

PROJECTS

Our Pilgrimage Continues – One Community – Witnesses of Hope

Nº 180, October 2023

Original: English

*“We recognized that the mission of one is truly the mission of all.
Our Anchor of Hope, the Trinity, looks at the world we live in
and of which we are part, and inspires us to respond in
companionship with Christ.”*
(Final Document Amiens 2023)

To the National Executive Councils and all CLC members:

Dear friends:

As I sit here alone at my desk and write to you, I recall so many friends (new and old companions of mine), feelings, memories, faces, events, conversations, desolations, consolations and sharing that made my experience of our 18th World Assembly of CLC in Amiens. It has been quite a journey for me. A journey that started about a year ago when the World-ExCo called the community (all of us) to the Assembly...**Discerning paths for hope!** How many individual experiences that make up our community's experience of the Assembly. It is such a grace to be part of this community, to be part of this journey of hope, together as one lay Ignatian apostolic community in our Church and our society, called to be beacons for hope, hope that is anchored in Christ!

The new World Executive Council



This Projects has two aims besides that of being one of our means of communicating with you. Firstly, I want **to introduce you to the new community that the Assembly has sent on mission. A new leadership community in discernment.** Allow me to share with you my feelings of the election process since I believe this was another moment of grace for the community. The process was a truly prayerful and emotionally charged process. Many thanks to Virginie Duval and her team for the music and prayers not only during the whole Assembly but most of all during the election. Thanks also to James O'Brien and Manuel Martínez for their calm guidance through the process, even when the assembly hall was full of emotions

and unexpected results. I saw and felt the Spirit really working through the delegates and all people involved. We did live a true discerned election!

This photo of the new leadership team that has been sent to serve you, the community, for the next 5 years is very significant for me. It shows us together with the community that sent us. Each delegate in this photo is a representative of you, the community. We are there together, not alone as a team that now has a job to do, but together as a team (a new community) that is sent on mission with and for our community. As the photo shows, we also kneel in reverence towards the Lord who has sent us all to continue journeying with Him. The journey we travel is not ours to define, it is the journey of the Lord who has chosen all of us to be witnesses of Hope...His hope! This means that the journey is more important than the goals and results we achieve. We need to free ourselves of what “I” or “we” want to achieve and in true discernment let the Lord lead us towards His goals. Pray for the grace of freedom, freedom of heart and mind to let the Lord show us the way.

It is with a lot of joy, excitement, and hope that I introduce to you the people you sent on mission to serve our community:

- **Chris Micallef** – President - (CLC in Malta)
- **Daphne Ho** – Vice President - (CLC in Hong Kong)
- **Franklin Ibañez** – Consultor - (CLC in Peru)
- **Catherine Waiyaki** – Consultor - (CLC in Kenya)
- **Inji Fayez** – Consultor - (CLC in Egypt)
- **Catherine Kelly** – Consultor - (CLC in Canada)
- **Cecilia Martínez Arellano** – Consultor - (CLC in Spain)
- **Manuel Martínez Arteaga** – Executive Secretary - (CLC in Uruguay)
- **Fr. José de Pablo S.I.** – Vice Ecclesiastical Assistant
- **Fr. Arturo Sosa S.I.** – Ecclesiastical Assistant

Final Document of the Assembly

The second aim of this letter is to introduce and offer you **the final document of the Assembly**. We attach it to this *Projects*.

Allow me to start by thanking the writing team who not only worked right through the Assembly but carried on their work with dedication, love, and commitment to us all during the weeks that followed. On behalf of the whole community, I want to say THANK YOU to James O’Brien (Australia), Marielle Matthee (Netherlands), Lucina Koyio (Kenya)



and Gabriel Fernández (Uruguay). The role of the writing team in an Assembly is critical for us all. They were entrusted with the responsibility of capturing the spirit of the Assembly and the journey travelled by the delegates so that we can all, in our own local contexts, live and feel the beating heart of our community.

It is not my intention to try and summarise the document. That is an impossible task for me. All I will say is that it is a true reflection of the joy, discernment, and hope that the delegates at the Assembly in Amiens felt and lived. However, I do have three invitations for you. I really hope that you will receive these invitations with the energy and enthusiasm with which I send them.

It is now your work to take this document and read it a few times, pray over it, let the Spirit touch you through it and share and deepen the experience in your local groups, your national community and within your regional teams. **I invite you to make the document your own.** Please, do not leave it in your email and file it simply as a well written document.

While the document is a faithful description of the journey travelled during the 10 days of the Assembly, it is also a document that captures a lot of dreams and recommendations. It is very rich in this respect. **It launches us into the future with courage and hope.** We have a lot of rich material to work on and journey together.

It has been said and restated that we are one (global) lay Ignatian apostolic community in the Church. This is a foundational statement that **I invite you also to reflect upon and let it sink into your very being.** This “feeling” and “being” one community has far reaching implications that the new leadership team that you sent on mission will certainly discern and go forth with. To be explicit and avoid confusion, this being and feeling one community means that CLC is making a statement that we are no longer a federation of communities, but we are at our core...ONE! One community! We are one family and as one family dispersed around the world “I” become concerned about the life of the other family members wherever they are in our common home. If one of us hurts, we all feel the hurt. Likewise, if one of us rejoices, we all rejoice. Let us work together to continue building our community. Here again, please reflect, pray, and share on this being and feeling one community. Bring your prayers, insights and questions to your groups, national communities, and regional teams.

An important part of being one community, one family, is communication. Just as in every family all the members need to speak to each other and understand each other’s point of view, we too need to hear from all of you. **Please do not leave us alone.** For this team to be of real service we need you, we need you to remain in communication with us. **I therefore invite you to reach out to us with any means that makes sense for you.** You have our contact details, please use them! On our side, I can promise you our commitment to do the same and reach out to you. We will, as recommended in the Assembly, also look for new modern collaborative means to improve our communication.

Strengthening two-way communication

Before I conclude this letter, I have a surprise fourth invitation for you...let us experiment with a one community online sharing. Let us do a first round of sharing (online). Please log on to this Padlet: [Projects180-Sharing](#), find your preferred language and give us your brief sharing (this is an individual sharing, all of you!).

Before you start answering, read the instructions.

- 1. Having read and prayed with the final document of the Assembly in Amiens, what is the most prevalent feeling left inside you?**
- 2. To what do you feel called?**

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Once you enter the link to Padlet, let us do a first round of sharing:

- a) Click on the (+) sign below the question and language you want to answer.**
- b) Write your answer briefly, concretely, and clearly.**
- c) Put your National Community at the end (and if you wish you can also put your name).**
- d) If you wish, you can also reply to the World Council (exsec@cvx-clc.net) directly if you feel more comfortable with an email.**

Finally, allow me to close this letter to you, my first communication to all of you 23,000 members of CLC, with a small request. Please pray for us, keep us all in your prayers that the Lord may continue to guide us to go forth in hope and service.

With the whole community on discernment and leadership.

Chris MICALLEF
President

Rome, 02ND October 2023