



Newsletter – October 2020

Spiritually said ...

“May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.”

(a Franciscan blessing)

News from CLC in Europe and Euroteam

The last six months presented an exceptional experience for the Euroteam as for most of the people all over the world. The Euroteam had to cancel its meeting with the World Exco in Rome scheduled in April and continued working online – as we usually do with Zoom-meetings and emails.

And – little by little – we not only felt “forced” to move all our activities online, but we also started having ideas on how to link the CLC members during the pandemic. Let us present some of our activities that many of you have joined.

a) Online Eucharist for the CLC World day

Many CLC members and friends joined the online Eucharist on the CLC World Day. Both our Facebook page and our website showed about 400 connected devices during the mass, which means that probably more than 500 people from all over the world were celebrating the CLC World Day together.

Many CLC friends expressed their gratitude in commentaries such as *“Thank you so much for this beautiful, graced, life-giving service and time together!”*, *“Thank you for making me feel European again!”* or *“Thank you for this mass. Blessings to you all and your families and communities.”*

We would like to offer a very special word of thanks to Nikolaas Sintobin SJ who celebrated the Eucharist from his room in Amsterdam, making us feel the presence of God in our everyday lives at home where we were staying on lockdown at that time

And we can already tell you that it is not going to be a unique experience in the history of CLC in Europe as we would like to continue praying as a community beyond borders.

b) International sharing groups

At the beginning of the lockdown, we realized a great need for connectedness all over Europe and worldwide. As a worldwide community, CLC has a great treasure to share.

We invited CLC members to form international sharing groups. About 40 companions replied to our invitation with great enthusiasm and formed eight groups in four different languages (English, French, German and Spanish). They have been meeting regularly via different online platforms to share their life experience and faith. At the beginning, the Euroteam provided some inspirations for group sharing such as Bible readings, spiritual texts, songs, poems. Then most of the groups took over and decided to continue and prepare the meetings on their own.

The feedback we received from the sharing groups was very positive, even though some members found it difficult to find time for regular meetings.

One CLCer wrote: *'Holy Spirit and Christ visited us through The Word and faith-sharing, through fraternity and a quick sense of solidarity, a comfortable intimacy as we just 'jumped in' with one another because of our shared Ignatian spirituality and way of proceeding. It has been a wonderful experience for each of us spiritual, human, and active and incredible that we met at this moment of human history amidst the global pandemic. Our brief journey has been a broadening of our hearts and minds, engaging four different cultures, mentalities, perceptions of the world around. It did not only deepen my sense of CVX-CLC, but also all of us as the Body of the Holy Universal Church'*



Capture d'écran 2020-05-19 à 11.18.16 Image 2 sur 2

Among many benefits of the international sharing groups many participants of the online meetings mentioned the enriching experience of unity in diversity, getting to know CLC members from different cultures and a variety of life contexts, experience of a deep faith and community beyond borders, making ourselves available to each other amidst the pandemic while experiencing uncertainty and asking many important questions.

(Photo: <https://www.cvxfrance.com/2020/05/18/cl-europeenne-pendant-le-confinement/>)

c) Zoom Meeting with the World Exco and the Regional Teams (April 4th 2020)

In April the World Exco organized a Zoom meeting with all the regional teams (Asia/Pacific, Latin America, North America, Africa, Middle East and Europe). Each regional team was called to reflect on the following questions before the meeting : How does CLC view the experience of the pandemic in their countries and in the world? How can CLC help to deal with this pandemic and accompany the necessary social



changes?). After the report of Luisa Bonetti, coordinator of the previous Euroteam (2014-2019) about the experiences in Northern Italy and the testimonial of Blanca Gracia, a Spanish CLC doctor working in intensive care units with Covid19 patients within 2 different hospitals in Madrid, we experienced a three-round sharing process with the questions we had prepared in advance.

We realized that in the midst of this pandemic "we are one humanity" (Fr. Sosa SJ) and feel a completely new, deep and global connection. As an Ignatian lay community, we have a clear mission of solidarity between people, a preferential option for the poor - who are particularly suffering from this crisis, but we also feel called to share our Ignatian tools to help people approach the crisis in a spiritual way

Manuel Martinez, the executive secretary of the World Exco made a short video about this meeting - you can find it on Youtube

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0uZmrVzvo0&feature=youtu.be>)

d) Zoom meeting with the Eurolinks (May 2nd 2020)

"Why can't we have a similar Zoom meeting with the Eurolinks?" we asked ourselves immediately after the meeting with the World-Exco and the regional teams. As a result, we organised a meeting in early May, attended by 19 of the 21 Eurolinks and some representatives of the World Exco. As the lockdown in many countries was slowly being lifted, the main focus of our sharing in small groups and in plenary was our reaction to the pandemic and its impact on our societies. We could see that the time of the pandemic is a deeply transformational experience, a liminal space, a new beginning. This experience is opening us to new ways of living as a community and in the world. We are called to be more aware and present in the world around us, to be truly contemplative in action. We asked ourselves some important questions: what to do next, how to support the transformation, how to be more connected as a living community with the world around us? Many people now are asking themselves the same questions: how they want to live after the corona crisis and what they feel called to change. We, as CLC are called to use and offer our "gift": tools and skills for discernment, that is much needed in the church and our everyday environment. We want to be part of the transformation, opening our hearts to discerning new ways, acting as one body and taking concrete steps. **"Let's be protagonists of this change"** – as the World Exco writes in Projects 174.



If you want to deepen this reflection in your communities, you might find some inspiration in Projects 174: <http://www.cvx-clc.net/l-en/projects.php>

During the Zoom meeting, we realised once again how grateful we are for all the online tools that help us stay connected as a community in Europe. There is a need for more connectedness among the Eurolinks so we decided to have regular Eurolink meetings online (about twice a year).

Letter from the World Exco (28th of August 2020)

Appointment of the new World Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant

"...when seeking the Divine Will, it is more fitting and much better, that the Creator and Lord Himself should communicate Himself to His devout soul, inflaming it with His love and praise, and disposing it for the way in which it will be better able to serve Him in future...."

Annotation N°15 Spiritual Exercises. St. Ignatius

Dear friends:

It is with joy that we share the news of the appointment of Fr. José de Pablo S.J. as the new Vice- Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Christian Life Community. Welcome José!

Many will remember José for his presence at the last General Assembly in Buenos Aires in 2018, where he shared with the delegates present, as part of the ESDAC team (Exercices Spirituels pour un Discernement Apostolique en Commun) that guided the process and the experience of discernment in common that we lived there.

José is 50 years old. He was born in Spain. He completed a degree in Philosophy and Literature at the Pontifical University of Comillas and a degree in Theology at the Miltown Institute in Dublin. He has a Master's degree in Journalism. For the last seven years he has been living in Brussels, working as assistant (socius) of the President of the Conference of European



Provincials. Previously, Jose has worked in Spain in education and youth ministry. He is fluent in Spanish and English and, to a lesser extent, in French.

The dialogue and discernment in common with Fr. Arturo Sosa S.J., in his capacity as Superior General of the Society of Jesus and as our World Ecclesiastical Assistant has been very pleasant and fruitful. We have traveled with wisdom, dedication and responsibility a path that encourages us to continue growing as a lay and Ignatian apostolic body. And this is cause for gratitude.

Fr. José will begin his responsibility as World Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant from the 1st of September 2020 and will develop his new mission by living and collaborating at the Saint Ignatius' Santa Cova Sanctuary in Manresa (Spain).

And the National communities...

1. CLC in Lithuania: Summer camp "This is my command: Love each other" (John 15:17)

"To be or not to be?" – the question was discussed by the national ExCo and organization team before the CLC Lithuanian summer camp this year. Though, the desire to experience the joy and communion took over. Almost 90 members of the Lithuanian CLC members, friends and guests from all over Lithuania gathered on the Assumption weekend (13th-16th August) near Kaunas. The participants were invited to deepen their insights in the mystery of the Christian love by listening to the word of God and the different inputs of the speakers, by praying, resting and having fun together for four days.

Fr. Malinauskas SJ helped to experience the joy and the closeness of God while celebrating the Holy Mass and in the personal conversations. The participants were introduced to the practice of Christian meditation and were encouraged to use the imagination as the spiritual way to approach God, to experience the stories of the Gospel personally. Afterwards, we shared the personal experiences and gifts received in the prayer in small groups.



The guest speaker PhD Ms Gudaityte inspired the participants with her input about "the special units of God on earth" and the acceptance of God's will. She urged us not

to forget that while living on Earth we are still citizens of Heaven. After this temporary test, we will have to go home and "settle" there. She said: when making the choices we should ask ourselves where is our priority - to live an easy life with a hard heart or a hard life with an easy heart?

The members of the community Ausra, Lina, Virginija and Vitalijus shared their own experiences about their efforts to love in the everyday life: What changes of your life can have the child's death in your hands? How can a doctor tell a patient that his journey on the Earth is soon coming to an end? How do the religion teachers manage to raise the interest of the teenagers in the faith topics?



The camp was full of fun, too. For example – dance: we learned many traditional and liturgical dances!

It doesn't matter if you are an "old" community member or a freshly "baked" newcomer - a camp is a place for the people who enjoy being together, praying under the starry summer night sky and dancing by the campfire...

Ruta Lesnikauskaite, Eurolink CLC Lithuania

2. CLC in France

a) Online retreat for young adults

They did it! Hats off to the CLC Youth Service Team and to all those who worked to transform the spiritual stopover initially planned in Manresa for the Easter weekend into a digital meeting at home!

Victims of their success - who would still dare to ask whether young people are thirsty to nourish their spirituality? -the organisers were forced to call for reinforcements like the apostles during the miraculous fishing. More than 130 young people registered and therefore needed additional leaders to be co-opted as the registrations came in, but of course with flexibility, since the last ones arrived until Friday. Their challenge: to refuse no one, to adapt and adapt...

As a last-minute co-opted worker, I was particularly happy to join this new experience. To live Easter, confined of course, but with an Ignatian family and in service! It was without counting on the multiplication of joy throughout these 3 days: nourished by the proposals of the stopover. In particular, I had missed the film "The Prince of Egypt"; more than 20 years after its release, here I was able to pray with it! I am also happy to be back in this beautiful role of the director of a sharing group. Behind the screens, a lot can happen! Smokescreen, projection screen, protection screen?: not anything of all that; but a screen to make a community, without knowing each other on the first day, to make grow the confidence necessary to tell each other the truth and to accompany each other on the Easter road.



Incredible how intense the journey of 2 days can be: a path of trust in daring and shared words, a path of trust in oneself, a road of trust in God: source of love, a road that links our humanity in the 4 corners of France, and that confirms fraternity everywhere in the world. What a joy to have been this privileged witness of the Spirit working in the intimacy of each one and of this precious treasure that we make for ourselves when it is spoken and shared.

"Through the whole earth, he sends us to bear witness to his love, to proclaim his name and his salvation in the power of the Spirit.

If during this time of deconfinement, you feel a little down, do not hesitate to use this little pick-me-up, without any undesirable side effects: "Through all the Earth".

Catherine, (<https://www.cvxfrance.com/2020/05/19/du-confinement-a-louverture/>)

b) A group meeting every week during the lockdown

Testimony of a small group meeting every week

After being confined for a fortnight, we chose to experience by phone the meeting scheduled for March 31st.

After a few telephone adjustments, the questions came up immediately: where were we? Who were we with? And our health? What about our daily life? How was our lifestyle changing? The need to give us news and the joy of getting along was perceptible. Then the meeting followed as prepared. But as we left, quite naturally, faced with the depth of the exchange and the need to support each other, we said to ourselves: "Why not meet again next Sunday by telephone?" Thus, each week during the time of confinement, our Local Community met for a meeting prepared and animated, in turn, by a companion.

This time of companionship allowed me to experience once again the power of desire and the freedom of the Spirit. Never would we have imagined that this time of confinement would invite us to meet so regularly. And yet, it simply became obvious: the need for "more" to get through this period.

Of course, our less busy lives allowed us to do so, but this loyalty helped us to support and care for each other. The joys and sorrows we shared really became our common story during the week. We carried each other and we knew we were being carried by our companions, sometimes even at the precise moment of the ordeal because of the close temporality.

I also noticed that not seeing each other forced us to listen more attentively. It is moreover because we were experimenting with it that we preferred the telephone to the video. "You can only see well with your heart. What is essential is invisible to the eyes," said the fox to the Little Prince. In other words: "What is invisible is eternal" (2 Cor 4:18).

Not wishing to stop these meetings abruptly, we decided to meet again, still by telephone, in 15 days, in order to prepare our hearts to resume our monthly meetings. They will no longer be quite as they were before, so much so that this path will have made us grow in confidence and companionship.

(<https://www.cvxfrance.com/2020/05/17/temoignage-dune-cl-se-reunissant-chaque-semaine/>)

3. CLC in Spain: A year from our last national assembly

In this month of August, it has been a year since we met in assembly in the city of Pamplona. A year to reread, gather and move forward according to the intuitions centred on the song that became the musical thread of those days: "See, I am doing a new thing; now it is starting; will you not take note of it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

On several occasions we have shared that Pamplona left us an "open assembly". An assembly that, far from providing us with many clear and concrete conclusions, left us with an open door for exploration and experimentation over the next

few years. A door that is an invitation to a time of Kairos in the Church and in our CLC community, and that puts us once again in front of the crucified, the crucified of today and tomorrow, to ask ourselves "what have I done for you? what am I doing for you? what am I going to do for you?" and to move forward, as the world assembly in Buenos Aires already indicated, by going deeper, sharing and going out.

It is time to continue walking on the path of trust in the Spirit, which precedes us, without being us taking the step forward. Overcoming fear and daring to try. Only what is experienced can come out as something new or renewed, to the extent that the Spirit, through the time of trial after discernment, confirms it (or not). Along these lines, the assembly gave assignments to the National Executive Council. It approved 11 recommendations, all of which have become part of its work plan for the 2019-2024 period. Some are already being developed and advanced, such as the discernment and formulating of a common apostolic plan for CLC in Spain. Others are waiting to be detailed so that they can be turned into concrete working paths.

News from the mission fields

Eager to be contemplative in action and to make our commitment to the service for others concrete, CLC in Spain carries out activities in up to six mission fields: Family, Youth, Migrations, Socio-Politics, Ecology and the Ignatian Spirituality for the world as the new mission field approved in our National Assembly.

Here some news from the migration team:

Migration Team

From the migration team, we saw with concern the evolution of the impact of the Covid pandemic on the situation of migrants who are assisted by the Migration Delegation of Nador. And so we gave all the impulse and support to the crowdfunding campaign in collaboration with Entreculturas, Caritas Morocco, Jesuitas Social, Manos Unidas, Jesuit Service for Migrants, Alboan and the University Institute for Migration Studies of Comillas. As a result of this collaboration, the Refaid project humanizing the southern border has obtained its initial funding objectives, closing the campaign with 30,110 euros.



The project will consist of the creation of a digital platform, which will be operational on both sides of the Southern Border, and which will allow easy and agile access to information on the services available on the migration route. This information will facilitate and assist in the protection and security of women, children, sick people and victims of violence, the most vulnerable. They will be able to access information on resources and services available in the transit route, which is in most cases dangerous and can save many complicated situations, including lives.

The work of the delegation's team in Morocco currently impacts on the lives of 25 000 people, and with the implementation of this platform, the aid could increase that impact to some 60 000 beneficiaries.

From the solidarity funds of the CLC communities and from particular initiatives that have come together, we have gathered about 8,000 euros that have been part of this project. From the National Migration Team and from the team of the Migration Delegation of Nador we want to thank the economic support, and above all the speed of response and the diffusion of the initiative that also contributed to the arrival of this request beyond the members of our community.



Some inspirations from the National Communities

As you can see, our newsletter contains a new section which aims to foster and encourage each other : and create a pool of , tools and best practices serving in our mission fields. We are willing to give further information and we are looking forward to future collaboration promoting network and exchanges.

The CLC in Spain presents the Youth Mission field , highlighted by the invitation to the International Youth Meeting in Loyola in 2021.

[#EmbraceWorldIgnatianWay](#) [#Loyola2021](#) [#Ignatius500](#)



Why a Youth Mission Field?

- We hear the Church's call to accompany youth; after the Synod, it became clear in the encyclical "Christus Vivit".
- In Ignatian spirituality, it's one of its universal preferences.
- It's pointed in our Apostolic Project as one of our frontiers.
- The meetings we hold with the liaison on this field from the local communities confirm that there is such a need.
- It's a call the youngsters themselves are addressing to us.

Who do we serve?

- The young adults that are in CVX.
- Our youth liaisons in each local Cxv that support that mission.
- Other young people who don't belong to Cvx.

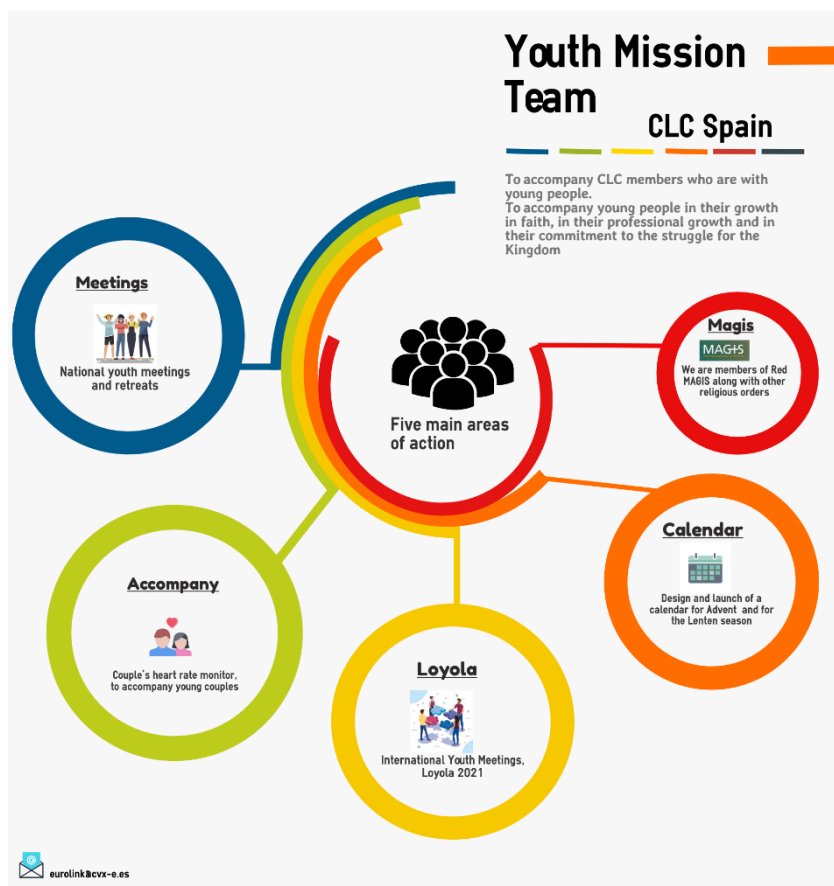
Organization

- National Youth Mission team.
- Co-team-members that get involved in our events and work.
- Net of liaisons from local communities.

You can find us on

<https://twitter.com/misionjovencvxe?lang=es/>

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Equipo-Misi%C3%B3n-Joven/100003374693403>



What are your reactions?

Is there something you need: collaboration, help, advice?

What do you want to share? What has been successfully implemented in your national communities? What are you proud of?

We are looking forward to future collaboration promoting networking and exchange. If your community has tools and best practices that can be shared with others please contact the Euroteam and tell us about it.

You are invited! (sessions, international retreats, gatherings)

Due to the pandemic, we haven't many invitations to share ...

1. International sharing groups

Beginning in the end of November, we would like to start a new "edition" of the online sharing groups. If you are interested please register by October 31st on

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBsj1eyihW9VsbRU0_I9VU2LeK9-0qDiTwetZN7F3bGO09A/viewform?usp=sf_link

2. At the frontiers

Due to the pandemic, the ATF winter camp cannot take place as expected. We'll keep you updated about the programme for 2021.

3. A message from the international CLC group "Cheminer franco-libanais"

Dear all,

The CLC group "Cheminer Franco-Libanais" offers you a week in prayer union with our Lebanese and Egyptian friends from Sunday 4 October to Sunday 11 October 2020 following the painful events in the country. We want to support them and live a spiritual experience together, where each one is referred to the context in which he lives in his country.

How it works:

- if you wish you can register for this week by sending an email to allard_kouwenhoven@yahoo.com .
- you will receive a daily prayer (in French) sheet with a suggested text and some suggestions for prayer
- please indicate whether or not your email address can be shared with other participants, which will enable us to make a greater community of prayer.

If you have already registered for this week, there is no need to react to this message, but you can forward the invitation.

Who is the French-Lebanese CLC group Cheminer Franco-Libanais?

Since 2010 members of the Christian Life Community from several countries (France, Lebanon, Egypt, Germany, Malta, Belgium, Brazil, ...) have organised walks/retreats in France and Lebanon. This has given rise to a deep community friendship.

Why this week of prayer with a particular intention for Lebanon?

We are of the realities of our different countries and were stunned by the violent explosion that occurred in August in the port of Beirut, plunging this city and this country into anger and desolation. One more event that added to the many difficulties Lebanon is experiencing.

The need for support for the material reconstruction of Lebanon is enormous. We have seen solidarity being organised, and this solidarity will have to continue over the long term. The French can join in through donations (the CLC France site has already given indications based on the Lebanese Jesuit community, and other initiatives will continue to emerge).

Very quickly, the need to find ourselves again in faith, to support us in our trials through Christ who created us as brothers and sisters, also arose in a manner completely shared between the Lebanese and the French.

This is how a path of prayer was imagined for 8 days by three of us. Through this path of prayer, it is not first of all a question of praying for Lebanon and the Lebanese, but of praying with Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Built according to a progression that invites us to move from desolation to consolation, this path joins all of us, Lebanese, Egyptians, French, and other nationalities, in our personal history with God, in our collective belonging (a country in particular) and the way we see God manifesting Himself there.

The week of prayer is for all those who wish to pray with us.

For the group Cheminer Franco-Libanais,
Florence, Jean-Jacques, Allard

Unfortunately, an English version is not available.

For further information

Call for donations

In 2021 the Euroteam supports two initiatives

(1) At the Frontiers – Torina/ Reggio Calabria/ Ragusa – Italy (2021)

At the Frontiers (ATF) is an international volunteer programme established by CLC Europe in 2015. It takes place in reception centres for refugees and asylum seekers in Italy.



Our goals

1. **Be there “at the frontiers”**, raising awareness about the plight of migrants
2. Live an experience of **personal and spiritual growth**
3. **Share** the experience with other volunteers in a spirit of communion

In line with CLC principles, the camp aims at combining daily moments of prayer with the organisation of cultural and recreational activities *for* and *with* asylum seekers and refugees.

A CLC guide takes care of the spiritual aspects of each shift. Volunteers are expected to participate and actively contribute to all community activities in a spirit of service.



In 2020 the ATF has been suspended due to the pandemic. But the team is planning to launch it again as soon as the sanitary conditions allow them to do so.

(2) Youth Gathering - Loyola – Spain (July 2021)

The international Youth Gathering is organized by CLC Spain – and open to CLC members from all over Europe



Our goals

- ✚ To foster the meeting of Ignatian European youngsters in order to generate bounds and networks
- ✚ To get a deeper knowledge of St. Ignatius conversion and let it reflect in their conversion process
- ✚ To listen to and examine the wounds of Europe
- ✚ To know how Europe is trying to heal its wounds
- ✚ To learn how Ignatius answered the wounds he found in his time and place
- ✚ To discern what our answer could be; personal answer depending on the reality and capacity given to each of them
- ✚ To listen to any interpellation we may feel as Ignatian youngsters: Where are we called to serve?
- ✚ To celebrate the fact of being an International Community



content

- ✚ St. Ignatius of Loyola; his wound and conversion
- ✚ The political, economical and ecclesiastical reality in Europe
- ✚ Ecology, sustainability, lifestyle, poverty
- ✚ Immigration
- ✚ Review of motions to respond

speakers

- ✚ We would like to get professors, politicians, Jesuits... that are relevant due to their work and research in these fields

For these two projects, CLC in Europe needs your donations... An amount of 9000 Euros is needed to support the two projects.

You may use the bank account of CLC in Europe

Bank Name: Banca Popolare di Sondrio

Bank Account Name: COMUNITA' DI VITA CRISTIANA

IBAN Number: IT59H0569603212000006522X13

Bank BIC Code: POSOIT22XXX

Reference: donation ATF/ donation Youth camp Spain

Or make a transfer via your National Community.

 **Thank you!**

The Euroteam

Angelika

Kasia

Jean-Benoît

Chris