

## **Christian Life Community**

*Striving to Follow Jesus and Build His Kingdom in our Present Reality*

Christian Life Community traces its roots to Saint Ignatius Loyola, who, as a soldier recovering from his battle wounds, was given an extraordinary grace of conversion. It led him to complete dedication to Christ and his mission. Saint Ignatius sought to help others by speaking with them about the work of God in their lives and guided many towards God by drawing on his own spiritual experiences. He gradually formulated the Spiritual Exercises to help future guides lead others to God.

The Christian Life Community is an international association of Christians including men and women, adults and young adults, of all social conditions, who want to follow Jesus Christ more closely and work with Him for the building of the Kingdom. Members make up small groups, which are part of larger communities organized regionally and nationally, all forming one world community. The CLC is present in all five continents and in almost sixty countries. The National Christian Life Community (NCLC) of the United States of America is the shared vision of the World Christian Life Community.

The mission of CLC is to enable the widespread sharing and authentic living of its vision in the Church and culture of the United States. Local communities share this responsibility and embody the characteristics of community, spirituality, and mission. The aim is to help with the formation of community members in responding to God's call to serve individual persons and society.

Since the communities are based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, small groups try to include elements of the Exercises in their group meetings. The groups are small, usually six to ten members. They meet regularly to develop friendship and a community spirit among themselves by praying, sharing their life experiences together, and supporting each other in their Christian faith and daily lives. The meetings are held, usually in their homes, at intervals decided by the group (usually biweekly or monthly), and lasting one and a half or two hours. The pattern of meeting varies depending on the age, culture, and experience of the members.

CLC is a vocation that calls us both as individuals and as community to integrate our experience of Ignatian spirituality with Christian community and Gospel mission. This integration is the charism of CLC – a living sacrament of the present moment.