

**From Reflection  
to  
Action  
Becoming  
an  
Apostolic Body  
(Formation for Mission)**

**CLC SA 2010**

# From Reflection to Action Becoming an Apostolic Body (Formation for Mission)

## The Three Pillars of CLC

**Personal Relationship  
Community  
Mission**

### ***The call to live as a prophetic lay community***

*“Our mission, in good biblical and Church tradition, has to be a prophetic mission, carried out in the name of God and under His guidance. And we can meaningfully ask ourselves: Can we really be prophetic?” – seeing with the Eyes of God; listening with the ears, the Hearing of God; feeling with the Heart of God; and speaking the Word of God, “a word of compassion for those who suffer ... and a word of Conversion and Solidarity for those who can do something about that suffering. We received this challenge as the defining grace of Fátima 2008, finding inspiration and consolation in his words: “this is the time for prophetic communities ... and I feel that you are decidedly moving in this direction.”*

*(Address of Fr Adolfo Nicolás, SJ,  
to the General Assembly Fatima 2008)*

Most people who are trying to live the CLC way of life (Spiritually, Communally, and on Mission) are in fact radically apostolic in the church and in their everyday lives. This is perhaps not always known or obvious, but it is clear from the La Verna Assembly (2009) that our desire is to become a visible Apostolic Community. The National Exco asks the whole South African Community to grow together into a deeper understanding of what it is to be an Apostolic Body,

and to prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit for help in discerning a national apostolate for our Region.

The following programme is a guide for meetings for the next couple of months. It follows the normal format of the CLC Meeting by allowing time for the normal communal sharing followed by a formation exercise, *The Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation* provides material for meditation and sharing within the group. We ask that you reflect on the material in your prayer during the week and then bring your reflections for sharing at your community gathering. We ask each group to take this on over the next couple of months so that the entire national community is praying as one. Each meeting builds on the last and at the end the Exco asks that you review and prepare a report for the regional Community and for the National Exco. If you are not meeting once a week we ask the groups to use the material in the best way possible and still bring your reflections together at the end of the period. We ask leaders to use their discretion and adapt the wording to the needs of the group.

The programme begins with the Invitation to Service. In the second meeting the Principle and Foundation of the Exercises of St Ignatius calls us to serve God so we ponder the words from the first part of the P & F. This leads us in the third and fourth meetings to Mission: what are we called to do in order to serve God? We reflect on the words of the CLC Documents and we do so in the context of our South African situation with education, poverty and crime playing a major role in the social and economic climate. It is in this context that we look for the perceived needs that we feel are imperative now. The needs may be enormous but as a community where can we best serve our people? As background reading we refer to *Projects 143 October 2009 CLC International Apostolate and Advocacy*, which may be accessed from the World CLC website ([www.cvx-clc.net](http://www.cvx-clc.net)). Readings for the weeks are taken from the scriptures as well as from other CLC documents.

In the fifth meeting we consider the meaning of friendship with God and the needs of our country. In the sixth meeting we bring our thoughts to each other and in the seventh we come to our personal response to the communities prioritising, asking ourselves what draws me, what am I passionate about and how can I best promote another's responses.

In drawing our work to a close we pray with the concept of Ignatian indifference as a way of becoming sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit. If I am open to the workings of the Spirit and indifferent to my own issues then God's word will speak in my heart for the greater good. It is in this context that we as individuals can come together as a group to decide what we can recommend to the greater community as an apostolate that could meet the needs of our times.

In the eighth meeting the Exco asks the Communities to prepare a report for their regions which will then feed into the National Community.

At the end of each meeting we review as we normally do but we also ponder what action am I invited to do or take this week? This is something for each person to discern with the help of God's Holy Spirit. It may be taking some action outside of one's immediate sphere or it may mean spending time in prayer as an intercessor. Whatever it is, it is only God who will invite us to act.

## CONTENTS

### Meeting 1 The Invitation

We pray for the grace to be open to God's call in my life.

### Meeting 2 Service

We pray for the grace to become aware of the meaning of service.

### Meeting 3 Mission

We pray for the grace to desire to be apostolic in our way of being.

### Meeting 4 Mission

We pray for the grace to desire to be apostolic in our way of being.

### Meeting 5 The Needs of the Poor and Marginalised

We pray for the grace of friendship with God.

### Meeting 6 Needs and Priorities

We pray for the grace to expand the horizons of our hope.

### Meeting 7 Personal Response

We pray for the grace to be honest and open in our discernment.

### Meeting 8 Indifference

We pray for the grace to be open to the will of God.

### Meeting 9 Consolidating

We pray for the grace to prepare a report with great openness of heart, remembering that God will never be outdone in generosity

### Meeting 10 The Report

We pray for the grace of gratitude for the process we have been through.

## Meeting 1                      THE INVITATION

**The Act of Presence:** In the spiritual Exercises Ignatius says: *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me...* (Sp Exx 75)

So we pause for a moment at the beginning of our prayer together to acknowledge that God is looking at us and has called us to be here.

**We pray for the Grace to be open to God's call in our lives.**

**Short Check-In** of our experience of God this past meeting:

We take it in turns to share and listen within the group – We listen prayerfully and attentively to each person. We do not comment on anyone's sharing but prayerfully and respectfully receive each others' words.

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

**Scripture Meditation:** Jn 15 11-17, *You did not choose me, instead, I chose you.*

We are created in love to serve God our Lord and our journey is all about falling deeper in love with God so the grace of service is a loving consequence and the call to service is a grateful response of loved sinners to God who first loved us. It is not a compulsive response born out of a guilty sense of duty. It is a response made in increasing freedom: We are, simply, loved sinners bringing the love of Jesus to other sinners like ourselves.

Pedro Arrupe, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus 1965-1983 wrote:

*Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.*

Pedro Arrupe SJ

Pause now for a few minutes of silence to ponder his words and consider individually how you are serving God at this moment in time. Then share this with the rest of the group.

**Prayer for the Meeting:** Reflect on the words of Pedro Arrupe and pray to be open to the call of the Holy Spirit.

**Review of the Meeting:** Each person briefly reflects back their experience of the meeting. This might include reflection on the following questions:

- How was I affected/moved during this meeting? Did I experience a shift in my mood?
- Where did I feel positive energy, where did I feel discomfort or challenged?
- Where did I experience consolation (movement toward God)? Desolation (movement away from God)?
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**Prayer during the week:**

Reflect on what stood out for me in the words of Pedro Arrupe.

Return to my review of the meeting and ponder my words.

**Closing Prayer.**

## Meeting 2                      SERVICE

**The Act of Presence:** In the spiritual Exercises Ignatius says: *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me...* (Sp Exx 75)

We pause for a moment at the beginning of our prayer together to become aware of how God gazing at us here and now.

**We pray for the grace to become aware of the significance of service.**

### **Short Check-In:**

How did my review of the last meeting impact on my prayer this week?

What more, if any, did the words of Pedro Arrupe come to mean to me?

God speaks to us *not only* in Scripture but also in the words from our CLC Documents, *Progressio, The Charism 2001, The Process of Growth in CLC 2009*, in the words of St Ignatius and other readings, as well as in what we share and so we listen in the silence of our hearts and we receive without comment or correction

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

#### **Sacred Reading: Mt 20:20-28: Those Jesus called**

Human beings are created in love to serve God through and in this world and so to save our souls. The first part of the Principle and Foundation of the Exercises of St Ignatius calls us to service. The Community has discerned that it is our desire to become that Apostolic Body, recommended at the Nairobi General Assembly six years ago and further emphasised at Fatima in 2008. How are we called to best serve God in South Africa?

Reflect for a moment on the first part of the *Principle and Foundation*.

*Human beings are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save their souls. And it is for the human person that the other things on the face of the earth are created as helps to the pursuit of this end.*

And ask yourself:

- How am I praising, reverencing and serving God?
- What are my desires for CLC?
- What does it mean to serve God through my Community?

### **The Second Sharing:**

If your group is familiar with the second sharing you may wish to do this at this moment in the meeting. Remember this is not a discussion but a time to reflect on what has touched your experience in the sharing of others. It is done in the same way as the first sharing. It is to be kept short and to the point.

**Review of the Meeting:** Each person briefly reflects back to the group their experience of the meeting. This might include reflection on the following questions:

Where did I encounter Jesus?

Where did Jesus find me?

Where was Jesus difficult to find?

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Prayer for the week:**

During the week reflect again on the first part of the *Principle and Foundation*. asking praying that the words become fully alive to each one of us in this process of discerning an apostolate for CLC South Africa.

Be prepared to share your views with your immediate Community, and to record the group's reflections throughout the whole process.

## Meeting 3                      MISSION

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause for a moment to bask in the loving gaze of God our Lord.

**We pray for the grace to desire to be apostolic in our way of being.**

### **Short Check-In:**

In the light of my review at the last meeting how have the words of the Principle and Foundation affected me. What do they mean to me? Do I relate to them? If so, how? If not, what happened? How do I feel called to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord?

Remember to listen in silence and acceptance of the other, neither judging nor commenting.

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

**Sacred Reading:** Luke 4:16-21

*The Process of Growth in CLC paragraph 50*

*Mission is not just one more activity – it lies at the very heart of all Christian and CLC identity. A CLC vocation implies being on mission. This means that all of our life, our activities and our ‘spaces’ are nourished through our being sent out by Christ. For that reason, the CLC mission field knows no limits; it extends to all aspects of human life , where God may wish to call us – to the Church or to the world, to those within and to those without, to the family, to work, cultural, social and productive organisations, to political and cultural life.*

Many members of the Community are engaged in apostolic work in the church. What we are looking at now is what the shared mission of CLC can be. What is it to be serving God in the CLC context? Reflect in silence for a moment on the words of Luke 4:16-21 and on the following from *General Principle 8* of our CLC

governing document, *The General Principles of the Christian Life Community*, then share what you feel about the *Principle*.

*As members of the pilgrim People of God, we have received from Christ the mission of being his witnesses before all people by our attitudes, words and actions, becoming identified with his mission of bringing the good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, setting the downtrodden free and proclaiming the Lord's year of favour.*

*Our life is essentially apostolic. The field of CLC mission knows no limits: it extends both to the Church and the world, in order to bring the gospel of salvation to all people and to serve individual persons and society by opening hearts to conversion and struggling to change oppressive structures.*

*Each of us receives from God a call to make Christ and his saving action present to our surroundings. This personal apostolate is indispensable for extending the Gospel in a lasting and penetrating way among the great diversity of persons, places and situations.*

### **Review of the Meeting:**

Where was there consolation – turning towards God?

Where was there desolation - turning away from God?

Remember some may be drawn to the process with great delight and desire and others may feel very distanced. Both are important.

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Prayer for the week:**

1. Spend some time during the week praying with the words of the *Principle* above.
2. Pray with the second half of *General Principle 8*, Appendix 1 at the end of this document.
3. Refer back to your Review of the meeting and ponder your words, for the review has to also look forward to the week's prayer and the next meeting.

## Meeting 4

## MISSION

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause for a moment to become aware of God inviting us into His presence.

**Again we pray for the grace to desire to be apostolic in our way of being.**

### **Short Check-In:**

Reflect in silence for a moment on the continuation of *General Principle 8* of our CLC governing document, *The General Principles of the Christian Life Community*, then share what you feel about the *Principle*.

How did the Review of last week affect your prayer through the week?

Listen in silent acceptance to another's sharing, it is the gift we give to each other and receive in return.

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

Read the paraphrase of *The Apostolic Dimension* and reflect on what it means to you.

#### **Preaching the Gospels**

*We are all invited to respond to the call of Christ from within our own particular circumstances. Through our CLC formation we fully embrace the theme of mission which lies at the very heart of all Christian and CLC identity, because to be loved by God translates into being sent by God. Thus we witness through our lives, given freely to Jesus in answer to his call, a moral life faithful to the dignity of the human person.*

*Through the principles of Ignatian Discernment we evaluate life situations critically to uncover the will of God especially showing a clear preference for the most urgent and universal calls of bringing about liberation from those barriers discriminating between rich and poor, evangelising our culture and promoting the unity of Christians. Discernment towards mission makes*

*personal, communitarian and apostolic discernment within CLC a vital activity, practised at all levels and evaluating with Our Lord the call to serve Him and recognise His voice in the needs of our brothers and sisters.*

### **An Apostolic Community**

*As CLCers we have a joint responsibility for mission in becoming aware of the suffering reality of our world and we are inspired to work as one body to bring forth greater fruit. We do this by Discerning together, we are Commissioned, Sent and finally we Evaluate our mission. In living out this process, the Community is transformed into an apostolic Community which is drawn into a common apostolate.*

### **Sharing Responsibility for Greater Service**

*CLC life and its evangelising action are inscribed within the context of the Reign of God: a task which God begins and is continued within the Church. We are thus called to collaboration with the Society of Jesus, religious congregations and lay movements, we recognise the value of other churches and religions, institutions and persons in civil society and those working for justice and peace, no matter what their social condition, their race, or their beliefs. We do this with a view to creating a more just and divine world.*

### **A Special Preference for the Poor**

*We want the example of Jesus, who fought against the structural causes of poverty and marginalisation, to change our way of life to be an effective commitment in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised. In the defence of the rights of the underprivileged through our presence in politics, expressed in a daily Christian way, we work for the common good.*

*We do not exclude any people, nevertheless, we make a preferential option for the poor and the marginalised, as beloved of God and protagonists in the building of the Reign of God. Thus we seek ways in which we might bring about a life of dignity for all. Our commitment to, hopefully noticeable, change in the*

*circumstances of injustice in which the marginalised live, is the key test of our identification with Christ and the effectiveness of our apostolic action.*

### **Review of the Meeting**

Where was I energised during the meeting?  
What sapped my energy?  
What do I carry into the week to pray about?  
Is there something I resolve to do?

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Prayer for the week:**

Read reflectively and pray with the complete text of *The Apostolic Dimension* in Appendix 2.

Ponder the words of your review of the meeting

## **Meeting 5 THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND MARGINALISED**

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause for a moment to understand that God calls those he wants to work with, into his presence.

**We pray for the grace of friendship with God.**

### **Short Check-In:**

How did the review of last week impact on my pray this week?

What spoke to me most in the Apostolic Dimension?

Was I able to put my resolution into action?

How was God speaking tome in the week?

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

*We need to connect with our own social, economic and environmental reality in SA to discern what is a universal need, which is the greatest and most urgent and how we as CLC are called to respond to it.*

From the Evaluations of the La Verna Assembly 2009

### **A Special Preference for the Poor**

*Jesus Christ lived as a poor man and fought against the structural causes of poverty and marginalisation. We share in His special preference for the poor and we want this to change our way of life and be expressed in an effective commitment and solidarity with those who suffer most and who are least taken into account.*

*Through this, we undertake our daily commitment by accomplishing our rights and duties, promoting them in society, especially in the defence of the rights of the underprivileged. We believe that we can offer a more universal good, a fairer and better order, working for the common good. Because of this, our*

*presence in politics, expressed in a daily Christian way, is important.*

*The divine message and salvation are universal; they do not exclude people or groups. Nevertheless, the option for the poor is based on the fact that God loves and cares for those whom society marginalises, since the poor are the protagonists in the building of the Reign of God.*

*We recognise the dignity of all and their ability to be active in the construction of a world, which is more just. Our special preference for the poorest leads us to approach our marginalised and excluded brothers and sisters in order to discover what their needs and desires are and to work with them in the creating a more humane society. We seek ways in which we might bring about a life of dignity for all so that the Gospel message can become a reality. Our commitment to and hopefully noticeable change in the circumstances of injustice in which the marginalised live is the key test of our identification with Christ and the effectiveness of our apostolic action.*

*From The Process of Growth in CLC 2009.*

**Prayer for the week:** We ask Him in our prayer to tell us what needs and priorities we can put forward in our meeting next week, and then we take time in silence to listen for His response to our question, so that during the meeting we consider: What the needs are in our country. Then draw up a list of perceived needs that you feel CLC may be able to address.

### **Review of the Meeting:**

What attracted me during this meeting? What repelled me?

How was God speaking to me?

Is there some action I want to undertake this week?

### **Closing Prayer**

## Meeting 6                      NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause for a moment to become aware of God calling you into His presence.

**We pray for the grace to expand the horizons of our hope.**

### **Short Check-In:**

How was God helping me in my prayer this week?

What was I drawn to ?

Did I feel discomfort and desolation or consoled and comforted?

Was I able to carry out any actions I had decided on?

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 4:36-37, The generosity of Barnabas the Levite.**

Share your list of needs with the group, and prioritise them using the following Jesuit principles for a better choice of ministries from the General Congregation 31 Decree 21 of the Society of Jesus, asking how do these identified needs meet:

- The greater service of God
- The more universal good
- The more pressing need
- The great importance of a future good
- Special care of those significant ministries for which we have a special talent

And again write down the group's ideas and thoughts so that at the end when it comes to reviewing and finding out if there is some concrete suggestion/s that you want to put to the region you have the work of meetings to reflect on.

**Prayer for the week:** Spend time, not just once but everyday if possible, reflecting on the needs and priorities that your group has identified, and praying for the grace of clarity. What is your personal response to the identified needs?

**Review of the Meeting:**

How was I energized in the meeting?

Where did God speak to me?

**Closing Prayer**

## Meeting 7 - PERSONAL RESPONSE

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause for a moment to become aware of how God is gazing lovingly at me.

**We pray for the grace to be honest and open in our discernment.**

### **Short Check-In:**

We listen in silent attentiveness and respectfully to each other considering where God found me in my prayer during the week and how the review of last week impacted on my prayer this week.

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

**Sacred Reading:** Genesis 18: 1-33 – Abraham and Sarah

Our preparation over the past meetings has been to come to an awareness of God's presence, to listen to His call to us as a Community and to respond to His invitation to work for the greater glory of God.

We pray now for the grace of that friendship that Abraham and Sarah had with God so that He can discuss, talk with and guide us. In the light of that friendship between God and Abraham and Sarah we reflect on the prioritised needs.

What is my response to these prioritised needs?

- What do I feel drawn to?
- What do I feel opposed to?
- How might we as CLC respond to the prioritized needs?
- Share your thoughts and write down the groups responses.

**Prayer for the week:** Pray over the responses made by the group.

### **Review of the Meeting**

Where did I experience consolation in the meeting?  
And desolation?

### **Closing Prayer**

## Meeting 8 - INDIFFERENCE

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause to become aware of God's loving inviting gaze.

**We pray for the grace to be open to the will of God.**

### **Short Check-In:**

An effective silence makes possible unconditional listening

### **Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation**

Pray with the second part of the Principle and Foundation of the Ignatian Exercises. It is indifference that Ignatius draws us to and Michael Ivens SJ, in his book, *Understanding the Spiritual Exercises*, states that

*... indifference is a means to God-directed choices ... it should be thought of in a positive way and is a space within which the movements of the Spirit can be sensed and things seen in relation to the signs of God's will, an affective silence making possible an unconditional listening.*

Indifference means I hold all ideas in balance and weigh them up for the greater good. It means that although I think my ideas are the best in the world, your idea may equally serve the universal good. Indifference is not apathy and lack of feeling, it is letting the Spirit guide me in my deliberations.

The *Principle and Foundation* Part 1 is repeated here as a reminder of Meeting 1.

*Human beings are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save their souls. And it is for the human person that the other things on the face of the earth are created as helps to the pursuit of this end.*

The Principle and Foundation Part 11

*From this it follows that human beings are to use these things as much as they help to this end, and to be free of them in so far as they stand in the way of it.*

*To attain this we need to make ourselves indifferent to all created things in all that is allowed to the choice of our free will and is not prohibited to it; so that, on our part, we want not health rather than sickness, riches rather than poverty, honour rather than dishonour, long rather than short life, and so in everything else; desiring and choosing only what is most conducive to the end for which we are created.*

From the Translation by John Veltri sj

- What changes for me?
- How do I adapt to further that change?
- Reflect on which suggestion/s will serve the greater good?
- Above all consider **how can I advance your suggestion?**

During the meeting share your thoughts and feelings and gather them together.

**Prayer for the Week:** Pray again with the responses of the group. Praying for clarity of vision

### **Review of the Meeting**

What energized me?

What de-energized me?

How was God speaking to me in the meeting?

### **Closing Prayer**

## Meeting 9      Consolidating

**The Act of Presence:** *a step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my mind raised up, consider how God our Lord is looking at me... (Sp Exx 75)*

Pause to become aware of God our Lord waiting patiently for our suggestions

**We pray for the grace to prepare a report with great openness of heart, remembering that God will never be outdone in generosity**

### Short Check-In:

How did the words of the Principle and Foundation affect my prayer?

We listen attentively learning from others.

### Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation

The call to live as a prophetic lay community was one of the Themes that arose at the GA Fatima 2008. We are called to live apostolically and prophetically: reflect on the words below which draw on the Address of Fr Adolfo Nicolás and consider the questions following:

“Our mission, in good biblical and Church tradition, has to be a prophetic mission, carried out in the name of God and under His guidance. And we can meaningfully ask ourselves: Can we really be prophetic?” – seeing with the Eyes of God; listening with the ears, the Hearing of God; feeling with the Heart of God; and speaking the Word of God, “a word of compassion for those who suffer ... and a word of Conversion and Solidarity for those who can do something about that suffering.” (Address of Fr A. Nicolás, World Ecclesiastical Assistant, to the Assembly) We received this challenge as the defining grace of Fátima 2008, finding inspiration and consolation in his words: “this is the time for prophetic communities ... and I feel that you are decidedly moving in this direction

- Do I want to run screaming from this process?
- Is it ringing true for me
- How can I buy into it?

Share your thoughts and decide what it is your group wants to report to the Region and to the National Body. Elect one or two people to note the recommendations, and put together a report for the group which all will consider next meeting.

- What recommendations can we as a group bring to the Region which will feed into National?
- Have we as a group a particular suggestion that can be used in our South African context as a national apostolate?

At the Regional Meeting each group will present their report. And the reports will then be sent to the National Exco.

**Prayer for the Week:** The Community is asked to continue to pray that our region will be drawn in service for God and that we will find what God is calling us to at this moment here in South Africa.

We also pray for those compiling the reports.

### **Review of the Meeting**

How do I feel at the end of this meeting?

Am I drawn closer to God?

How is God calling me?

### **Closing Prayer**

## Meeting 10 - The REPORT

**The Act of Presence:** pause to become aware of how God is gazing happily at his family and friends here in this group

**We pray for the grace of gratitude for the process we have been through.**

### Short Check-In:

How was I drawn close to God this week in my prayer concerning the report?

### Focus Exercise for Apostolic Formation

Reflect and pray for a moment in silence over the Report drawn up by one or two of the members of the group.

- Does it ring true?
- Am I happy to give the report to my Regional Exco?
- Are there any changes I feel could be made?
- Again how do I best advance your suggestion?

**Prayer for the next months:** Continue to pray that our region will be drawn in service for God and that we will find what God is calling us to at this moment here in South Africa

The Exco thanks the Community for their dedication to the process and asks that the Reports be ready to be presented at a Regional Meeting towards the end of the year. They will then be handed on to the Exco who will feed back to the Community the deliberations of the National Community.

### Review of the Meeting and the Process

How am I feeling now at the end of the process?

What has given me consolation?

Where have I experienced desolation?

What do I want to thank God for?

### Closing Prayer

## APPENDIX 1

**General Principle 8 continued:** At the same time, we exercise a corporate or group apostolate in a great variety of forms, whether through group action initiated or sustained by the Community through suitable structures, or through involvement of members in existing secular and religious organizations and efforts.

The Community helps us to live this apostolic commitment in its different dimensions, and to be always open to what is more urgent and universal, particularly through the "Review of life" and through personal and communal discernment. We try to give an apostolic sense to even the most humble realities of daily life.

The Community urges us to proclaim the Word of God and to work for the reform of structures of society, participating in efforts to liberate the victims from all sorts of discrimination and especially to abolish differences between rich and poor. We wish to contribute to the evangelisation of cultures from within. We desire to do all this in an ecumenical spirit, ready to collaborate with those initiatives that bring about unity among Christians.

Our life finds its permanent inspiration in the Gospel of the poor and humble Christ.

## APPENDIX 2

### The Apostolic Dimension

#### Preaching the Gospels

Each person is invited to respond to the call of Christ from his/her own particular circumstances. To be loved by God translates into being sent by God. Because of this CLC promotes formative apostolic experiences with the aim of inviting the person to respond to that call from his/her own particular circumstances and to fully embrace the theme of mission. Apostolic experiences provide not just theoretical but also practical knowledge of the world in which we live.

Mission is not just one more activity – it lies at the very heart of all Christian and CLC identity. A CLC vocation implies being on mission. This means that all of our life, our activities and our ‘spaces’ are nourished through our being sent out by Christ. For that reason, the CLC mission field knows no limits; it extends to all aspects of human life<sup>1</sup>, where God may wish to call us – to the Church or to the world, to those within and to those without, to the family, to work, cultural, social and productive organisations, to political and cultural life.

Through the witness of our lives we answer the questions and the confusions of our culture<sup>2</sup>. The life of a CLC member is characterised by making real, the way of Jesus with freedom, solidarity, transparency and simplicity. We consider of great importance that our moral life is faithful to the dignity of the human person, to the spirit that gives it life<sup>3</sup> and to Christian values.

We understand our personal action in daily life as an answer in freedom to the invitation of God. Our way of life is based on discernment which helps us to

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<sup>1</sup> GP 8: Charism 2001 no.87 gives an extensive account of the possible areas of mission. We could mention among those, daily life, the family, our profession, studies, culture, politics, economics, service to CLC itself, taking part in Parish and other church institutions etc. We should also keep in mind the fields suggested by the Itaci World Assembly. ‘Progressio’ No. 59, December 2004, Supplement.

<sup>2</sup> We accept that there are diverse and equally valid ethical approaches. The problem is with certain extreme attitudes when one acts on their basis, like hedonistic subjectivism (‘I’ll do what I like’), exaggerated pragmatism (‘what matters is what is easier and more practical’), scepticism about values (‘no ideal is worth the trouble’), the relativisms, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Charism 2001, no. 87

evaluate the facts of life situations more critically and to uncover the will of God in each concrete situation<sup>4</sup>.

CLC applies Ignatian principles of apostolic discernment and shows a clear preference for the most urgent and universal calls, such helping to bring about 'liberation' from those barriers discriminating between rich and poor, evangelising our culture and promoting the unity of Christians.<sup>5</sup>

The wide sphere of mission makes personal, communitarian and apostolic discernment within CLC a vital activity.<sup>6</sup> This is practised at all levels and instances, evaluating with Our Lord the calls to serve Him in others, recognising the voice of God in the needs of our brothers/sisters.

It is important to offer free and specific opportunities for service; commonly known as 'apostolates' or services which increase our growth in availability.

### **An Apostolic Community<sup>7</sup>**

The world to which we are sent requires from us a joint responsibility in mission. Contemplation of the suffering world, contact with reality and the apostolic experiences of service inspire us to carry out our mission as one body working for the Reign of God bringing forth greater fruit and in a more universal way.<sup>8</sup>

In order to share in responsibility in mission, we have to discern together, to commission and be sent, to support each other and, finally, to evaluate what has been carried out. When a Community lives out this process, it also shares the responsibility for those missions it entrusts to its members and in this way it is transformed into an apostolic Community.

Eventually the members of CLC can take on a common apostolate or a group mission. To do this, we discern our mission together with the tasks and means relating to it. So that better service can be given outside CLC, the organisation and life of the community must be strengthened and served.

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<sup>4</sup> GP5, Charism 2001, no. 19, 61-70, 109-124

<sup>5</sup> GP 8d

<sup>6</sup> GP 12 a and b.

<sup>7</sup> 'And He called the Twelve and began to send them out in twos, giving them power over unclean spirits.' Mark 6,7.

<sup>8</sup> Motto of the Nairobi Assembly, 2003: '**Sent by Christ**, members of one body'.

## Sharing Responsibility for Greater Service

CLC life and its evangelising action are inscribed within the context of the Reign of God: a task which God begins and is continued with the Church.<sup>9</sup> Our spirituality presents us with valuable opportunities for collaboration with those who share it. CLC promotes collaboration with the Society of Jesus as well as with other religious congregations and lay movements, doing all it can to contribute to the development of new apostolic undertaking.

At the same time we recognise the value of other churches and religions with which we collaborate with a view to creating a 'more divine world'. In the same way, we collaborate with various institutions and persons in civil society to promote a 'more just world'. We link up with and collaborate with all people who are working for justice and fighting for peace, no matter what their social condition, their race, or their beliefs.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> GP 6: Charism 2001 no.96

<sup>10</sup> GP 8. Likewise our public commitment to justice will be carried out in various **forums** such as civic collectives, NGOs, State organisations, volunteer groups, companies etc.