



CLC in South Australia

A personal history

of almost 30 years



All that I have and call my own
You have given it all to me.
To you Lord, I return it.





From
CLC Sth. Aus.
a personal history
of
almost 30 years

I step into the unknown
invited to "meet in a way
which might suit" me

About 9 of us • get used to the feeling of
exposure that staying together in silence elicits
• identify the feeling that the
scripture-based prayer elicits. I meet my
first Jesuit.

I step into the unknown
invited to meet with those from
other CLCs. We become aware of



- God in our lives in the people we have known
- gift : sharing – having the words
– being heard
- : General Principles – CLC response
to the need to articulate boundary
structure
vision

I step into the unknown - the constant
companionship of
the
Spiritual
Exercises of
Saint Ignatius



I step into the unknown. I attend my first Gathering in Melbourne

I become aware of the resulting release of energy / life : when the effort is made to meet requests for participation in group activities.

: when, through CLC process true accord is reached on the Mission Statement.



The Background of the Australian CLC Mission Statement

There have been local and international dimensions of our reflection on mission. In our Australian Mission Discernment, the outcome of small group and regional reflection was that five priorities for mission were identified:

- Developing spirituality of CLC Members
- Spiritual formation of Laity for mission
- Promoting gospel values, building the Kingdom
- Working with or being a voice for the poor and marginalised
- Nurturing the community life of CLC groups

These five priorities framed our contribution to the Thirteenth General Assembly of the Christian Life Community at Itaici in Brazil in July. From the Assembly's prayer and reflection emerged three areas of **Our Common Mission** for World CLC:

- "Firstly, we want to bring the freeing power of Christ to our social reality;
- Secondly, we want to find Christ in all our varied cultures and to let His grace illuminate all that needs transformation;
- Thirdly, we want to live Christ so as to bring him to every aspect of our daily life in the world."

The Assembly further identified "a set of necessary *means* for this mission:

- "The spiritual source which nourishes and empowers us for mission: *The Spiritual Exercises* which help us grow in Christian life";
- "Our own *formation for mission*, so that our community may ever become a more effective instrument for service."

Finally, the Assembly specified five *areas of special concern*:

- Responding to the needs of the poor and the marginalised;
- Promoting authentic relationships within families, in the workplace, in public life, and in the Church;
- Listening to young people and offering them an inculturated faith initiation;
- Preserving the uniqueness of the local culture;
- Renewing the sense of dignity of work and the worker.

Local groups and National ExCo have considered the resonances between these two dimensions of our exploration of mission and, as a result, a proposal was offered for consideration by the National Gathering in January 1999. The more than one hundred members at the Gathering had been considering the proposal before they arrived, and when we came together, it was reflected upon in groups and plenary sessions. The Gathering made amendments to the statement and voted overwhelmingly to accept it.

THE COMMON MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA

We are a community in the Ignatian spiritual tradition. In the Spiritual Exercises we come to a profound trust in the love of God, who calls us in spite of our weakness and sends us on mission. With the Trinity we look upon our world and find ourselves drawn to be part of God's own response to the world in Jesus Christ.

After a process of discernment, both locally and in communion with the Thirteenth World Assembly, we have striven in our National Gathering to express the mission we sense is given us by the Father in union with his Son:

In discerning and reviewing our apostolic life at personal and communal levels, members of the Christian Life Community in Australia will give special consideration to the following areas of concern.

Grounded in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to:

- *standing with the poor and the marginalised through a faith that does justice;*
- *promoting authentic relationships with one another, within families, in the workplace, in public life and in the Church;*
- *listening to young people, respecting their experience, and finding ways to accompany them on their faith journey;*
- *developing and offering programmes of formation to lay people;*
- *honouring the uniqueness of the varied cultures of our country;*
- *living in God's creation in a way that respects and protects it.*

In order to be more effective in our service in these areas we wish to collaborate with others.

We will develop the means for mission identified by the World Assembly: the Spiritual Exercises and formation for mission. In doing this we will, however, be conscious of the Assembly's caution that: "action should not wait on full formation." From the very beginning we "learn to be contemplatives in action...to foster a model of experience – reflection – action in our formation program."

We will develop what we believe to be one of our most valuable contributions: the process of discernment and those listening and dialogue skills that we learn in our community. We will draw on them in resolving conflicts and taking good decisions at all levels of life.



CLC
mission

standing with families with poor & marginalised
listening. respecting varied age culture



In our authentic relationships with Christ
promoting authentic relationships with Christ
offering formation living so as to respect creation

South Australia's Response

- dynamic collection of 9 small groups whose members conscientiously respond to the mission call
- valued formation programmes delivered from Loyola Spirituality Centre and Sevenhill
- enthusiasm for the Magis Programme as an opportunity for young people to experience the processes of support for living the kingdom of Jesus.

I become aware of the effort. I hear more of the effort and less of life as those in CLC express their feelings of tiredness and inadequacy.

I step into the unknown as I attend the **2008 Gathering**. I anticipate, with hope, release again, of energy/life as effort is acknowledged and further challenge is presented.





Amen.

St Ignatius of Loyola, 15th Century