



International Commission for the revision of the General Principles and Norms

To the World Community

Dear Community:

In August last year, the XVIIIth General Assembly, held in Amiens, approved:

- *That the World Executive Council appoint an international commission to work with the World Community on a comprehensive revision of the General Principles and General Norms.*
- *Connected to this, the Assembly approved the CLC Australia proposal, that integral ecology (according to Laudato Si') be included in this revision process and for that purpose that the international working group on ecology be consulted.*
- *The Assembly affirmed that the proposed amendments from the national communities of Congo and Spain be included in deliberations during the revision process.*

In Horizons 182 we reported that this clear mandate from the Assembly was an important area of work entrusted to us. The founding text of the 1967 General Principles was modified at the General Assembly in Guadalajara in 1990. From there, God has continued to work in our lives and in the life of the community and has guided us to better express how we wish to respond to Christ's calls. The General Principles and General Norms are a help in living out our identity and carrying out our deepest desires for service.

Over the past 34 years we have had eight General Assemblies. In each of them we revealed new and important elements of our charism. In our journey as a community, we are aware of social and ecclesial changes, we see room for improvement in the institutional dimension of the community and we see the need to harmonize and give coherence to the two texts (Principles and General Norms).

International Commission

The World Executive Council, which today is a “leadership community in discernment”, carried out a process and appointed the International Commission. This commission will be coordinating a synodal process over the next 4 years, to welcome a new document as our own at the next General Assembly in 2028. A new document that will help us to continue walking and growing as one apostolic, lay and Ignatian community.



The international commission include:

- Marielle Mathée, from CLC in the Netherlands;
- Denis Dobbstein, from CLC in Belgium (French speaking);
- Jean Paul Biruru, from CLC in Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Michael Liberatore, from CLC in the Philippines;
- Rafael Terra, from CLC in Uruguay.

Plus, members representing the “World Leadership Community in Discernment” (World Council):

- Cecilia Martinez, Consultant, from CLC in Spain;
- José de Pablo S.I., World Vice Ecclesiastical Assistant;
- Manuel Martínez Arteaga, Executive Secretary.

We thank God for the availability of these people who are dedicating their time, experience and wisdom to carry out this project. We ask you to pray for them that the Lord will enlighten them and give them the necessary freedom and confidence to undertake these years of intense work.

The commission has been meeting since the beginning of April. It is now in its third virtual meeting and has planned a one-week in person meeting in Rome next September.

Process

The mandate given at the Assembly in Amiens expressly states that the international commission will work together with the World Community in the review process. We therefore ask you to take this task into account as you plan for the coming years.

Each community officially affiliated in the World Community will be consulted on at least two specific occasions. While we do not have specific dates, **the first consultation will take place in the first half of 2025**. We also plan to include the regional and apostolic teams in this consultation. There will also be specific groups or persons who are experts in certain areas who will be consulted on specific subject matters, for example canonical law.

We ask all National Leadership Teams to honour the commitment you made in Amiens and to take the time to read and submit comments in accordance with the guidelines that will be sent out in due course. We really aim to achieve 100% feedback on this consultation.

In order to facilitate this process, our main suggestion is to designate a group of 2 or 3 people at the national level who can be the focal points of this project. Furthermore, as this is a long-term project, we do not want it to be affected by changes within your Leadership Teams in your country.

All communication will be addressed to the National Leadership Teams. However, please send us the names and email addresses of the 2 or 3 people you designate to be part of this group so that we can include them in our communications on this project. Please let us know before 31 October 2024.



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

We leave it up to the National Leadership Teams to organize the respondents as you are the best people to decide for the community in your country. You are free to involve whoever you believe can assist and provide constructive feedback. However, since the process is a global synodal 2-cycle consultation, it is very important that feedback is consistent and constructive on both occasions. Thus, our recommendation that you appoint a 2- or 3-person team in your country who will remain available throughout the project's term up to the next General Assembly in 2028.

To be clear, while it is the intention of the World Leadership Community (ExCo) and the commission to have a wide global synodal **consultation** journey, the **final vote** on the adoption of the new text is the responsibility of each affiliated community present at the World Assembly 2028. Each country will have 1 vote.

Finally, regarding the process, as an international Association of the faithful of Pontifical Right, we would like to share with you that we have already met with the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life and informed them of this project. Our General Principles must be confirmed and approved by the Holy See. In this way we express our sense of communion with the universal Church which encourages us to continue to work creatively and collaboratively in the mission of Christ.

May Mary, Our Lady of the Way, accompany and guide us throughout this process.

On behalf of the “World Leadership Community in Discernment”,

Chris Micallef
President

Manuel Martínez Arteaga
Executive Secretary

Rome, 26 June 2024