

# Christian Life Community - USA

## Office of Apostolic Action and Advocacy (updated June 2018)

### Mission:

Inspired and guided by the *CLC General Principles*, *CLC Charism*, and *World CLC Assembly Documents*, and in service to the whole national community of *CLC-USA*, the *AAA* office's role is to identify, foster, support, and communicate *CLC's* apostolic initiatives and ministries across the *USA* as one apostolic body on mission, including supporting the communal discernment processes (*DSSE*) leading to these works.

Umbrella priority of *World CLC* since 2005: *Multicultural Respect, Dialogue, Advocacy*

*World CLC* Priority areas affirmed at the *World Assembly* in *Lebanon* in 2013:

*Ecology, Family, Poverty, and Youth.*

*Forced Migration* has been a major concern in *Europe* and the *Middle East*.

### Goals:

- To serve the *USA National Community*, working closely with *ExCo* and *NCC*, in discerning, supporting, and facilitating initiatives of apostolic mission and advocacy in alignment with our *CLC GPs*, *CLC Charism*, and *CLC Common Mission*.
- To promote the *CLC Charism* grounded in *The Spiritual Exercises*, particularly as it calls all members of *CLC* to engage in works of mercy and to work for justice and peace.

### Key Functions:

- **Communications**
  - Use *Harvest*, email, e-newsletter, website, Facebook, social networks
  - Share stories! Share how *CLC* communities + members are engaged in works of mercy and justice advocacy.
  - Share information on issues & insights, reading the signs of the times in order to discern appropriate action.
  - "Raise consciousness." Write articles that "raise consciousness" on issues.
- **Advocacy**
  - Assist national community to organize effort that requires a quick response (e.g. *World CLC* request to help *CLC Dominican Republic* with 4% petition, *Haiti response*, etc.)
  - "Action Alerts": Connect with organizations that have knowledge and experience with issues in line with our *CLC* priority areas, and publicize "action alerts."
  - Emphasize importance of advocacy in being a prophetic community on service for the poor (see *Chris Micallef's* paper; *Harvest 2014- Vol 47, No 1, p. 15*)
- **Networking**
  - Facilitate networking among members locally, regionally, nationally, and globally who are involved in similar mission/ actions
  - Network with other organizations, for example, e.g. *Jesuits*, *Jesuit Collaborative*, *Ignatian Solidarity Network*, *IGGY*, *USCCB*, parishes, etc
- **Dialogue**
  - Facilitate dialogue among members on issues through online forums, teleconferences, etc.

- Support
  - Support CLC groups on mission through prayer, encouragement, communication of local works.
  - Support AAA team in monthly teleconferences, faith-sharing, in-person meeting every 5 yr
- Formation
  - Working with the CLC Formation Team - supporting our way of proceeding with DSSE, social analysis, formation for mission. See proposal for "Formation for Mission" program based on immersion / reflection experiences
  - Assist the World CLC commissions on each of the four frontiers: Globalization+ Poverty, Ecology, Family, Youth

**Sources for Criteria for action and advocacy** are the US Bishops, Jesuits, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and CLC foundational documents:

### US Council of Catholic Bishops

- Issues and Action <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/index.cfm>
- Catholic Social Teaching <http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/>
- Justice, Peace, and Human Development, a Department of USCCB.  
Comprehensive list of resources:  
<http://usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm>  
Ecology: <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>  
Poverty: <https://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/>
- Faithful Citizenship <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-part-two.cfm>
- Human Life and Dignity <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

Catholic Charities <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Catholic Relief Services

- CRS Programs in the US <http://crs.org/act/participate/>
- Social Networks <http://crs.org/act/social-networks.cfm>

Catholic Climate Covenant <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

### Ignatian / Jesuit Resources

Ignatian Solidarity Network <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/>

Justice for Immigrants <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/index.shtml>

Jesuit Social Ministries and Advocacy <http://capwiz.com/jesuit/home/>

Jesuit Refugee Services <http://www.jrsusa.org/>

EcoJesuit <http://www.ecojesuit.com>

Africa Faith and Justice Network <http://afjn.org>

## CLC Foundational Documents <http://www.cvx-clc.net/l-en/resources.php>

- [01. General Principles and General Norms](#)
- [02. The CLC Charism](#)
- [03. THE PROCESS OF GROWTH IN CLC: Guidelines for formation](#)
- [04. THE PROCESS OF GROWTH IN CLC: Annex](#)
- [05. The Relationship between the CLC and the Society of Jesus](#)
- [06. CLC Ecclesial Assistant's Handbook: Profile and Responsibilities](#)
- [07. Our Common Mission](#) from Itaiaci World Assembly 1998
- [08. Recommendations from the Nairobi World Assembly](#) 2003
- [09. Fatima World Assembly: Final Document](#) 2008
- [10. From Our Roots to the Frontiers \(Lebanon Final Document\)](#) 2013

### **Background History:**

- 2006** Apostolic Mission was identified by the NCC to be one of five priority areas needing our attention. Apostolic mission is a priority in our General Principles, in our CLC Charism, in our World Assembly Mandates, in our World CLC magazine *Progressio* since the 1970's, in our national magazine *Harvest*—as well as in church documents, Catholic Social teaching, in scripture, and ultimately in Jesus.
- As CLC, we aspire to be discerning communities on mission, and so within the NCC, the questions arose as to how we can best help our local communities to live this out more fully: what formation is needed? what support is needed? what educational resources and programs may be helpful? how can we better network with others sharing a common mission? how can we do social analysis? how can we read the signs of the times? how can we discern mission in a group? how can we live out the *MAGIS*, etc.? The NCC members brainstormed a few strategies on how to better support our local base communities as well as be able to discern as larger regional groups, and as a national group.
- 2007** The NCC affirmed the formation of an Ad Hoc CLC-USA “Apostolic Action” committee; Steve Pehanich became the chairperson of this committee. *Each region and cultural group was asked to identify a liaison to this AA committee.* To follow up on the recommended networking, the ExCo met with the chair of the Jesuit Social Ministries office, and CLC-USA joined the newly formed Ignatian Solidarity Network. One of the AA members, Carol Gonzalez, represented CLC-USA in 2007 at a world gathering of Jesuit social ministries held at Regis Univ in CO.
- 2008** NCC approved the continuation of this AAA committee.
- 2009** During the NCC meeting immediately following the CLC-USA Assembly in Washington, D.C., the NCC created a document identifying major themes, ideas and critical issues from the national community as recorded during the Open Space process. The NCC affirmed that the Apostolic Action Team should continue to be the caretaker of these priorities so as to keep them alive on behalf of the national community. Carol Gonzalez has served as facilitator of this office since 2009.
- 2011** In the reorganizing of CLC-USA discussions and during leadership gatherings at Gilmary, PA, the work of “offices” was cultivated with substantial discerning work committed to understanding how formation, mission, communication ‘committees’ could function more as CLC-USA “Offices,” so the group was renamed as CLC-USA’s Office of Apostolic Action and Advocacy in 2011.
- CLC-USA’s Apostolic Action and Advocacy office teleconferences monthly (and has done so monthly since 2006), and has held several in-person meetings and working retreats.
- 2016** NCC reviews and approves the goals and mandate of the Office of AAA.
- 2017** NCC approved ongoing membership of CLC-USA in the Ignatian Solidarity Network. The membership fee (about \$300) will be included in the budget.