Transitioning into Adult CLC
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Those CLCers who are sharing their own ‘transitions’ with us do well do remind us how important their leaders have been as role models. It is also interesting to note that the example set and interest shown by more senior CLCers has also served as the flint to ‘light the flame’ of desire to continue along the CLC path in daily life—

“My college years were blessed. As a youth, CLC provided me a wonderful environment that nourished my spiritual growth. ...As an adult, CLC took a deeper meaning ...my fellow CLCers and I help each other discover, discern and live our personal vocation.’

“We contemplated how the Lord is calling us to serve in the areas of formation and all the different ministries of Youth/Young Adult Ministry…”

“Our region encourages and happily welcomes young adult involvement in activities, which has helped us take on leadership roles and increase our involvement in CLC, both regionally and nationally.”

“Now we, the young adults, are following the example set by the local adult communities and are helping form and guide new communities of young adults. ...CLC has really been an intergenerational effort — and both generations of CLCs are richer for it.”

We are also happy to include in this issue “CLC—Jesuit Relationships, An Ongoing Partnership” as well as a report on the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2007. Along with the Transitioning articles, these seem to provide a natural segue into the words of Cyril Taylor’s hymn,

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

“Lord, you give the great commission…
Lord, you call us to your service... 
Lord, you bless with words assuring, 
I am with you to the end. 
Faith and hope and love restoring, 
May we serve as you intend. 
And amid the cares that claim us, 
Hold in mind eternity. 
With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us 
For the work of ministry.”

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Many of you reading this article join me, I am sure, as a member of the CLC-USA “Flickering Candles” and can remember Arthur Godfrey firing Julius LaRosa on live television in the mid-1950’s. Arthur did it by telling LaRosa, after he sang what was to be his final number, that he had sung his “swan song”. This came to mind as I reflected on what I wanted to convey as my swan song as President and at the same time address how we generate and support youth and young adults in CLC. The tie to Godfrey firing LaRosa is like unto the phenomenon of Paris Hilton. Let us be honest, each of us, as disgusted as we may claim to be, are following the soap opera with keen interest as we ask, “What is wrong with modern culture and the degenerate manner in which we celebrate the rise and fall of “celebrities”? This phenomenon is not new! The “Godfrey/LaRosa” affair was greeted with two-inch front page headlines in most of the newspapers of the day. Godfrey’s ratings were falling dramatically and he had to “jump the shark” as Fonzie did in Happy Days as it died “not with a bang but a whimper.” And once a week Archie reminded us, as he dealt with his frustration with Michael, that “Those were the days.”

I am simply in prayerful awe of individual CLCers and CLCs as I meet all of you and grow to know you better.

MY SWAN SONG

After two years as President, I thank God that “these are the days” He chose for me to live and more specifically that these are the days that He has chosen me to be President of CLC-USA. It has been an honor and a gratifying experience as I have worked with and grown to know ever more of you who joined Sodality/CLC in the cultural eras of Arthur Godfrey, All in the Family, Happy Days, Peyton Place, Cheers, Steinfeld, Parr, Carson and Letterman. (One caveat, however! I refuse to concede an inch, the gold standard of monologs was, is, and always will be, Carson.) John Paul II was forceful in reminding us that each of us is the subject of our work and all other activity. I know that CLC is the Spirit alive for me for I know that I have grown as a human person through all of my interactions with all of you. Thank you!

Any accurate definition of the human person, which does not include American individualism, insists that each of us can only become the person God intended if we are in community. I grow step by step towards this image in God’s eyes every time I have the honor and privilege to serve, be served by, work with, proceed with, inter-act with and pray with members of Christian Life Community. I am simply in prayerful awe of individual CLCers and CLCs as I meet all of you and grow to know you better. Although I am in awe of the works of all of you, I find that I am more in awe of how so many CLCers have been called to carry heavy crosses and how it is done with such grace and humility. I desire to mention names and specific examples, but I do not have space, would miss somebody and embarrass others if I did so. But I must mention that all of our officers, NCC members and others in leadership positions in CLC, and our Ecclesial Assistants, have internalized the Ignatian “To give and not to count the costs!”

OUR CHALLENGES

On the other hand, I am not naïve and I recognize the tremendous challenges we have before us as we serve all of the people of the Kingdom of God in this time and place. I wish to underline five challenges that we need to address with new and renewed energy. We have much work to do in terms of formation, membership, cultural diver-
sity, structure and communications, but we have wonderful members, in terms of both competence and generosity with their time, working on all of them.

**Partnership With the Jesuits**

We will achieve fully what God is asking of us only if we enter into full and dynamic two-way partnership with the Society of Jesus in the USA Assistancy. Obviously the Spirit is working through us on this issue and there are positive movements in many areas thanks to many reading this article. Just as we are changing and discovering more and more who we are and what God desires, the same is true with the Jesuits in the world, but particularly in the USA. I do not know, nor does anybody else, what the Lord is asking of either of us alone, much less of us working together, but I do know that we are under the Lord’s standard. And, as St. Paul asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” I also take this opportunity to thank the Jesuits for all of the support they are providing.

**Articulating and Implementing Mission**

We must continue to articulate and implement our concept of mission and the specifics of our mission. Whatever the specifics of partnership with the Jesuits might be, we as CLC have our way of proceeding (a favorite concept of Ignatius). We have two powerful sets of tools, the Spiritual Exercises with the Ignatian tools that flow from them and we have community. We are CLC – laity on mission, formed in the Exercises and grounded and served and serving in community. Although many of us have our apostolates in Jesuit missions and institutions, serving the Jesuits is not our corporate mission as CLC. Our corporate mission is in the family, market place, and public square. The challenge of working-out mission is always going to be with us. The moment we know the specifics for all time – we are dead!

**Generating Resources From Among Our Membership**

Although I believe in angels, we are not angels. We can only do the work of the Lord in the modern world with sufficient resources, not with spirit and grace alone. This challenge is the one that weighs most heavily on my mind as I consider the potential of CLC-USA and, for that matter, at the World level. I think I gained some insight into the issues of finance as I listened to and read the book of Tobit during the ninth week of the liturgical year. It is a wonderful story of Tobit, Tobias, Sarah, Anna and the Archangel Raphael, but I was particularly taken by the twelfth chapter where Raphael delivers a lecture on how to live. One point he makes is that “Prayer with fasting is good, but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness.” In other words, generosity and justice! This statement is made in the context of Tobit and Tobias deciding to pay just compensation and the earlier part of the story where Tobit did not trust Anna. I ask all of us to pray over our personal financial support in the context of the book of Tobit. Part of our way of life must be a commitment on the part of each of us to enable CLC to be “all that it can be”.

CLC-USA and CLC-World can only do the work God is asking of us if we the members of CLC provide the resources. There is no other sustainable option for our on-going work. Foundations will be willing to support new and exciting initiatives, but only if we are committed ourselves and they will not fund operating expenses. The Jesuits have been and currently are very generous in the support of CLC, and I believe will be more than willing to help us with new initiatives as we deliver the good news, but they cannot and should not support the ongoing activities of middle-class Americans. They have initiatives in Africa, China and elsewhere that need support and they are declining in numbers with forty percent of current US Jesuits over the age of seventy. If we believe in the option for the poor, we support these new initiatives and if we hold “Honor thy Father and Mother” as a command, not suggestions, we desire the elders in the Jesuit community to receive proper care and honor.

Our challenge is to discover how through dues and contributions we ensure that all contribute, without eliminating anybody from membership because of income, while those blessed materially are enabled to contribute generously to CLC. I think some new initiatives of great promise are developing.

**Partnering and Cooperating With Others**

One of the buzz terms in business today is strategic alliance. Recently at a Board Meeting I had an “aha” moment when I realized that our company had four relationships with a particular firm: (1) competitor, (2) customer, (3) partner, and (4) vendor. CLC will probably always be resource poor and we simply cannot do everything ourselves and the forces of evil in the world today are so strong that we need the strength of working with others in new and various ways. We are currently considering a partnership with JustFaith, for they have a wonderful program for preparing CLCers for mission and they need our spiritual formation and community strengths. We have talked about advocacy for new members and immersion experiences as part of our formation. CRS would love to work with us on both. New partnering arrangements are beginning to develop across the many Jesuit and Jesuit-related groups and missions. Dioceses and parishes have many needs that we could serve in partnership with them. I see no reason why a Christian Life Community could not be responsible for administering or rebuilding a parish. The Emmanuel Community does this with great success.
I started this paper with Arthur Godfrey and Paris Hilton to make the point that over the years the story line is the same; only the facts, specifics and faces are different.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

When I pray the First Week of the Exercises one of my reality checks is to sit down with my patron saint, Thomas More, and compose two lists of questions. The first is the list I desire to be asked when I stand before the pearly gates and the second, and far longer, is the list I do not wish to be asked. Topping the second list is, “What did you do to make CLC and Ignatian Spirituality available to college students and young adults?” I will answer, “We had great YYA leadership while I was President; generous, personable, capable, and intelligent.” And Peter will say, “Yes I know, but how about resources, structure and staff?” At this point I will begin to plea bargain my stay in Purgatory. This is primarily a resource issue and one where I think we can find help from foundations. But, as the fund raisers keep emphasizing, it is also an issue of developing a vision and firm CLC commitment to it.

I now turn to the final part of this paper – Youth and Young Adults.

SOME THOUGHTS ON PROMOTING CLC TO YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

I started this paper with Arthur Godfrey and Paris Hilton to make the point that over the years the story line is the same; only the facts, specifics and faces are different. To use Steven Covey’s terms, persons go from being dependent persons, through becoming independent persons, to being fully adult persons, that is interdependent persons. Some, for various reasons, will never make it, and they are probably not called to CLC. We all go from having our diapers changed to changing diapers in reality or figuratively. The great source of hope that I observe is that the latent or articulated desire is present in large numbers of our young adults to develop the will or spiritual competence, intellectual competence and skills competence to be Christ to their world. This is no more or no less true than at any other point in history.

At the same time I remember listening to a Jesuit friend of mine who teaches in high school as he complained about today’s high schoolers and walked through a long litany of what he perceived as their faults. A second Jesuit came along, listened for a bit, and asked, “Now that you have defined a high school student, what are you going to do about it?” My point is very Ignatian. Let us begin by defining the reality, certainly anything but all negative, of today’s youth and young adults, and their environment, and then act accordingly as we evangelize and spread CLC.

To define the reality and to implement programs is going to cost resources, including money, yet we have no alternative if we believe in the CLC way of life. What is this reality?

Fact, my eight children work in three countries and four states.

Fact, youth and young adults require many years of higher education, almost never in the same school and usually in different geographic locations.

Fact, the early years in one’s career are usually very intense and require mobility between organizations and geographic locations. We are dealing with a highly mobile group when we work with youth and young adults and this mobility manifests itself in many ways.

Let us look at another aspect of mobility, the mobility of persons who can build CLC and have the charge to do so. CLC on a college campus is seldom directed by a Jesuit who has been or will be around for many years, or even by a senior lay staff member of campus ministry. CLC is directed by a junior staff member in an entry-level position, one who is seldom paid what we would consider a living wage. As one very competent minister said to me, “I am eligible for food stamps.” The spiritual formation of students to be persons on mission for others is a very low priority on most of our Je-
suit campuses. One young lady working with CLC told me she knew she had to be formed in the Exercises, wanted to, and was willing to give a month of time in the summer if her university picked-up the cost, which they would not do.

The fluidity and mobility of young adults may manifest itself differently, but it is a fact of life and provides a major part of the reality in which we must promote CLC and make it work for these young men and women who are the future. There are models that have great potential and persons successfully working with young adults. I do know, that for both youth and young adults, CLC-USA must provide the structure, leadership, training and materials for training, personnel and of greatest importance — the vision. We have the leadership in the young adults who are giving so generously of their time. We need to make it possible for them to leverage the time and effort they so generously give.

I believe the potential funding for the first few years exists from foundations and others outside of CLC, provided we show our leadership vision and financial commitment. What will be an exciting and successful vision? I am not sure of the details, but I am sure that it must reflect the Magis in its fullness. Recently, Father Francisco Franco, S.J., the Secretary for Social Ministry in the Jesuit Curia in Rome, noted that it has three elements.

First, we look at the whole of the youth and young adult reality in a compassionate manner. This is nothing more than joining the Trinity in the Incarnation Meditation and focusing on youth and young adults. Every one of us has done this meditation when we have made the Exercises. If we are not moved by this meditation, a key element of Ignatian Spirituality, we do not belong in CLC.

Second, we must take an inclusive approach, one grounded in solidarity. This is nothing more than the Catholic Social Thought that we commit to when we join CLC. With our various cultural groups, CLC-USA has aspects of solidarity in a beautiful manner. But as our society in the USA breaks into the haves and have-nots, we must reach out to the youth and young adult have-nots, especially our Native American and Afro-American sisters and brothers.

The third element of the Magis is accountability. We in CLC are accountable for the gift of CLC and we in CLC who are persons gifted with good incomes and talents are accountable for the use of these gifts. How are we going to exercise this accountability, especially for the gift of CLC itself, as we reach out to youth and young adults, as we gift them with CLC?

**CONCLUSION**

Now God, let the two of us discuss all of these things. Am I in the Second Class of Persons if I spend time following the exploits of Paris Hilton rather than reaching out with the gift of CLC to youth and young adults?

You say no, but I have the talent to reach out and help CLC with one of its other challenges?

What, you want me to give up “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit”?

As Tom Bausch departs from his role as National President of CLC-USA, we’d like to take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership as well as the wonderfully thought-provoking and inspirational articles he has given us in *Harvest*. Many thanks, Tom.

We extend a warm welcome to our new National President, Ann Marie Brennan, and wish her a happy and productive time ahead in her newest service role in CLC-USA.

We are also pausing to share in the esteem with which Fr. Bill Kidwell, S.J., is held by the Y&YA members of the South Florida Region. After an association of more than twenty years with Y&YA in the South Florida area, specifically Miami, he has retired ‘westward’ to the New Orleans Region due to ill health. Two very telling references of Fr. Bill’s work and dedication to Youth and Young Adults can be found in these quotes:

“Anyone who has ever spoken to him, or attended one of his Masses, could always tell that he was a true son of the Church and of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits.”

“Mentors like Fr. Kidwell are important in anyone’s life because they are here on this earth to set an example and teach us, just like Jesus did when He was alive.”

We wish you well, Fr. Bill! God Bless!
My Transition to Adult Christian Life Community

Phuong-Ha Nguyen

A month ago, I received an e-mail asking me to share about my “transition to adult CLC.” The e-mail came from a friend who has known me since my freshman year in college (let’s not dive into how long it has been, but just to acknowledge that it has been a long time …) and I couldn’t refuse. I remember somewhere a saying, “Peace is only found in saying yes.” I guess I opted for peace (so much for my discernment here). Actually, another reason for my acceptance is I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for me to reflect on my own CLC journey, from the starting days as a late teen, through the college years, through the early working years (I’m still working and having quite a long time before I can collect retirement) and through the major life changes like getting married, having children and beyond those experiences. It would be good for my somewhat-dry-at-the-moment spiritual life to reflect and to share with others the transition to adult CLC.

One month passed by quickly. I did not forget about the article I had promised for Harvest. It had been in the back of my mind as something-to-do-as-soon-as-I-find-time. But I never found time for it. Time was always taken up by other demands from work, from family, from the children (I love blaming them for anything I fail to do correctly or timely!). Time was always occupied by other social events like funerals and weddings to attend, birthday parties to plan for and other life happenings. Time was somewhat wasted surfing the internet or browsing the stores searching for things I didn’t really need.

The deadline came close and I received another e-mail (this time, from Dolores) as a friendly reminder. This time, I wished I hadn’t said yes to the first e-mail. I started thinking of a way out. How about a reply, “Dear Dolores, I’m sorry but I don’t think I can make it for this coming up issue of Harvest. How about another time in the future?” Notice, how I became a little more “clever” by not committing to an actual date? Well, any postponement would sound much better than having to write! I had not reflected much on the subject and it seemed impossible to share about it in writing. I had never submitted anything to Harvest before and did not want my first submission to be some poorly written piece … The pride, the self (the evil spirit’s most useful tools) began to take control … The desire to be closer to God and to open myself to others quickly faded…

I apologize for this windy introduction. I apologize for not taking the sufficient time to reflect and to produce a “fruitful” piece of writing on my “transition to adult CLC.” I knew I had to start writing; if it were not well written it would not do justice to all the graces I had received during the two decades being with Dong-Hanh (our Vietnamese CLC), but I had to start somewhere. Hopefully, the effort to keep my promise (to write for Harvest) can somehow redeem my procrastination during the past month.

I made my first Spiritual Exercise retreat when I was turning eighteen, in my freshman year of college. It was only a weekend retreat. I remember I came back feeling closer to God but that was pretty much it. My life did not turn one hundred and eighty degrees after that retreat. Unlike many others who shared their spiritual encounters, it would not be fair to say that the retreat was a life-changing experience for me.
But in a way, that first retreat was the door that led me to a long journey. During the retreat, I met some “older” retreatants (not that much older, they were in their early twenties at most) who told me about a group named “Mustard Seeds.” The group was meeting weekly on the campus of the school I was attending. “We help each other continue what we have received from the retreat,” they claimed. Without much hesitation, I took up the invitation to come to their meeting.

They were a group of college students who met in a trailer on campus. I made many wonderful friends there. We had many beautiful meetings, full of beautiful sharing, which I still remember and cherish to this day. We encouraged each other to make our annual Spiritual Exercise retreats; sometimes we organized special weekend retreats which were just for our group. My college years were blessed!

And it could have ended there like that of many of my friends in Mustard Seeds who moved on to professional schools, relocating to a different town, settling in a good job, etc. The composition of Mustard Seeds was always changing, with new freshmen coming in, and with graduating seniors leaving the group every year. After graduation, we kept in touch via e-mail or phone. We saw each other occasionally at weddings and funerals. But we no longer sat down in a circle with a lighted candle among us, sharing our faith journey. Graduation marked the end of the Mustard Seeds days for me … I remember I did attempt to go back on campus but no longer seemed to fit in with the group. I was fond of the new members but I no longer had very much in common with them.

Although not the majority, quite a few of the former Mustard Seeds joined other Dong-Hanh communities in the region and continued this way of life. I was fortunate enough to be one of those. While many of my friends went on to out-of-state schooling or got a job somewhere else, I stayed in the same town. Other people in Dong-Hanh reached out to me and I got myself more involved with the local Dong-Hanh communities in Southern California. One thing led to another, and after a few years, I found myself more and more rooted in this vocation. Yes, it has become a vocation. And I can’t pinpoint exactly when that happened. It just came naturally. I can’t really pinpoint exactly when I stopped considering myself a “youth” but rather as an “adult.” Was it when I graduated and started working? Was it when I turned thirty? Was it when I got married? Was it when I gave birth to our first child? I don’t really know.

One thing I do know is that the CLC vocation means something different to me now as an adult.

I used to “do” more. I “do” much less now.

It’s more difficult to go to meetings. I have to carefully make plans for it. It’s tougher to make the annual retreat. I have to consider other people’s calendars and schedules, not just mine, to work around family activities and other child care issues.

When I attend other functions of Dong-Hanh/CLC, I don’t “do” as much. Most of the time, we take the kids with us and we’re busy chasing after our restless children. But I am thankful for all the organizational work my friends in CLC have to do, in order for the event to take place. And I thank God for being able to join them. When I cannot attend some event, I try to be with my CLC fellows in prayer.

I made the Nineteenth Annotation a long time ago, in my early twenties. Now, when I sometimes come across some materials taken from the Spiritual Exercises, I remember how “confused” and “lost” I felt when I was first introduced to them. It’s like they suddenly make more sense when you’re a little older? I’m sure twenty, thirty years from now, in my senior years, I might be saying the same thing about my current understanding. The same goes for the CLC vocation. As a youth, CLC provided me
Questions for Discussion

1. What advantage might inclusive Community retreats have for CLC participants?

2. What special qualities do you think the collegiate CLC experience should provide in order to become the impetus needed to seek out CLC as a way of life later on?

3. In your own experience, have you found CLC to be an agent that will “unify and and integrate all aspects of …life as a Christian”?  

Phuong-Ha Nguyen is a software engineer, living in Orange County, California with her husband (a hardware engineer) and two children (a boy and a girl of three and two years old). She has been with Dong-Hanh since 1985 and had served various roles both in the local and regional communities. She is currently editor-in-chief of Dong-Hanh newsletter, a role she has taken on for the past seven years. This is a “low-key” function that she can do in her spare time, at home or at work, communicating with others mostly via e-mails and not requiring much time away from the family.

Describing herself as a “not all that crazy about hi-tech and definitely not a geek,” her outside interests and hobbies include reading, trying out new recipes, going to the movies and concerts, traveling, etc. Most of which she has not done much since the children …

“Lately, I find myself enjoying almost the same activities but with a different flavor. It’s children’s book instead of my novel. It’s Sesame Street instead of my Netflix movie. It’s Peter Pan ballet show instead of my pop concert. As for traveling, my idea of “roughing it out” nowadays is a weekend road-trip with the kids in a three-star hotel!”

Phuong-Ha is currently with a local Dong-Hanh/CLC community in Orange County. It’s a small, close-knit community of five-six people who have been on this journey for more than twenty years. They meet once every two weeks. Whenever possible, she and other members of the group include their families in their “community life” through picnics, gatherings, fund-raising activities, or other events of Dong-Hanh.
In the land of sunshine and beaches where many a party can be found, CLCs have found a vibrant young adult community. At the heart of all the success of CLC in South Florida are adult CLC members willing to share their experience and teach a younger generation about the richness of CLC.

Prince of Peace CLC has been in existence for eighteen years. Father Bill Kidwell, S.J. founded the young adult group in 1989 as a continuation of the high school CLC he started in 1986. He nurtured it through pre-CLC stages and even today, despite living in New Orleans, he is still involved and maintains in close contact with the group’s young members.

Liz Mendoza has been a member of Prince of Peace since 1991. The group’s mission has always been Respect Life, though when she was away and lived in New York from 1994 to 2003, she would always return to Miami for Christmas and would go caroling to a local nursing home with her community. When she moved back to Miami in 2003, she rejoined the group and now serves as its regional representative. The group now has about six members and meets monthly.

In 1998, the ladies of the Regina Mundi cluster invited a group of four young female college students (including the two of us) to “come and see” what CLC was all about by starting a young adult CLC and attending cluster meetings. The majority of the members who comprised Regina Mundi had been members of sodalities in Cuba when they were teenagers and they saw the need to continue to spread the fruits they received from Ignatian Spirituality beginning in adolescence into adulthood.

These four young women formed Alas de Cristo (Wings of Christ) CLC and have continued to meet weekly for nine years. The group has grown through the changes in their lives — graduate school, marriage, births — and now includes some of their husbands, as well as their children, and has expanded to also include other young adults and young families. Though each member has individual missions that the group supports, the community’s common mission is the Magis Retreat program, based on the Spiritual Exercises, for young adults ages 21 to 35. The retreat program has also helped to foster interest and awareness of CLC among local young adults.

Among the young adults who have attended the retreat and have gone on to form their own CLC are the members of Fe y Justicia (Faith and Justice) CLC, which has been meeting bi-weekly for the past few years. The group stresses strong formation, a sense of social justice, and a preferential option for the poor, particularly since each of its members has done mission work to the Dominican Republic and/or Haiti. Local adult CLC members from Regina Mundi have continued to guide and support this group.

Our region encourages and happily welcomes young adult involvement in activities which has helped us take on leadership roles and increase our involvement in CLC, both regionally and nationally.

Our groups have not been without their ups and downs, but the young adults in South Florida feel a passion for CLC as a way of life and continue to spread the word.
Now, we, the young adults, are following the example set by the local adult communities and are helping form and guide new communities of young adults. For the communities in the South Florida region, CLC really has been an intergenerational effort – and both generations of CLCs are richer for it.

**REMEMBERING FATHER VICTOR HERNANDEZ, S.J., OUR LATE ECCLESIAL ADVISOR**

Father Victor always supported us in all of our endeavors and never saw our youth or inexperience as an impediment. He supported our local retreat program like no other priest and always wanted others to get involved.

He witnessed our sacraments and our growing families with all of the love of a father.

Father Victor will always live in our hearts and in our CLCs. And our children will all learn to say “Victor” as he would have wished.

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**Carmen Santamaria** has been a founding member and coordinator of Alas de Cristo Young Adult CLC in Miami since 1998. She has also been a leader in the Magis Retreat Program for young adults since it was founded by Alas de Cristo five years ago.

Carmen serves as the Co-National Representative for Youth, College and Young Adult CLCs on the CLC-USA National Coordinating Council.

She and her husband, Alejandro (who is also a member of Alas de Cristo), are also active at their parish, in the apostolic movement Marriages in Victory, as well in the Archdiocese of Miami’s Spanish-language marriage preparation retreat, Camino del Matrimonio.

Carmen is a part-time attorney and a full-time mother to 1½ - year-old Mónica Alessandra and baby-on-the-way Antonio Javier (A.J.), due in October.

**Angelique Ruhi-López** is a founding member and co-coordinator of Alas de Cristo CLC and has been a leader in the Magis Retreat Program for five years. She is also the Co-National Representative for Youth, College and Young Adult CLCs on the CLC-USA NCC.

She is married to Richard, a fellow Alas de Cristo member, and together they serve on the secretariat of Camino del Matrimonio. Angelique is a writer who is now a full-time mom to 10-month-old Emmanuel and newborn Sebastián, who was born in June.

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More than ever I find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth. But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God’s hands.

— Pedro Arrupe, S.J.
Our Thanks to Father Bill Kidwell, S.J.

Maritza Falo

I have been part of Christian Life Community for seventeen years, thanks to Father Kidwell. He introduced me to CLC when I was twenty years old, when he worked at St. Benedict’s in Hialeah. He has been a great inspiration and mentor. Mentors like Father Kidwell are important in anyone’s life because they are here on this earth to set an example and teach us, just like Jesus did when He was alive. Thanks to Father, I have seen many places, met other people of my faith, and learned about scripture. I have been to Colorado when Pope John Paul II was there for a visit. I went to Scranton, Pennsylvania, for a young adult meeting. I have been to young adult camps where we shared each other’s Catholic experiences. I have fought for life, praying the rosary in front of abortion clinics. This was all done during my young adult life and now I am an adult.

My transition from young adult to adult came when I met my husband. I was still in the young adult group when we were dating and four years later he proposed. Father was good enough to perform the ceremony and the young adult members came to celebrate our wedding as a community. Unfortunately, my need to be with my husband at the time was greater than it is now, so I was away from CLC for years. Now I have time to dedicate to both my husband and CLC, and recently joined the adult group two years ago.

The adults meet the first Sunday of every month at a church in Miami and Father Kidwell was our spiritual guide. Last year we had a year-long retreat in which Father introduced the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to the group. The exercise taught the members how to pray, using meditation and finding a place where one can communicate with God without distraction. I found this to be profound in everyday life. This year has been about the life of Jesus from His teachings through His Death. It is a handout, of a sort, that has a brief overview on the life and teachings of Jesus. Father would tell us to read and then on our next get together we would discuss what we read, as a group. Father Kidwell would also implement charity work, so once a year (usually at the end of the year) we would donate money for the poor or bring canned goods as our charity work. That’s what I love about Father Kidwell—he always included an act of charity in any of the groups I was in, be it young adult or adult. Father would also coordinate the “March for Life” rallies in Washington, D.C. Our group was always represented by both young adults and adults. I thank God and Father Kidwell for being part of Christian Life Community.

Lately Father Kidwell has been going through some hard times. He has been through knee surgery and a triple bypass. The triple bypass caught the CLC members by surprise. Both this year and last he has been in and out of hospitals because of one complication or another. He finally was well enough to leave the hospital and got transferred to Belen, where they have a facility for priests who need medical attention. Recently, Father gave the CLC members the unfortunate news that he was leaving us to rehabilitate in New Orleans. He received a letter from his superiors telling him that we would be leaving Miami and would be going to another facility in New Orleans for rehabilitation. Father Kidwell had to leave Miami and traveled to New Orleans by car (a fellow Jesuit seminarian drove him) in order to recover from his surgery at a facility which specifically cared for priests. I never would have thought Father would leave us, but once he got to New Orleans and told me that they were taking good care of him, I was relieved.
It was during a sunny, South Florida afternoon on April 7, 2007 that fifty of Fr. William Kidwell’s former students, friends and members of the various Christian Life Communities in Miami gathered to bid him farewell. Father Kidwell, who for twenty years has faithfully served the people of South Florida was forced into early retirement due to an open heart surgery which he underwent on November 16, 2006.

Even though he loved every one of his ministries, the one closest to his heart has always been Pro-Life. He indeed has always been a defender of Life from the moment of conception till natural death. For over twenty years, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade Father Kidwell led groups of young people and laity to Washington, D.C. for the Life March. I, as many other people can testify, that while in Washington, D.C. he would walk under snow, and under other difficult weather conditions in defense of human life.

Kidwell’s other love has always been his priesthood, especially within the Jesuits which is the order to which he belongs to. Anyone who has ever spoken to him, or attended one of his Masses could always tell that he was a true son of the Church, and of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. In a letter to all of the Christian Life Communities of Miami he wrote “Next to taking my vows as a Jesuit and Ordination to the Priesthood, this present experience, (the open heart surgery) has been the richest experience of my life”.

Continued from page 13
In conclusion, I want to thank Dolores Celentano for giving me the opportunity and honor to write about my Christian Life Community. I also want to thank Father Kidwell for everything he has done for me and everyone else throughout the years. He has influenced many lives and has dedicated his life to the Lord. For this he will most certainly be rewarded for all eternity.

And Jesus said to them, “You can be sure that when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne in the New Age, then you twelve followers of mine will also sit on thrones, to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake, will receive a hundred times more and will be given eternal life.” (Matthew 19. 28-29)

Thank you, Father Bill. We love you.
“Grace Follows Whenever We Meet Again”
Transitioning With Post-college Age CLC

John LeVecke, S.J.
National Ecclesial Assistant

June 2007

It is very timely to raise the theme of transitioning in this issue of Harvest. This pertinent life experience has been one of my greatest joys as well as frustrations in recent years and, thereby, a significant opportunity and challenge at this time in our National agenda.

I think that putting ourselves into the posture of being utterly available to life transitions in union with each other is at the very core of CLC. As the world that surrounds becomes increasingly more complex, all the more, we find ourselves needing to access genuine community life to assist us amidst life’s changing confusion with the grace that promises to follow us at each and every meeting point. This is especially true as we face in our world increasingly more transitioning populations and situations. Who does not transition this side of heaven? Transitioning is a part of life, especially if we are growing, adapting and embracing the changes which are the very fabric of our lives. Sometimes I think I do it well, other times maybe not so well. In all honesty, usually my less than successful efforts result when I try it on my own resolve. Thus, our life transitions present wonderfully graced opportunities for us to find and rediscover Jesus in the fullness of CLC that awaited these members on the other side of graduation, in their transition into the real world of their lived vocation. Some of the upper-division students found themselves ready and postured to receive the Spiritual Exercises guided by the individually-directed Nineteenth Annotation. We suggested that those who felt ready could make a First Commitment at the end of their senior year at the time of their undergraduate graduation. We reintroduced Regional events on campus that invited the participation of our other Regional cultural and age group clusters. We were able to invite National representatives to continue to bring not only the awareness, but the reality of the World Community into their lives. Reporting on World and National assemblies added fire to the new passion into the greater CLC community. Our National Crazy Quilt did its job in assisting this vision as it toured many of our Regional gatherings.

The National Leadership readdressed this challenge of transition from university and worked to support this new opportunity of grace. The Youth & Young Adult website was a new means for this group to identify with the National Community. The special Y&YA adult meeting in New Orleans gave them an opportunity to meet and share more new ideas and possibilities. The successful Y&YA DVD still is not tired. The now annual Cura Personalis Youth and Young Adult Formation, going into its fourth year, continues to build upon the success of the National effort. More and more undergraduates are being formed into our National and World Community.

As this rekindled and re-identified National Youth and Young Adult cluster transitions now after the college years, we find the increasing need to strengthen our promotion of a communal infrastructure that supports them. The National Formation Committee has made one of its top priorities to provide anew authentic Guides and Coordinators training. To this end, members of the Post-College years now can benefit from this proven successful means of building our communities from one life situation to another. As Alberto Brito, S.J., our World Vice-Ecclesial Assistant, along with our World Council members suggest: **A community without a Guide can float on water, but with a Guide, it can sail!**

Continued on page 17
CLC – Jesuit Relationships…An ongoing Partnership

Lois Campbell

CLC-USA had the pleasure last month of hosting Fr. Alberto Brito, S.J., Vice-Ecclesial Assistant for World CLC. He spent two weeks with us, meeting with CLC members and Jesuits in five different regions. The trip culminated at the US Jesuit Provincial’s meeting in Milwaukee where he joined John LeVecke, S.J., and several CLC-USA ExCo members in a presentation and discussion with the Provincials about CLC.

Since 2004 when he was appointed by Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, to work with World CLC, Alberto moved from his home country, Portugal, to Rome, where he works in the World CLC Office (Secretariat) and serves on the World Executive Council. About half of his time is spent traveling to countries with CLC or where CLC is being developed. He meets with both Jesuits and CLC members to support CLC growth and foster healthy CLC-SJ relationships. His role is a dual one, not only is he the Vice-Ecclesial Assistant for CLC, he is also the Secretary for CLC within the Jesuit Curia. In this capacity he is one of the team of consulters to Fr. Kolvenbach, General of the Society of Jesus.

His trip to the USA came at the invitation of the Jesuit Provincials and reflects the growing relationship between CLC and The Society. Over the past five years, national CLC leadership has worked to develop its relationship with the Society of Jesus as an organization. Each year we have met with staff of the Jesuit Conference and increasingly Regional CLC leaders meet with their Provincials. The Jesuit Conference serves a coordinating role for the USA Provinces of the Society of Jesus under the leadership of the Provincials.

CLC has always been closely connected with individual Jesuits as Ecclesial Assistants, guides and members of CLCs. These Jesuits work closely with us to develop CLC and make the Spiritual Exercises available. Their commitment to CLC has helped us grow beyond the capacity of all of our volunteer leaders. They have sometimes made their Jesuit brothers and Provincials aware of CLC’s development. However, as CLC, we have not traditionally made those connections ourselves. Other than the Jesuits who worked directly with us, CLC has been mostly invisible to the Society of Jesus in our regions and nationally.

This lack of relationship has served neither CLC nor the Jesuits. In an age of declining numbers in religious communities and a growing need in our society for spiritual formation, collaboration between lay movements and religious congregations becomes more and more essential. CLC members are working in Jesuit institutions, offering the Spiritual Exercises, forming Ignatian communities on mission, working collaboratively with Jesuits all over the country. Sometimes even the Jesuits with whom they work do not know that they are CLC.

The relationship with the Jesuits has been more formal in other National Communities in World CLC. Jesuits formed the first CLCs, and have been central through most of our history and continue to be our primary collaborators in developing new CLCs and supporting existing National Communities.

It is a relationship that traces back to the time of Ignatius and our beginnings. In “1563 A Jesuit teacher by the name of Jean Leunis gathers a group of students of the Roman College for spiritual advancement -- the Marian Congregation is born. This
first group quickly becomes a model for other congregations throughout the world." (World CLC Website) Jesuits around the world continued to work with these small groups of lay people until the suppression of the Society of Jesus in 1773. The Marian Congregations or ‘Sodalities’ in North America were not suppressed but put under the authority of the Universal Church. They grew dramatically in numbers during these years from about 2500 groups to more than 80,000. Unfortunately they lost the connection to Ignatian Spirituality and became a mass movement of pious groups in parishes and schools.

In the early 1900s renewal began, again with the support of the Jesuits. Gradually as the Church approached the Second Vatican Council, Sodality members began to experience the Spiritual Exercises and move closer to the vision of the first groups. In 1922 the General of the Society of Jesus convened Jesuits working with the Sodalities around the world. In 1922 he instituted a ‘secretariat’ in Rome (the first of the current eight Secretariats at the Jesuit Curia) to support the growth of Marian Congregations.

Beginning in the 1950’s, lay people gathered as part of the World Congress on the Lay Apostolate to consider becoming a world federation of Marian Congregations. They did so—again with the support of the Jesuits and the Secretariat in Rome that developed the statutes for the Federation. It was at the fourth World Assembly of the World Federation of the Marian Congregation that the General Principles and the new name Christian Life Communities were adopted.

The partnership with the Jesuits shifted at this point. CLC is not longer a ‘work of the society’ in the same way Sodalities were. We are a world wide lay association in the church. Our leadership is lay and our direction set by our own General Assembly. Nonetheless, Jesuits continue to be our primary partners, developing CLC where there is none, nurturing CLC leadership and community development where we are newly formed, collaborating fully with lay leadership when the CLC matures. Nearly all of the Ecclesial Assistants around the world are Jesuits and we enjoy the support and commitment of Fr. Kolvenbach and Father Arrupe before him.

Fr. Alberto’s time in the USA nurtured the relationship not only with the Jesuits in the regions he visited, but also helped us clarify and focus the relationship nationally. We explored ways CLC can further support the work of the Society with the Provincials. We shared our own opportunities and struggles as a national community and shared our goals for formation, growth of CLC and financial stability. The Jesuits are supporting John LeVecke, our National Ecclesial Assistant’s work with CLC for the next several years, providing a window for us to get our own financial house strong enough to support his work and the work of lay staff. The national leadership recently named an ‘Advancement Committee’ which will take the lead in developing resources. Many of our CLC leaders and members are strong, deeply committed and highly skilled in doing the work of CLC. We are however all doing this in the context of already busy personal and professional and mission commitments. What we (English speakers, Vietnamese, Spanish speakers, Koreans and young adults) get done even with these limits is nothing short of amazing. To realize our potential we need to keep doing what we are doing and find the resources for full time staff.

The Formation Committee will incorporate the University formation as it transitions into Post-College and beyond.

The Regions and Cluster Groups that provide SEEL (Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life), are providing a wonderful means of Ignatian Formation for this transitional group. I think it is very important to provide the Exercises as early after college as possible. Even though their lives may be hectic now that they have entered more fully into “real life” and its demands, there just might not be a better time for them to journey forth with the Spiritual Exercises and a more complete incorporation into CLC as we provide more substantial opportunities for them to meet again. Ultimately, we need to do whatever we possibly can to help enable the joyous sound of communal grace experienced by our college-age brothers and sisters to keep resounding in their hearts and minds—wherever they go—with us.
Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2007

Sylvia Picard Schmitt

“Bringing Good News to a Broken World: Overcoming Fear with God’s Love”

That was the theme of the 2007 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering which took place in Washington, D.C., in February. The purpose of this annual gathering is to bring together Catholics from across the US (along with a number of international observers) who are involved in social justice ministry. This year’s theme echoed the message of Pope Benedict’s first encyclical, God is Love, in which the Pope reminds us that “…charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as ‘social charity’” (29).

A number of different organizations sponsor this event: USCCB, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services and about fifteen others. I became aware of this gathering for the first time this year because of the sponsorship of JustFaith Ministries, an organization in which several members of my local CLC and other CLCers have become involved. Although the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) was new to me, there was at least one other CLCer there. I learned later that Steve Pehanich attended the event as a representative of Catholic Charities of California. If there were other CLC members there, I’d be glad to know, and it wouldn’t surprise me. CLCers across the country are involved in all sorts of justice ministries. After all, we are called by our General Principles to work for justice and specifically to “work for the reform of structures in society, participating in efforts to liberate the victims from all sorts of discrimination and especially to abolish differences between rich and poor (GP 8).” We just don’t necessarily proclaim ourselves as CLC when we are engaged in the work that we do for justice.

Because of the ongoing conversation about CLC’s visibility both locally and nationally, the CSMG seemed to me an event that called for CLC participation. Although drawn to the event by an invitation from JustFaith Ministries, I identified myself there as a representative of Catholic Charities of California. If there were other CLC members there, I’d be glad to know, and it wouldn’t surprise me. CLCers across the country are involved in all sorts of justice ministries. After all, we are called by our General Principles to work for justice and specifically to “work for the reform of structures in society, participating in efforts to liberate the victims from all sorts of discrimination and especially to abolish differences between rich and poor (GP 8).” We just don’t necessarily proclaim ourselves as CLC when we are engaged in the work that we do for justice.

The CSMG involves several days of prayer, reflection, learning, networking, and advocacy. This event is held in the nation’s capital each year because a central part of the gathering is a mass visit to Capitol Hill. Delegates reach out to their senators and representatives urging them to make peace and the well being of those who are poor and vulnerable as top priorities in their decision making. This year’s advocacy efforts were concentrated on four issues: Immigration Reform, HIV/AIDS, the 2007 Farm Bill and Peace in the Middle East. In each Congressional office we brought a specific message about the Church’s position on these issues. You can access the position papers prepared by the USCCB for the Gathering at: http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/csmg2007.htm.

Prior to the Capitol Hill visits we were provided additional background information on each of the highlighted issues and tips on effective advocacy. There were also workshops on other national and international issues as well as strategy sessions on working more effectively as advocates for justice. We also attended beautiful liturgies each day with music that reflected the cultural diversity of our Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to affirm our commitment to human life and dignity and justice and peace, to learn from each other and celebrate our Catholic faith.

Numerous religious orders, diocesan peace and justice offices and other Catholic institutions are represented at these Gatherings. It seems a natural fit for CLC, and a good learning experience for us as well as an opportunity for greater visibility nationally. My hope is that CLC participation in the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering continues and expands in the years to come.

Sylvia Picard Schmitt

is a member of the St. Catharine CLC. She has participated in the Metro New York CLC Leadership Seminar and serves as one of CLC’s NGO representatives to the United Nations in New York.
Sylvia has a M.A. in Systematic Theology from Fordham University and teaches in the Archdiocese of Newark’s lay ministry formation program, called Christian Foundations for Ministry. She and her husband Jack have four children and live in Glen Rock, New Jersey.
Youth and Young Adult Updates from Around the Country

Cura Personalis: This year’s Cura Personalis College Formation Conference took place at Boston College from May 30 to June 3rd. Students, campus ministers and representatives from numerous schools were in attendance, which included Loyola University New Orleans, Boston College, University of Scranton, Loyola College in Maryland, College of St. Benedict, St. John, Creighton University, St. Peter’s College, Loyola Marymount University, Holy Cross, Rockhurst, Regis, Fordham, St. Joseph, University of San Francisco. NCC Youth/Young Adult Representative Carmen Santamaría attended on behalf of NCC and gave a talk that focused upon establishing local/world connections with CLC, as well as the importance of continuing in CLC upon graduation. There was also an opportunity for her to meet with campus ministers and get more information on the status of CLCs at their schools, as well as other data.

Visits to Jesuit schools in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic: From March 28 until April 4th, NCC YYA Reps Carmen Santamaría and Angelique Ruhi-López (as well as Carmen’s husband, Alex, and their daughter Mónica), visited Jesuit high schools and colleges in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in an effort to promote the creation of CLCs where they do not exist and to support those that do. The schools we visited were: St. Peter’s College and St. Peter’s Prep in Jersey City; Xavier High School, Loyola School, Regis High School, Fordham Prep School and Fordham University in New York City; Scranton Prep School and the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA; and St. Joseph Prep and St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. Our visits proved very positive and fruitful and we are following up with the campus ministers at these schools to provide continuing support. At least three of the campus ministers we have visited in the last year attended this year’s Cura Personalis in Boston to try to formally get CLC programs started at their schools.

National Teach-In on Racism and Poverty: From March 9-12th, the Ignatian Solidarity Network, in collaboration with Loyola University and the New Orleans Province of Jesuits, hosted this event to inform Jesuit constituencies about the justice issues arising in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and to be in solidarity with the marginalized. We helped to identify and coordinate more than forty small group facilitators for the event, many of whom serve as CLC facilitators on their campuses.

Dong Hanh YYA meeting: There will be a gathering in July in Pennsylvania of Dong Hanh youth and young adults to build infrastructure, discuss vision and World Youth Day.

National Young Adult Conference: To be held in Miami in early 2008 as a pilot program before introducing a young adult track to Cura Personalis in 2009. The goal would be to gather alumni CLCs, young adult/young professional CLCs and Dong Hanh CLCs for formation, sharing of resources and other concepts. Miami is an ideal location for this meeting as there is a thriving community of young adult CLCers in that area and it is warm in the winter! Stay tuned for more information!

From ExCo...

The National ExCo met in Cleveland April 11-15th, 2007. The meeting centered around preparations for the Provincials’ meeting May 20-21st, the Guides and Coordinators Course June 24-30th, and the NCC Summer In-Person meeting July 2-5th. All three of these are exciting reasons to celebrate CLC!

The presentation to the Provincials is the first ever. Our President-elect, Ann Marie Brennan, told them about the many successes of CLC-USA and some of the challenges. She was accompanied by our current President, Tom Bausch, our National Ecclesial Assistant, John LeVecke, S.J., our Past President and current Consultant to WCLC, Lois Campbell and our World Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Alberto Brito, S.J., who came from Rome for the meeting. A copy of the handout that was given to the Provincials and will be available on the website soon. They also received a list of the officers in each region with their contact information.

The Guides and Coordinators Course in Omaha is not the first ever given, but a first in a long time. Many groups have never had guides, so this is an opportunity to strengthen our formation program as well as to form lasting networks. The National Formation Team has been preparing for this event for two years—a momentous accomplishment. They are also hard at work on a presentation of group materials that will be available on the web.

The annual NCC summer in-person meeting, also in Omaha, will consider several important initiatives including a renewed focus on social justice analysis. You’ll be hearing more about this. Also on the agenda is a consideration of membership qualifications and the recent dues increase. The meeting is an opportunity to meet our new representatives from New England, Missouri, California, North Central and the Korean community, seeing faces to go with the voices present on the quarterly conference calls.

In addition to planning for these events, the national ExCo also discussed an oral history project, which will be videotaping key persons in CLC-USA’s formative years, a new development strategy, and next year’s Youth & Young Adults Cura Personalis conference.
FROM THE REGIONS…

**DONG-HANH**

From our discernment last year, formation has been the main focus for years 2006 and 2007 and the following two years. The Dong-Hanh Formation Team put forth three Cura Personalis Workshops in the key regions of Northeast, Midwest and Southwest. We estimated about three hundred members went through this basic formation workshop appropriate for all group members. Those who attended these workshops returned to their groups more energized and with hopeful enthusiasm. Post CP programs are being put together to help groups implement and deepen what was learned during the workshops.

In April of this year, the DH Formation Team gathered in Orange County, California, for our first Formation Summit with the presence of our Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Tri Dinh, S.J. It became our effort to look at our resources, manpower and needs in order to begin a process of discernment and strategizing. We contemplated how the Lord is calling us to serve in the areas of formation as well as all the different ministries of Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Family Ministry, etc. This summit was fruitful and we are working with our ExCo to continue discernment and implementation.

We are moving forward into the summer agenda with Regional Gatherings in all three of our main regions—the Northeast in July 27-29th, Midwest, and Southwest during Labor Day weekend in September. Coincidental with the Northeastern Regional Gathering, we will also have our first Youth/Young Adult Gathering, which we name Betania: Friends in the Lord. This Youth and Yong Adult gathering will hopefully energize our youth and young adult members, and prepare them for the future in community formation and mission. Fr. Tri Dinh, S.J., will be heading this gathering with the concerted effort of all regional ExCos, which will be sending their Y/YA representatives as well as their Y/YA Ministry Teams. Our Family Ministry is co-sponsoring the second Marriage Renewal Workshop in Woodlynne, New Jersey, August 10-12th. This MRW will be a collaborative effort of the parish priest, parish lay persons and Family Ministry Committee of Dong-Hanh. On its inaugural workshop last year, participants received many graces and our Family Ministry saw Marriage Renewal Workshop as a tool to serve our local parishes in the effort of renewing families. Our DH Formation Team continues to work closely with Y/YA and Family Ministries to set the focus and direction for the next few years. We will be sending candidates to attend the Coordinators/Guides Course in Omaha the last week of June.

**KOREAN CLC**

**Atlanta Area**

Effective as of May 2007, the newly-elected Regional President, Youngee Gabriel Kim, is to serve.

A one-day silent retreat guided by Fr. Seo (Atlanta CLC EA) had been held at the Martyrs Catholic Church in Atlanta on May 12th. There were twenty-five participants, including CLC members and parishioners of KMCC who were interested in Ignatian Spirituality. Two of those joined the pre-CLC after the retreat.

Annual Meeting was held at KMCC on June 2nd. During the meeting, at which seventeen CLC members attended, the annual CLC activity report and the annual accounting report were presented.

Six persons have been currently experiencing the Nineteenth Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises, led by guides from the Atlanta area.

Irena Park from Logos Community will participate in the Guides Course in the Omaha, Nebraska, area from June 24 – July 1st.

In the fall of 2007, the NKCLC meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA

**Chicago Area**

On May 13th, Fr. Wang, S.J., gave a lecture when he came to St. Paul Chong-Ha-Sang Church. “What is the Greatest Treasure in Life?” was the topic. Twenty-five CLC members were in attendance. It touched our hearts deeply.

On June 18th, Fr. Park-Sang-Hun from Milwaukee will speak on—The CLC Way of Life as well as Apostolic Discernment. We are looking forward to this evening.

From July 25 to 29th, we are scheduled to have a silent retreat at Mary Town, Libertyville, IL. It will be led by Fr. Whang Jung-Yuan., S.J. We will close the retreat with a First Temporary Commitment Ceremony for two members and a Permanent Commitment Ceremony for five members.

Please pray for our commitment members. Thank you.

**Mid-Atlantic Area**

On April 13th our Cluster Meeting took place with three communities and one new team. There was shared prayer and a social meeting.

From April 27—29th we had a Young Adult Retreat entitled, “Faith, Hope and Love,” which was attended by twenty-three young adults. The retreat director was Father
Xavier Hwang and the prayer counselor was Father Dennis Kim.

On May 11th we held a Korean Leadership lunch meeting with Father Alberto Brito at a Korean restaurant. That same evening eight KCLC members and Father Benedict Jung joined Father Brito for a social gathering.

**New York Area**

We are very happy to announce that Raphael Jun Young Lee was ordained as a Deacon at the Cathedral Basilica of the Heart in Newark, NJ on May 20th. Deacon Raphael is the son of Juliana Lee of the Anawim KCLC in New Jersey. We pray that God be at Deacon Raphael’s side as he enters his journey to the priesthood.

Michael SeungWoong Choi of the Cardenas KCLC in NJ will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen, NJ, on June 9th. The celebration Mass is scheduled for June 10th at St. James Church.

Spring semester at the ICL (Institute for Chinese Life) has been successful with the help of Fr. Edward Quinnan, S.J., as a speaker. Fr. Ed (Director of Mt. Manresa Retreat House in Staten Island) touched on various subjects, including Christology, Titles of Jesus as well as Jesus Christ in the Spiritual Exercises. Fr. Ed will wrap up the semester with the subject of Christ and Culture. Fr. Ed’s contributions at the ICL sessions have been very beneficial and the Korean CLC members are most grateful for his support.

Jennifer Yoo and Catherine Park, two members of KCLC from the Metro New York Region, served as guides for the Canada KCLC Silent Retreat. This retreat took place April 16—22nd in Toronto, Canada.

The Metro New York Korean CLC is hosting the 2007 Silent Retreat. Preparation for these sessions and the Retreat is on the way from Fr. Se-il Oh, S.J. This retreat will take place at the Loyola Retreat House in NJ from August 16—22nd for young adults. For adults, the retreat runs from August 22—August 26th.

Katerina Young Sook Kim is the KCLC rep on the Culture and Diversity Committee since April 2007.

A happy announcement from National KCLC Formation—Eun Ae, Christina Kim, has assumed the responsibility of being our new National KCLC Representative. Congratulations, Christina. We would also like to thank Simon Shin, her predecessor in this position, for his service to KCLC.

**Mid-Atlantic Region**

Once again, we are encouraging our members to make an annual retreat with a director familiar with CLC and our CLC vocation. Retreats are available in five different locations, directed by a number of CLC members.

We continue to be amazed at how the Spirit is leading us into a closer partnership with the Jesuits. Marilyn Barton, Fr. Jim O’Brien, Fred Leone and Carole Burnett attended the “Jesuit Collaborative,” which was held at Fairfield University in Connecticut June 15—17th. The sponsoring group represents the retreat centers and other spiritual resources of the Jesuit New England, New York and Maryland Provinces.

This is the initial collective action of the Collaborative, formally announced last August as an attempt to make Ignatian Spirituality more creatively available along the East Coast. Our Provincial, Fr. Tim Brown, sees it as a move into the future, anticipating the coordination of facilities and programs in what is likely to be one Province within the next few years. His advice is that CLC needs to be there from the start as a functioning partner and a visible resource.

**Missouri Region**

In the spirit of Project 133, the CLCs of the Missouri Region are experiencing new life and growth in several areas. The dream we dreamt in 1950 has been rekindled. One can liken the gathering in St. Louis at St. Cronan’s on World CLC Day to an “Upper Room” experience. The Holy Spirit was present. We met on the second floor of the parish center with the steeple of the church across the street as our backdrop. We listened to Fr. Ed O’Brien tell us about service to the Church being service to the mission of Christ. After a morning liturgy and a word of departure from Pat Carter, participants headed out to immersion experiences throughout the city.

Karl Dehne, S.J., spoke at a number of CLC meetings during Lent. As an extra enhancement, some communities, namely Nicholas Owen, Philippine Duchesne and Holy Redeemer, combined to make it a wider experience of getting together with members of other CLCs. All in all, it was a gratifying way to prepare for Easter.

Some groups are diligently studying a variety of materials from the Jesuit’s “Meditation on Our Response to the Call of Christ” to “Moment by Moment” by Merz and Smith.

The school year came to a close and our college members wrapped up with social activity and planning for the next academic year. Regis University celebrated its finale by rolling out the new CLC banner and having food and games at Fox and the Hound Restaurant. Saint Louis University finished up with a picnic on the quad providing time for goodbyes and a last chance for socializing. Rockhurst University has plans in place to add a weekly meal
held at the Campus Ministry Center in addition to regular meetings next year. Student representatives are getting ready to travel this summer to the Cura Personalis Conference out in Boston.

As this is being written, this, Robert Costello, S.J., our Ecclesial Assistant, is in Oklahoma giving a day in Ignatian Spirituality. Mary Diane Steltankamp oversees and coordinates these days.

We have discerned a new NCC Rep from our Missouri Region, Mary Wescovich. We are grateful that she will be offering her time and talents in this position. Welcome, Mary.

In closing, we want to offer our thanks to Mary Ann Mennemeyer for the service she has given to the Missouri Region as the Representative to National CLC and for her work in Formation. Mary Ann put her whole self into many efforts for the Region. Thanks, Mary Ann. We’ll see you at CLC meetings and gatherings in the future.

NEW ORLEANS REGION

A celebration of Fr. Bill Kidwell’s twenty years of service to a number of CLCs in the Miami area was held on April 7th. Fr. Kidwell has moved to New Orleans for continuing recuperation from heart surgery.

While in the Miami area, Fr. Bill served as a guide for Good Shepherd Adult CLC, Prince of Peace Young Adult CLC and, until recently, Prince of Peace Youth CLC. He also used his talents in high school teaching, pastoral ministry, hospital ministry and parish ministry. Additionally, Fr. Bill was involved in many Respect Life activities, which included organizing trips from Miami to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life each January. He was also active with the Knights of Columbus.

NEW YORK REGION

The Lenten Day of Recollection topic, “When Charity Calls Us to Justice,” with Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J., Assistant to the NY Provincial in Social Ministries, challenged the communities to reflect on the demands of charity and justice. Fr. Hallinan proposed that charity, which can be thought of as compassionate solidarity, calls us to supply what others lack that compromises their human dignity. In speaking of justice, he reminded us that Biblical Justice is concerned primarily with right relationships: living in right relationship with God and in right relationship with each other.

To discern how to transform social structures so that our society and world better conform to what God intends this world to be, Fr. Hallinan outlined the ten building blocks of Catholic Social Teaching as suggested by Jesuit scholar Bill Byron—Human Dignity, Respect for Human Life., Association of Relationships, Participation, Preferential Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity, Stewardship, Subsidiarity, Human Equality and the Common Good. He concluded by saying that the challenge for each of us is to be true to our call as Christians, to live in compassionate solidarity with all of God’s people as we work together to effect that justice without which there cannot be true and lasting peace.

Subsequently, representatives of the Metro NY CLC Social Justice Discernment Committee met with Fr. Hallinan to see where CLC’s social justice efforts could collaborate with the New York Jesuit Province. As a result of this meeting, CLC members have been contacting their senators to encourage consideration of immigrants and are being guided by justiceforimmigrants.org. Other efforts to support the social justice efforts of the Province are anticipated.

Our May Day of Mission was held on Saturday, May 5th. It was fun as well as a spiritually gratifying day as we assisted the Little Sisters of the Assumption in their outreach program. It began with coffee and doughnuts. Then, in groups of four and five, we spent the morning in activities which included dusting light fixtures and washing windows. Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick, our Ecclesial Assistant, worked with the gardeners and planted annuals which will bloom throughout the Summer months. Another crew sorted clothing for The Sharing Place. Among the participants was an energetic group of teens from Fordham Prep. Pizza was served for lunch and the day ended with a closing liturgy.

Metro NY CLC welcomed Fr. Brito, Vice-Ecclesial Assistant for World CLC on May 6th for liturgy and dinner at Fordham University. Fr. Brito spoke to the sizable group that was gathered about how CLC functions differently in other countries. CLC members asked Fr. Brito about ways to attract young people to CLC and about his assessment of the growth potential for CLC worldwide. He noted that CLC in Chile and Madagascar continue to grow rapidly.

Fr. Brito also spent some time providing an update on the CLC school in Kibera, Nairobi, that had been build by local CLC groups. It is a mission of CLC International that requires ongoing support from all of us.

Metro NY CLC has notable representation at the Summer National Formation Course for Small Group Leaders—Opening the Way—to be held at the Creighton University Retreat Center, with more than seven members participating in the Guides track. Fr. Dan will be accompanying the group.

We send prayers and support to Ann Marie Brennan, who will soon become our new National CLC President. She is from the St. Catharine’s CLC in New Jersey.
**NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

The North Central Region will host the National CLC Formation Institute, June 24-30th at the Creighton University Retreat Center at Griswold, Iowa. Omaha CLCers Mary Kuhlman, Renee O’Brien, Maryanne Rouse and Father Jack Zuercher are helping with arrangements for this event. Omaha CLCers will join the participants at the closing celebration. Mass and commissioning will be followed by a picnic and talent show.

Our North Central Regional Retreat will also be held at the Creighton Retreat Center, October 12-14th. The presenters will be Sister Marie Schwann, CC.S.J., whose books have been used by many CLC groups, and Father Dick McCaslin, S.J., a popular retreat leader.

The Gigi Cannon Memorial Retreat in Daily Life ended early in May. Eight Omaha members made the Exercises in this form and four lay persons and four Jesuits served as guides. Gigi Cannon was a long time member of CLC and a revered Spiritual Director. The four planners of the Retreat were Mickey Dodson, Renee O’Brien, Maryanne Rouse and Father Jack Zuercher. They knew that Gigi had long advocated providing CLC members more opportunities to pray the Spiritual Exercises, which she considered the heart of Ignatian Spirituality and the foundation of CLC. Thus they dedicated this Retreat to her memory.

The new Board of Directors of the CLC North Central Region Endowment Trust Fund met recently by teleconference. The fund was initiated several years ago as an endowment for the day when the Jesuits are unable to contribute manpower and/or financial support for CLC in the Region. The current board members, in addition to Father Jack Zuercher, are Mary Ann Hession (Omaha), Bob Justl (Sun Prairie), Mike McCormack (Milwaukee) and Bob Smith (Columbia, Missouri).

Bonnie Hugeback of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, is the new North Central Region’s representative to the National Executive Council. Bonnie is a former Regional Co-convenor. She is a member of the Sojourners Community in the Twin Cities area. She participated in her first teleconference in April. Our previous NCC representative, Barb Justl, has done an excellent job for the last six years and we extend our thanks to her. Well done, Barb!

**SOUTH FLORIDA REGION**

After the untimely and unexpected news of our beloved Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Victor Hernández, S.J., being called back to the House of the Father on the 5th of February, all the members of our communities had to recollect and give thanks to the Lord who gave us Fr. Victor. For almost eleven years, during which time he instilled in us the gift of Ignatian Spirituality, the practice of daily prayer, Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life (not only to receive them, but to give them in several parishes of the Archdiocese of Miami).

On World CLC Day it was announced that our Antilles Provincial, Fr. Jesús Zaglul, S.J., had named Fr. Pedro Suárez, S. J., as our new Ecclesial Assistant. Fr. Pedro has been very close to the South Florida Region communities, participating in several of our meetings, substituting for Fr. Victor when he was out of town and specifically as guide to one of our CVXs.

Fr. Pedro was invited by Fr. John Le Vecke (our National Ecclesial Assistant), to participate in the EA’s meeting in Milwaukee, where he also met with Fr. Alberto Brito and came back “all fired up” to continue Fr. Victor’s legacy. He is planning to attend the Latin American EA’s meeting in Quito, Ecuador, the first week in December, at the invitation of Fr. Brito.

During the World CLC Day celebration five members of the region made their permanent commitment with the World Community:

Angelique Ruhi-Lópz and Richard López, from Alas de Cristo YA CLC; Maria del Carmen Morera and Consuelo Bofill, from CVX El Peregrino; Silvia Rodriguez, from CVX Mensajeros de la Luz.

Twenty-seven members renewed their permanent commitment with the World Community.

Four members of the region will participate in the Guides Course to be held in Omaha, Nebraska. They are: Maggie Khuly, CVX Magnificat; Clarita Baloyra and Maria del Carmen Morera, CVX El Peregrino; and Mimi León, CVX Mensajeros de la Luz.

During the weekend of June 15 to 17th the Culture and Diversity Committee will convene in Miami. We look forward to receiving them and to have the opportunity to share with them at a welcome dinner on Friday.

We continue to guide in the discernment of three pre-CVXs that have been the “offspring” of as many Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life groups and pray and hope that they will join us officially as CVXs. In the meantime their members have participated with us in World CLC Day celebration, and the different workshops that have taken place in the Region during the year.

The last one, on The History of the Church, was given by Fr. Manuel Maza, S.J., National Ecclesial Assistant to the Dominican Republic.

**WESTERN REGION**
La Vid y las Ramas/The Vine and the Branches is a pre-CLC inquiry group located in Fresno, California, and the members are happy to share a summary of their tentative beginnings.

“We are applying to be a pre-CLC group in the Western Region. We understand that we are all learning together, so it has taken some time since the Miami Assembly in 2004, but we have continued to meet and grow, and now have chosen the name, La Vid y las Ramas/ The Vine and the Branches. We are still very small and still trying to connect with other CLCs in the Western Region. We are hopeful that these connections will take place with the help of the continuing online formation mentoring and mentoring that is available to inquiring groups, and with guidance from [our attendance at] the Omaha Formation Institute in June 2007.”

New CLC groups are also being formed in Sacramento (by our Region’s current “First Couple,” our Regional President & his wife, who both serve on the Region’s Council), and the Korean CLC is forming two new pre-Christian Life Communities in Orange County in Southern California. Growth is not always as fast as we wish, but it seems to be ever present. Fr. Alberto Brito visited most recently and attended a series of meetings with novices in the California Province, cultural groups and alumni during his visit.

**Calendar of Events**

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<td>Korean Silent Retreat</td>
<td>Libertyville, IL</td>
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<td>July 27-29</td>
<td>Dong Hanh Regional Gathering</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>August 16-22</td>
<td>(Young Adults)</td>
<td>Korean CLC Silent Retreat</td>
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**Next Issue**

**As the Grain of Wheat Falls to the Ground**

Extend your arms in welcome to the future. The best is yet to come.

— Anthony de Mello, S.J.