



Newsletter – October 2021

Spiritually said ...

This September people all around the world remembered the terrorist attacks on the World Trade center on 9/11/2001. James Martin, SJ, a Jesuit from the US speaks about his experience as a young priest on Ground Zero:

“My experience of Ground Zero was one where the Holy Spirit was present. It was a place of generosity and love, community and union. Charity, concord, and service.

There were all these people working for others. And remember, you had people coming from all over the country. In those early days, anyone would come in. Firefighters, sure, but also . . . there were these women from the Midwest who’d set up a candy stand. I’ll never forget that.

So while, for many, Ground Zero was a place of Good Friday — the suffering, dying and burial of Christ — I saw a different aspect. I saw it as a place of Easter Sunday. Because there was a sense of new life there. Both these things present at the same site.

What do I mean by the term “Holy Spirit?” I mean God’s presence. An active presence. And that’s important. Because you could say that God’s presence is everywhere, the idea that God’s spirit pervades the world as a sort of benign presence. But I believe God’s Spirit impelled those people to listen to their conscience. “Go and help,” it said. And they listened. That’s the active spirit I’m talking about. This sense of the Holy Spirit drawing people together.”



(Father James Martin SJ,

<https://nypost.com/2021/09/09/a-priest-reflects-on-the-grace-he-saw-on-the-pile-after-9-11/>)

Youth Gathering Loyola 2021: “Embrace the world in an Ignatian way”

Five hundred years is such a long time, that’s a good occasion to stop and look back at the path started so long ago and that still continues today, loyal to its principles but adapted to the context of each era.

All started with a wound and a heal, that allowed Ignatius time to examine deep. That’s what young CLC members had the chance to do, in a special worldwide on-line gathering “EMBRACE THE WORLD IN AN IGNATIAN WAY” in which thanks to technology they received special messages from Father General Arturo Sosa, Provincial of Spain, Presidents of CLC, other speakers: such as Jesuits, religious women, CLC members... they also had the chance to see and hear different experiences of service,

songs from different corners of the world, and had a privileged time of sharing one with each other accompanied by senior CLC members.

So people that had never met before, people that had a long experience of service, people that research and devote their time to a specific aspect, people with a wide and a concrete vision of the world came together to enrich youngsters.



During these three days, 130 young adults from 50 different countries experienced what we all have our own wounds and the process of healing is a powerful knowledge to bring into the world, specially to help those that are suffering as we once did.

Each of us finds help and strength in others, so these bounds need to be assured and looked after as a treasure that will keep on encouraging us to bring our best to the world and try to approach the difficulties with a better understanding, a net of brothers and sisters that will get into deeper reflections to find better ways to be next of those who suffer.

So young members created a Youth Manifesto Ignatius 500 highlighting the aspects they believe in and those that should lead their actions.



The greatest was the atmosphere generated, being one body in Christ, that all participants shared, and how all wished to follow Ignatius' path discovering where they are called. And the joy and happiness brought by youngsters from all over the world.

Let's pray for their courage and for the net they now have that brings them closer, that will become stronger and will serve to build God's Kingdom.

If you want to find more information about the gathering and about the CLC Youth Manifesto Ignatius 500 you can do it at <http://cvx-e.es/>

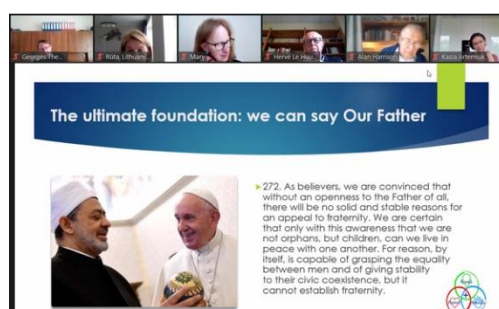
News from CLC in Europe and Euroteam

Meeting of EA and EL in “virtual Warsaw”

In winter 2019/2020 we started planning a meeting for Eurolinks and ecclesial assistants at Pentecost 2021 in Warsaw. The Polish national community had invited us. For a long time we had hoped that a meeting in presence would be possible, after several shorter meetings of all Eurolinks had taken place online. But when the second wave of the pandemic arrived, we had to realize to held the meeting in a shortened form online.



"Fratelli tutti - called to be co-creators of a world in transition" - this was the theme of the meeting on 21 and 22 May 2021. What role, what task do we have as individuals and the CLC as an international community in this world in transition, in this concrete situation at the end of the pandemic? After training delivered by Fr. Paul Pace, SJ from Malta, we had a sharing in small groups about the question how the fraternity Fratelli tutti calls us to can be lived by us concretely and which are the concrete challenges for CLC. The online meeting ended with a Eucharist and a “virtual bar”.



Ecological frontier

Earlier this year the Euroteam invited a few CLCers engaged in ecological work in their countries to work together on a brainstorming group co-ordinated by the ET. The questions placed to the group were:

- 1) Is there scope for a European dimension of the Ecological frontier of CLC?
- 2) If there is a scope what could it look like?

The work of this group finished at the beginning of summer and a report of the work done and the recommendations was presented to the ET for its own discernment and decisions. It was a very enriching experience to work with people from around Europe on this frontier that seemed to be dormant. We found a vibrant group of CLCers and friends working for our future and our planet. We hope that now the communities of CLC in Europe will receive the invitations that may come from the ET and respond to them.

‘One Body – One Spirit’ - European Migration Network Meeting in Lille

The European Migration Network met at the weekend of the 24-26th September 2021 in Lille, France. It was our first meeting in person since 2017 so you can imagine how happy and excited we were to see each other. But also, for the first time, we held a hybrid meeting – connecting with three participants online. There were 21 representatives from 12 countries: France, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Malta and Portugal.

We started on Friday night by getting to know each other better and a short introduction to the meeting, followed by evening prayer. The next day was very enriching and full of positive energy. We began with a prayer 'Towards Wider We', in line with the Pope's message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021, and a short reflection on important aspects of the faith-justice process described in *Promotio Iustitiae* (n.120, 2015/4). Then we were busy as bees and butterflies moving around open space rooms and sharing our best practices in five areas: accompaniment, service, research/reflection, raising awareness and structural transformation. The time of sharing and



listening to each other's stories helped us realise how many great and meaningful activities our community members across Europe are involved in. Our unquestionable strength is accompanying migrants and refugees in various situations and circumstances, which we understand as being there for others, listening and walking together as friends. Accompaniment is always mutual and we have seen how much we are gifted and enriched with the relationships we build with migrants. We have also shared many interesting examples of projects, training and formation activities related to serving migrants and

refugees, research and reflection on migration, raising awareness and some advocacy initiatives. The Migration Core Team is preparing a detailed report with all the best practices that we shared in the meeting.



The afternoon was dedicated to reflection on the current reality of migrants and refugees in Europe, with a focus on challenges that need our attention and response. We looked at this reality and asked ourselves the question: *What are we called to do as members of CLC European Migration Network?* This question led us to the process of discernment of our objectives for the next three years. We also looked at different ways to improve and strengthen cooperation and communication within the network.

At the end of the afternoon session, the Migration Core Team presented the results of the evaluation of the European project At the Frontiers (AtF) with a strong recommendation to continue and develop the project. Many participants expressed a desire to develop joint initiatives and projects in different parts of Europe under the umbrella of the AtF. As the first step to put the idea of joint projects into practice some of us spent the rest of the day creating a short awareness-raising video, which we hope to publish soon 😊

Sunday morning was dedicated to the process of election of the new Migration Core Team that is going to serve the network and the community in the next three years. So we are happy to present the



newly elected team: Julia Babos (Hungary), Jenny Zammit (Malta), Eleonora Milazzo (Italy) and Marco Rivas (Spain).

We closed the meeting with the Eucharist celebration and sending of our new Migration Core Team for their mission. We wish the new team all the blessings they need and a great time working together!



And the National communities...

CLC in Germany: Prevention of sex abuse and spiritual abuse in CLC Germany

Prevention of sexual violence and spiritual abuse

Some years ago, the German bishops' conference asked all Catholic spiritual communities and movements to deal with the issue of sexual abuse and to develop protection concepts for their respective organizations. In response to this call, CLC in Germany set up a small working group of four, acting in close contact with our national ExCo and our formation team.

In a first step we tried to define the "risks" we perceive. In which areas are we mainly confronted with the abuse? In this process, we broadened our focus in order to also include spiritual abuse and – more generally speaking – misuse and abuse of power. This resulted in four main issues:

- How do we deal with each other in our CLC groups and local communities?
- What characterizes our way of offering spiritual guidance and retreat accompaniment?
- Are we prepared to accompany people who have made experiences of abuse?
- What do we need to pay attention to regarding child care during CLC formation courses?

For our CLC groups, the formation team prepared a document with suggestions from the Bible, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and the CLC General Principles about how to avoid and confront all forms of abuse of (spiritual) power.

Meanwhile we also developed "Guidelines for preventing sexual violence and spiritual abuse", specifying our understanding of CLC as a safe space, as we respect "the uniqueness of each personal vocation", enabling us and others "to be open and free" (GP 2).

We designated contact persons from within CLC Germany who also perform the task of prevention officers as well as two external contact persons (who also fulfill this role for the Central European Province of the Jesuits). We offer specific workshops for spiritual and retreat guides who are trained by and/or accompany retreat courses for CLC Germany. And we have asked them as well as the members of our leadership teams to attend a prevention training course, to raise their own awareness for questions of abuse. We also ask them to sign a declaration of self-commitment, based on our guidelines.

Prevention concerns all of us in CLC. We all need to become more sensitive for all types of boundary violations and of assaults which can prepare the ground for abuse - within CLC and far beyond – and we need to learn how to speak about these experiences.

And we are part of this church – which has to take responsibility for those affected and be vigilant for dynamics that help and favor the perpetrators.

CLC in Spain

Mujeres en diálogo (Women in dialogue)

In September 2020 the national executive council in Spain invited a group of women interested in the situation of women in the Church to participate in a Seminar organized by the ATE (Association of Spanish Theologians) whose title was "Women in Dialogue"

That small team encouraged other women, so that now there are 18 members of the group, representing 12 local communities.

“Not only have we grown in number but, in addition to reflecting on the reality of women in our Church, and in CLC, we have been joining movements of women that aim to make the dignity of believers real and effective in our church such as the worldwide Catholic Women's Council.

We are also in contact with groups that promote Ignatian spirituality in a gender key such as the Miryam Network or spiritual leadership such as Ruaj, a center of accompaniment and formation organized by the Carmelites of Vedruna.

Among the actions we have carried out or are currently preparing:

- A talk with the Spanish theologian Pepa Torres with the title *Women for an inclusive and participatory Church. Contributions from Ignatian spirituality*.
- To work on this talk in the local communities we have prepared a reflection sheet with three levels, according to the knowledge about feminist theology that each member may have.
- Develop our biographies as believing women and feminists in both document and video format to share with our communities.
- A pilgrimage with two itineraries, a formative and a spiritual one, in which the central theme is believing women in biblical history or the Church that allows us to reflect on situations that women live today.

It seems to us that believing women must take a step forward to contribute our specificity within the Church and our communities, that feminist theology offers a formation in a gender key that helps us to develop the critical thinking, to discover women who have been part of the believers but of whom we know very little, whether they are biblical women or later believers, to promote the leadership of women and that our presence is reflected in the liturgy, in the theological academic chairs, in the different ministries, etc. We are not only recipients of faith but also full co-makers and partners of community life.

We are also convinced that CLC women can go one step further and bring light to this path in which we are invited to be more present in the Church, to offer a voice and also to count on a decision-making capacity”.

Message from the Spanish Exco

The Spanish Exco made a video message to the members - to share some of the impressions of the first two years of the mandate. You find the video here: <https://cvxe.blogspot.com/2021/09/mensaje-del-consejo-ejecutivo-nacional.html>

You can find the English translation of the video at the end of this newsletter.



CLC in Lithuania: CLC Camp 2021: The Most Healing Experience is the Love of God

More than 80 members and guests of the Lithuanian CLC from all over Lithuania who are interested in Ignatian spirituality gathered at the camp in Jadagonys (Kaunas district) on August 12–15. Campers, following the example of St. Ignatius, tried to find God in all things. And there was definitely no shortage of "things" - four days were spent praying, listening to trainings, relaxing and having fun together.

We rejoiced at f. Mindaugas Malinauskas, SJ and f. Algimantas Gudaitis, SJ custody. F. Mindaugas took the service of Ecclesial Assistants from f.

Algimantas since the beginning of September. The Jesuit fathers called us for daily morning prayer, were offering the Mass, patiently accepting the confessions, talked about spiritual matters. F. Mindaugas helped to understand the meaning of St. Ignatius letters – just before the camp the book with collection of letters was released. Also, he introduced ways of prayer that allow to be with God through all the senses. Psychologist-psychotherapist Loreta Gudienė talked about how to find God in all things, including stressful and crisis situations. The training and personal prayer gave the participants important insights, which were shared in small groups.

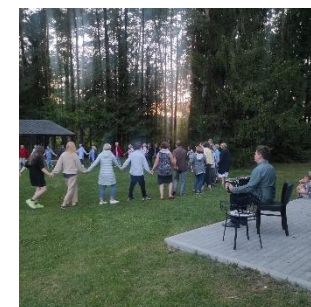


The open and inspiring testimonies of the long-time members of the community Ruta, Roma, two Irenas and Dalia, which strengthened the understanding of the meaning of being in the Christian life community, left a great impression.

As every year, there was no shortage of active activities. Every morning, the campers gathered for an exercise led by community member Egle, which helped to get moving and gain energy for the whole day. And it really took a lot of energy as the program lasted until dusk. On the first evening, songs with Vilija were played by the campfire, and on the second evening, the campers enjoyed folk dances, which were accompanied by the folklorist Vilius.

A lot of positive emotions came from the orienteering hike on the third day of the camp. Following the signs left along the way, we thought about how we recognize the signs of God on a daily basis. We walked the road as if divided into sections symbolized consolation and discomfort. Everyone came back full of excitement.

Aurimas, Dovydas and Gustas, volunteers of Vilnius Jesuit Gymnasium, responsibly assisted Sonata in the children's program. The volunteers deservedly received many thanks and applause. The children also spent time meaningfully during the activities offered by the community members Dalia, Svajune and Sonata.



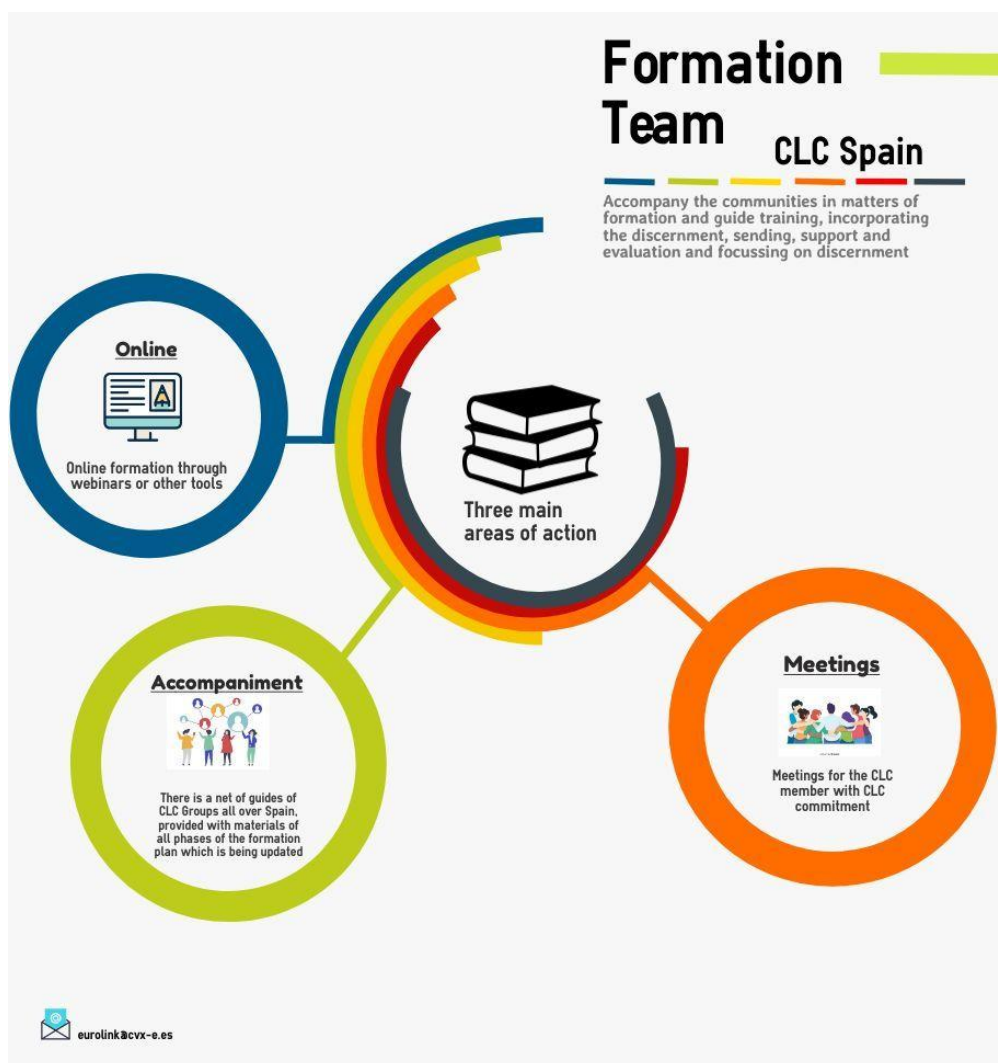
Summarizing the experience of the camp, the representatives of the groups emphasized the desire



to thank God and their neighbours. Words of gratitude poured out for the communion experienced in the camp, for the priests and other people who responded to serve, for the prayers, trainings and entertainment, for sincere testimonies. The participants of the camp noticed that the gaze had shifted from themselves to God, the camp became an incentive to seek God in all things, to make a stop in their daily lives, to recognize the unity of faith and life. Participants spent camp time as a large family, where everyone is different but cares for others and feels needed. Camp participants shared that they received important tools to improve their spiritual lives when they returned to their daily lives. Many joyful experiences have been experienced and it has been observed that the most healing experience is the love of God.

Overview by community member Jurgita Lenkauskaite

Some inspirations from the National communities



The CLC Charism

The idea of preparing the material on The CLC Charism in a more visual and post-like format responds to the need to be able to offer our essence in a more visual way, more linked to the times we live in. It does not lose the essence or the depth, but it is presented in a format that allows you to take a minute to savour one of its 30 post-like pills that can accompany you throughout the day. It can be used with people who are in the process of discernment of commitment (temporary or

permanent), or even to be able to remember and return to a key document in our CLC being. Link to the website: <http://cvx-e.es/formacion>

General Principles

We have also made a short 2-minute video of the general principles, to help to understand them, to situate them in your life, to see what they guide us and what they commit us to. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvHJpjCnIE8>)

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

CLC in Austria: Online meetings

CLC in Austria pursues the online meetings started during the pandemic. They invite all CLCers who speak German to join them. You find further information on their website:



<http://www.gcloe.at/Joomla/index.php/thema/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen/138-gemeinschaft-online>

If you want to participate, please register via the Austrian secretariat: sekretariat@gcloe.at

CLC Worldwide: COP26 and why it matters to us

For those who are not aware COP26 is a United Nations Climate Change Conference. It is the 26th one and is scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Scotland between the 1 and 12 November 2021. This is the place in which all our countries (ideally) get together and agree on a way forward that will stop us destroying our planet. You may have heard of the famous “Paris Agreement” that was reached in a similar conference a few years ago.

CLC is joining the rest of the Ignatian family in the EcoJesuit group and is organising a number of events now and in the run up to the conference and at the conference itself. I can recommend that you visit [\(2\) #creating4change2021 – Explore | Facebook](#) – this is an initiative that CLC is taking part in the run up to COP26.



Ecojesuit

@ecojesuit · Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

CLC in France: Congrès

For All Saints 2021, the whole Western European French -speaking Ignatian family (France, French -speaking Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland) will gather together in Marseille, to celebrate the 500 years of the conversion of St Ignacius as well as the 400th anniversary of his and St Francis Xavier's sanctification. .

The theme is “Off the coast with Ignacius”.

**AU LARGE
AVEC IGNACE!**
TOUS SAINTS
MARSEILLE
2021



About 8000 people are expected to attend over 3 days, to get to know each other, discover Marseille, celebrate and pray together.

CLC in France will have its Congress on this occasion, on Sunday 31/10/2021.

The following times will be broadcast online and/or on television:

Sunday 31/10 :

- Morning Mass broadcast live by Jour du Seigneur (France 2) on television but also on France 2 live if you have an account (free), from 10:30 to 12:00. To be seen again afterwards on <https://www.lejourduseigneur.com/revoir-lemission/> .
- CLC Congress in France, teaching by Sister Cécile Renouard from 10.20 to 11.05am: to be followed live on Youtube (link not yet available)
- All Saints' Day Vigil from 10pm to 10.30pm: to be followed live on the Youtube channel of the gathering

Monday 01/11:

- from 11am to 12.30pm: Mass broadcast by KTO on KTO en Direct - KTOTV

All times are CET. All interventions will be in French.

We invite you to join the Facebook group and the Twitter, YouTube and Instagram accounts dedicated to the gathering. Do not hesitate to "like", share, retweet!

<https://ignace2021.org>

International sharing groups

Beginning in December, we would like to start a new "edition" of the online sharing groups. If you are interested please register by November 25th on

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8ecJ9MGNTfzbGnnMtwuM5A_IHaxdeTu1wIQSEKDoX64Zu-A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Videoconference: The Synodal Way in Germany with Maria Boxberg (spiritual guide of the Synodal Way)

As you perhaps know the German church started a Synodal Way in 2020. Maria Boxberg, the former president of CLC in Germany, serves as a spiritual guide of the process. She accepted our invitation to talk about the Synodal way and share her experience of service in a videoconference on December 15th from 6.30 pm- 8pm. She'll give us interesting insides into synodality and into the German process.



This videoconference is open to all CLCers in Europe - so please share the invitation with your members. They can register at: registrations@clc-cvx.eu and they'll receive an auto-response with a Zoom-link.

CLC in Germany: European holidays 30th of July to 6th of August 2022

CLC in Germany invites to a European CLC holiday from July 30th to August 6th, 2022 in Dahn, southwestern Germany. The place is located in the forest of the Palatinate, in the natural park of the Vosges du Nord very close to the border with Lorraine. It is a very beautiful region with a rich natural and historical heritage!

On the week's program: times of prayer, activities in nature, meetings with CLC companions from the region, music, hikes, games, sports: all participants' suggestions will be welcome. Who is invited: CLC members from all European countries of all ages, singles, couples, and families.



Accommodation: Dahn Youth Hostel, which can accommodate 60 people.
The organizing team: it is currently composed of 5 members from Germany, Latvia and France.
Other companions can still join the team, they will be welcome!

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 2022.

Thanks to ...

Daniela Frank (CLC in Germany), Marie-Emmanuelle Reiss (CLC in France), Jurgita Lenkauskaitė (CLC in Lithuania) Sara Palacio, Eduardo Escobes Rodriguez, Inma Blanch (CLC in Spain) and the Euroteam for the articles!

The Euroteam

Angelika

Kasia

Jean-Benoît

Chris

Nikolaas

English translation of the video

Two years have passed since the assembly in Pamplona, and we have hardly noticed it. After the impulse and enthusiasm of the first months, we were surprised by the pandemic, and this has undoubtedly marked the life of the community and the activity of the national executive council. However, we can thank God that it has not blocked us. The community, on mission, is still very much alive. We cannot forget the song that accompanied us during those days and that sometimes we remember: " See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHqiASVzwpq>

In our reflection a year ago and on several occasions when we visited your communities, we have shared that the assembly in Pamplona is, if the expression suits it, an "open assembly". Far from providing us with many clear concretions and conclusions, its main value is that it opened the door to concrete and real exploration and experimentation. It is an invitation to a time of *kairos* in our CLC community, as well as in the Church. Time in which once again we stand before the crucified, today's and tomorrow's crucified people, to ask ourselves *what have I done for you? what I am doing for you? what am I going to do for you?* and move forward, as the world assembly of Buenos Aires already indicated us, deepening, sharing and going forth.

Today we can say that the illusion of taking care of the outbreak that we learned to see in Pamplona is still as valid as that August 8th. And it is stronger, because uncertainties have been reduced. Uncertainties of our own capacities and those of the group has been replaced by companionship and confidence in what we do and accompanying the community has been replaced by the enthusiasm of many of you, who have spread it among us, and so on.

We have tried to channel the work of communities and teams, and we have witnessed their drive, accompanied their insecurities, and supported them to follow the path. We have opened new gaps, both in the articulation of the community and in the calls that emerge from the reality as clues to the God always alive and present in the world, incarnated in this reality.

We would like to thank all the local communities, the mission teams, the territorial councils, other groups that have been created in this time and all the people involved for their support in the different initiatives that we have suggested and the tenacity, enthusiasm, and visibility that we all have been building. It is not an easy task to accompany a national community, but we do not lack enthusiasm for doing so and gratitude to all of you for your response.

We will try to maintain our attentive listening and pushing, which will prepare us for the next stage. Let us continue to be attentive to the calls, to be vigilant of one another, to be companions and friends in the Lord, recognizing our weakness but also enhancing our charisms, which are many and varied. Let us be clear that together we build community and hopefully we glimpse as a community that we are women and men for others as Father Arrupe said. If we look to the future, we believe that we are forming a mature and predisposed community, full of eager and desire for apostolic mission, approaching the frontiers and also looking at and walking with the world community being a single community.

We love you, embrace you.

National Executive Council of CLC in Spain