



CHRISTIAN
LIFE COMMUNITY
SOUTH AFRICA

September 2022

MASITHETHE

Updates from the National Exco

The National Exco sends its greetings to the wider community as we move into the season of spring here in South Africa. We hope it brings movements of new life into our small groups and wider community! Below are a few key items on the national community agenda that we would invite you to please reflect upon:

Discernment around new members to National Exco

As you are all aware the National Exco is now functioning with 4 members instead of 6 plus as has been the norm over recent years. In addition, current terms will be coming to an end over the next year or two, beginning from January 2023 and not all members can commit to continuing. We are thus in urgent need to build the National Exco through representation from all regions. Please make this discernment a priority in your personal prayer, small community life, and regional structures.

While in the long term this may lead to discernment around regional-based representation, shorter term solutions are also required. This means the National Exco may have to co-opt members to serve but these co-opted members are not elected and don't have full voting rights on the committee so we'd hope to avoid this for the core committee (rather than additional roles as it has been used for in the past).

Nominations for World Exco

Nomination for World Exco are currently open. CLC South Africa plans to nominate Alfreda Chagweda from Zimbabwe who has shared in the World Formation journey with some of our members over the last year. If you have any further views or nominations, please let us know as soon as possible.

Discernment for World Assembly delegates 2023

As we communicated previously, the World Assembly will be held in August 2023 in Amiens, France. Soon it will be time to select representatives to attend the World Assembly as the CLC South Africa delegates. Please begin prayerfully discerning about this. We hope to convene a virtual national community meeting in mid-November for an opportunity for communal discernment and decision-making.

Please keep the whole community in prayer as we discern these important issues!

Let us please keep our beloved community member Veronica Miller in our prayers during this time of serious illness. We pray too for those caring for her.



WESTERN CAPE CLC DAYS OF REFLECTION (by Jill McKay)

Our monthly days of reflection offer a taste of CLC and Ignatian Spirituality, as well as an ecumenical outreach.

Comments from regular participants include: "A safe place; a way of finding God again; an experience of loving acceptance; a life-saver". It also seems many people treasure their first experience of a day of reflection and often refer to it.



Thirty six years ago, I'd recently joined the Catholic Church as well as CLC. God seemed to be leading me into deeper waters and I was nervous. I really needed the encouragement I found in that quiet garden. There was even an American Jesuit present, who lay on the grass, partially hidden under some leaves and then emerged to say Mass for us. An exceptional occasion.

These days of reflection have been experienced in CLC since the late eighties in all regions, in many different forms. They are not rigidly prescribed, but the ingredients recommended are silence; access to nature if possible; a concise input with scripture for contemplation; and a voluntary, confidential small group sharing at the end. The sharing is always seen as a gift we offer one another, with the emphasis on respectful, loving listening, without comment. The consciousness examen is usually present in some form.

In the Western Cape, we meet monthly and for many years we've had the privilege of Springfield Convent and its beautiful garden as a venue. We have a small team, including Jane Hulley and me, for preparing and facilitating the day. Veronica Wellburn and Alex Edwards take over occasionally, depending on their workloads. Colleen Miller and Thelma October kindly arrange the teas and practicalities.



Lockdown came as a shock. Turning to Zoom for days of reflection was initially nerve wracking. Fortunately Leo da Silva and later Hugh Fynn hosted Zoom for us. They calmed us down and, amazingly, Zoom was welcomed especially by very elderly, often lonely people, confined to their rooms in retirement villages. It was also an opportunity for CLC members from other regions – even other countries – to join us and we prepared material to send out. A really encouraging 'spin off' has come from an ex CLC Cape Town member, Dorie Mol, now living in Holland. With encouragement from her Exco, she has recently started facilitating days of reflection in the area where she lives.



Thank heavens, we are now able to meet face to face again and have been welcomed back to Springfield by the Sisters and School Head. New people are being introduced by our regulars and gratitude is flowing.

If you would like to be on the email list to receive updates on the Western Cape CLC Days of prayer, please email Jane at tamarin@mweb.co.za



The CLC community wishes Jane Hulley a very happy 80th birthday!

We hope you had a wonderful celebration!

Our prayers go with you for an ever-surprising abundance of God's grace in your life – and in gratitude for your gifts shared in CLC community.

FIRST FEEDBACK FROM THE GLOBAL FORMATION ENCOUNTER IN MANRESA AUGUST 2022

This, I hope, is the first of a few reports on my experience of representing CLC in South Africa at this wonderful occasion. It is my deepest desire that we can have a face to face encounter on this, even just for regional coordinators, but maybe we have to settle for a Zoom session.

To put the experience into context I must say that after I had said yes to the call to go and attend, I got the news that a unit had become available for me in a retirement complex. I had to accept that, but it meant that I needed to sell my existing home. This was in addition to the scheduled trip to visit family in Ireland. I had some difficult moments of questioning and doubt as I asked why all these together, and which is the Lord's way. The Holy Spirit gave me the gift of trust and I went ahead and all worked out, including getting my house sold while I was out of the country! The Manresa experience was also sandwiched in the middle of my visit to family in Ireland. As many will know most of Europe, including the rainy little island of Ireland, experienced the full blast of global warming in the summer of 2022. So magnificent bright sunny hot days and beautiful long evenings were the order of the day.

Now as I reflect back on it, the scripture passage that comes to mind is Matthew 17:1-9, the story of the walk up the hill with Jesus, the incredible, illuminating experience of the vision of the transfigured Jesus, the desire to capture it in a lasting structure, and then the walk back down, and hold it until they encountered the risen Jesus. This is very close to my experience. I had the clear call to go to this, the difficulties that had to be overcome and then the revelations and joy of the encounter and now the "how to" of the way forward.

On a human and somewhat comical note, I must include the experience of getting to the centre. The instructions said that we should take the train from the Plaza in Barcelona to Manresa and then a short, 15 mins walk, to the centre. It did not indicate which way out of the station, or that it was all up a very steep hill, and the temperature at 14h00 was over 40 degrees and we had laptops and cases or bags!! When I got to the entrance, I really felt that I had done a pilgrimage up a mountain! What a delight to be greeted at the door by Nadia from Lebanon and receive such a warm welcome. One world family. The sense of a world body one in faith, hope and exploration was dominant.



Now some summarized key points from the extensive group processing of presentations and inputs.

There will be more on these.

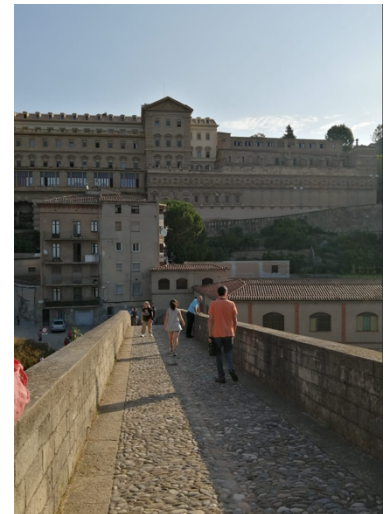
1. In National formation we need to take the weakest community into account.
2. National Leadership is crucial for effective formation/growth of community and members.
3. From this encounter, we must reach/sustain and support every group nationally and regionally.
4. Steps in formation:
 - Train leaders for groups, regions and areas. Material available in Process of growth, also Australia and Portugal.
 - Offer Spiritual exercises by lay people.
 - Implement formation for mission based on spiritual exercises and grounded in lay life.
 - Adapt formation to embrace world changes.
 - Formation is through ACTION and EXPERIENCE. Action cannot wait until everyone is fully formed.
 - Common Mission is not what we do but how, DSSE.

How do we move from our core CLC values to the frontiers??

KEY RECURRING THEMES

Training for Leadership and Management.
Spiritual Exercises focus on the Call of Christ and our Response.
Adaptation to the current times
Valuing youth and elder experience.

Lots more to follow
Kaye



<h2>Community Banking Details</h2>	<h3>Education Project Account</h3> <p>CLC National Secretaries Standard Bank, Newton Park. Branch Code: 050017 Acc No: 044323921</p>	<h3>Gauteng</h3> <p>Christian Life Communities ABSA, Savings Account Acc No: 630465901</p>
<h3>National Account</h3> <p>CLC National Secretaries Standard Bank, Newton Park. Branch Code: 050017 Acc No: 004874625</p>	<h3>Eastern Cape</h3> <p>Christian Life Community EC Nedbank, Savings Account Acc No: 2447009798</p>	<h3>Western Cape</h3> <p>CLC Western Cape Nedbank, Savings Account Acc No: 2250025088</p>