

At the Church of St. John, in the Jesuit founded University of Vilnius. Meeting of Ecclesiastical Assistants, November 2011



**Meeting of the Euroteam
 Bratislava: September/October, 2011**

Sunny days of fall – as guests in the Ignatian Retreat Centre in Invanka near Bratislava – a good and quiet atmosphere to work together. After the starter round and the first overview of our agenda we arranged for the meeting of the ecclesiastical assistants from 3 - 6 November in Vilnius/ Lithuania. We fixed (if already possible) time and location of the next meetings, exchanged our news with some national communities, evaluated responses to the questionnaire and made a draft of the next newsletter.

The end and highlight of this Euroteam meeting was certainly the meeting with the Slovakian CLC (in progress - i.e. for the first time they will assist the next general assembly in 2013 as observers). After the Eucharist we were invited to a nearby restaurant - good food - good conversation - and once more the experience: despite the different languages we speak it is so easy to communicate with members of the CLC. *Inge Höpfl*

**2013 - Anniversary of the Marian
 Congregation and CLC
 450 years of walking with Ignatius**

“CLC is the continuation of the Marian Congregations, started by Jean Leunis S.J. and first officially approved by Pope Gregory XIII's bull, Omnipotentis Dei, of December 5, 1584. Going back beyond the Marian Congregations we see our origin in those groups of lay people that developed after 1540 in different parts of the world through the initiative of Saint Ignatius Loyola and his companions” (GP 3)

So in 2013 we celebrate 450 years of the Marian Communities and CLC/CVX.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us in Europe to find innovative ways of celebrating both within our own national communities and within the wider community. We invite each national exco to reflect on how you would like to mark this very special occasion and perhaps share your ideas with us. *The Euroteam*



Scenes from the EA Meeting, Members of CLC Lithuania, hosts of the meeting

YOU ARE HERE YOU want to live inside people, being attached to us with all Your power Huub Osterhuis

During my Spiritual Exercises in Holy Week - A Christmas Reflection - Inge Höpfl

The photo shows the tabernacle in the chapel of the retreat center close to Harare – in the shape of a Shona house, the typical stone houses in this area of Zimbabwe. This is meant to express: HE comes into our houses and places, into our hearts. Since Jahweh's promise at the burning bush and even more since Jesus came into the world we can rely on this: He is here waiting for our growing awareness of His presence. Emmanuel, God in us – isn't this the mystery of Christmas?

then

in the burning bush

in the column of cloud during daytime and in the column of fire by night

in Mary's womb

in Bethlehem in the manger

in the streets of Israel and in the houses on the Sea of Galilee

at the cross and in the grave in Jerusalem

and now

all over the world where people are

places of Your presence

unfathomable, incomprehensible and yet easy to perceive

YOU won't avoid

YOU won't keep out

YOU will be going into the core

we can feel You intimately deep inside

Christmas – Celebration of Your presence

in Your world

in Your people

in me

YOU ARE HERE

YOU want to live inside people, being attached to us with all Your power.

(Huub Osterhuis)



Diary

A diary to inform you of events taking place and also to ask for your support in prayer for these events.

Euroteam Meeting. Rome.
February 17-20, 2012

Eurolinks meeting
June 29-July 2, 2012

To further information look at the CLC Europe website:
www.clc-europe.org



Scenes from the EA Meeting, Vilnius, 2011

EA's Meeting - Lithuania



“Trinapolis”—the house where we met.

A group of European EA's together with the Euroteam, Fr Luke and Franklin from the World secretariat gathered in beautiful surroundings in Lithuania for a meeting of the European ecclesiastical assistants. We were delighted also to welcome Fr Zygmunt the EA of CLC Syria who joined us for two days of reflection on “Journeying with CLC-CVX”, primarily looking at the role of the EA but also taking time to reflect and share on other issues including leadership, group guide selection and training, formation in the Spiritual Exercises and other topics suggested by the participants. The initial sessions were led by Fr Luke and Alan Harrison the EA of England and Wales who shared their thoughts on the role of the EA within CLC/CVX, also with reference to the Church and the Society of Jesus (Progressio supplement 65) as well as looking at some areas of concern. This in turn stimulated sharing by the participants of their own experience of this role within their own National Community. We were extremely grateful for the excellent hospitality shown us by the CLC community in Lithuania who amongst other things arranged a visit to the City of Vilnius for the group and a social on the Saturday where we were delighted to have so many of the community join us for the celebration of the Eucharist with the Lithuanian Provincial. Our time together was a time of real joy, encouragement and many graces where we really experienced a deep sense of community.

Press Release!



Comments from our participants

Enjoyable!
Enthusiating!
Empowering!

When Jesuits and lay people come together the power of the Holy Spirit increases ... I think God is pleased with our way of working and discerning Together. God will call us together for new Apostolates!



A very ordinary group of lay people and Jesuits has changed and become AMAZING GRACE of



More Press Releases!

“A time of sharing, joy in the companionship of CLC and the Society of Jesus”
 “We not only talked about the relationship CLC-SJ but put it into practice”



“Wonderful city! Wonderful food! Even more wonderful people! A place for spiritual and corporal growth!”
 “Another confirmation of how the service to CLC is a great blessing to my Jesuit vocation and the living of it!”
 “Delighted I came and left Vilnius in much consolation, now coming home very positively. Great to be sharing this mission with so many fellow Jesuits and friends”

“The Vilnius experience has provided me with an opportunity to share openly the graces and doubts arising from my mission as an EA in an atmosphere of friendliness and compassion. The sharing destroyed the sense of aloneness which this mission brings with it”

“The true communion is the fruit of sincere sharing of our Experiences, our joys and sorrows in the atmosphere of deep understanding. It happened in Vilnius these days”
 “Useful, necessary exchange of views clarifying reasons how to proceed...mutual strengthening Power of the Spirit in this historical beautiful Vilnius”



Sunny summit in Lithuania....CLC EA's from all over Europe met for three days in Vinius to exchange about their roles in the national communities. We were warmly welcomed by the Lithuanian CLC and looked after as very special guests. The core of the meeting was a lively and profound input by world vice EA Luke Rodriquez and GB- EA Alan Harrison. The EA's had the opportunity to better know each other's national communities and share their visions, hopes, and difficulties. No doubt they went home enriched and happy about this sunny summit!

