

CLC-USA National Assembly 2009

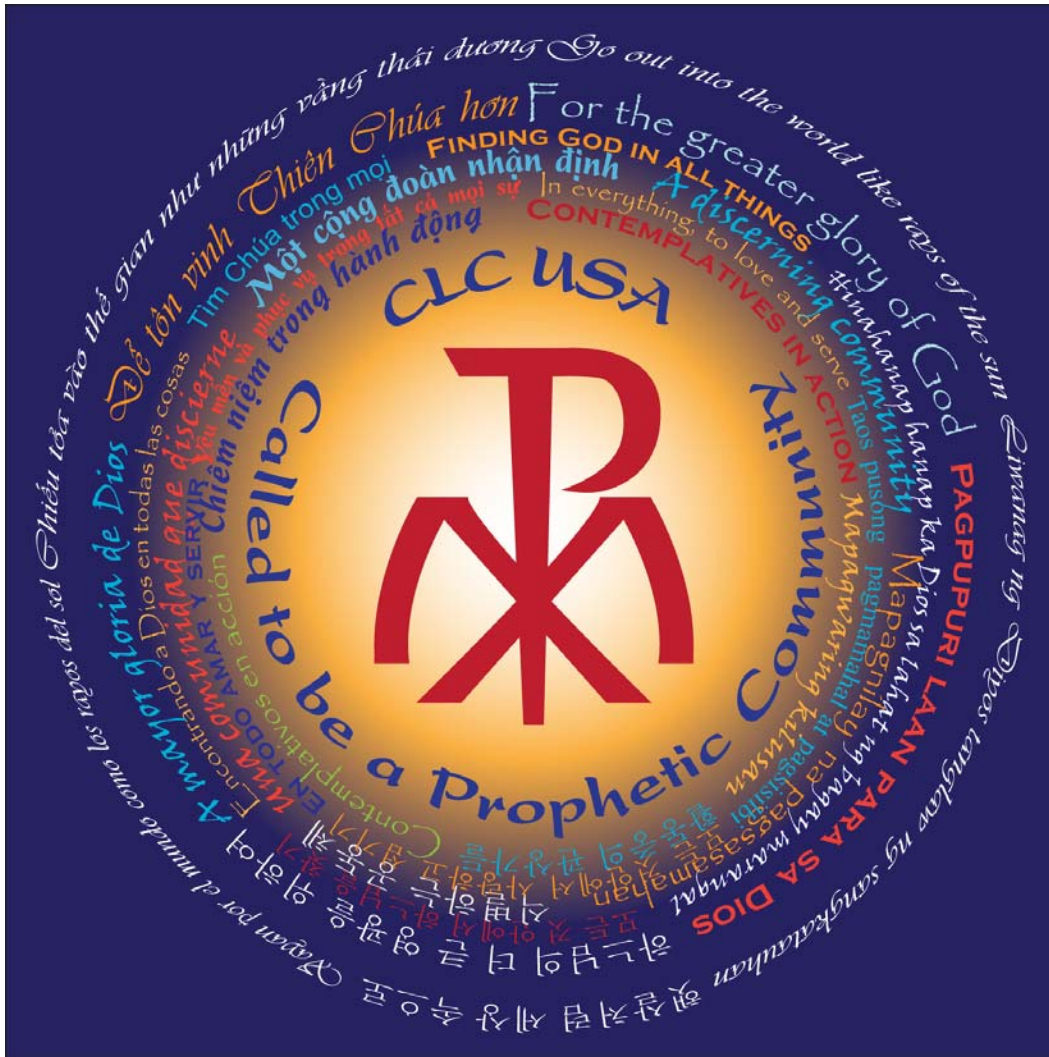
Called to be a Prophetic Community

Trinity College, Washington, DC

July 9-12, 2009

Updated 5/07/2009

PREPARATION



John 15:16-17

**You did not choose me,
 but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.
 Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
 This is my command: Love each other.**

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I. Wall of Apostolic Presence of CLC-USA

Posters of apostolate from local communities.

Purpose: to inform and to inspire each other of the many apostolate that CLC-USA communities are pursuing, and to foster networking between communities for more effective apostolate.

We as a community have many members involving and pursuing many apostolic works, but they and the scope of their works remain mostly unknown to other local communities. We are an apostolic body with a “freedom for apostolate,” as Father Kovenbach said to Mong-Hang at the Leadership Conference in Rome in 11/2007. We oftentimes are unaware of the richness, extent and diversities of the services that we are engaging in the principle of “thinking with the Church.” Following the theme of “Discovering how God has lead us as/into an apostolic body” of the Second Pittsburgh Conference in 3/2009, it is thought that the National Assembly would be a wonderful opportunity to share with others what we are engaging in to live out the apostolic nature of our CLC Charism.

Thus each local community is invited to discern and 1 or 2 (but not more than 2) what the most visible and identifiable apostolate that the community is pursuing and engaging. For each apostolate, the community is asked to prepare a poster, and these posters will be assembled to constitute the Wall of Apostolic Presence at the National Assembly.

Size of poster: from 11x17 to 17x22. It has to be on a medium that can be attached to a vertical surface at the assembly.

The poster should contain the following information:

- Objective of the apostolate
- Brief history
- Photos of activities if available
- Graphics: logo, etc.
- Contact information: names, email, phone numbers.

II. Open Space

We will use a process called “Open Space Technology” for part of the assembly. Prior to the assembly, communities will be asked to discern a number of topics to the theme “*How can we live more deeply and move more effectively as an apostolic body?*” These topics will be raised in an open forum at the assembly to gather people who have pondered or have interest on the same concern to a discussion circle. The person who raises the issue will serve as the facilitator of the session, in which participants will share their own experience on the subject and together they will brainstorm for constructive suggestions or possible solutions. A report will be completed by the group and turned into the Open Space Team in the chapel before mass at the end of the Open Space Day (Saturday). These are the fruits of our labor of the day and they will be part of the offerings for mass.

In the evening, the Open Space Team will be categorize, index and compile all the reports into the booklet Open Space Journal. The booklet will be printed during the night and distributed to all the delegates on the next morning.

Answers to frequently asked questions

1. Each community is invited to discern and deliberate on 1 or 2 topics, or more if you have people to facilitate, to be facilitated in the Open Space day.
2. You need to keep the nature of the topics being considered and discerned within the theme of the Open Space day, which is “*How can we live more deeply and move more effectively as an apostolic body?*” The “we” here can be yourself, people in your community, your community, your region, your cultural group, the entire community of CLC-USA or even the whole body of World CLC.
3. Any delegate at the Assembly can raise a topic for discussion. The topic is then articulated on a poster template that will be available at the Assembly (see attached for a sample). It is suggested that the topic is articulated in the form of the question “How to.” The clearer and more precise the articulation the better and more helpful for people at the assembly to make their decision to joint.
4. The delegate who raises a topic will be the facilitator for the discussion session of that topic.
5. People are free to attend any topic discussion during the Open Space day. There is no need to “sign up” for any topic.
6. The facilitator does not need to have a solution for the topic raised. It actually will work better when the topic chosen does not already have an apparent solution. The objective of an Open Space session is to learn and contribute to a common concern.
7. There is no need to submit the discerned topics to the Program Team prior to the Assembly.
8. A brief report and conclusion from each session will be submitted to the Open Space team in the chapel at the beginning of mass of Open Space day to be part of the offering and for the compilation of the Open Space Journal booklet later on.
9. There will be an orientation at the beginning of the Open Space day at the Assembly. A lot more will be conveyed then. Don’t worry. It will be intentionally chaos when it starts, but that is part of the design.
10. A format to facilitate an Open Space session is included here for your information.

III. Community symbols – (amendment 04/08/2009)

a. Local group symbol

b. Regional / Cultural group symbol

We have reflected communally on the “graced history” of our local communities from 1972 or its foundation and record the key moments and graces of our particular journey on a timeline. Further during Pittsburgh Conference this year, we have reflected on how God has presented, called and led into and as one body. There were much richness reflected and thus the national assembly would be a wonderful opportunity to re-tell our stories. Because we have so many communities and it would take more than the entire weekend for each community to tell their story, we ask that each community review this experience of its graced history, organize it and communicate its story to its regions or cultural groups represented by a symbol. This symbol can be an image, a quote, a scriptural passage, or anything. It will embody the fruit of reflection for this question “What graces have God bestowed on our community, and how we as a community have lived these graces since Miami 2004 ?” The regions’ and the cultural groups’ EXCO will somehow, with the grace and wisdom of God and our human creativity, unify the groups’ symbol into another more embodying symbol for the region or the cultural groups. We will have 13 stories at the assembly.