

# CLC Charism in a Multi-Cultural Assembly

## A MINI-WORLD COMMUNITY: CLC-USA

**BARRY UNIVERSITY, MIAMI, JULY 22-25**



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The 2004 National Assembly will provide a unique opportunity to experience and understand the CLC charism as we come together in a multi-cultural community at Barry University in Miami. We'll come from various backgrounds and perspectives; there'll be Americans with long-established ties to this country and more recently arrived ones from Hispanic, Korean, Vietnamese and other backgrounds. Different cultures and languages will jointly discern becoming an apostolic body as CLC-USA.

We'll gather in this Assembly as **missioned** communities that *want to follow Jesus Christ more closely and work with Him for the building of the Kingdom, who have recognized Christian Life Community as their particular vocation with the Church* (GP 4). Our mission will share its sacramental, prophetic and vital dimensions with Mary as our model (Charisms No. 56, 82-90), although there'll be some differences between communities depending on each one's particular call. We'll appreciate this better when we discuss the fervent desire of the Vietnamese to follow Christ in mission within their specific culture and language; when we see how South Florida's CLCs function within a strong Hispanic community with little language or culture conflicts.

The Assembly will congregate us as **discerning communities** that *recognize particularly the necessity of prayer and discernment, personal and communal, of the daily examination of consciousness and of spiritual guidance as important means for seeking and finding God in all things* (GP 5). Together we'll read *the signs of the times* and open ourselves to others and to our needs and desires. We'll pray for the grace of availability and will deliberate on, send forth to and confirm our mission as CLC-USA (Charisms No. 56, 148), even though the mission's details might differ: Korean communities could work to bring Christ's message to Korean immigrants; while other CLCers might work to bring this same message to the marginal populations of our inner cities.

We'll reinforce our **sense of Church** as *we participate in the liturgy (and) meditate upon the Scriptures* (GP 6), when we join in and collaborate with the Church to proclaim the message of Christ in solidarity with the poor of our various communities, as well as with the poor everywhere (Charisms No. 56, 160-163). This sense of Church will be alive in the Assembly as Christ is alive within us and *impels us to creative and concrete collaboration for the work of advancing the reign of God on earth, and includes a readiness to go and serve where the needs of the Church so demand* (GP 6). The Spirit will help us undertake this challenge and grant us additional graces while the Vietnamese achieve official CLC standing within the Church, as the Korean communities encourage the formation of additional lay leaders to collaborate with the Jesuits in CLC, following the World Assembly's recommendations from Nairobi and when CLC explores its essence from the point of view of the new cosmology to better fulfill and possibly re-create our mission within the Church.

The significance of CLC as a **World Community** will be a vital part of this Assembly as we assume *our responsibility to develop the bonds of community (that) does not stop with our local community but extends to the National and World Christian Life Community, to the ecclesial communities of which we are part (parish, diocese), to the whole Church and to all people of good will* (GP 7). We will be blessed with World CLC President Daniela Frank's presence and with insights on the CLC's participation in the United Nations as part of the family of communities striving to build Christ's kingdom. The universality of CLC, visible in our *one world community*

(Charisms No. 56, 149-153) will be evident also in the many faces of CLC-USA that will be present at the Assembly and the strong sense of family shared by the Hispanic, the Korean and the Vietnamese will translate at this National Assembly level into the universal dimension of the CLC family.

The **apostolic life** in CLC is a life of mission that *knows no limits, that urges us to proclaim the Word of God and to work for the reform of structures in society... especially to abolish differences between rich and poor. We also wish to contribute to the evangelization of cultures from within* (GP 8). Our sense of mission comes from Christ and His Church and as such is a common mission, despite our different social backgrounds, ages, characters or tasks. As CLC we are *predestined for nothing but available for everything* (Charisms No. 56, 139, 143, 157). When the Vietnamese minister to their own community with the Exercises; when the Hispanic youth of South Florida create their own version of the Exercises to reach their peers; when the Koreans infuse their CLCs with the spirituality often missing in the struggle for the material in a new country; when CLC participates in ecumenical small communities groups; all these are examples of apostolic lives that can be invented and re-invented to satisfy our discerned needs and roles.

Our **union with Mary** will play an important role in this Assembly as we discern mission: *she is the model of our collaboration in Christ's mission... her effective service... and her solidarity with the poor... make her our inspiration to act for justice in the world today* (GP 9). Love of Mary is a common heritage for all CLCs, reborn as we are from the Sodalities of Our Lady. It's in Mary that the hopes and desires of salvation are fulfilled; *in the midst of her real poverty, (she) put her hope in God alone* (Charisms No. 56, 89- 90). Many of the communities gathered at this Assembly come from the minorities that today form the majority of the American Church; Mary was there with them through war, human rights violations, migration, adaptation to new lives. She is and will be with all of us as the example of the response to the greater service and praise of God.

Projects No. 125 calls for remaining faithful in a world that changes; that world is right here within our own country, within our own Assembly. We'll hear many different languages, but speak one: the language of love, love of God and of one another. We'll recognize and appreciate the various cultures represented and share service as a way of life to carry out God's will in each of our communities. Sometimes it'll be easier to join our own groups, speak our native tongues, comfortable with our everyday routine. Most of the time, though, with God's grace, we'll rise to the challenge of becoming what we are, an apostolic body, CLC-USA.



***Travel Tip: When looking into flights to Miami, check out the flights to Ft. Lauderdale. These flights are often cheaper and Barry University is equally accessible from either the Ft. Lauderdale or Miami airports. The Ft. Lauderdale airport is also smaller and more user-friendly than the Miami airport.***