



progressio

Publication of the World **Christian Life Community**

**We believe God spoke to us
in Buenos Aires**

Progressio is the official publication of the Christian Life Community (CLC). It seeks to build community, supplement formation, and promote apostolic works. By publishing stories, reflections, events and opinions, it endeavors to reinforce, challenge and deepen the community's understanding and living of the CLC Charism, Ignatian Spirituality and the gospel values

ABOUT OUR LOGO

We did not go too far to find inspiration for the logo of the Christian Life Community (CLC). Countless books have been written about the Salvation history of CLC and its beginning in year 1563. From that came the Marian Congregations and its symbol (shown on the top right), having the "P" over the "X" (for the Greek Christos) and the inserted "M" illustrates that the Congregations were put under the patronage of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The blue curved line illustrates a movement forward to **one World Community in 1967**; hence the globe. From this new beginning came a new name: Communauté de Vie Chrétienne (CVX) in French; Comunidad de Vida Cristiana (CVX) in Spanish; Christian Life Community (CLC) in English.

PHOTOS BACK COVER

The Buenos Aires Assembly pictures

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Editorial

This issue of *Progressio* stands as a communal remembrance of the days of the 2018 World Assembly. We know now that as an anchor point, the Buenos Aires experience will bloom into a multitude of reflections, experiences and actions. We will look at artifacts and histories, interpretations and discourses. And it is true, Buenos Aires is still happening. Its meaning for the world community is still unfolding. It may even be fair to say that the consequences it will have for our humble apostolic body has just begun. It will not be excitement and energy that will ford us through time, as we carry the grace of those 10 days. It will have to be faithfulness. Faithfulness to the love and tenderness we have been seen through the years. Faithfulness to the humility we have been graced with, in facing our own sin and lack. Faithfulness to Christ's call to bring our light (broken though it may be) into the Church and the world today.

During the days of the assembly, ARUPA deployed a communication team to give the world community a window to the World Assembly. It was that team who helped drive this issue to completion. Led by Manuel Martinez, the team assembled a few delegates – Javier Cifuentes (Chile), Bernhard Zaunseder (Germany), Wissam Abdo (Lebanon), Cecilia Martínez (Spain), Inji Fayez (Egypt), Jean-Luc Fabre SJ (France) - to give first-hand stories of the days of the assembly. As editor for content, Diego Pereira captured motions of the day. There were video interviews and insights from delegates, keynote speakers and clips of key events, originally made available through the assembly website www.assembly.cvx-clc.net (you can also access them through this publication- QR codes and link addresses have been made available). Eloy Frugoni captured many of the photos that have become iconic images of the assembly. These, and more, are being made available for the first time in collected form in this *Progressio* issue. We still have ARUPA and the communications team to thank for this.

This issue has a more serious cousin, *Progressio Supplement 74*, which collects all the relevant documents of the Buenos Aires Assembly – messages, presentations, prayer exercises, assembly decisions, and the final document. You can find a downloadable PDF in www.cvx-clc.net.

There was a question that I heard raised in these past months after the assembly. How can we tell the CLC in our country about the grace and call of Buenos Aires? Many of the delegates felt that it was such an elusive experience. Difficult to communicate. The grace of Buenos Aires could not be sufficiently explained by talking points, could not be downloaded and disseminated. It was capture-resistant. The more you held it, the more it escaped your hand. I have two images to leave, not as answers to the questions, but as a contribution to this space of conversation: 1) This was the same question that the disciples grappled with after the resurrection. They witnessed Christ alive; the impossible happened, and it was the greatest of consolations. But the experience was beyond anything that any one of them had the capacity to express, let alone convince others of. 2) Think of a tent. A space of encounter. A space where people can come together to kindle imagination and hope. And maybe witness something totally transcendent. At the end of this publication, we include a copy of *Projects 172*. It is both an epilogue to the Assembly, and a prologue to the future that calls us forth.

The world does not wait, will not wait. It is dancing already. There is no way that our lay Ignatian apostolic body can engage the challenges ahead of without being an authentic community. And there is no way to act together as one, without communal discernment. The word that Denis Dobbstein, our CLC president, would use is: “indispensable”. In the words of Fernando Vidal, one of our consultants, “It’s incredible!!!”. Both are true.



Alwin Macalalad

Centro Loyola



The Centro Loyola was the setting chosen for the XVII World Assembly of Christian Life Community.

“El Máximo”, as it is known, is located in San Miguel, about 50 minutes from downtown Buenos Aires. It is surrounded by a park of 7 hectares, with places for recreation and physical activities. It is currently the headquarters of the Centro Loyola, a work belonging to the Society of Jesus that was created to promote spirituality, education and culture, with spaces for study, reflection, and meditation. The Centro Loyola was created recently to offer a space for exchange between culture and Ignatian spirituality, a place where courses, meetings, retreats, spiritual exercises and congresses are held.



Located in a place with history, testimonies and experiences, the Colegio Máximo de San José was home to one of the most outstanding personalities of this century, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now known as Pope Francis. Fr. Bergoglio lived for many years in the Máximo, and his influence is felt in every corner of the emblematic center. It was the place where he grew in experience, and where he developed much of his insight about the Church. It continues to be a place



of encounter, much more so for the miracle that would be the experience of a world community seeking the depths of its charism.

Welcome once again.



From all corners of the world to Buenos Aires



See you in Buenos Aires
rebrand.ly/BA2018SeeYouInBA





Final preparations and first arrivals

Getting there

This Assembly is special. Last year CLC celebrated its 50th anniversary. Impressive. It is a great time to examine the journey of our World Community. Of my 28 years of age, 12 have been in CLC. Since starting in CLC in high school and later in college, I would have never imagined a couple of years later I would be one of the three national delegates at the World Assembly! One does not cease to marvel at the invitations we receive from the Lord and CLC.



The logo of the World Assembly rebrand.ly/BA2018Logo



But beware, what has been given may be taken for granted, and what has been taken for granted may be forgotten. That is why it is so important to be grateful for what has been received. How is it possible that people from different nationalities, ages and interests come together to recognize each other as one apostolic, lay and Ignatian body? I'm not sure, but the Gospel of Jesus, the Spiritual Exercises, our community experience and testimonies of faith, among other things, are woven together as a cherished and collective gift from God, which drives us to awaken and nourish so many hopeless and lonely hearts in our world.

Javier Cifuentes (Chile)



We're coming in

Going towards the world assembly, the five bread and the two fishes came in different places (picture), in my group Alt - Saarbrücken, Germany, in a meeting of European CLC representatives in Lille, France, a regional meeting in Straßbourg, France and the German assembly in Neumarkt. In all those places, the question what our gifts and how can we share them, were the most striking for me.

And so I am looking forward to the World Assembly to find how other communities answer these questions.

I learned something on my way already, when I meet a CLC group from Encarnicion, Paraguay.

Bernhard Zaunseder (Germany)

Arriving inside

The trip was long, but we quickly forgot our fatigue after the warm welcome from the welcoming committee.

When we arrived at the Loyola Center, I really appreciated the easy and fraternal contact among members coming from many countries. It was like we had known each other for a long time. Friends in the Lord...

The Eucharist, although celebrated in Spanish, a language I do not know but seemed to me that we must learn quickly, we were in a particular union of prayer. The hymns during the mass resonated harmoniously with the surroundings...

See you tomorrow!

Wissam Abdo (Lebanon)



Presentation of the ARUPA
rebrand.ly/BA2018ARUPA



Welcome and Opening of the Assembly



The Presidents of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay



Mauricio Lopez, World CLC President



Edel Churu, World CLC Vice-President

The Beginning of the XVII World Assembly

Starting the day, the ExCo President, Mauricio Lopez, invited delegates to enter with great courage and generosity, recalling the very words of St. Ignatius: “It is very helpful to him who is receiving the Exercises to enter into them with great courage and generosity towards his Creator and Lord, offering Him all his will and liberty, that His Divine Majesty may make use of his person and of all he has according to His most Holy Will.” (5th Annotation)

In an original Presentation Ceremony of the National Communities, each delegation offered its country's flag by stacking one on top of the other in a basket. The ceremony culminated with the presentation of the flag with the logo of this XVII World Assembly. This gesture invited us to become ONE World Community.

The words of Pope Francis addressed to the Assembly still remains with us, reminding us that we are contemplatives in action: “Contemplation and action, the two dimensions together: because we can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ, and we know that Christ is wounded in the hungry, the uneducated, the discarded, the old, the sick, the imprisoned, in all the vulnerable human flesh.”

At the close of the day we ask ourselves, where did God make Himself present on this first day of the Assembly?



Welcome Presidents of ARUPA
rebrand.ly/BA2018WelcomeFromARUPA





The welcome of the World ExCo

“Knowing and recognizing the Grace of being a Community”

Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. Mark 6:39

We have been preparing to be part of the World Assembly for many months, contemplating what we can contribute to our community’s shared table to which we have been summoned. We are deeply grateful for all of the people who have made this gathering possible and for bringing us here. That thought has accompanied me throughout the day.

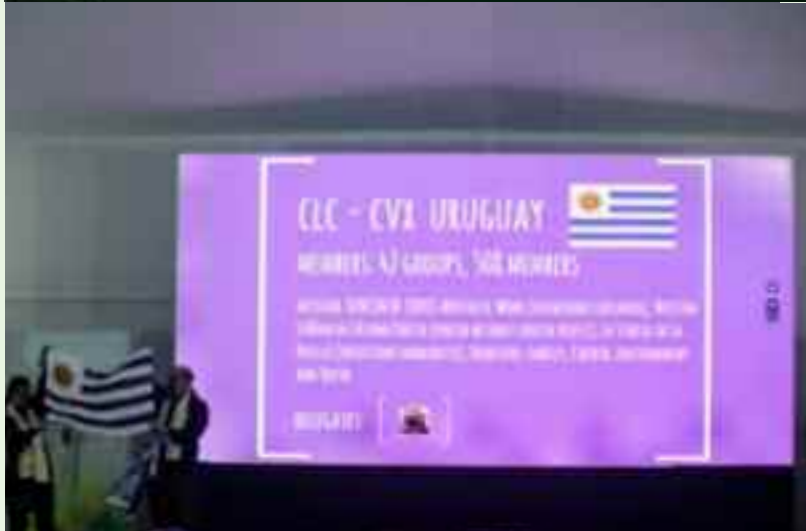
Before coming to the World Assembly, we were asked to consider what to bring. Today, we were invited to lie down on the green grass in small groups, so that we could look at each other faces and listen to one another. The map of the world has been the framework not only for bringing those already present together in the room, but also by the communities that sent us. Communities were called and presented by sharing their total number of members, how many were in pre-CLC communities, how many apostolic missions were selected for making the Kingdom of God a reality among us, and how many delegates were sent to share “their loaves and fishes.”

The image of being present in so many places, full of richness and diversity has brought the whole world community — with its dreams and difficulties — at the





center of the Assembly. It helped us visualize how God is calling us to incarnate his plan of salvation wherever CLC is present. A special warm welcome was felt with the applause to our brothers and sisters in CLC Syria, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Chile, which is a sign of our affection and desire for peace and justice.



A long conversation was filled during the afternoon hours. It was time for small-group gatherings where spiritual and faith-sharing conversations at the personal and community level were being exchanged. Getting to know each delegate has been a great gift. Each one shared the reality of their national CLC community and their country, as well as, their hopes and commitments to the reality where the community is present.



Being in [small] groups has allowed us to look at each other's eyes by getting to know each other and recognize one another through the sharing of our stories and our dreams. Like the hungry and tired multitude in the Gospel, we are becoming groups of brothers and sisters who are sharing the table. At this table, we have placed our personal conversion stories, our discovery of Ignatian spirituality and of CLC as "our home." We humbly shared our personal stories, community realities, and hope for these days.

Hope is what I feel when I see God present and active in each of our lives and communities. It helps us grow, give up ourselves and share, move our hearts to seek with creative fidelity what to do next facing the great challenges in our Church and the world today. To the One who plants this desire in our hearts I ask to



send us the light and wisdom in order to guide the future of our community.

Cecilia Martínez (Spain)



Presentation of the delegation
rebrand.ly/BA2018Delegations



What touched you today
rebrand.ly/BA2018WhatTouche
dYou



Opening Mass



Presided by Fr. Alejandro Tilve SJ - Provincial of the Argentine-Uruguayan Province and concelebrated by the National Ecclesiastical Assistants of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay..



Opening Mass
rebrand.ly/BA2018OpeningMass



Acknowledging the graces received

How many loaves do you have? Go and see

One day. Two moments. One, a special time of “Kairos” for CLC. ExCo shared the 2013-2018 report. Went through the actual state of each Frontier chosen in Lebanon; shared reflections about our being world community and talked about our lay Ignatian identity. Each ExCo member’s speech was made in a fluent, personal and authentic way of talking about all the work for the last 5 years. In plenary, the world community recognized itself in a “kairos” moment, where we were feeling the call to offer our charism to the world.

The other moment of the day connects the experiences of the morning. Guided by the ESDAC Team (Exercises for Spiritual Discernment on Apostolate in Common), the invitation was to identify personal graces received from CLC- a CLC that touched our hearts, has been helping us to grow beyond our limits. We recognized the Spiritual Exercises as the source that allows us to live daily life in tune with the Lord and provides us our community as a place to enjoy friendship in God. With gratitude, much joy, generosity and responsibility, we offered our bread, our gifts, to God.





Becoming One Assembly

On the 2nd day of the assembly, after listening to the World ExCo report, I was overwhelmed by the projects done in different parts of the world towards our 4 frontiers.

But what touched me the most was the group discussion where I felt the unity between different countries with very different backgrounds in the need for Formation and engaging the youth in CLC. The phrase that remained in my heart is that we don't need to be rushed into easy solutions.

Since I came to the assembly, I was getting to know lots of new people from every part of the world and hear their CLC experiences. So we were getting to know each other. But what happened next with the ESDAC team was a totally different and amazing experience.



ExCo Report 2013-2018
rebrand.ly/BA2018WExCoReport



The ESDAC team (Exercises for Spiritual Discernment in Common) will guide us through our communal discernment.

The prayer time that we took together was very emotional for me. I felt the presence of God among us in a very special way. We contemplated on the gifts received through our CLC journey. The joy I felt observing everyone acknowledging these gifts was immense. CLC touched our hearts, helped us grow beyond our limitations and offered us communities where we can enjoy true friendship in God. We offered the loaves of bread with all these gifts to God. It's then that I sensed that we were no longer delegates from 70 countries but we are now ONE assembly



How many loaves have you?
rebrand.ly/BA2018HowManyLoaves



The Immersion Day: An Experience of a Church Going Forth



Today, the whole Assembly had an excursion out of the College into the surrounding parish of St Joseph. Beforehand we gathered in the aula to hear Austin Iv ereigh speak to us about the legacy that Pope Francis is creating in the Church today. He taught us that the Francis effect has its roots in the church of Latin America. Bergoglio was an influential member of the bishops' meeting of Aparecida (2007) which called the Church to be with and for the poor.

When we walked out of the College, the sky was clear and sunny, but the temperature was barely zero degrees! We walked as one big group to the church of St Joseph which was the church where Jorge Bergoglio was first sent as a priest, and from there to another church in the parish. In both places we were greeted warmly by members of the parish and were introduced to the lay leaders by the present parish priest, Fr Rafael Velasco SJ.

After an outdoor lunch we broke into 30 smaller groups and walked into the neighborhood to be taken into the homes of locals, or into a school (one group remained in the parish centre). We were overwhelmed, first by the hospitality of the local families, and then by their simplicity of lifestyle.

My group visited a childcare centre that was in the home of a retired couple who, with a number of other volunteers, gave the children meals and provided tutoring for their school work neither of which they would get in their own homes.

Later in the afternoon, the Assembly gathered again, with the local parish, to celebrate mass in a park. As the stage was being set up the youth of the parish kept us warm by drawing us into songs that involved plenty of body action. Immediately behind the altar during the celebration we could see boys playing soccer in the basketball court. They didn't seem to mind our presence. The parish choir provided the beautiful music and Fr Rafael presided.



Austen Iv ereigh
rebrand.ly/BA2018AustenIv ereigh



Experience Church going forth



It was dark by the time we boarded our buses to return to the College, but the day was not yet over. After a time of shared reflection in the Aula we went to dinner, and then two larger groups met – the European CLC communities and the Asia Pacific communities, to plan for future regional events. It was well after 10 pm when we were free to retire for the night, but some continued to talk and share together.

Iain Radvan SJ (Australia)

It is impossible to avoid the frozen winter day, when the Assembly went out into Barrio San Miguel. As a place composition, we shared the privilege of walking through the narrow streets where Pope Francis (then, Fr Jorge Bergoglio SJ) used to walk during his stay in the Collegio Maximo in San Miguel.

The first stop was in a small chapel founded by some Jesuits (Fr Bergoglio, one of them) where we received the invitation of Father Rafael Velazco SJ (former Pastor of the community of Patriarch St. Joseph) “we are going to share the life of a parish on the outskirts of Buenos Aires that is trying to go forth and meet those who live in the existential peripheries”. So, we did, and we shared in small groups invited in some of the houses of the families, who received us, and told us how they lived their daily and spiritual lives, what they did for their neighbors and also in many cases some tales from the times when Father Jorge was around. We ended with a Mass in a square, prepared by the people of the parish.

We came back to the Maximo very touched and grateful for the day and the many small gifts we received.

It was impossible not to realize what Francis wrote to us knowing we were meeting at his former place: “At the center of your Ignatian spirituality is the desire to be contemplatives in action. Contemplation and action, the two dimensions together: because we can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ”. Since then, we started tasting the kairos moment we are living, best way for preparing the discernment process ahead

Diego Pereira (Uruguay)



Immersion Day in San Miguel
rebrand.ly/BA2018ImmersionDay



Eucharist in San Miguel
<https://rebrand.ly/BA2018EucharistSanMiguel>



The Gift of 50 Years



Maria Magdalena Palencia

Keynote speaker Magdalena Palencia (CLC Mexico) presented our CLC history starting from the late 40s. She shared with us the words of Fr. Arrupe. During Holy Week of 1981, Fr. Arrupe offered a petition during the Prayers of the Faithful: "...just as the Lord did by changing Abraham's, He has given to this community [Marian Congregations] a new name: "Christian Life Community," which implies by itself the mission of these communities were called to be.

Guided by the biblical story of Abraham, Magdalena helped us through the journey by recalling the challenges of our story during the previous world assemblies. She talked about what happened and their outcomes. We listened to her presentation and were completely captivated by its intensity.

She concluded by reminding us that we are CLC, a community on mission and with a vision. CLC is a gift, a challenge and an invitation to recognize what we share with the world, especially right here in the homeland of Pope Francis.



The Historical line

World CLC EA's visit and Incorporation of the New Communities



It is customary for the World CLC Ecclesiastical Assistant to visit the General Assembly when it is taking place. Meeting in Buenos Aires, Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, visited us on July 26th and addressed the Assembly with a message entitled *A Discerning Lay Community in the Service of Reconciliation*.

"Discernment is always an exercise that consists in looking at the world, in all its reality, while letting oneself be moved internally and dedicating oneself to the greater service. Discernment leads to an action that prolongs that which Jesus started for the redemption of human life. We know this well from the contemplation of the Incarnation in the Spiritual Exercises, which inspires CLC's General Principle 1."



After the address of Fr. General Arturo Sosa SJ, we welcomed CLC visitors from a variety of communities (Spain, France, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and the local San Miguel parish community who arrived to participate in the Open Day with our delegates. The Assembly experienced a very special moment: the incorporation of three new CLC national communities. The newly incorporated communities were: Lithuania (sponsored by England and Wales), Mauritius Island (sponsored by France) and Vietnam (sponsored by the United States).





The CLC in Latvia has 6 communities with a total of 58 members.



The CLC in Mauritius Island has 15 communities and 86 members.
Their places of mission are: social, parish and youth ministries.



The CLC in Vietnam started its CLC national community in 1998.
There are 16 communities and 185 members



Interview to Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ
<http://rebrand.ly/k33prh>



The Open Day



The day was full with so many new experiences for all of us. It was full of things which we will remember, not only because there are pictures and documents on it: meeting Father General Arturo Sosa SJ, who I found convincing in his commitment to cooperation and support between Jesuits and CLC. And the big picture, which will remind me of all the people I'm sharing time, prayer, meals, and bathrooms with, even if I may have forgotten all the names, which I'm just starting to learn.

This was followed by the most emotional moment for me in this assembly: the welcoming of three new member communities: Latvia, Vietnam, and Mauritius. It touched me so much, to see that spreading our gifts multiplies them in such a wonderful way. To listen to the ways those of communities have gone (together with their godparents: The CLCs in England/Wales, USA, and France) makes me feel as part of a living body, with communities helping and supporting each other to grow and join CLC.

Sometimes it is a challenge for me to speak and understand "only" English and German. Listening to Arturo Sosa's Spanish sermon in the mass was one.

And we grew quite a bit in numbers for one day, as we had a lot of visitors from neighboring countries and from all around the world. With little gifts, different foods, music, dance and presentation, it felt like the world community was visiting the world assembly for a few hours.

The evening of this day also marks the midpoint for the assembly, which feels in some way that as if has only started and in another way, as if there is no before and no after

Bernhard Zaunseder (Germany)



The Open Day
rebrand.ly/BA2018OpenDay







XVII ASAMBLEA MU

CLC, a gift for the Church
CVX, un regalo para la Iglesia
La CVX, un don pour l'Église



WORLDWIDE CVX - CLC

Church and the world

Iglesia y para el mundo

Église et le monde



A
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Middle
East



Europe



North America



Latin America



Asia Pacific



Naming our Story of Grace



Today the Assembly started its second phase. Guided by the ESDAC team, the delegates began a discernment process. This invitation was also extended to the entire world community, asking all to accompany and support with their prayer. The grace to be asked for is “to desire a deeper integration in living out our CLC charism in today’s world.”

The first step was to gather all the experiences of personal prayer the delegates

experienced during the Assembly so far. The delegates were asked to contemplate the historical timeline of CLC. The reflection was not about feeling guilt or generating conflict. However, it was asking themselves about what graces were received. It is a way to enter into the life and the diversity of CLC. It is normal to face the wounds of CLC history, yet not be the main focus of the contemplation. The challenge is to turn the wounds into scars, which will be healed in time.



There are two approaches for which we can contemplate this special time in CLC history. We can either have a business decision or a discernment. We either enter into a dynamic where we guide the Assembly toward identifying tasks, finding solutions, dealing with anxiety. Or we can ask ourselves: “What will the delegates come up with during this Assembly in Buenos Aires?” Or on the contrary, we could ask: “Are we searching for ways to generate more fraternal relationships as an apostolic body?” “Do we see the world with the eyes of God?” “Do we listen to our interior feelings and spiritual movements to allowing ourselves to be guided by God, thus, having our trust in what emerges as the result of our prayer. There was a clear invitation to live these days following a discernment mode. That’s what the delegates find themselves at this critical time of the Assembly. We are

asking all of you to keep us in your prayers.

During the afternoon, we focused on prayer, searching for a deeper understanding of naming our grace. The naming of the grace helped us reflect on the personal and communal identity, vocation and mission. Compassionate, Merciful, Loving, Wounded, Joyful Christ, Jesus as Emmanuel, and Journey Companion were some of the names and images that emerged during this Assembly.

The Assembly decided to have Day 7 in silence. Let us continue praying for our World Assembly.



The Name of Grace
rebrand.ly/BA2018NameOfGrace



Silence, our universal language



We entered in a day of silence after 6 days of endless talking in 3 different languages. We were making great efforts to understand what the other was saying. But when we all entered in silence, we began to understand each other. Silence was our universal language.

We started our day searching for our word of grace and lots of words emerged: Discernment, joy, with and for others, service, mission, apostolic community...but we are still in the process of finding our “name”. It has been a long process of discernment and we are on our way.

Then we took the time to search for our paralysis, what stops us from moving. Each group had to make a statue with their bodies to show the paralyzes of CLC. Being paralyzed in a specific sad statue really troubled me. When they asked other members to liberate us from our unmoving state, I felt compassion and support to overcome my own paralysis. We need each other to overcome our fears, our mistakes. Then we threw the paper that held our paralyzes, lit a candle with our names written on it and shared bread offered to us.

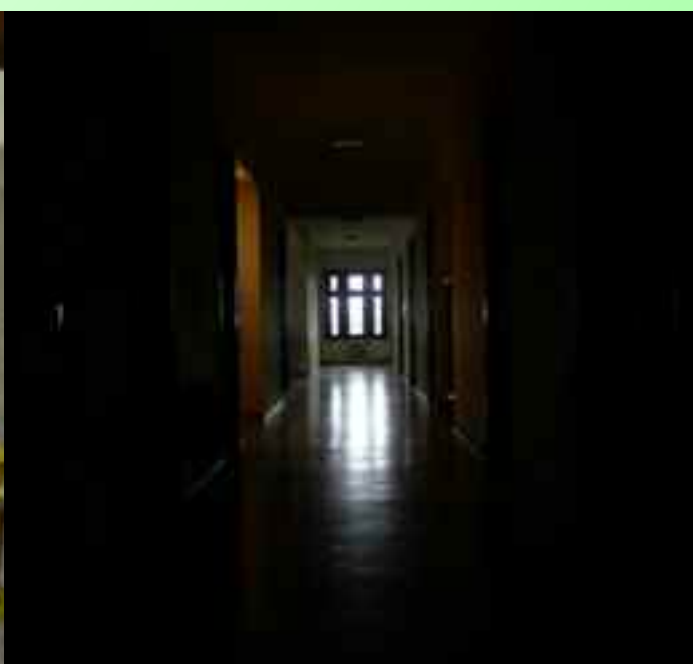
“With the light of God and the bread of the poor, we move on.” -- a phrase said at the end of the day but it said it all for me

Inji Fayez (Egypt)



Reconciliation and going out
rebrand.ly/BA2018Reconciliation





The fruits of our discernment



Delightfully (and wisely) ignorant

Ignatius followed the Spirit, he didn't rush things. Wisely listening, fully relying on Grace to go where God was calling him. That's how I've been feeling these first few days of the World Assembly, without any idea of the future but trusting in God and in those who were journeying with us.

From the outset, Mau (Mauricio López) placed the grace that we asked for at the center of things, grace for greater depth and integration of our CLC charism in the world today. The path was just barely sketched out in three general movements: 1) to recognize the graces we have received in the 50 years of our history; 2) to be witnesses in this “kairos moment” of faith-sharing with persons in Barrio San Miguel; and 3) to identify, to name, the Grace of today's CLC world community.

The first two movements were presented in a more concrete, more tangible format: remember, pray, share, and celebrate our shared history. Living and being thankful for our contact with Arupa, present among us, with the people from “Barrio San Miguel,” and with all our CVX/CLC sisters and brothers, who shared with us an “Open Day” at the Assembly. The third movement, which pulled us out of that moment and into the challenge of discovering what we had received in grace during the preceding days, took us on a spiritual journey-adventure, in search of naming the grace, the principal grace that God has given us today in this 21st century world. And it is the name with which God calls us (CLC/CVX), calling us and naming our truest identity — that which has a secret meaning for those who share this calling with us, a meaning which evokes a dream of the soul that energizes our lives and our mission.

With enthusiasm and generosity, the assembly put itself in the hands of the ESDAC Team (Spiritual Exercises for Community Discernment), who have been giving us our procedures, order, and structure for the entire 10-day meeting. The pedagogy of the Spiritual Exercises inspired our journey in the Assembly. In an often-repeated cycle of 1) personal prayer, 2) spiritual conversation in small groups, and 3) being with the whole Assembly, we kept on

“receiving our identity”: the name that God calls us, and our CVX/CLC sin. We have experienced our principle and foundation, and with Jesus, we have become aware of our “institutional sin” that paralyzes us, and which does not allow us to fully become the community that the Lord dreams that we could be.

Other kinds of support have sustained us, in our search. ARUPA, the World Assembly service-and-hospitality team, prepared our lodgings and the means — in their warm, embracing and welcoming spirit of hospitality — which made our discerning possible. Unique signs and markers also made for a familiar environment and showed us the process and the outcomes of our days together. Among these contributions were the timeline of our graced CVX/CLC history, the religious print or photo exchange with the residents of San Miguel, the large face of Christ which was formed from a collage of our own faces, the evening with candle light, the “mate” gourd which gave us each a turn in the small groups, and the songs and chants. Perhaps the most silent support, which was deeply felt by all of us was the prayers from CLC communities from around the world. It made us feel that we were truly a CLC community undergoing discernment.

Two specific moments have been very meaningful to me. The first one was the change in disposition in our tent where everyone gathered together. The Assembly was set up in half circles facing the stage and all members were united in one community that sits in a circle, looks at each other in the eye, and reserves a space at the center for our Lord, as a way to share the gifts received in our prayers and sharing with others. The second moment was contemplating our institutional sin. All groups turned into statues to reflect our vanity, self-centeredness or divisions. Having the opportunity to contemplate our sin and receiving it by helping one another regaining mobility allowed me to come into contact and receive our own fragility.

Indeed, our Lord has made his presence felt in our Assembly, the Spirit has spoken in each of us and through every person and in our group. We’ve gathered the outcomes from these days with deep gratefulness. The Grace we asked for has been granted. We’ve deepened our vocation and we’re excited to take home all the graces received to put them at the service of the Church and the world. Our CLC, who’s sinned and was forgiven, has experienced a process of conversion. Our hearts overflow with the love that we’ve received from our Lord during these days.

Cecilia Martínez (Spain)

Taste and see the wonders of the Lord

After searching for our strengths and weaknesses in CLC, we started the day with a very powerful text by Marianne Williamson used by Nelson Mandela during his investiture: “As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

We were asked to complete a phrase: As a CLC community, we are called to...and an abundance of ideas came through all our groups. We are called to be contemplative in action, to go beyond ourselves, share our Ignatian spirituality and its tools to reveal God’s beauty in our daily lives...

The feeling under the tent was joy, hope and enlightenment. We were called to different things but yet not so different.

We walked behind the ExCo members, who held the fruits of our discernment process, to offer them to the Virgin Mary. It was a moment of wonderful harmony. The future of CLC now is in our hands and in the hands of God.

And this song we were singing keeps resonating in my heart: “Taste and see the wonders of the Lord.”

Inji Fayez (Egypt)



A consoling experience
rebrand.ly/BA2018Consolation



The transition: from discernment to choice



On the 9th day we move from the communal discernment to the vote of Amendments to the General Principles & General Norms and the approval of the Budget



Visit of Fr. Rafael





In the afternoon the writing team read the draft of the Final Document and the delegates contribute with ideas and suggestions.



The writing team



The Plenary concludes the day



Some translators begin to leave. Thanks for your work!

Deepen, Share and Go Forth

Election of the World ExCo



Last day: feast of Saint Ignatius, election of the new ExCo, vote for the publication of the Assembly's final document...And all this with cool, but sunny and dry, weather outside.

A small echo of these three moments

A voting process which went smoothly and resulted in the formation of a new ExCo: balanced in terms of gender, age, continent, with a reasonable renewal. Little by little, the hymns accompanying the procession of voters helped us enter into a truly spiritual attitude.

This day continued with receiving the new version of the final document, integrating proposals made the previous day during our two plenary sessions. A new text, better balanced, more aware of the fruits to put forward, easier to be carried by the delegates who will do so with sensitivity. They say this themselves...

A new style is thus emerging in the Community which invents, by means of a wider, more communal and more physical circulation of speech, its lay manner of being an apostolic body.

All this leads us to make a request to Saint Ignatius on this feast day. Let it be given to us that this way of doing things spreads throughout the Community. This is not only the responsibility of the new ExCo, but of the delegates and even all those who contributed to this event.

Jean-Luc Fabre SJ (France)



Closure Mass

The New World Executive Council 2018-2023



President: Denis Dobbstein (Belgium French)
Vice-president: Anne-Marie Brennan (USA)
Secretary: Catherine Waiyaki (Kenya)
Consultors: Daphne Ho (Hong Kong); Diego Pereira (Uruguay);
Najat Sayegh (Lebanon); Fernando Vidal (Spain)

The following persons also form part of the world ExCo:
Ecclesiastical assistant: P. Arturo Sosa SJ (Venezuela)
Vice-Ecclesiastical assistant: Herminio Rico SJ (Portugal)
Executive Secretary: Alwin and Rojean Macalalad (Philippines)

On the way back

After an eventful night, with more or less: dancing, sleep, electricity, water... meeting somebody on the corridor, the first question was: when are you leaving, do we have to say goodbye already? I felt in the middle between not wanting to leave and wanting to get home. We have grown into being an assembly, we have deepened our relationship to God and among each other, we have shared our gifts and now we have to go forth, to our countries, communities, families.

We are the new "last" assembly now, we have become the new ambassadors of the message of this last assembly, spreading the word AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM...

A last meeting in my delegation discussed next steps, consequences, follow ups. We got down to business...

I wonder: what will this assembly change in my life? What will this assembly change in the life of CLC / CVX?

What will we SHARE?

Bernhard Zaunseder (Germany)



Thank you!

ARUPA



The Language Support Team



PROJECTS N°172

June 2019

Original: *French*

Link between the World Executive Council and the Christian Life Community

We believe God spoke to CLC in Buenos Aires

The World ExCo gathered in Namur, Belgium, during the Easter Octave.

The world assembly revealed that it is possible to listen to the Lord while attending to our duties; we were therefore driven by the very same desire. Working hard as an Executive Council should never prevent us from acting as a small yet universal discerning community. As logical as this sounds, it requires a conversion, especially for those who feel accountable.

Like the disciples of Emmaus, we once more had an experience of God's presence while reflecting on all the events in light of the scripture and celebrating Eucharist. We asked the Lord to tell us more about the World Assembly, beyond the narrative of the final document, trying to (fore)see the promising perspectives opened by the simple yet deep call of Buenos Aires. We do have reasons to affirm that we truly believe in what happened in Buenos Aires.

If you have been waiting for a vision, a long term strategic plan, you will definitely want to read the second part of the present letter. However, we cannot help but tell you first and foremost that our hearts were burning while the Lord was talking to us!

***We believe that God spoke to CLC in Buenos Aires.** We have good reasons to do so, but yet it is an act of faith. No matter how obvious it may sound, we experienced **communal discernment as God's precious gift to CLC today.** It is a gift to be deepened and shared while we go forth. The reverse works as well: it is a gift that urges us to **go forth**, and in so doing calls us to **deepen** in the charism to be **shared**. Indeed, the three verbs don't refer to a linear process; rather an integrated way of life.*

*CLC is present in many frontiers, and we want to feel at home wherever we find ourselves. The "magis" we can offer in each field of mission - beyond or rather in action - is sharing our faith in God's active presence and in our way to seek God in all. The experience at our assembly in **Buenos Aires is transversal and totally relevant at all frontiers.** Since the World Assembly gathered in a tent and we want to repeat, wherever possible, the dynamic of communal discernment, rather than using words about discernment, **we want to move the tent, i.e. create spaces of transcendence wherever we are most concretely committed.** By creating sacred spaces to recognize and respond to the interior movements of the Spirit, we trust that the Spirit will lead us towards greater union with Christ and greater love and service of God and others. Buenos Aires is transversal to all our commitments, personal and communal. That's why we dare say that the call of Buenos Aires is truly and deeply apostolic.*

*It's a call. **Buenos Aires is happening.** Buenos Aires will unfold if we truly believe that God keeps talking to us.*

This is a chorus letter, with several expressions coming from the members of the World ExCo for each of the 6 parts of our "profession of faith".

We believe that God spoke to CLC in Buenos Aires because ...

At the heart of the experience was a modern-day miracle. And we were witnesses to it.
The community, though diverse, prayed as one.

The heart of the world CLC was torn by the pain, love and faith of the people of Barrio San Miguel.

We were honest and free to look at our communal sins and paralysis.

The Holy Spirit inspired us to try things that only the Love of God can achieve.

Without a business tone, we were sent to the world.

The Holy Spirit invites us to offer ourselves through our deepest gift.

The Lord spoke to us with a clear and strong message.

We resisted the temptation of an advance “doctrine”; instead, we were open to purification and conversion of heart.

We made an experience of integration and received the grace we were asking for: it was a reconnection of people, identity, and mission.

A “burning bush”, a “take off your sandals” experience.

The Holy Spirit is alive!

Buenos Aires is a Copernican Revolution, a call to look at our identity in a new way. In addition to being a discerning and serving community, we are called to offer ourselves, while journeying with others.

Communal discernment is God’s precious gift to CLC today

In a world of post-truths, discernment is an urgency.

Pope Francis said, “People need welcoming, integration, accompaniment and discernment, but discernment is the less developed dimension in the Church.”

God showed us that the discernment of the community is at the center of our mission. It is not only a means, but central to who we are and our way of proceeding.

Communal discernment brings unity in purpose.

In an age of uncertainty and a society of risk, we need to develop a democracy of discernment.

The liberation of the poor starts with the liberation of awareness. Discernment is a tool for the deepest kind of liberation.

Communal discernment includes everyone.

Generate processes and experiences of discernment with people in any place where there is fear, division, doubt, pain, conflict, misunderstanding, exclusion, abuses, failure, non-sense... In any place where freedom and love are lost.

We are called to open spaces of communal discernment wherever we are in today’s world. Let our very presence invite communal discernment. May we radiate a holy openness.

Discernment creates reconciliation.

We trust that as we strive to connect with the Holy Spirit, we can listen to the movements of the Spirit in our hearts and be conduits for Christ’s love and action.

Deepen, share and go forth. Or go forth, share and deepen!

It is cyclical, an upward spiral, one leading to the growth of the other.

Go forth, Share and Deepen are entry points to the path of our calling, coming from our own particular circumstances. Let’s begin with where we are.

“We want to go forth, but this way” (a delegate to the Assembly, pointing to the tent of the plenary).

The final document has no specific steps. It’s not about specific steps, it’s about listening according to each reality. The final document is incomplete.

Get in touch with the Reality. It is reality which inspires Pope Francis to renew the Church.

Help everyone to be attentive to those close to them in their daily life.

To really have an impact in the world, start with where we are, with what we have.

To be a real lay Ignatian community.

Our CLC charism is a gift to be treasured, nurtured, and cared for—in order to share with others and to reveal Christ’s peace, joy and love.

Buenos Aires is a call to a profound connection with Christ and to an apostolic impe-

tus. We are invited to be intimate with Jesus in mission.

Buenos Aires is transversal and totally relevant at all frontiers

We were sent to discern together at the frontiers.

We will see a blooming of apostolic fields, of frontiers.

The call of BA is both a way of seeking and finding where we are needed most, and a way of being in any frontier we are called to.

If we are courageous enough, we will know that our way of being IS mission, and our lives will need to be poured boldly, totally this way – in all the peripheries where the Spirit is working.

Diversity and fragilization of families require more opportunities for discernment.

Migration and human mobility need to build bridges of shared discernment for the new society we are making.

We asked for the grace to better integrate our charism. As a kind of bonus, we got a clear message about the unity within a diverse CLC.

“At the center of your Ignatian spirituality is this desire to be contemplatives in action. Contemplation and action, the two dimensions together: because we can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ, and we know that Christ is wounded in the hungry, the uneducated, the discarded, the old, the sick, the imprisoned, in all the vulnerable human flesh.”¹

We want to move the tent, i.e. create spaces of transcendence where we are most concretely committed

Create sacred spaces where we are. Create encounters, open squares.

Move the tent and stay with those who enter, rather than spreading leaflets with instructions to build a neat tent.

All of us now; we do not need to wait for perfection.

Everywhere we go, we are called to open spaces of discernment. Wherever we live, we live this way. Whenever we leave, the way is transformed.

We need an experience of conversion rather than perfection or sending perfect documents.



Buenos Aires is happening

The mystery is still unfolding. The long conversation with the Spirit is continuing.

The real frontiers lead us to paths unknown, guided only by the light of the Spirit. This is the invitation and the grace we are called to carry together.

When God speaks, we need time to understand, to be converted, and to consent.

The invitation is clear, let us be witnesses.

We are in the hands of God, not always a comfortable place but ultimately a place of responsibility.

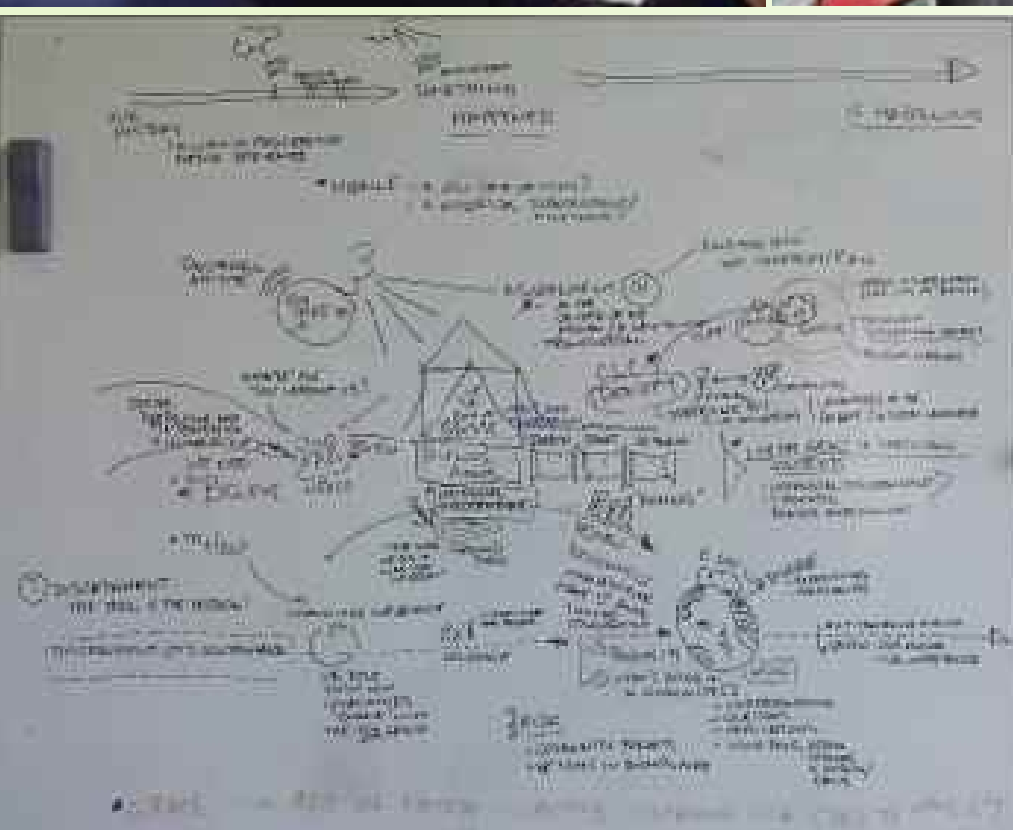
If we respond to the call, something “big” will happen; it is the Spirit who creates a deep wave that we neither launch nor control.

BA is still happening, which brings us back to the act of faith: we believe that God spoke to CLC in Buenos Aires.

¹ From the letter of Pope Francis to the CLC Buenos Aires World Assembly: (<http://bit.ly/Supplement74>)

Glimpses

World Executive Council Meeting 2019







Rojean and Alwin MACALALAD • Manuel MARTINEZ
Daphne HO • Fernando VIDAL • Diego PEREIRA • Najat SAYEGH
Catherine WAIYAKI • Ann Marie BRENNAN • Denis DOBBELSTEIN

IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT THE PERSPECTIVES WE HAVE:

In Buenos Aires, we revisited our charism, so as to dare to name what had allowed us to say with confidence that CLC itself is a gift for the Church and the world. The question was fundamental and universal. So we knew it would not be a classic discernment (i.e. a discernment leading to a choice between options / an election). The miracle of this World Assembly is that we have dared to listen to the Holy Spirit in community, without any preconceived idea as to the answer. It was a discernment that begun with a desired grace, and led to a renewed expression of our identity and calling. We can thus speak of a founding experience, which will spread especially through the testimony and the invitation to live the same approach.

Therefore, each community, whether local, regional, national or continental, is called upon to continue to experience communal discernment in more traditional contexts, where it is a matter of making a choice in relation to a specific question, either within CLC itself or in mission at any frontier. However, do not get us wrong: Buenos Aires has confirmed the apostolic desire of CLC without any ambiguity. By having communal discernment as both a gift and a calling, we were not looking at the CLC in a narcissistic way. Instead, CLC was declaring its desire to go forth in a way that is faithful to its deepest vocation.

Buenos Aires adds nothing and removes nothing from the intuitions of previous Assemblies. Yet we heard a very strong calling: the call to offer the most precious that we carry. Not exclusively Ignatian spirituality or the spirit of community or missionary impetus; rather, a better integration of the three dimensions. This is the enormous prophetic potential of this Assembly. Moreover, by calling us to give ourselves, with our desire and our ability to see the mysterious link between charism, vocation and mission, the Spirit has made us glimpse as a “bonus”, by overabundance, the fundamental link which will gradually make CLC a true apostolic body of lay Ignatians. This is what one of us has summarized with this clear formula: *Communal discernment offers unity in purpose.*

We believe it will take time to assume the call and to deploy our potential. Definitely much longer than 5 years. However, to avoid giving the (false) impression that we have to prepare ourselves for a long time before moving on, we propose to constantly interchange the order of the three verbs used in the final document of the World Assembly. We even suggest that you look for synonyms that will more accurately express what it means to “deepen, share, and go forth” for your community.

However, if it is necessary to speak about the ExCo, you may know that we DESIRE to dedicate ALL of our mandate to help direct and integrate ALL the efforts into perspectives that respond to the call of Buenos Aires :

- **Communal discernment in a way of life that is essentially apostolic.** Communal discernment combines perfectly with the iceberg presented by Franklin Ibañez in Beirut. It is an attitude to cultivate at all levels, from level "A", in our families, in our professional environments, in all our places of service.
- **Sharing our gift in all identified and emerging frontiers.** More than ever, we are invited to question what it means to be lay and Ignatian in our present and future fields of mission. It is not a matter of being original for the sake of pleasure or chal-

² “Challenges for the CLC Mission” by Franklin Ibañez. Progressio Supplement #70
(<http://bit.ly/Supplement70>)

lenge, but for considering as a responsibility the promotion of the "tools" that help being contemplatives in action. It is not a treasure to cherish, but a gift to share, daring to be creative in pastoral work.

- **An intergenerational vision for sharing our charism.** If we mention more urgently the challenge of transmitting our charism to future generations, our youth engagement becomes a clearer necessity for transforming the call of Buenos Aires to reality. If we believe that CLC is a gift for the Church and the world, it is the next generation that will "judge" us regarding our ability to transmit the fire.
- **Formation for communal discernment.** Formation is a basic requirement for the vitality and sustainability of our community. We are however invited to approach this service to the community in the spirit of Buenos Aires, with the aim of promoting the ability of our members to become agents of change. The ExCo can mobilize technical means to facilitate the exchange of expertise. It will also first focus on highlighting formation tools that help the local communities make the most of DSSE and help members to become confident practitioners of communal discernment as a service to the Church.
- **Collaboration as a natural way of proceeding.** We want to develop collaborations by focusing on those that offer the best potential to make the call of Buenos Aires a reality. Collaboration is not a theme to be explored in a conceptual way, but a necessary way of doing things for CLC in the Church's "kairos".
- **Communication** itself cannot be conceived simply as a means to the life of CLC. Even communication intended primarily for our members will be reviewed in depth to promote the emergence of an apostolic body.

We want to look beyond the horizon, that is, to project ourselves into a reasonably foreseeable future but with no guarantees. A future at 10 or even 20 years, which would see CLC become a key player because of its ability to support communal discernments. There



are many unknowns along the way, but we certainly need to set the stage now so that

³ Discern, Send, Support, Evaluate

Announcements

In Memory of Edythe Mary Westenhaver Darrow 1928 - 2018



Edythe Mary Westenhaver Darrow, 90, of Martinsburg, West Virginia, went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 12, 2018 at Canterbury Center. She was born July 11, 1928 in Cleveland, Ohio.

She was an amazing woman who was loved and will be missed by her family, friends and church. She lived an adventurous life, touring Europe and living in the Vatican for six years as a journalist. Edythe was the author of several books and worked as a vocational therapist at East Ridge in Martinsburg.

Widely known in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Edythe belonged to the Shepherd's Gate Community in Martinsburg. Her great contribution to World CLC was as Executive Secretary in the World Secretariat during the years prior to and following the formation of CLC 50 years ago.

Throughout her life she was committed to and passionate about Christian Life Community. Edythe was a great gift to those who knew her, to CLC and the Church.

(Excerpt from Harvest 2018 Vol 51, No 2)

Errata

Progressio 1/2018

In the article on the UN working group, on page 27 the new Facebook Group link should be:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/cvxcclceology/>

The article on the Asia World Youth Day was co-authored with Peter Hong(Singapore) and Kelvin Ching (Hong Kong)

XVII WORLD
ASSEMBLY
CVX - CLE



*A gift for the Church
and for the world*
Buenos Aires 2018

