

MARLINKS

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Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Region CLC

Greetings from Fr. Jim

Dear Friends in the Lord,

As I write, some of us in the Pittsburgh area are in the process of putting together a Cluster celebration for this year's World CLC Day. At this point it's scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 26th, near the Feast of the Annunciation. We're following the program suggestion offered by the World publication "Progressio," making use of its theme of REMEMBERING.

What are we being invited to recall? Well, this is the fiftieth anniversary of the World Assembly which updated our ancient name "Sodality" to "Christian Life Community" and proclaimed the General Principles as the official statement of our identity and mode of mission outreach.

MAR's historical roots are rich and fruitful ones. So, we'll want to spend some time with Fred and Betty Leone and other leadership people of that early era. We're planning too to take a fresh and frank look at the present posture and focus of the five small groups which make up the Pittsburgh Cluster. How are they carrying forward the original vision? Are their members still seeking "to become committed Christians in bearing witness to those human and gospel values within the Church and society, which affect the dignity of the person, the welfare of the family and the integrity of creation, . . . aware of the pressing need for justice through a preferential option for the poor and a simple life style." (General Principles 4)

It's the next consideration though, remembering into the future if you will, that I'm finding particularly attention-catching. How are we to enter authentically into the future which is pressing in around us? How are we to manifest ourselves in the Lord as CLC-USA in the midst of the dizzying turn of public events in our country? In a word, how are we being called to relate to the new and quite different political administration now governing our country?

It would be foolish of me to attempt to provide a definitive reply to such a sweeping question on my own. What I would like to do here is to invite you into an ongoing conversation, our familiar Ignatian discernment process, searching together as to how the Spirit may be already at work enlightening our hearts to proclaim our own crisp and clear Christian mode of presence at this time of such great change.

This will first require making explicit a couple of suppositions embedded in my proposal, and then identifying some solid resources already at hand for us. Maybe ours is not a matter of "remembering into the future" after all. Perhaps it's really a case of recalling and fitting into place some movements already underway, thanks to the guidance of the Spirit. I'm supposing first off that we need to engage two objections lurking just beneath the surface of our proposed task. Why, first of all, are we to assume that active involvement at this time is a matter of such concern for CLC-USA as an organization? Secondly, supposing for the moment that it is, why should each and every one of us be obliged to step on stage, especially those of us little inclined to public activism and display?

Continued on page 8

In this Issue:

Greetings from Fr. Jim -----p. 1

From the NCC Rep. -----p.2

Note from the Treasurer -----p.3

Retreat Invitation-----p. 5

MAR KCLC News -----p.6

Families Turning -----p.7

DC + Cluster -----p.10

News from St. Therese cluster----- p. 11

Pittsburgh Cluster -----p. 12

From the NCC Rep—*By Christine Szczepanowski*

The NCC held its annual in-person meeting October 13-16, 2016 in Miami at the Manresa Retreat House run by South Florida CLC. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the SF Region better. We were very warmly received, and everyone was impressed by the retreat house and its programs, into which CLC puts much work. We met a good portion of the local CLC-ers as well as a number of the Jesuits and were treated to some excellent Spanish/Latino food along with music and dancing. SF CLC is a lively community, and it is the region of our President Elect, Ady Vieira.

-The meeting itself continued NCC's ongoing work of integrating CLC-USA's regions and cultural groups into one body. An important part of this process is getting to know each other better. We need to understand where we're all coming from so as to move forward in a way that respects all our gifts and

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challenges. Specific areas of discussion were formation, communications, ministries, and "service structures". In formation and communications, NCC affirmed the work in progress. With regard to ministries, several decisions were made. See below for details. As to the issue of service structures (how our structure serves our mission), NCC recognized the need for review to better support mission and ministries as we continue to organically grow into one body. There was interest among NCC members in the clusters that have formed within MAR, especially since they have evolved organically (i.e., as a natural outgrowth of gifts and challenges rather than an upfront organizational decision).

Formation: The formation team is working toward the train-the-trainers event. They are hoping to hold it this summer. Leadership development is part of this general formation effort.

Communications: A team has put much work into the new web site. NCC was thrilled with the preview we were given. The site has now gone live! Please visit it at <https://clc-usa.org/>

Ministries: NCC re-affirmed the importance of working with university CLC programs and will create a plan to reach out to them. In addition, the following actions formally taken were::

Funds will be designated to support two of the World CLC frontier ministries: family and youth & young adults. A team to develop processes for grant requests will be formed.

The CLC-USA Apostolic Action and Advocacy team (AAA) will broaden its engagement in apostolic mission networking through the use of the new web site and other media. As a concrete step in this direction, it

Note From the Treasurer— By Al Yarzebinski

Dear MAR-CLC Members,

Thank you for your support and contributions to the Region's treasury. The table below is a preliminary view of the income and expenses for 2016. I need to review all of the paperwork and confirm the numbers but this is the current tally. We received donations from 50 members which is slightly over half of those on the mailing list.

The donations received for the MAR Development Fund and the Arrupe Fund still reside in our treasury and will need to be moved to those fund accounts.

| Description | Income | Expenses |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Dues receipts | \$4,875.00 | |
| Dues receipts 2015 late receipts | \$1,000.00 | |
| MAR Dev Fund | \$250.00 | |
| Arrupe Fund | \$300.00 | |
| Scholarship Fund | \$150.00 | |
| National Dues Expense (expected) | | \$3,280.00 |
| Fall Regional Income | \$1,923.86 | |
| Fall Regional Expenses | | \$2,000.00 |
| Spring Regional Income | \$0.00 | |
| Spring Regional Expenses | | \$0.00 |
| NC Cluster Meeting 3/18-20/2016 | | \$354.70 |
| Bank Fees | | \$36.00 |
| Annual Summer Retreat Income | \$2,860.00 | |
| Annual Summer Retreat Expenses | | \$3,308.00 |
| Guides Course Grant to NC Area CLC | \$151.56 | \$1,000.00 |
| Bridges & PC 2015-2016 income (2016) | \$275.00 | |
| Bridges & PC 2015-2016 expenses (2016) | | \$800.00 |
| Bridges & PC 2016-2017 income (2016) | \$550.00 | |
| Bridges & PC 2016-2017 expenses (2016) | | |
| Fred Leone Memorial Expense | | \$1,307.62 |
| Totals to date | \$12,335.42 | \$12,086.32 |
| YTD Balance for 2016 only | \$249.10 | |

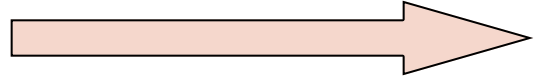
The Bridges and Prayer Companions account runs from September through August so the details listed cover the 2015-2016 session from January through August and the 2016-2017 session from September through December hence the multiple line items.

Continued on p.4

Prayer Requests—

Please continue to Pray for Past President of CLC, Rick Krunkle and Edith Darrow who is at Canterbury in Shepherdstown WV healing from two fractured knees.

Reminders—



MAR CLC Retreat—July 16—23. Plan now to join us then.

Fall Regional—October 27-20, 2017 at St. John the Baptist Retreat Center in New Baltimore, PA.
If you would like to be on the Planning team, Please let Carol know.

Guide Training Course— June **22-25** and the site will be Jesuit Hall at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Watch for details later

Note From the Treasure— Continued from p.3

The REXCO members agreed to support the Fred Leone Memorial held in the Washington, DC area as a thank you to the Leone family for everything that Fred has done for CLC, not just our region, but also National and World CLC. Thank you Fred for everything.

One of our missions is to continue to develop and support CLC in our regions. This year we also provided support in the form of a grant to the North Carolina area to hold a Guides Course to assist in developing and training guides for the area once Fr. Dom leaves.

Our Annual Summer Retreat was a success again this year with a total of 17 people attending over the course of the 8 days. We were able to provide scholarship assistance for several people to attend. We are planning another retreat for this summer. Watch for the details.

Thanks to your generous support we were able to pretty much end the year at a break-even point even with the additional expenses of the Guides Course Grant and the Memorial. If you have any questions about our finances please feel free to contact me.

Thank you and God Bless,
Al Yarzebinski

Have you planned your annual retreat yet?

Join us for the annual summer retreat!

Plans for the MAR summer retreat are well underway. As you know it has been a goal of the MAR region to provide an opportunity for us to have a retreat tailor made for CLC members and friends. This is our sixth year and we look forward to having many of you join us for this prayerful experience.

We looked into other retreat houses in different areas of Pennsylvania to see if we could find a spot that fit with needs of the region. Due to location of the retreat houses, cost per person and availability of space, we decided to hold the retreat again this year at St. John the Baptist Retreat

Center in New Baltimore. This is the most central location for the east and west communities with fairly similar travel distances. The staff at the center has always worked with us to manage last minute changes in meals and attendance. They are also the least expensive which allows us to provide scholarships to those that cannot afford the full price.

In the planning process, we looked at the positive and negative comments from participants from last year. Some concerns expressed included the place and time of the retreat. We had an exceptionally hot August last year and the site is not air-conditioned except in large meeting areas, but individual rooms do have fans. We also acknowledge that there were some negative comments about noise. We have found over the years that the noise from the pike is

much less annoying on the south side of the building. We would suggest that those who are sensitive to noise, choose rooms on the back side of the building where the mountain and trees absorb the sounds.

We have decided to keep the retreat during the summer months. Moving it into the fall tends to interfere more with activities around school, work, and CLC commitments. Holding the retreat in late spring or early summer runs into graduations, weddings, and end of school activities. We have reserved the **week**

of July 16th through the 23rd for this year's retreat. Hopefully this will be a cooler month than our usual choice of August.

As with other retreat centers, St. John's asks that we have firm commitments early. They require that we have a minimum of 10 people per night in order to reserve the facility for the week..

When the registration form

comes out in the spring, we will ask that you respond with your deposit by June 16 so please be on the look-out for it and respond early. If you make plans to join us early, this should not be a problem in most cases.

By way of conclusion the committee left us with three main points:

- 1) An annual retreat is an important element of the CLC way of life. With five month's advanced notice we hope that many of us can reserve some time "to come aside and rest awhile." St. John's with its kind and gracious staff has served us well over the years. Many of us have come to feel at home there and have gained an added sense of support and

Continued on p. 9



Chapel at St. John the Baptist

MAR KCLC Report—by John Lim

MAR KCLC website reopened on the Easter Day. (WWW.MARKCLC.ORG)

Three new members celebrated the one year anniversary, and completed the first commitment on 10/15/2016. Ms. Carol Zieba, MAR-CLC Chair witnessed the ceremony. With two members resigned, MAR KCLC has 51 members with 26 permanent members.

Major Events since September 2016.

11/6/2016: Started permanent commitment retreat for two members scheduled to end by July 2017.

11/1/2016 – 11/4/2016: NK-CLC workshop held in Gilmary Retreat Center with 40 attendees from USA and Canada. Fr. Shin (J.S.) from Korea led the workshop focused on the 'Application of the Spiritual Exercises in your life'.

12/4/2016: MAR-KCLC workshop for sharing the fruits we received in the NK-CLC workshop with local groups. This was the best prepared and most successful event of the year.

1/15/2017: MAR Cluster meeting with all MAR members invited, and had a very productive time with good food, talk, and discussion.

1/27/2017: Organized and attended MARCH for LIFE walk within St. Paul Chung Parish.

2/4/2017: MAR-KCLC New Year's Party: Celebrated the new year by sharing New Year's Resolution as CLCers among members over the good food and performances.



*Annual Day of Retreat and
Commitment Ceremony*



Fun in the park...

Game time at the KCLC annual picnic!



Families turning founded by Nancy Wood (Community of Hope, CLC) and has continued to work with families and caring professionals to carry the message that strong families are the building blocks of strong communities and strong communities are essential to a stronger nation and world. But strength does not begin with individualism or self-reliance, rather it begins with an awareness and understanding of how each of us fits together in the fabric of family and community life. When we become aware of our own strengths and limitations and develop an acceptance of who we are, we become free to be strong as individuals in support of our families and communities. And so it all starts with the family and while each member of the family plays a role, any one of us acting as the Change Agent can make a difference toward strengthening our family.

We have provided workshops in Pittsburgh and with our CLC Christ built connections in West Virginia through Don Patthoff with Peter Callahan of Callahan Counseling in Martinsburg WV and Pastor/Senator John Unger of Harpers Ferry. We have expanded our educational component and outreach to caring professionals through Continuing Educational Units for Nurses, Social Workers and Therapist's. The public workshop continues to exponentially strengthen individuals who believe and actively pursue the understanding that change is, as one of the participants stated, "An inside job." We continue to work with churches and we are making inroads into the areas of restorative justice, drug and alcohol rehabilitation support services, and reintegration of the incarcerated. We ask for prayers that we see clearly the path the Lord has for this mission; and we ask for fellow journeyers of CLC to be am-

bassadors by remembering to spread the word of our work. Please come to see the workshop first hand for a clearer understanding of the skills and tools that it provides.

Finally, we have engaged with the Harpers Ferry: In Pursuit of Happiness initiative. This is a multi-interdisciplinary approach, with multiple Universities and dozens of professionals bringing their skill-sets to the table to work collaboratively to improve quality of life and wellness in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and beyond. It draws on a faith based approach to holistically strengthening the community. The Families Turning piece will work to empower and strengthen families, one person at a time, by engaging willing members of families to equip them to be the Change Agents in their families.

In the near future we have 2 public workshops available both starting in March, one in Pittsburgh and one in Harpers Ferry WV area with information and registration for workshops available at www.FamiliesTurning.com

Please come to see the workshop first hand for a clearer understanding of the skills and tools that it provides. Again, your presence and prayers with this mission to individuals and Families is invaluable to doing the will of our Lord.

Nancy E. S. Wood, LSW, BSN- Families Turning
www.FamiliesTurning.com

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Strengthening Individuals,

Transforming Relationships

One Interaction at a Time

Greetings—Continued from p. 1

The unexpected advent of President Donald Trump and his administration upon the American scene is an unsettling prospect. The presence he displays as the world's most powerful political leader is totally awesome and largely unpredictable. The angry, passionate participation of the many who hold him high and the substantial number who grow more and more uneasy adds another measure of tension to an already polarized nation. I hope I'm not employing over-heavy language here. My simple purpose is to sharpen this question: Is it mere happenstance that Mr. Trump and CLC-USA (and MAR) flourish in the same world? Does the Lord intend us to be like ships at sea, just strangers passing peacefully in the night? Or should we dare to believe that our blessed group has received the graces it has over the past fifty years precisely to be joyfully and lovingly alive at the same time and place as he? Is CLC made to "do its thing" precisely in this kind of world?

Let's suppose for the moment that deliberately entering into what threatens to be such a controversial conversation is actually God's Will for us. But for all of us—even those temperamentally hesitant about calling attention to themselves in such a public fashion? A reflection from Archbishop Oscar Romero's "The Violence of Love" (See pp. 58-59 from the February 2017 edition of the Missalette "Give Us This Day") has something cogent to say to this point, I suggest:

A light is lit in order to give light. A candle is not lit to be put under a bushel, said Christ. It is lit and put up high in order to give light. That is what a true community is like. A community is a group of men and women who have found the truth in Christ and in his gospel, and who follow the truth and join together to follow it more strongly. It is not just an individual conversion, but a community conversion. It is a family that believes, a group that accepts God. In the group, each one finds that the brother or sister is a source of strength and that in moments of weakness they help one another and by helping one another and believing, they give light and example.

As you reflect upon Archbishop Romero's words, I hope the introverted among us can breathe a sigh of

relief. You, indeed all of us, are being asked to continue being CLC, and focusing in prayerful reflection upon where you are in the Lord regarding our new president and what he tells us he desires to do. Remember: as a member of a lay Christian apostolic community dedicated to communal discernment in a prophetic way, you don't have to travel to marches, make signs or wave banners necessarily; you do need to be willing to share your heart, alert to discover what you and your community create in the Lord and perhaps feel called to lift up onto a lamp stand. Our objective, of course, will not be adding to the raucous confusion and polarized bickering, but rather "bearing witness to those human and gospel values within the Church and the society, which affect the dignity of the person, the welfare of the family and the integrity of creation."

How to undertake such an imposing enterprise? Let me close by suggesting that some viable elements are already within reach for possible consideration. For example:

--The American Bishops and various Jesuit entities have already enunciated positions inviting our discerning, and perhaps our own adopting. Other worthy statements are out there besides, resonating with the CLC charism.

--Given the Spirit-inspired work of CLC's office of "Apostolic Advocacy and Action" over a number of years now, CLC-USA is poised to carry forward its own discernment research at the national level. Through our own Carol Gonzalez, Ed Plocha and other leadership folk the team is recognized and supported by EXCO, officially attached to the NCC and its quarterly meetings, and hopefully ready to work out some ongoing connection with these bodies to provide a prayerful, discerning, relevant witness to what CLC-USA is invited to be about as contemplative activists.

--Not that such activity is to be focused just at the national level. What promise there is in a local outreach. Take Pittsburgh for instance. Again, one of our own number, Lois Campbell, heads up the successful PIIN organization, a widespread ecumenical group pursuing important social justice issues, and a source of consoling hope in the city. Their concerns are pre-Trump, but flowing from the same

Continued on page 9

Greetings— Continued from p.8

roots. Let's include as another rich Pittsburgh resource the Thomas Merton Center. Every ten days or so this vital information source provides online the current activities of a multitude of peace and justice groups, many of them potential fellow travelers with MAR-CLC. No, not a matter of overwhelming

ourselves with activities; we're talking about ready access to quality partnerships.

Thank you for reading thus far. Is there anyone out there willing to continue the conversation?

Peace--

Fr. Jim O'Brien

Retreat—Continued from p. 5

solidarity in our prayer and reflection just by being together in familiar surroundings and for an extended period of time as MAR-CLC.

2) At the same time it is hoped that a number of us who may be inclined to try another time and retreat location will follow through and do so. This would be helpful for discovering the advantages of other locations. MAR leadership could help identify CLC-friendly directors for a center in the Carolinas, for example. CLC folks from northern Jersey, New York or Ohio could be invited to join our members and thus spread retreat possibilities more broadly. In other words MAR is now in a position to act as a servant community in this regard.

3) When the New Baltimore application forms are mailed in the spring, you will notice that a deadline date of some weeks before July 16th will be required. Last year with but one director we managed to handle the last-minute influx of unexpected numbers by the grace of God. We surely must avoid that sort of risk for the future.

NCLC New Website-

The new NCLCC website is up and running. If you have not visited it, please do at: www.clc-usa.org. Be sure to have the dash between CLC and USA as there is another ministry with a very similar address but no dash. We hope you will check it out and share stories, reflections, news, and dates of upcoming events with the membership and the larger community. This is "*our*" website and it will be only as good as all of us, working together, make it. To offer feedback or to submit items for the website: **Please click here** website@clc-usa.org

PS— Don't forget to send articles etc to Carol for inclusion in the MAR newsletter, MARLINKS, also at cazieba@yahoo.com

DC Area Cluster Gathering



The DC area Cluster gathered for a Pot Luck and afternoon of sharing on January 15. Members of all three language groups attended and shared ideas on how to make the gathering even better next year as well as the many missions and activities they are planning for the New Year.

Remembering Fred—

**Memorial Mass and
gathering of many of
Fred's CLC Family
from MAR and
beyond.**

**Nativity Parish,
July 2016**



"Every national community ... owes a debt of gratitude to some wisdom figures who dared to walk this [CLC] path and then showed others the way. On this Golden Jubilee, we invite you to remember with gratitude the graces received through your history and the special persons who mediated these graces." (PROJECTS 166, "Remembering")

I remember with gratitude the gift that Fred and Betty Leone were to our national movement, our Mid-Atlantic Region, and our local communities. Together, they invited others to share this precious way of life they had found. They founded three CLCs in the Washington, DC area, and the Whisper of God Community continues today (some 30 years later). Renowned for their hospitality, they hosted many regional activities at their home in Silver Spring, MD. They were mentors to all of us who came after them. How blessed we are to have known them on our Way!

By— Kathy Hubbell Domning

CLC Guides Training for the Carolinas—by Larry Paffrath

After four decades of serving the parishioners at St. Therese in Mooresville, NC, the Jesuits announced their departure after June of 2017. As a result of this announcement, Fr. Dominic Totaro, SJ petitioned CLC-USA to provide him assistance in training guides for our six CLC groups. As a result of this request, Fr. Dom contacted Marie Schimelfening and Maria Grimminger who travelled to NC to join him as our team of trainers. The nine members completing the training were: Rosemary Keeley, JoAnn Horan, Patricia Fuller, Maria Aznar, Elmer Aznar, Tracy Neumann, Nora Paffrath, and Larry Paffrath. In addition, John Lombardo (a member of a CLC group at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Johns Island, SC) completed the training with us. One more member (Joe Smith) of our CLC groups is nearing completion of his guide training with Fr. Dom.

Since the completion of training, our guides meet every month to learn from each other by sharing experiences with our groups and to further our education on being a CLC Guide. Rosemary Keeley leads our monthly meetings. Every one of our six groups have been assigned a guide, and all have begun to meet with their respective groups. As our Ecclesial Assistant, Fr. Dom continues to meet with every group to help the groups live their CLC Charism and to provide supervision for the guides.

Our CLC groups at St. Therese Parish, Mooresville, NC would like to thank the Mid Atlantic Region of CLC for their generous financial support to help us with our expenses to pay for trainers' travel and training materials. Because of your help and the use of a participant's home for our meetings, we were able to minimize the fee for each participant. All of the new guides are grateful for their personal growth from this training, and also for the impact the new guides will have on our CLC groups as we transition from a parish served by Jesuits to one served by diocesan priests.



Picture by Elmer Aznar.

Pittsburgh Cluster— by Carol Gonzalez



On Sunday, Feb 19, 2017, CLC Pgh Cluster hosted a talk by Dr Christopher Pramuk from Xavier University (Ohio) at Bridges held at St Pius in the Dormont area of the city. This year's co-hort of retreatants (making the 19th Annotation SE) and prayer companions, along with

We want to form *a new kind of humanity that is musical*, that retains this sensitivity to beauty, to goodness, to the suffering of others, to compassion."

Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J.

other CLC and Ignatian friends, gathered as a group of twenty-five to hear a graced reflection, "Between Music and Silence: The Listening Heart of Ignatian Spirituality." A more thorough summary of this rich offering will be forthcoming, but for now, here's a quote from Fr Adolfo Nicolas, S.J. that Chris used in contextualizing his talk that we all found so profoundly relevant and life-

giving: "We want to form *a new kind of humanity that is musical*, that retains this sensitivity to beauty, to goodness, to the suffering of others, to compassion."

As we prayed for Rick Kunkle, and Fr Cos, we were reminded with tender heart of what Cos shared with us as CLC-USA gathered at National Assembly in St Louis, "Beauty will save the world. That beauty is a love that shares the pain."

We Remember with Gratitude-

Father Robert "Cos" Costello, SJ died peacefully in the Lord on February 22.

He was beloved by all in CLC and we remember him with gratitude.

Fr. Cos served as National CLC Ecclesial Assistant before Fr. Jim Borbely S.J.

Please remember also Fr. Jim Borbely, S.J. who died last July while still serving as the National Ecclesial Assistant. Both contributed much to the Ignatian spirit of CLC-USA.

MARLINKS is the Newsletter for the Mid-Atlantic Region of CLC. For comments or to submit community news, please contact Carol Zieba, Editor.