

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY SOUTH AFRICA

Our vision statement

"We, the CLC of South Africa, aware of the needs of our times, freely choose to commit ourselves to a community in Christ. Opened by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, to the discernment of God's will, we desire to give ourselves more generously to God and allow Him to use us to touch others in each situation of our daily lives. "

What is CLC?

Christian Life Community consists of lay people who desire to deepen our relationship with God and grow in faith by finding His loving presence and purpose in our every day lives. Inspired by the insights of St Ignatius of Loyola, we use his Spiritual Exercises as a particular tool to attain this desire.

We meet regularly in small groups, to discern, encourage and support one another. In this way, our ears are opened to hear the call of Christ to work for the spread of His kingdom of love.

WHO IS CLC FOR ?

CLC IS FOR YOU IF:

- you are searching for **more** from your faith.
- you want to deepen your faith and express it in your daily life, sharing it with others.
- you feel the need for healing and integration of your whole life with the fullness of your Christian faith.

Our community includes men and women, married or single of various ages, from all walks of life. We do not wish to be alone on our faith journey. We need companionship and find this in our regional, national and international community.

HOW DO CLC MEMBERS LIVE?

We try to live a simple life-style. CLC does not have a rule - book but a set of General Principles that are both flexible and inspiring. They include the following characteristics.

. **IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY – LIVING PRAYER**

We try to pray every day, learning to meditate and reflect on the growing awareness of God's presence in our lives. We see the Eucharist as central to our being. We grow in our experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius through retreats, workshops and spiritual direction.

. **COMMUNITY**

Through the regular meetings of our local CLC groups, we become 'friends in the Lord'. Further inspiration is given and received at our regional and national meetings.

. **MISSION – GENEROUS RESPONSE**

Mary is our model of generous response to God's call. We try to bear witness to Christ wherever we are. As we journey together, we discover our call to serve God at home, at work, in the parish, in our local community, and in organisations trying to reform unjust structures that oppress the weak and poor in our society. As members of one world community, we share the responsibility for mission, learning to discern the call, send and support one another and evaluate the response.

WHAT ARE THE MEETINGS LIKE?

Our local groups are small, normally no more than 8 to 10 members. Usually, meetings are held weekly, in our homes. The pattern of the meeting varies but includes the following:

- **Preparation** for prayer; **Scripture** meditation or a prayer exercise that includes silence, contemplation and reflection; **Listening and sharing** with one another; **Reviewing** the time together; praying for special needs and projects and deciding on action to be taken.

RETREATS, WORKSHOPS & ASSEMBLIES

CLC also arranges prayer days, retreat weekends, 8-day retreats, workshops, regional, national and international assemblies.

THE ORIGINS OF CLC

CLC is one of the oldest worldwide Catholic lay organisations. Today there are national communities in over 60 countries in the world. Modern CLC traces our origins to the Sodalties of Our Lady set up in 1563 by two Jesuits, John Leunis and Francis Coster, through the inspiration of St Ignatius. In 1584, Pope Gregory X11 officially approved the Sodalties.

With The Second Vatican Council, various movements in the Church were urged to re-discover their particular charisms. In response, 38 Sodalities met in 1967 to try to recapture the Ignatian charism. The outcome was a new name, with General Principles to support the way of life. Today we are one World body, with a World Secretariat in Rome.

CLC in South Africa was introduced over 27 years ago, beginning with CLG in the schools, a version suitable for youth. CLC began in the northern regions of South Africa and slowly spread south. At present, there are over a hundred members and many friends, served by a national Committee, elected from different regions of the country. We have a Jesuit priest as our Ecclesiastical Assistant.

For further information, please contact:

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