

## HEARTS ON “FIRE”!

by *Mayette Dinapol, CLC Dumaguete*

It was a long journey for me...from St. Paul campus in Dumaguete, to my studies in Cebu.

I went to Cebu, and landed in a hospital managed by St. Paul sisters, so instantly, I felt at home. I kept my commitments to HIM deeply, by attending monthly meetings and/or retreat with the St. Paul Sisters at Perpetual Soccur. But it was not the kind of experience I was searching for. In spite of that, and with open mind, I continued to attend and hoped that I would experience the deep-moving and committed feelings (spirituality) I had at the CLC and Ignatian Retreat with Fr. Ben. It was the most exciting and rewarding part.....I could almost feel and touch the Lord! An experience I will never forget.

Graduation came. I ventured to Manila. The most awaited day of my scheduled job interview at Makati Medical, rain poured as never before, the streets were flooded. I have never seen this kind of water in the streets, so I decided to go back and try my luck. Of course, back then Physical Therapy is something unheard of. It was tough, but I had to try to “sell” my profession to the hospital administrator and luckily, he decided to hire me for a year... indeed my employment lasted for a year.

Then I went to work with Siliman University Medical Center for 7 years. In those 7 years, I attended protestant services, never leaving my obligations as Catholic. I was still searching on how to fill the chasm in my heart.....for some reasons, it did not



*Inset: St Paul's campus today, where my growth and love for CLC all started*

occur to me to ask about CLC when I went back to St. Paul campus...the campus became unfamiliar to me when Sr. Marie left....

My second adventure in life was when I left our homeland. This was a crucial moment in my life...I was exposed to different spirituality groups but none was meant for me. I kept talking about CLC - the group, retreats, but no one understood what I was talking about. Yes, I had lots of opportunities to expand my horizon but the people I was with were indifferent – or was it I that did not try to fit in. Then I decided to relocate, so that I could really be free...by this time my life was miserable, hurt, disappointed, and I have disappeared from the crowd.

I go home every year since 1993 and twice for the past 5 years. All those years, St. Paul's campus has changed....no more Sr. Marie, and I don't know anybody who likes CLC. Some faculty members, classmates, and

former teachers that I visited are strangers to CLC. Instead of going against the tide, I focused on the other side of the fence - to be care-free!

But in September 2008, as I was sitting in a dental clinic, a friend, whom I see every time I am in Dumaguete City, told me that Sr. Beth was at St. Paul's. The next day before my departure, I wasted no time to see Sr. Beth.... yes, my dear Sr. Elizabeth Godinez, SPC and all along she's been there for 9 years!

We had a chat; I respected her reasons for not being able to continue with CLC. Then I decided to show her my place. When she got out of the car, she immediately said “This is going to be the CLC house.” Without even thinking, I opened my heart to be the CLC home and replied “Yes, it is going to be.”

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Doors re-opened for CLC! The following day, before my flight, we bonded and I decided to return home May 2009. After all, I think I have done enough for my family, now, it is my time...time I love most.

The day I arrived in Dumaguete, the events to make our dreams come true, quickly came so naturally and spontaneously. First, we instantly found Baby Gagaa. Then we decided to meet with Aida Endaya at Fr. Ben's office, at the Sacred Heart Parish in Cebu. We were also able to contact more members - Fr. Titus Zamora, Brenda Samson, and Jun Lorico.

The group decided to have a bonding-meeting at the CLC house. Although Jun Lorico was no call, no show, we met and planned to revive our CLC Dumaguete, but wondered how Sr. Marie did it during her time. Yet we trusted the Lord to show us the way.

The most difficult task was that we had no one in the group that had a strong religious background.....so we decided to ask Sr. Pura, SPC, to be our CLC moderator and she gladly accepted. However, she did not know anything about CLC, so we instantly provided her with whatever reading materials we had.



After we gathered and looked for our old group, (whole day land trip tracking Titus) we decided to have a reunion....

May 24, 2009- we came together for our first Eucharistic celebration. It was attended by the 5 originals - Fr. Titus Zamora officiating the mass, Brenda Samson, Sr. Beth, SPC did the first reading, I did the second reading, Baby did the responsorial hymn. The mass was also attended by Belinda, Sr. Mary Frances O'Carm (Brenda's sister), relatives and friends.

It was very solemn indeed, with Titus - being Titus, giving us analogy on signs of the times - laughter echoed and the well kept secrets of my tears echoed as I contemplated on his homily.... Yes, Lord I am home.

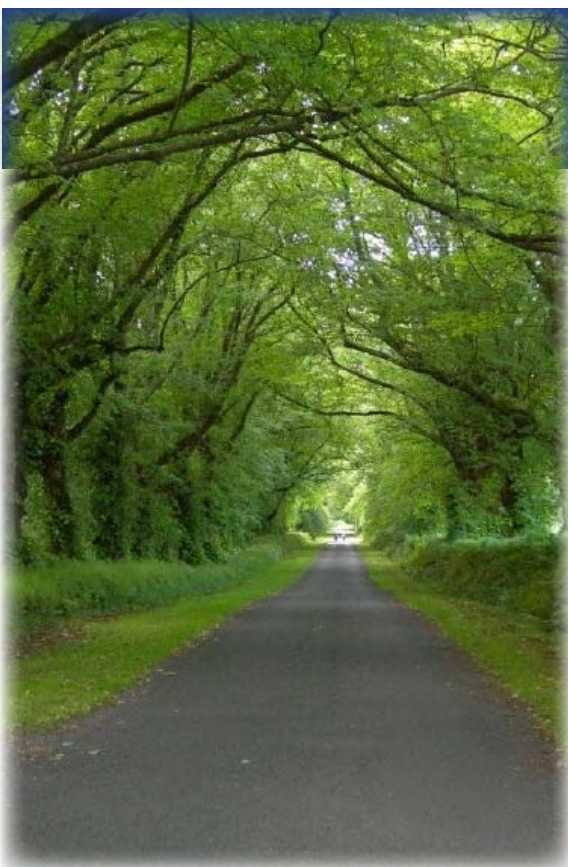
Our 2nd CLC meeting was at Saint Paul's campus and this time we had added members - Raymond (Bebot) Salgado and Boy Flores. Belinda Silay, who's been with us since our first meeting was present too, and Becky Taala (alumna - who heard about CLC during our time) came as an observer, Sr. Pura, of course, acted as the moderator. During the meeting we continued to plan on how to renew our commitments and talked about good old days.

Although I am not physically around in Dumaguete, I try to do what I can to keep that Ignatian fire burning there. We now have a CLC house, and look forward to our growth as a community living out the Ignatian Spirituality. I will come home for formation - training. We will try our best to come up with 10 members. Baby is now in Bayawan looking for Jude and Fe.

As you may have known I did not leave CLC. I was sleeping and now I am awake and fully charged.....ready to go... This is perhaps my time to bring back that unexplainable burning feeling in my heart - that flame - it was there all these times....just waiting to become that Ignatian fire!

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*Mayette Dinopol is a CLC member from St. Paul's Dumaguete. She and her group have expressed to revive her group and are open to have a CLC formation course with Fr. Ben.*



## THE FIRST PRINCIPLE AND FOUNDATION OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

The purpose of our life is to live with God forever

*God, who loves us, gave us life,*

Our own response of love allows God's life

*To flow into us without limit.*

All things in this world are gifts of God,

*Presented to us so that we can know God more easily*

And make a return of love more readily.

*As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God*

Insofar as they help us develop as loving persons.

*But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives,*

They displace God And so hinder our growth

toward our goal.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance

*Before all created gifts insofar as we have a choice.*

And are not bound by some obligation.

*We should not fix our desires on health or sickness,*

Wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or short one

*For everything has the potential of calling forth in us*

A deeper response to our life in God.

*Our one desire and our one choice should be this:*

I want and I choose what better leads

*To God's deepening his life in me.*

**Paraphrased by David Fleming, SJ**

# LETTERS ON "FIRE"!

## Dear Chibu,

We had a nice sharing at our Prayer workshop at the Cathedral Parish of St. Paul. Ate Aida facilitated in today's session. Very fruitful yung experience namin with the Ignatian Contemplation. We realized na talagang kailangan natin lahat ang community na makakasama natin sa ating paglalakbay. Maraming insights, maraming realizations.

Ano ba ang formation ng Sunflower, Cadena de Amor at Seagulls ngayon?

Sa mga susunod na buwan itutuan namin ang aming mga activities sa pagtugon sa mga modules na inilahad ng LC. Kahapon tinalakay namin ang module 1 - tungkol sa pagiging lay, apostolic and prophetic community nating mga clc.

Natanto namin na ang tawag ng Diyos sa CLC San Pablo ay tumpak na tumpak sa Hamon sa CLC bilang isang pambansa at pangmundong comunidad.

Dahil nga bigla kaming naatasan ng pamunuan ng katedral na manguna sa formation at pagtuturo sa Parish council of the Laity, sinasabi ni Lord ngayon pa lang na ito talaga ang direksiyon na dapat tahakin at ito naman ay buong puso naming niyapos at tinanggap ng walang alinlangan.

Sa kasalukuyan ang katedral ay sumailalim ng restoration, naparaming fund raising, contribution. Kasabay ng pisikal na pagbabago ng Cathedral ng San Pablo, tayo naman ay binigyan ng pagkakataong tumulong sa panloob na pagbabago (spiritual renewal) ng mga miyembro ng ppc. Heto kami ready to serve.

Marahil, nagtataka kayo kung bakit sobra ang galak sa aming puso kahit napakaraming trabaho ang nasa harap namin ngayon.

Malalim at mahirap and aming pinagdaanan bago kami muling nakabalik sa Parokya. Pagkatapos mawala ang Ateneo de San Pablo sa aming bayan, ang CLC ay namuhay sa tabi. Hirap kaming makabalik dahil mahapdi pa ang sugat na dinulot

ng pagkawala ng Ateneo. After 30 years in exile ika nga heto kami at nakabalik na rin sa katedral. Bagong lakas, bagong pag-asa patungo kay Kristo.

Salamat sa inyo na aming naging gabay at inspirasyon, salamat sa kapatirang ipinadarama nyo sa amin. Marami akong naging pagkukulang .maraming mga pagbabago sa trabaho, sitwasyon sa ospital, mga bigla-bigla biglang sitwasyon. Physically hindi ko natugunan ang laging makaluwas at makasama kayo dyan sa LC. pero dito sa puso ko at puso namin dito sa sunflower, buo ang aming pag suporta at pagmamahal sa inyong lahat. Wala kaming hinangad kundi ang success at mayabong pag-unlad ng CLCP. Dito sa aming maliit na piraso ng mundo, buong galak naming tinutugunan ang tawag ng Diyos para sa ating lahat. Muli parati lamang kaming naririto.....nagmamahal at nagdarasal.

gumagalang,

teto at sunflower  
6/13/2009

## Dear Friends,

Thanks for spending an afternoon with us and the indigent kids, at NCH!

Gian and I arrived at the wards a few minutes earlier than everyone. We poked our heads into the rooms, somewhat awkwardly, chatted with the kids and their parents, and told them Jollibee was visiting. I admittedly didn't know how to comport myself. Would this be just another case of some yuppies doling out some extra resources, or perhaps - some people on charity randomly blessed with a fast food meal for merienda, I even thought darkly.

That afternoon, I was proven wrong. After sensing

- *the bewilderment of the kids – Maribel, Fernando,*
- *the playful Kristel....*
- *the happy tension as we figured out what games to play...*

- *the food...*
- *the waiting for the our dream visitor (not Heart or Piolo but Jollibee)...*
- *the warmth of smiles of the mag-inas and mag-amas*
- *the challenges of poverty and sicknesses - leukemia, hydrocephalus and heart-disease,*

and we were actually having a good time! I knew that it wasn't just a case of random semi-structured charity. This was something more-**The moment was graced!**

Could happiness be bought?

If it could, it would seem that the price of the pair of shoes (or bag, or fancy dinner) could actually go a long way, in buying snapshots of a fat red guy (wasn't referring to you, Gian) making his way around the beds and giving kids the memory of a bright little afternoon at the hospital.

Photos that, for the kids who'll receive them by next weekend, would be worth perhaps a slight bit more than what a

passing Facebook album post is to us.

As Gian and Amity both mentioned...it's the paradox of giving and receiving.

We don't know who got the better deal: the kids or us, we were able to put new faces to the people we may sometimes inadvertently end up one-upping with our actions at work...or, more positively, the very people for whom, we strive to build a more just society.

Again, thanks for sharing. Hoping you have a sunny week up ahead.

Wow, God is good.

We are truly blessed!

Cheers,

Doods.  
22 March 2009

# MORE IGNATIAN FIRE!

Dear CLCP, peace!

Madz Tumbali, one of our Jesuit scholastics, called last night to inquire about how people could join CLC. It seems that 8 or so, former members of Xavier School and ICA youth CLC groups, who are now enrolled at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine-PGH would like to join. I told Madz some of the conditions (e.g., regular meeting for prayer, annual retreat, formation program). I also told him that they could apply for a CLC emerging community status and asked them to get in touch with our CLC Office/Secretariat/FI.

I am happy to note so many inquiries about CLC and the CLC way of life. Perhaps the Lord is telling us something here, that the Ignatian fire that burns within us must flame out and become tongues of the Spirit descending on those who stand to benefit from and contribute to our dreams of accompanying Jesus and sharing His mission in the Church and in the world today.

Alleluia!

Fr. Tony

Dear Fr. Ben,

Thank you for sharing “Kwentong CLC”. It is very inspiring to hear the sharing from different group members. I will never forget the CLC formation sessions, group meetings and retreats during my college years. All of these have truly helped me today in my work, relating to my residents/patients and their families, and dealing with everybody I work with.

With God’s guidance, I can proceed with daily life and work challenges a lot easier by applying the lessons learned from the CLC.

The other interesting thing I noted is that being an Atenean here in the States, people recognize that you come from a prestigious school, with the knowledge that Jesuits always have good training/education. I want to thank you, Angkong for guiding me unto this path (CLC), and also I want to thank Ateneo for the education I got.

Regards and thank you!

Maya Corpin- Alabado

Dear CLCP,

The CLCP Formation Institute welcomes the following ACLC graduates who decided to continue CLC now as young adults and as young professionals. We will be blessed more by your presence. WELCOME HOME! Smarla Angtuaco, Jiza Jimenez, Dino Alcoseba, Nichel Gaba, Jason Sun, Aze Santos, Carla Castaneda, Gabrielle Ann Agarrado, and Genevieve Lim. Out of 20 ACLC 2009 graduates, nine have said YES to continue CLC.

Meantime, may I call your group Batch 2009 A-CLC. Let us know how FI can be of help to your group.

Is it also possible that one of you may consider working for CLCP as Teen Treats Coordinator? Sabi ni Lord “Come & See”.

For the remaining eleven, you are welcome anytime to CLCP.

God bless us all,

Ate Aidah

## CLCP ANTHEM

“ONE COMMUNITY, ONE WAY OF LIFE”

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Our hearts ablaze with abiding love  
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Our spirits filled with unending grace  
We strive to live our call We raise to you Father, son and Spirit  
To be Ignatian lay community. St. Ignatius, God’s faithful servant.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam  
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam  
One with God’s poor and all creation Inspired by Mary’s fiat  
To be Christian Life Community One community, one way of life.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam by Fr. Manoling Francisco SJ  
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam and CLCP Members  
Called to know, love and follow  
Our Lord Jesus in one another.

We can help conduct and provide venues for your school retreats, corporate recollections, and other spiritual development activities. To find out more about

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PHILIPPINES  
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