CVX-CLC
Christian Life
Life
Community
In Australia

ANNOTATIONS

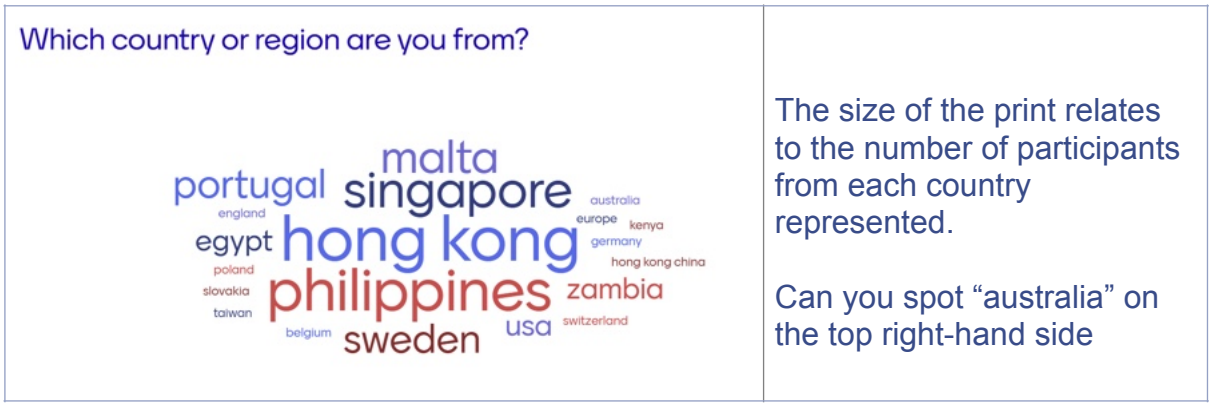
June 2026

Invitation From World CLC

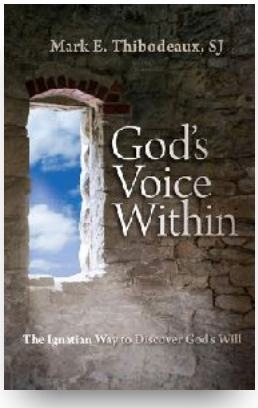
Early in May, CLC members were sent the following invitation:

The Global Formation Team warmly invites all CLC members to participate in its upcoming online workshop, "DSSE: Discern–Send–Support–Evaluate." This formation experience aims to deepen our understanding of DSSE and how living this process can nurture both personal spiritual growth and our life in community, from the small group to the world level. The workshop seeks to strengthen our collective formation journey…"

Three Australian CLC members were among the ninety participants from 23 National Communities. Here are a few slides from the first part of the workshop which focussed on the journey of World CLC in naming its Common Mission and first step of the process of DSSE i.e. Discern.



My questions are: "How often do we bring these things to our CLC group? Once discerned, do we send each other on mission and then support each other and then evaluate that mission at the end of a period of time. More time in the workshop was spent on how we can Send: Support: Evaluate. Hopefully, the full workshop will be available and can be shared more broadly at a late date. **Kay Hooper**



Discernment.

Recently the CLC group of which I am a member has been working through an excellent book on Discernment. Authored by Mark E. Thibodeaux SJ, an expert on prayer and discernment, it is titled *God's Voice Within* (Loyola Press, Chicago). The author explains how to recognise the false spirit and the true spirit, how to respond to each one of these, and how to move from discerning spirits to actually making decisions consistent with God's will in our lives. The book is very practical and is easy to read. The CLC group members valued it very much.

Kevin Wringe, CLC WA

On 18th April the NFWG conducted the first session for the year in the Series "An ongoing journey to deepen our understanding and living of a CLC way of life". Earlier this year the NEXCO requested that the NFWG prepare a program of eight sessions for guides over two years. Even though it is primarily planned for Guides, anyone who is interested to join is most welcome. The sessions are held via Zoom on Saturdays (11am-1pm-Sydney time).

The April session was entitled "The Spiritual Exercises Pathway and its Deep Connection to the CLC Journey". The main content was taken from an article written by Patrick O'Sullivan SJ. In his own inimitable way, Patrick describes how the pattern of growth in a personal relationship is the same as the pattern of growth in faith that we find in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. This pattern is mirrored if a group of people is to become a Christian Life Community.

At the beginning of the book of the Spiritual Exercises, Ignatius highlights certain attitudes or dispositions (known as "Annotations") which the retreatant should have, to some extent, if he or she is to benefit from the experience of the Exercises. These are: a sense of mystery, a sense of reverence, generosity, perseverance and openness. These are also the distinctive characteristics to be found, to some extent, in an individual best fitted to become a CLC member. We were delighted to have forty-nine people attend this session in April.

The next session **was to have been 27th June.** However, NEXCO has decided to use the session on that day as a preparation for the National Gathering in July.

The NFWG is planning to email out some material to keep the momentum going until we have our next session on 29th August. Final one for the year will be 24th October.

If you are not a guide, but would like to attend these sessions, contact **Kay Hooper** at kay.hooper@bigpond.com and you will be sent the Zoom link.

The team hard at work at the March meeting

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Meeting with the World Youth Team

Dear Community,

You are invited to join our global gathering on June 27th. This meeting is a space to pray, share updates, and reflect together as a world community.

This invitation is addressed to national council members and for all young adults (18 - 40years old) in your community who would like to take part.

When: **Saturday June 27, 2026**

Time Options:

Meeting Options	Registration Link
Option 1: June 27, 14:00 Rome Time	https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/M_L65EsZT9qLq5_LbWFOQg
Option 2: June 27, 18:00 Rome Time	https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/wNk8M5M-RROPXrqUaygYvw

It is **important to register** via the link for the session you wish to attend, as **you will receive the link to join the session once you have registered**. *Registration remains open until 24 hours before the meeting begins.*

Both sessions will be in English and will cover the same agenda.Agenda and what we will cover:

1. Opening welcoming and prayer
2. Introduction to World Youth Team Works and survey results
3. Open forums on World Youth Team and Jubilee Experience
4. Presenting the Model for Youth Encounters and the Jubilee experience
5. Community news and updates
6. Group photo and closing prayer

We look forward to seeing you and praying together as one world community.

In Christ,

CLC World Youth Team

Rome, 10 June 2026

WORLD SECRETARIAT * SECRETARIAT MONDIAL * SECRETARIADO MUNDIAL
4, Borgo Santo Spirito – 00193 Roma. ITALIA.
Email: exsec@cvx-clc.net I CVX-CLC Website IInstagram I Facebook I YouTube
National Formation Working Group (NFWG)

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Our CLC Gathering, which is to be held 17th-19th July (in person in Melbourne and in Hubs in the Regions) will be offering us an opportunity as a community to consider taking up a new National Project of CLC.

In CLC, in communities throughout the world, different national projects have been taken up by different communities eg CLC in Hong Kong became involved in running a school. In Australia we have had several National Projects over the years, such as the Tertian Project, the FSE Project, etc.

Each time we have discerned as a whole community whether to take on such a project. To enable this process of discernment to occur, our facilitator at the Gathering, Robyn Wunder will lead us in a process of **Discernment in Common,** around a specific question.

While you might be familiar with personal discernment, communal discernment is similar, but different. To begin with, it involves as many members of the community as possible and an openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It requires a very specific question to be asked: "Are we as a community going to be involved in this particular project?" (Details of the project will be explained earlier in the Gathering.) There needs to be time for prayer and reflection, sharing of responses in sacred conversation and listening deeply to the many voices in the community. It may involve looking at the pros and cons of involvement in the project, the hopes and the fears or challenges that might be faced and finally a gradual coming to consensus around whether to go ahead or not with the project. It is a process that takes time and an openness in each person to the will of the whole community.

We strongly encourage you to either attend the CLC Gathering in person or in a Hub in your Region, or even on Zoom in your own home and to take part in this Discernment in Common.

Jenny Gardner (On behalf of NEXCO)

Next steps to the CLC50 National Gathering (17-19 July):

- **Sat 27 June, 11am-1pm AEST: Online formation session**
  Michael Walker and Paris Huffman will talk about Discernment in Common and Communal Apostolic Projects, in preparation for an exercise of communal discernment at the National Gathering. All are welcome. Link to join the session: https://acu.zoom.us/j/89981388109?pwd=3p5Tct7PdaSMuk41vXDQbWpCnba0d0.1 Password: 574089
- **Tue 30 June Last day to register** to attend the Gathering in Melbourne: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1560715
- More details will be shared in coming weeks about how to participate remotely.

Submission Dates for Annotations Material:

December	28 November
March	26 February
June	29 May
September	**28 August**

From the Editor

Please send your articles to:

Postal: Ann Hoare, CLC Editor, Rendu Towers, 1082/43 Evelyn Street, Newstead QLD 4006

Email: aho87668@bigpond.net.au

Articles (up to 350 or 650 words) to be in .doc or .docx format. Please provide photos and images in high resolution jpg format and separate from articles (not pasted into your document). Please provide captions for your photos.

IGNITE THE WAY
An Ignatian Contribution for a Synodal Church

Jesuit Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ has identified *Discernment in Common* (DIC) as a key contribution that the Society of Jesus can make to the synodal process of the Church.

He has expressed a deep desire for the Society of Jesus to contribute, in the best way possible, to walking together as the Church, the People of God, as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.

The Society of Jesus is initiating this project to train facilitators of discernment processes in response to this important need of the synodal Church.

"The call is to construct a narrative that is different
from the often-toxic narrative of our time.
A narrative based on the liberating message of Jesus.

We need a plan to share skills and train people
in the discernment necessary in community and synodal processes.
A plan for each of your organisations, a plan for JRS, a plan for CLC,
a plan for the different Conferences of Major Superiors and Provinces.

In summary, my advice to each of you is: -
Visualise the concrete way in which you can be an agent of transformation
in your place of life, culture, organisation."

In late November 2025 the Jesuit House in Salamanca, Spain, hosted a 10-day international colloquium for one hundred Jesuit and lay companion experts, nominated by their Provincials and representative of all the Conferences, including some members of Christian Life Community. Fr Quyen Vu SJ approved the participation of Jesuit and lay formators, Ian Cribb SJ and Frances Tilly (JISA Mission Formation) from the Australian Province.

Following this in May 2026, a five-day JCAP (Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific) DIC training was held with Jesuit and lay companion representatives in Thailand.

Frances is now working with the Australian Jesuit Province, JISA, and Ignatian ministries to discern and support practical next steps for training and outreach; inviting communities to work together to deepen *Discernment in Common* and promote synodal transformation for the Australian Church.

Christian Life Community Australia (CLC) has invited Frances Tilly to share more about the *Ignite the Way* project at its National Gathering in July 2026

Francis Tilly

Helping the move to a more Synodal Church

Photo: Michael at the Synod of Sydney in St Mary's Cathedral College Hall

Back in the days when the NSW Government was building a desalination plant, I lived near the Western shore of Botany Bay / Kamay.

At one point, they needed to dig up the park at Kyeemagh where the desalinated water pipelines reached the other side of the bay, and wall it off for six months during construction. As a resident I clearly remember getting a postcard in my mailbox which asked which out of three options I'd prefer for the paint scheme on the wall that was now blocking the view of Botany Bay. That was the extent

of consultation. I wasn't asked if I wanted a desalination plant, or whether it should be in Botany Bay, or how long was a reasonable time frame to lose access to the parkland, or if the pipeline could have come ashore in a different location, etc. Just the colour of the construction hoardings.

Something disappointingly similar happened during last month's Synod of Sydney, at which I was a participant. The synod was presented with a list of eighteen predetermined initiatives under three themes and was essentially asked to rank them in order of preference. There was no option to discern something not on the list or, for that matter, to reject all of them. The result of the synod was largely a foregone conclusion.

I know the organisers and know that they meant well, they just didn't know how to run a synod. Not many people in the Church do, it's not how we are accustomed to doing things. However, we need to get up to speed on it. Synodality is here to stay, and we all need to learn how to do it better. Pope Leo XIV has made it very clear right from his first public remarks after his election that he intends to further synodality in the Church. We are in the Implementation Phase of the Synod of Synodality, and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have a web page (https://www.catholic.au/s/article/synodnextsteps) and a newsletter with updates about synods around the country. So, the good news is that there will be plenty of opportunities for better synods in the future that better resemble conversations in the spirit, rather than business meetings.

That won't happen by magic. People need new skills. NEXCO has been exploring this for the last year. We have invited Frances Tilly from Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA) to speak to us at the National Gathering next month about a new project called Ignite the Way. An article by Frances in this edition of Annotations introduces this project. We will also hold a communal discernment at the Gathering where the community will be invited to consider what we might offer to the service of the broader Church as it adapts (or rather re-adapts) to this less familiar way of being Church. **Michael Walker, President**

Tribute to Chris Harkness - CLC West Australia

Chris Harkness was a very valued member of CLC WA over many years. During this time, he was a dedicated member of three groups, Companions, Moombaki and most recently Living Waters, co-guiding the Living Waters group with Ana Rita Sequeira after Chris Gardner retired from the group. He made many good friends through these groups who recall his quiet sense of humour and lovely chuckle. Others recall his participation in our Annual CLC Retreats, Gatherings and Masses with the Indigenous community in the Embleton Parish. Before his Multiple Myeloma illness became more advanced, he was also very active in delivering the First Spiritual Exercises, the training of new FSE Givers and as a Team leader of WA FSE, on the National level. He was a foundation member of Ignatian Spirituality WA (ISWA)and enjoyed walks in nature organised by them.

Chris had a deep sense of spirituality, allowing the Spirit to work through him to reach out to others, even in his most challenging medical situations. Through the many years of his treatment for MM, he displayed enormous courage and perseverance. Accepting the limitations that were on him physically and mentally would not have been easy and contributed to the 'loss of a dream' to complete his PhD in the field of the Foster Care of children- a cause dear to his heart. Nevertheless, he maintained his strong sense of the sacredness of life in all its forms, right until the end. Chris passed away peacefully on May 14, Ascension Thursday, with his family by his side.

May he rest in eternal peace. **Helen Baronie**

NEWS FROM THE WEST

WA CLC Clean up Australia on March 8 was an opportunity to show, in a practical way, our care of Creation. We give thanks to Living Waters group member, Ana Rita Sequeira, her husband and two sons who coordinated the event. It felt inspiring to help keep clean a park near our beautiful Swan River as well as to enjoy time together in the sunshine.

On April 19 our community celebrated World CLC Day at Our Lady of Grace Parish in North Beach. Everyone truly appreciated the warm welcome we received from Fr Hyginus and parishioners. We felt blessed to be part of this prayerful and vibrant parish whose generosity and openness is a testament to God's presence within the parish community.

Several CLC members attended the annual Palm Sunday Prayers for Peace event at St George's Anglican Cathedral on 29 March. With the theme, 'Who is My Neighbour? Prayers for Peace in a Fractured World', the ecumenical event included Catholic, Anglican, Ukrainian, and Uniting Churches. After a beautiful Welcome to Country by Rev Mitchell Garlett, there was a moment of peace and reflection on our troubled times. The message from Reverend Dr Bill's welcome address particularly resonated with one of our members, Veronica Chong, "My neighbour is the one who shows mercy, who acts with compassion, who provides generously. Neighbourliness is not a state of being, but of doing".

ISWA (Ignatian Spirituality Western Australialia) organised an olive picking fundraiser on the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. In glorious autumn weather, after a lot of fun (and work) 1000 kgs of olives will likely create 130 L bottles of olive oil. The profits will be shared between ISWA, St Vincent de Paul, and CLC WA.

We are mourning and giving thanks for the life of Chris Harkness who died on May 14. Please find a tribute to Chris's considerable contribution to CLC WA elsewhere in this issue of Annotations. **Helen Baronie**

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CLC SA Annual Retreat at Sevenhill May 2026

Theme: A Heart of Love **Facilitator**: Fr Iain Radvan SJ

We gathered at the spiritually nourishing La Storta Retreat Centre at Sevenhill. Drawing on Pope Francis' last encyclical *Dilexit Nos* and Dr Gary Chapman's *Languages of Love* series, Fr Iain shared how we can live the love that originates from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We reflected on the image of Jesus' physical heart as a representation of the living heart of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis wrote that it is in Jesus' human love that we encounter his divine love*: "we discover the infinite in the finite*." (# 67 *Dilexit Nos*) We also reflected on how imaginative contemplation has given us a means to feel Jesus' love and to express our response to him.

We eagerly completed a quiz to identify our primary love language. Learning about the five love languages opened us to reflecting on how we show love to God and our friends and loved ones.

While the rain closed in over Saturday, we were blessed with a reprieve on Saturday night after dinner when we sat around a fire under a full moon and shared our personal love stories. The trust and intimacy shared between us all affirmed how we were made to love and be loved.

On Sunday morning we celebrated Mass with Father Chris Horvat and shared how deeply grateful we were for Fr Iain's contributions, the loving company and reflections shared between us all, the beautiful La Storta, and of course the home-made cakes and the local curious kangaroos! **Ronnie Kampe**

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

(L-R): Sue Kellar, Sr Loretta Brennan, CSB, June Crawford, Susie Hii (guide), Marj Morrissey, Susanne Tepe, Nalis Miranda.

We meet on Wednesday at 1:15 pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, Hawthorn. We embrace the name "Pilgrims of Hope" because our group was born in October 2025, the year of Pilgrims of Hope. Recently, we all wore "pilgrim friendly shoes" to the meeting. Marj noticed and pronounced, we are "The Women of Sensible Shoes". That is how our second name came about! Pilgrims do need to wear sensible shoes.

This year, another new CLC group is starting post Easter based at the Immaculate Conception Church in Hawthorn. This is an evening group to be guided by Annmaree Sutton, (who many of you may know from the First Spiritual Exercises). Another CLC group will commence in the St. Kilda Parish as 'a taster' for younger potential members of CLC. The CLC group, 'Friends in the Lord,' which has been operating as a zoom group, is planning to relocate and meet face-to-face in Richmond. We are grateful to Janine Hellard, for her dedication, diligence and perseverance in recruiting new members. **Susie Hii**

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice, Respect and Kindness

A group of Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugee members travelled by train to Melbourne on Palm Sunday, myself and Maria Donegan both CLC members, were among them.

On arrival, we gathered on Princes Bridge with school groups, faith and other groups displaying a range of banners and signs and much chatter and excitement was in the air. We processed along the north bank of the Yarra River to a spot on Birrarung Marr. There were Grandmothers (for refugees,) Asylum Seeker Resource Centre supporters and representatives for the people of West Papua reminding us in dance and song of their ongoing struggle for freedom, plus many other groups.

The rally was addressed by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Mr. Nicholas Reece who spoke encouragingly about local government's roles and actions in supporting and welcoming refugees.

Sr Brigid Arthur csb AO of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project chaired a session and there were many positive messages from speakers about being stronger together, and, to ignore the hype and misinformation about refugees by a small minority who use newspapers and social media to prosecute their negative agendas.

At one stage I caught sight of a familiar face and I excitedly called "Hello." Anne Zevis from CLC Traveller's group in Melbourne was strolling by. It was a wonderful surprise for both of us to meet up unexpectedly. Anne was attending the rally with a group from Brunswick Uniting Church and she said on reflection that she saw the "hook-up" with me in a deeper light and for her it became an example of the serendipity of that Mysterious Spirit who continuously activates this Creation. I also felt blessed by our unexpected meeting. Anne left and returned briefly to share some Semolina Cake with me. This held deep symbolic meaning.

The overwhelming message from the day was for a more welcoming place for people seeking asylum. I found it a great way to be with like minded people and to be encouraged in our own efforts. Maria and I were proud to be part of it.

Doreen Roache, CLC Ballarat

ECOLOGY GROUP

From the Ecology Working Group (Megan Thompson, Helen Cantwell, Debbie dela Paz, Chris Gardner, Judy Haines, Anne Zevis, Iain Radvan)

Happy 100th Birthday to Sir David Attenborough who dedicated his life to exploring, protecting and advocating for our natural environment. He said: "It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

In line with the Priority of CLC in Australia to Care for our Common Home, the Ecology Working Group met again last May. We considered the multiple options for action by CLC members in the wider community of nature lovers and protectors, and agreed to put these before you for this year. They support two of the **Laudato Si Action Platform** goals.

Goal 4 Sustainable Life Styles: on the next page is a prayer session adapted from a production by the joint commitment of two Dicasteries of the Holy See, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, to welcome and respond to the appeals of Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV to listen to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth and to act accordingly.

Goal 7 Advocacy (and community engagement): for **NAIDOC week** (5-12 July) regional EXCOs are invited to engage in a local event hosted by First Nations, contacting the organiser first to let them know of CLC support and attendance. See https://www.naidoc.org.au/local-events/local-naidoc-week-events or contact your local Aboriginal Catholic Ministry centre.

A Prayer Session for CLC sharing groups addressing Goal 4 of Laudato Si Action Platform.

Below are some texts, reflection questions, points for action and images that a sharing group leader can use to create a prayer session focusing on integral ecology. There is no expectation that all the questions be addressed, or all the action points be taken up!

"Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack." (Laudato Si, 222)

Simple and Humble

A simple lifestyle starts with prayer and praising God, the Creator. Prayer can help us to be grateful for the people in our lives, for the work that we do and for the things that we possess; and not to take our lives and the people in our lives for granted.

"If we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously" (LS 11). Let us remember that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and that we can model our lives after him by taking good care of the environment, society and our household economy in ways both small and great. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, we are called to "live simply so others can simply live."

Sobriety

A simple lifestyle means one of sobriety and moderation. Consider two points. This entails becoming aware of our basic needs and therefore resisting the lures of marketing that so often promotes "extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, [with the result that] people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending" (LS 203).

A second point has to do with being detached from our possessions. A life of moderation involves looking for meaning and purpose, trying to "be" (and especially "be for" others and "be with" others) rather than to "have" or "appear." Being anxious to possess and own a lot of goods may well lead to a life of dissatisfaction, far from any meaning (cf. Francis, Christus Vivit 78), and far from God. This explains in part why "the poor have a special experience of God's mercy" (Francis, Misericordiae Vultus 15) and why it is hard "for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God" (Mk 10:23).

Time

An ecological lifestyle should certainly take the use of time into consideration. Think of the time it takes for a seedling to become a tree and bear fruit, for an encounter to become a solid friendship, for a marriage to grow "over time into something precious and enduring" (Amoris Laetitia 221), the time needed for listening and reconciling, the time needed for restorative justice and forgiveness. With its speed and instantaneity, the internet makes it increasingly challenging to set time aside to nurture and heal meaningful relationships. It is important not to be hasty or superficial.

The "Art of Living" at Home

The home is one of the best places in which we can adopt a simple and virtuous lifestyle. It is a place for positive learning by imitating the example of others. At home we can demonstrate our gratitude and pray to God. We become humbled by our family members and those with whom we live. We can make changes to live a sober lifestyle through sharing with others and reducing our use of resources. Living a simple life is not always "simple" at all, but it can be great and rewarding.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

- What would we like to change in our lifestyle for the benefit of the earth and our community?
- As a family, do we discuss the difference between "wants" and "needs"?
- Are art and culture useless? Is visiting museums, learning history or researching one's roots incompatible with a sober lifestyle?
- Do our peers constitute a major obstacle to changing something in our lifestyle?
- No one can achieve change alone. What would we discuss with a spouse? With parents? With sons and daughters?

- Advertisements present so much that is appealing and attractive and show people around us “looking happy” in consuming what is offered. Can we assess and discuss what happiness means to us as a family? What are the ways we celebrate and socialize with our peers? How do we use our leisure time?
- In the case of our children, can we judge whether our sober lifestyle is contributing to their future? What are we saving for the future, for of those who will come after us?
- How can we be more grateful towards one another and towards creation?

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Take a moment to reflect on the goodness of giving.
- Recognize with gratitude the gifts of time and attention that we receive.
- Speak about how to live in a good relationship with the earth. Make a plan and make a promise to cooperate with each other.
- Spend time together in parks, forests, by the seaside, or observing wildlife.
- Resist advertising that equates happiness with consumption and avoid unnecessary purchases. Focus instead on what creates real happiness: loving relationships, inner peace, caring for others, and responding to God’s desire for each and for all in his creation.
- In the era of consumerism and a throwaway culture, it is a meaningful and inspiring experience to repair something. For example, repair broken toys for children, teenagers can repair their own sports equipment, and adults can repair and maintain items from previous generations (furniture or even houses).
- Share tools, equipment and vehicles with neighbours. Share products from your garden with neighbours. Keep an eye out to help elderly neighbours.
- Choose to have a vegetarian meal at least once a week, and find occasions for fasting in a meaningful way.
- Ask questions of your older relatives about their family’s lifestyle, nutrition, travel and work.

End your prayer with this song: **Gentle as Silence** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TJJ_2jkQ9w