grace of God that has continually provided signs of encouragement and growth as well as heightening, at various times, awareness of the need for challenge and purification. Let us take stock of these experiences in order to tell our stories.

Although the General Assembly is a gathering of delegates representing the world community, each one of us without exception is in solidarity with and takes responsibility for the outcome of the Assembly. We, therefore, encourage your continuous, broad national participation and faithfulness to the preparatory inputs for the Assembly. Actively seek information that will inform your discernment for the election of the new World Executive Council and the decision on the proposed changes to the General Norms. At this time, you should have the list of the candidates who accepted nomination for respective offices on the Executive Council as well as the list of the proposed changes to the General Norms. In all these, a prayerful approach is needed. Please encourage your members to remain interested and engaged with the happenings of the Assembly via the Fatima website: www.fatima2008.org

To help maintain this interest, we suggest a universal prayer (found below) for the world community to pray daily in order to remain united in solidarity for the outcome of the Assembly.

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Each day, as we first dip our hands in water, call to mind the Trinity looking around at all of creation and at those assembled in Fatima. Ask for the Grace to more deeply embrace participation in the emerging “new heaven and new earth”.

*O God
Open our eyes
To the splendour of your world
That we may care for the earth and each other
On our journey to wholeness of life.*

*May the pure song of water
Inspire us, as CLC, to be signs of hope and justice
Broaden and lift up our hearts and guide us to you.*

Finish the prayer by touching the water and sprinkling yourself with it.

Solidarity Fund

We make a further appeal for the Solidarity Fund. It is our tradition to facilitate representation of the whole world community but not just only those who can afford. From *Project 138* we know that the General Assembly involves high expenses in spite of stringent economic planning. You will recall that all World General Assemblies in the past have only been possible thanks to the solidarity of our members and friends. Experience has shown that funds are build up little by little by both small and large donations from individuals and groups. Therefore, all of us are encouraged to make whatever contribution that we can. It is important for CLC everywhere to appreciate the fact that solidarity for the world community must also be expressed in material ways. We are grateful to those of you who have already responded so generously to this call.

United in our prayers and service,
For the World Executive Committee

**Daniela Frank
President**