

COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES

Prayerful and Courageous Conversations

Summary of Feedback

REFLECTION 1: *Your Graced Crossroads*

What are we losing or letting go?

Direction, expectations and plans for the future, sense of control, power, usefulness and security.

Years of experience in CLM, familiarity with place we are in at moment and companion in our mission area.

Concerns on CLM matters, CLM structures and priorities.

Age, good health, energy, concerns about ageing parents, independence, personal choices and comfort zones.

Worries, fears and anxieties, patience about process.

Time, pride, old self.

What helps us at these moments of losing our way? What holds us steady? What helps us to move up into the sunlight?

Trust and faith in God, Holy Spirit, self, prayer, Resurrection, family, friends and community.

Spirit of openness, flexibility, live in present and willingness to accept change and actively participate in future.

Let go control, accept increase in dependence on others, develop new relationships, new community.

Hopeful and positive attitude towards the future, it is God's mission, embrace it.

Courage and acceptance of reality, keep self grounded, grateful for mission experience, solidarity and experience in CLM and its support structures.

Small is beautiful.

Columban spirituality will remain in us, trust in support and love among fellow missionaries, poor and people.

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REFLECTION 2: CLM Graced Crossroads

What are we losing that is out of our control? What do we need to let go?

Change of mission model and structures.

Unhealthy attachment to old ways, and comfort zones.

Time

Reality of fewer number of LMs willing to take on leadership roles.

Losing young people and their interest in mission, losing control as no new vocations.

Acknowledge that we can be missionary even outside of CLM and not over preoccupied with resources and numbers.

Financial support diminishing, members dying.

Fears and worries about losing our past, letting go the fear of letting go.

Clarify vision to know what to let go.

Ego, narrow or small mindedness, negativity and pessimism, even by former LMs.

Visa restrictions.

Clericalism.

*What sustains us when we are uncertain about the way forward? What keeps us steady?
What moves us out of a lost place (a forest)?*

Our spirituality of moving forward together in faith, step by step with God, trusting in the Spirit.

Gratitude, joy and our mission experience of exploring and self-giving in service.

Facing our fears and new reality together, consulting with each other with wise leadership and finding our own authority.

Change of mindset from power to presence.

Reconnect with local faith communities and families back home which give us support.

We can choose a new mission model, new structures and be courageous, open to diversity and willing to serve (maybe new assignments).

Refocus our energy on fewer RMUs and redistribute our members, recognize our giftedness.

Commitment and dedication to Columbans and CLM and their support.

Pause, reflect, listen to each other, take care of each other, accept our vulnerabilities.

Revisit Columban history of small beginnings and mobility.

Some RMUs are still dynamic and alive.

Pope Francis and the Synod.

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REFLECTION 3: *Grief and Letting Go*

What are the losses your circle chose to address now and shared during the 'courageous conversations circle'?

Loss of personnel – vibrancy, support, security and age.

Leadership roles and reluctance to accept leadership roles with that effect on orientation programs.

Questions about standards of orientation programs.

Possible five-year suspension of LM orientation programs and vocations for CLM.

Certainty about one's next assignment.

Retirement plan for long term LMs.

Significant people in our lives, friends, support personnel, contact with former LMs.

Ministry

Assurance of the future.

Loss of different species throughout the world.

How have these losses been disempowering for your spirit?

Sad, restless, powerlessness and hope about uncertainty of the future, disconnected on what we would like to do.

Fear, pain, anxiety, loss of sleep support and connection.

Missing the CLM crowd and its energy, lack of continuity, giving up ministries because no one to take them on.

Vulnerability.

Upset at having no orientation programs.

Mourn departure of LMs and their reasons for leaving including internal issues, including guidelines for intercultural living.

Loss of species in our universe.

How might these disempowering experiences become empowering for your spirit?

Opportunity to discern and to look courageously and creatively at CLM present situation.

God is Creator and invites us to be creative in this new mission era; new unfolding of God's plan requires new solutions.

Prepares us to be flexible in dealing with the future with new eyes to invite people to engage in Columban mission.

Hope that connections will continue, memories will stay in our hearts, and we can welcome the newness, even letting go of some LMs leaving.

Encouragement and inspiration on the long walk together, drawing positive energy from life-giving experience living out Columban mission as lay people.

Embrace uncertainty, loss and grief with hope and learn to grow.

Commitment to a new future which is in God's hands, and it is not all about us.

New invitations for young generation, short SIM type courses, new possibility of LM vocation.

Need to sharpen our vision, go deeper and revisit one's missionary call and one's readiness.

Take on greater responsibilities for wider CLM.

Embrace feeling that one is losing one's identity which leads to accepting something new and life giving.

Letting go losses and numbers issue.

Embracing difficult experiences as opportunities for growth and learning.

Finding inspiration from Church's synodal movement of empowering the laity.

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REFLECTION 4: *Gratitude and Grace*

For whom, and for what, do the members of your courageous conversation circles feel the most grateful in CLM?

For God who calls us and gives us life, Columban ordained, Lay Missionaries, co-workers, students, family, friends, benefactors, support personnel, people who accompanied us during formation, generosity of societies, mentors, people who have touched our lives in different RMUs.

For what: relationships, deepening faith and spiritual growth, life experiences and journey of life, life of transformation, zest and empowerment. Support of Columbans. Lay Missionary vocation, structures and female support. Values and principles shared by parents, teachers, institutions, formators, LM colleagues, friends. Diversity of cultures, intercultural living, learning from mission experiences, concern and support from CLT,

LMLT and local LMs, consultative process in decision making, good practice of partnership and synodality in region, being trusted and loved, support structures. Gratefulness and hope, leadership experience, graces received, gift of life, challenges of cross-cultural mission. Chance to grow in different aspects of lives (our identity, skills, abilities and relationships).

What are the ideas coming out from your sharing for the emerging future of CLM and what can you offer to our emerging future?

Possibilities of re-structuring CLM leadership, perhaps abolish CLT and LMs assigned to RMUs will be accountable to their RMU leadership.

Team approach in facilitating LMs in mission, leadership, in vocation programs, mission promotion and orientation.

Revise review structures for long term LMs.

Review and redefine CLM vision and structure that will suit the current CLM realities. Example of zonal groupings of LMs and online contact.

Need for creative imagination, flexibility, hope and openness. Willingness to participate and contribute to whatever the group decides.

Synodal walking together in partnership is a gift to local church.

Keep up the effective communication, sharing, socializing and listening attentively to one another. Use of technology.

Shorter length of assignments to attract young.

Willingness and openness to re-assignment, to help in vocation ministry, RMU assignments. Fewer RMUs.

Offer our time, openness and trust in future, experience in mission to influence young people's lives. Ability to read signs of times.

Collaboration with other groups who have LMs.

LMs focused on mission priorities.

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