

Conclusions of the General Assembly of the CLM - Maia December 2012

CLM CHALLENGES

- The CLM has Christ as his/her master and guide us to go to meet the other and to live with consistency in what he/she believes.
- Prayer and the Word of God lead us to make common cause with the poorest and most abandoned and to share the charism with the Comboni Family. Each group should establish a calendar of prayer, retreats, sacraments and community life review.
- Each CLM should undertake commitment in pastoral and social areas, integrating with the local Church.
- We are committed to ensure the continuity of the CLM communities, especially the international communities; therefore this will be our priority in our discernment.
- The CLM communities need to develop processes that allow the full accomplishment of the personal vocation of their members through their entire life.
- CLM communities need common spaces of communication, integration, and formation to maintain the ties to the CLM family.
- We need to continue the path towards autonomy, strengthen the different groups, develop strong organizational structures and live our common identity while remaining open to the Spirit.

WORK ON THE CLM FORMATION

Introduction

As a group of Comboni lay missionaries we opt for a formation that gives credibility to our vocation (holy and dedicated). This should be taken seriously and have enough time to mature into a vocation as God's gift to the service of the mission.

General objective of the formation

Provide a formative way, where people can discover, embrace and deepen their CML vocation following Jesus Christ in community according to the charism of St. Daniel Comboni and where we are all recognized as CLM regardless of our country of origin.

OBJECTIVES OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF FORMATION

1. - Personal knowledge

Objective: To welcome and facilitate mutual understanding

2. - Discernment:

Objective: To accompany the candidate on the discovery of his vocation in a process of identification with the Comboni charism and mission.

3. - Formation (in depth stage)

Objective: To develop a sense of belonging and personal commitment with the CLM movement.

4. Permanent formation

Objective: To live in fidelity to the vocation of life, choosing a committed lifestyle and a lay missionary apostolate, strengthening the bonds among all members of the movement...

5. - Specific preparation

Objective: Prepare the candidate in advance of his departure to mission.

6. – Formation in Mission

Objective: Follow a formation program to address the challenges of daily life, including participation in the local church and at social events, sharing experiences with local partners (CLM, Comboni MCCJ...).

GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE TRAINING IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

These guidelines are not exhaustive, required or exclusive in content, but are offered to assist the various formation programs according to the agreed objectives.

BLOCKS:

1. Human maturity

- Conflict and feelings management
- Community life and sharing
- Self-awareness, personal integrity, authenticity, transparency, emotional maturity,
- Key issues in the field of sexuality ...
- Leadership, group dynamics, communication skills ...
- Administration. Economics and Management
- JPIC

2. Christian maturity

- Bible, sacraments, liturgical and community prayer.
- Social Doctrine of the Church.
- Introduction to Theology and Missiology.

3. Identity and charism

- Daniel Comboni
- Comboni Family
- CLM identity
- Internationality
- Inculturation [language, culture... (also those with whom we live in international communities)]
- Pastoral and social ministries

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLM FORMATION

Each province will adopt a formation program taking into account the possible topics and adapting the stages to the reality of each province.

- In the case of marriages, we should work out the motivations and feelings of the couple; it has to be a calling of the two (the vocation of marriage should prevail before the missionary vocation ad gentes).
- While one's profession is not decisive, it is very important. "Holy and capable," said Comboni.
- Mission and community experience: candidates must have an experience of community life directed towards the mission and introducing them to the other CLM in order to know each other better.
- All steps must be scheduled, accompanied and evaluated. We stress accompaniment with capable people who know the area of mission.
- Training and lifestyle should be integrated into the local context.
- We believe that short mission experiences outside the usual environment help in the training processes.
- We need to pay special attention to people returning from mission. This return must be accompanied in order to face and to heal wounds, and if possible to facilitate their reintegration into their community and group at home.

SOME IMPORTANT ASPECTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CREATION AND FUNCTIONING OF INTERNATIONAL CLM COMMUNITIES:

- Introduction of the new Comboni Lay Missionaries
- Relationships between local and foreign CLM
- Existence of a common fund in the province, managed by the CLM according to each country agreements.
- Ensure the continuity of the project.
- Maintaining good communication
- Be aware of the work and reality of these communities to facilitate the involvement of all.
- The directory of each country should include the recommendations approved by the Continental Committees and International Assemblies.
- There should be annual meetings among all the CLM present in the province
- The coordinator CLM should be a layperson.
- A community project of the life of the international community should be prepared at the beginning of each year.
- If there are conditions, the plan of activities should be done together with the Comboni Family.
- The language spoken in the community should be the official language of the country where the CLM are operating, and the language of the people we serve should be spoken in our missionary service.
- There should be an ongoing dialogue among the provinces involved
- There should be a MCCJ representative assigned to the CLM in the province.
- We should take care that our work does not take the jobs of the local people, and we do not take on the leadership where local ministers are present.

OTHER PROPOSALS OF THE ASSEMBLY

- Each CLM group of each country (province) should have a directory (letter or statute).
- The Central Committee should think about having a holiday for the CLM, at the international level, to celebrate their identity as a CLM family.
- The assembly encourages the different CLM groups to have a discernment (prayer, reflection, study of Comboni, debate ...) about the integration within CLM of people with the Comboni missionary vocation who do not feel the call to leave their country, culture, geographical location ... For this reflection on CLM vocation, as an inspiration of Comboni and the various expressions of the Charism, we understand that it is necessary to have an openness and collaborative spirit among all the different points of view and to find the most appropriate approach to this reality which is consistent with the Comboni charism.
- The Comboni Missionaries want to accompany the processes of formation, organization and self-sufficiency to strengthen the identity of the CLM as a lay, combonian and missionary family at the service of mission.