



# Newsletter – March 2020

## Spiritually said ...

### Father James Martin SJ writes about the Coronavirus:

Dear friends: Since so many people are being affected (and some infected) by the Coronavirus, some spiritual advice. Mainly: don't give into fear, panic or demonization. St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, talked about two "movements" in the spiritual life, which can help us right now.

One movement comes from God, the other doesn't. St. Ignatius, a master in spiritual discernment, called the one that doesn't come from God (and that also moves us away from God) the "evil one" or the "enemy of human nature." And it works in specific ways, which we are seeing played out today on a worldwide stage.

It's the way of the evil one, as St. Ignatius says, to "cause gnawing anxiety, to sadden, to set up obstacles. In this way, he unsettles people by false reasons aimed at preventing their progress." Sound familiar?

So don't let the evil one draw you to lies, rumors and panic about the Coronavirus. Because that will just draw you away from the grace, and the help, that God wants to give you. That interior voice that relies on rumors and leads to panic is not coming from God. Ground yourself instead in reality.

What is coming from God? St. Ignatius tells us: God's spirit "stirs up courage and strength, consolations, inspirations and tranquility." So know your enemy! And also "discern the spirits." In short, anything that leads to despair is not coming from God. Anything that builds up hope is.

<https://www.facebook.com/FrJamesMartin>

## Corona

We are experiencing uncertainty, fear, anxiety, isolation and asking questions about sense, solidarity, being there for others, love, faith, healing ... And this is happening right now, in the time of Lent, in our everyday reality that is changing so much and becoming more and more unpredictable. God is present amidst all of this.

Our community across Europe is united in this experience. We want to support each other through our prayers and caring – asking how others are and sharing how we live through this situation. That is why we have two invitations for you



1. We would like to invite you to form international online sharing groups working like CLC groups where you can pray together and share your experience. If you are interested in joining an online group please contact us ([euroteam@clc-cvx.eu](mailto:euroteam@clc-cvx.eu)) and tell us which day of the week you can meet and in which language you would like to share. Then we will make a list of people interested and connect them with each other. You can also receive some inspirations for your sharing from us.

2. On the CLC World day (25<sup>th</sup> of March, 15 o'clock CET) we invite you to a Eucharist celebrated by Father Nikolaas Sintobin SJ. You can join the Eucharist on our Facebook page: Christian Life Community in Europe (<https://www.facebook.com/CLCEUROPE> ). We'll also post a link or start the livestream some minutes before the mass starts on our Website (<https://clc-cvx.eu/>) - it should work without a Facebook account.

## News from CLC in Europe and Euroteam

### First meeting of the Euroteam (October 2019)

At the last weekend of October, the new Euroteam had its first face-to-face meeting after many virtual contacts via Skype and mail. We met at Jean-Benoit's home in Brussels.

We spent an intensive working weekend together. Saturday morning was marked by getting to know each other. We talked about our way to and in CLC. Then, during prayer time, we looked back on the European Assembly in Vilnius and in a spiritual conversation following the prayer, we discerned our priorities for the next 5 years, referring to your responses to our letter of July.

Fernando Vidal from the World ExCo joined us later in the afternoon and we deepened our process of discernment together in order to align our guidelines with the plans of the World ExCo. Above all, we discussed different ways to approach discernment and the question of development and sharing tools for discernment within national communities and in international networks.



On Saturday evening we had an opportunity and a great pleasure to celebrate Eucharist together with the French-speaking CLC in Belgium, at the Collège Saint Michel in Brussels. After the Eucharist, we spend some time sharing about CLC in Belgium and in Europe in a very informal way – over delicious pizza and wine. We really enjoyed being among the community in Belgium that welcomed us so warmly. Thank you for sharing your stories and joy, as well as bread and wine with us!

On Sunday, we deepened our discernment process from the previous day and formulated the guidelines for our mandate. We also discussed the process of looking for an Ecclesial Assistant to accompany us in the coming years.

An important topic for the afternoon was the organization of our work and distribution of some tasks and responsibilities in the ET. **Kasia** is going to be responsible for the contact with the **Migration Network Core Team and At the Frontiers**. **Jean-Benoît** is our contact person for the **activities with young people**. **Chris** is going to be in charge of finances, and **Angelika** as the **coordinator** will take care of **communication** with the National Communities.

### Meeting of the Euroteam (April 2020)

Unfortunately we had to cancel our meeting planned for April 2020 in Rome because of the Corona Virus. We are going to have many long Skypes instead ...

## Some words from the world ExCo ...

*“CLC is with and for young people. Youth are an indispensable part of the apostolic body. The intergenerational togetherness is an essential dimension of the universality – a universality displayed in time. In CLC around the world, we are young, adult, elder, all of us belong to one apostolic body. While the young are an apostolic frontier, the young are primarily an essential part of the body. The priority of communicating the gift of CLC to the next generation is not only a priority, but also*

*a vital matter of communion and historical responsibility with young people, with the Ignatian Family and with the Church.*

(Projects 173, Introduction)

For the World Day 2020, the World Exco sent us Projects -no 173 entitled Young people are an indispensable part of the CLC apostolic body

You are invited to read the entire text, to share it in your communities ...

## And the National communities...

### CLC in Lithuania: Ignatian family meeting in Kraziai

2019 is the anniversary year for the Jesuit mission in Lithuania – 450 years have passed since their arrival to Lithuania in 1569 – which is dedicated to commemorate this important event in our history. On 21st September 2019 about 370 members from 16 Ignatian communities, included CLC in Lithuania, have gathered in a small Lithuanian town Kraziai to commemorate the Jesuit mission since 1607 in that place. The Jesuit College, established in Kraziai, has been active for about 150 years. The festive meeting was organised to get together all the communities and organizations grounded in the Ignatian spirituality: the Society of Jesus, the sisters of the Eucharistic Jesus (SJE), CLC in Lithuania, the Jesuit schools, MAGIS, Jesuit parishes and family communities. It was a big joy to meet each other and get to know the activities of the different communities. We celebrated the Holy Mass, had a township tour led by the local gymnasium teachers and students and finished the festival with folk songs and dances.

More pictures on Facebook or on the website of CLC in Lithuania:



[https://www.facebook.com/pg/jezuitai.lt/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=3224871654197266;](https://www.facebook.com/pg/jezuitai.lt/photos/?tab=album&album_id=3224871654197266;)

<http://www.kgbendruomene.lt/apie-krazius.html>

### CLC in Poland: Lenten Scratch Card

\_Lenten Scratch Card 2020: Release your energy for action!

Lenten Scratch Card is a special card with over 40 activities to discover as daily tasks for the whole family, a group of friends or a community in the Lent time. Inspiring challenges can help everyone to go through each day of Lent consciously. The current edition addresses the issue of ecology and the encyclical 'Laudato Si'.

This year you can also discover our tasks by following posts on @lentenscratch fan page (FB). Join the Editorial Board for Global Lenten Scratch Card 2021. Print Scratch Cards in your own country! Taiwan has already joined our Team in 2019 and 2020. We can prepare the next international edition of the Lenten Scratch Card together. Join the Editorial Board by 24th September 2020. Write an email on behalf of the CLC in your country and send it to [editors@zdrapkawielkopostna.pl](mailto:editors@zdrapkawielkopostna.pl)



### CLC in Spain: Lent Calendar

Youth Mission CVX Spain has launched a Lent Calendar, they also did it last year and in Advent. It reached a lot of corners in the world and a lot of hearts. (...) Keeping up with the desire of service, hearing your requests, and having the invaluable help of Catherine from Canada, they are launching the English version of the calendar. It follows 4 verbs: notice, pray, share and fast. And 7 intentions; one for each day of the week: the little ones, Jesus, Mary, family, nature, the least and God. So each day a challenge combining this two will be broadcasted through Social Networks: Facebook Christian Life Community in Europe (<https://web.facebook.com/CLCEUROPE>) . Sometimes the challenge contains a prayer, a song, a video... and it may also request for an answer.



They also created a supportive material; a user guide, some posters... so anyone belonging to a community, parish, movement...that would like to request for it can do it through this link <https://forms.gle/evydTi7LWqmXAiec9>. So they would really appreciate your support following the calendar and making it reach as far as possible with the hope of serving and spreading the Gospel in a way it could be fresh, and attractive to speak to the hearts of youth.

(Inma Blanch)

## CLC in France

### CVX Lab

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February , the first "CVX Lab" took place at Maison Magis in Paris, an event dedicated to young people aged 25 to 35 to imagine the future of CLC. The aim of these two days was to get to know each other, to experience the community in a friendly atmosphere, but also to raise awareness of the way young companions perceive CLC. You will find a longer report here: <https://www.jesuites.com/cvx-lab-parole-aux-jeunes-pour-inventer-la-cvx-de-demain/> (in French)



### "Summer" university

CLC in France organized summer university on eight different dates and places all over France. The theme of all of them was "MIGRANTS osons la rencontre" (Migrants – let's dare to meet them). Main parts of this summer university were trainings and conferences about different aspects of the theme, meetings with refugees and associations and sharing groups - a real experience of encounter and discernment.

In this article, you will find a report on one of the sessions:

<https://www.cvxfrance.com/2019/11/25/huitieme-et-derniere-universite-dete-cvx-indien-comme-souligne-malicieusement/>

In this article Christine, a member of CLC in France tells us how she experienced the summer university with her grandchildren (aged 10 and 12)

<https://www.cvxfrance.com/2020/01/20/temoignage-de-christiane-fayret/>

### CLC in Germany: CLC members involved in the Synodal way

On December 1, 2019 (First Sunday of Advent), the solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Munich cathedral and the lighting of "synodal" candles" across Germany's 27 dioceses signalled the formal start of the Synodal Way.

What is the Synodal Way? It is a "roundtable" dialogue among the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Germany, members of the Central Committee of German Catholics in Germany, representatives of various church organizations, youth representatives, and invited individuals.

What is it for? Emerging from the realization that the German Church needs conversion and renewal, the Synodal Way is meant to be a process whereby the participants venture to search together for answers to the burning issues, questions and challenges that confront the German Church today and to find ways of strengthening Christian witness in the light of the Gospel.

It involves a two-year consultation with the Catholic public on specific issues grouped into four forums:

- Authority and separation of powers - joint participation in mission
- Life in successful relationships - living love in sexuality and partnership
- Priestly existence today
- Women in church services and offices



It is crucial for the synod participants to receive the grace to journey as one body and not in factions; the grace to remember that with the Holy Spirit they are seeking only one truth from only one God.

Thus, a Jesuit priest and a lay woman will serve as spiritual companions journeying alongside the Synodal pilgrims. Theirs is the delicate task (and daunting too) of helping the plenary participants (230 *only* – clergy and laity, men and women, young and old) tune in to the Holy Spirit, sense where He is leading them, and arrive at Spirit-guided decisions.

The lay woman in the team is Maria Boxberg, a CLC member. She has a mission to fulfil and in the spirit of DSSE, her mission is ours too.

The photo shows the three CLC members involved in the Synodal way, the text was written by Ronnie Villegas, CLC Philippines.

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

**We publish all the invitations we have received from the NC. Unfortunately the current situation doesn't allow us to know definitely if some of them might have to be cancelled because of the Corona Virus.**

### **CLC in the Netherlands: International, Sportive Hiking Retreat! "Walking together on the path of Freedom!"**

From Sunday, June ? 28th 2020 (6.30pm) until Sunday, July 5th 2020 (9am)

Animation & guidance : A CLC team (CLC = Christian Life Community)

- ✚ A week of hiking, fraternal life and prayer in an international context.
- ✚ Bilingual retreat in English and French (English only if required for certain participants)
- ✚ Appr. 5 to 6 hours hike a day with a difference of altitude of 800 to 1000 meters per day; one day in the middle of the week with a shorter hike.
- ✚ Participants must be able to share in French or English and to say a minimum in the other language
- ✚ Requires mountain experience and a very good physical shape
- ✚ Simple accommodation at the Spiritual Centre of Saint Hugues in single rooms.
- ✚ This session is open to all CLC members or people who are interested to discover CLC.
- ✚ A short interview with one of the organizers is foreseen before your inscription shall be finalized.



Contacts for questions :

✚ allard\_kouwenhoven@yahoo.com  
 ✚ mariellematthee@gmail.com

Subscriptions: only on-line on <http://www.sainthugues.fr/> . You will be contacted afterwards by one of the organizers of the retreat.

### CLC in France invites you to a session for Families: Laudato si en famille

<https://www.cvxfrance.com/2019/12/20/session-vivre-laudato-si-en-famille/>

### CLC in Italy/ CLC in Europe: At the frontiers with the asylum seekers

CLC in Italy and CLC in Europe invites young adults to a CLC missionary campin reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees in Italy

The Dates are:

- Turin (shift 1) 11 Jul — 26 Jul
- Turin (shift 2) 25 Jul — 8 Aug
- Ragusa 26 Jul — 9 Aug
- Reggio Calabria 18 Jul — 9 Aug

<https://www.facebook.com/ATTHEFRONTIERS>

migrantsproject@cvxlms.it



### CLC in Austria/ Germany/ Switzerland: Journey: Reformation and the Jesuits

CLC in Austria/ Germany and Switzerland invite you to a journey through Eastern Germany with the title "the Reformation and the Jesuits" (15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2020). It is going to be in German, but if necessary, an English translation can be provided.

For further information: <http://gcloe.at/Joomla/index.php/thema/neuigkeiten/veranstaltungen/131-gcl-reise-deutschland-2020>



## For further information

### Call for donations

### In 2020 and 2021 the Euroteam supports two initiatives

#### (1) At the Frontiers – Torina/ Reggio Calabria/ Ragusa – Italy (2020)

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.

#### (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

equipe apostolice  
**MISIÓN  
JOVEN**



### Our goals

- + To foster the meeting of Ignatian European youngsters in order to generate bounds and nets.
- + To get a deeper knowledge of St. Ignatius conversion and let it reflect in their own 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; their 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.
- + 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