BEGINNING DAY INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,
Life carries within it a great promise: we are made for something exceptional, great, not in the future but in the now, in daily life. This promise of fulfillment is the ultimate root of our curiosity and desire to engage with everything and everyone. We are restless creatures in a relentless adventure of the quest of meaning, the question as to the ultimate purpose of the journey.

Yet as we age, we fear that this promise might be a curse; that "exceptional" might be an unattainable dream of youth. Life, filled with activity, slips like water through fingers, and grasping satisfaction that truly fulfills - not the partial fulfillment that comes from certain activities – is out of reach. Overtime, we develop “an allergy” to the ineradicable desire which continues to surface and best describes our being human, and we throw ourselves into either distraction or we commit to a project: political, social or religious, that we determine as the supreme good, so that we might avoid it.

Today, we begin again, strengthen and assured by the fascinating dialogue between Pope Francis and the journalist that reveals once again that life’s promise has a path that can be walked. The Pope's witness “is a great help for the road that we all have to travel: each person, in fact, must compare his life experience with that desire for light—for truth, for beauty, for justice, for happiness that constitutes us. [...] With his letter to La Repubblica, the Bishop of Rome offered to everyone the witness of this submission that sheds light on our abandoned search for true fulfillment.” (J. Carrón, La Repubblica, September 18, 2013).

Christ has entered the realm of our daily existence introducing a new possibility, a shift in direction. Satisfaction comes to us. It is a dramatic shift, the light comes to dissolve the darkness of indifference, to allow you and I to plumb into the depths of our existence rather than remain at the surface. Christ’s companionship dissolves the illusion that human satisfaction springs from what we produce or do. Instead, happiness arises from a relationship, a dialogue, with the Beloved. Satisfaction is given, happiness is given freely—without measuring whether you are convenient or cumbersome to someone’s plan. Within this relationship, life’s promise does not come to fruition by our project but through a relationship with He who made me.

Today, with all of our friends around the world, we begin the fascinating adventure of discovering evermore with greater depth the gift we have been given: The light of Christ which reclaims our humanity. Today, we begin again to travel the path together.

Fr. José Medina
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY

The work of the school of community for the month of October and first weeks of November will be on the Beginning day. We will use our notes from the Beginning Day until the transcription comes out.

CHARITABLE WORK

“Fr. Giussani created a gesture to help us understand this law of charity, starting from experience: charitable work. He says that in order to understand, knowing is not enough, you must do. This is the educative value, for everybody, of charitable work, where we learn and verify the law of existence as gift. ‘Our nature gives us the need to care for the others. […] We go to charitable work to satisfy this need’. Therefore if we want to learn this law, we can’t abandon this fundamental educative gesture.” (Fraternity Exercises 2007)

We recommend reading the booklet The Meaning of Charitable Work, in which Fr. Giussani describes the goal, consequences, and guidelines of the gesture. www.clonline.us

COMMON FUND

At the last Fraternity Spiritual Exercises, Fr. Julián Carrón emphasized that: “Faithfulness to the Common Fund is a sign of the importance one assigns to this gesture for one’s life, as gratitude for what one experiences in the Fraternity. The amount is totally free, and the important thing is faithfulness to this gesture, and not the amount.”

This judgment on the Common Fund also establishes a set of priorities about how to respond to the various requests we receive. The first thing to keep in mind is the Common Fund of the Fraternity, because it is the fundamental educative point and makes you think of the reason you contribute, secondly, the concrete needs of the Community in which we live, and thirdly the needs God places before us as a provocation, according to the discernment each of us must exercise. For more on common fund, read October 2 announcements.

NY ENCOUNTER

Aware of the many gifts we have received through the years with the NY Encounter, this year we wish to propose to everyone in the United States to actively participate, within your capacity, at the NY Encounter by either visiting, volunteering at the Encounter, finding ways to invite other people who might not know about it, or by raising funds to sustain it.

What is the NY Encounter?

The NYE goal is to proclaim that the Church and Faith are intertwined with life through a creative and expressive holistic approach. The NYE does this through an annual three-day structured program that’s filled with activities such as presentations, artistic performances, conferences, lectures, exhibits, and booths that strive to witness Pope Benedict XVI’s claim that “the intelligence of Faith has to become the intelligence of reality,” because faith in Christ allows a person to fearlessly “test everything and retain what is good.” (1 Thess 5) This openness to the Truth in all its aspects prompts us to deeply explore a variety of topics by engaging in public discussions with a variety of invited experts. The NYE thus provides a public forum that allows all to see that Catholics do indeed “read” reality with an intelligence born from a Faith inspired by the teachings of Christ transmitted in and through His Church. The NYE’s goal is to promote a dialogue and enhance the Church’s voice in today’s lifeless society, as Pope John Paul II called, “the culture of death.”

The title of the 2014 NYE event is “From “I” to “We”: the Time of the Person, the Birth of a People.” The 2014 NYE theme seeks to address this question: What defines a person? A person is not self-made and is not self-sufficient. Rather, a person is a relationship with another, because the human being is made for, and yearns to be “one with
others.” Each person needs to recognize and accept He-who-makes-him. Only this will create a community where dialogue and solidarity will have an impact in all spheres of life.

The greatness of the individual person is derived from values and ideals such as the desire for freedom and the pursuit of happiness, the nurturing of dreams and the desire to build and belong to a people, ideals and values that are still very present in our society. However, these ideals and values become unattainable when grounded in the mystique of self-sufficiency and self-determination. When this occurs, the greatness of the person becomes individualism and solitude, unity is either impossible or reduced to uniformity or submission, and belonging is viewed as a synonym of diminishment or alienation.

To address the above question, the NYE 2014 will explore the mystery of the self and its role in the building of a community. The goal of the NYE is to give witness to the great need of passing from the conception of the self-made-man to the conception of man as being created by God and, therefore, in need of creating true relationships starting from the most crucial ones for the life of the person: those within the educational environment, within the family, within the work place and within society.

Many well-known speakers have attended the previous editions of the NYE. Among them, Dr. John Garvey, President of the Catholic University of America, Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, Professor at Harvard Law School and prominent others have tackled the vital topics of education and community life.

Special attention is given every year to the content of the Catholic faith through the proposal and explanation of a text that will be used during the following months as a guideline for weekly meetings in some 30 states. H. E. Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Fr. Peter Cameron, Editor-in-Chief of Magnificat, Fr. Julian Carron, President of Communion and Liberation are among the presenters on this subject.

The past NYE outcome has included an undeniable sign of how education in the Catholic faith enriches every dimension of life: beyond those who are able to attend, thousands are able to experience this witness through videos and on-line summaries of presentations or through friends who attended. Not only is it a fascinating draw for non-Catholics, it is a chance for long-time Christians to discover the depth and relevance of their faith in a world where everything seems to say the opposite.

A crew of around 250 volunteers, many of them college students and young professional Catholics, from 25 states participated in NYE 2013 and 3,500 - 4,000 people attended. Our goal is to make it more widely known and available to people all over the New York City area, and to increase the number of collaborators and attendees. The 2014 event will be held at the Manhattan Center Studios, in mid-town Manhattan, from January 17-19. A tentative program for 2014 is available, as well as other literature about the NYE.  If you have any questions, please call or write Olivetta Danese. She can be reached 646-571-2341 / Cell: 914-548-1275 or at odanese@newyorkencounter.org

**LODGING**

The CL National Office with the help of the local secretaries will help coordinate the lodging needs of those people wanting to participate. To this effect, we have reserved two four-star hotels for significantly reduced prices. The first hotel, the **Affinia Manhattan Hotel** (371 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001; two minute walk from the Manhattan Center) can be booked for single or double accommodations. The second hotel, the **St. Giles Court Hotel** (130 East 39th Street, NY, NY 10016; 20 minute walk or 15 minutes by bus, breakfast included) can be booked for triple or quad accommodations. If you reserve your rooms in advance, you will be also given a free ticket for the Saturday night show (a $20 value).

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Please note that if you book a triple or quad room, you must give the names of your roommates and be staying the same number of days. It is okay to register for a double without already having a roommate.

A non-refundable deposit of $100 is required to secure your room. Space is limited and on a first come, (deposit received) first serve basis. The deadline for reserving a spot and your full payment is due November 27th. For
additional information about lodging packages, or to reserve a spot please contact your regional secretary or Jonathan Fromm, jfromm@clhac.com. The secretaries for regions can be found below:

**Northeast**, Sabrina Paganoni  
[spaganoni@hotmail.com](mailto:spaganoni@hotmail.com)  
Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine

**Southeast**, Bill DeMars  
[demarswe@wofford.edu](mailto:demarswe@wofford.edu)  
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida

**Washington DC**, Amy Sapenoff  
[amy.sapenoff@gmail.com](mailto:amy.sapenoff@gmail.com)  
Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

**Eastern Midwest**, Brad Tretter  
[clsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:clsecretary@gmail.com)  
Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee

**Rockies & South**, Jonathan Ghaly  
[jonathanghaly@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanghaly@gmail.com)  
Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming

**Western Midwest**, Daniele Musso  
[Dmusso62@gmail.com](mailto:Dmusso62@gmail.com)  
Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri

**Canada**, Barbara Desjardins  
[secretary@clonline.ca](mailto:secretary@clonline.ca)  
All Provinces

**Puerto Rico**, Aura Montes  
[aura.montes@gmail.com](mailto:aura.montes@gmail.com)

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**VOLUNTEERING**

The happiest people at the New York Encounter are the volunteers. This is a way to not only help out at the New York Encounter, but a great way to see the New York Encounter. For additional information about volunteering at the New York Encounter, and to sign up please contact Paolo Caimi at, [volunteers@newyorkencounter.org](mailto:volunteers@newyorkencounter.org)

**FUND RAISING & PUBLICITY**

There are many ways to help fundraise for the New York Encounter. Below are just a few of the ways communities all over the US have helped raise money and spread the word about the NY Encounter. Fundraising events can be a great opportunity not only to raise funds for the NY Encounter but also to publicize it among other people. Some examples follow:

**Dinner, Cocktail Hour, Concert, Etcetera:**
The NYE has events for friends, families, and co-workers. These events always include a cultural moment (movie, concert, witness or presentation of the NY Encounter) and are priced less than a typical dinner. Volunteers cook and serve.

**Leasing Past Exhibits:**
The NYE has several past exhibits that can be leased on an individual, corporate, or parish level. Pricing plans vary on the time leased. Digital copies can also be distributed for cultural events (a wine and cheese fundraiser with exhibits projected). Copies can be purchased by organizations with rights and limited restrictions.

**Other Activities:**
Typical fundraising activities such as Car Wash, Bake sale/BBQ/Food or Drink Sales outside of local parishes can also provide an opportunity to both raise money and introduce the NY Encounter to other people.

**Sale of Advertisement Space:**
On the website, on the programs distributed to the NYE, or during the NYE itself (this could be attractive for small business).

- Booth at the Event (25 square feet Modular Panel System) $2,500
- Logo on the NYE Website $800
- Logo in E-mail List (Sent to 15,000 Emails/Three Times) $500
- Banner Ad on Website $2,000
- Ad in Program Booklet (distributed to all participants) $800
- Combo, Logo in our E-mailing List & Ad in Program Booklet $1,200
Official Sponsor: Exhibit $5,000
Official Sponsor: Conference $5,000
Official Sponsor: Friday Night Performance $10,000
Official Sponsor: Saturday Night Performance $15,000
Official Sponsor: Sunday Night Performance $15,000

Please keep in mind that the New York Encounter is a 501(c)(3) organization with tax exempt status. All donations are tax deductible and should be issued and sent to the New York Encounter. For any further information about any type of fund raising, including ideas, please contact Olivetta Danese at, odanese@newyorkencounter.org.

**TOOLS AVAILABLE**
- Power Point presentation: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lsyhav7spt8gyes/m6TNy5lqD](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lsyhav7spt8gyes/m6TNy5lqD)
- Website: [http://newyorkencounter.org](http://newyorkencounter.org)

**HUMAN ADVENTURE BOOKS: WWW.HUMANADVENTUREBOOKS.COM**

Born within the life of the movement Communion & Liberation, Human Adventure Books seeks to publish a collection of books including novels, essays, and poetry, which are often not easy to come by through the usual outlets. The fundamental reasons for HAB’s existence is the provision of those titles which the movement recommends; present and past books of the month, books which have been published in the BUR Libri dello Spirito Cristiano series and other titles important to the movement.

**Book Tables:**
Besides these book selling operations, HAB can supply any community with a bulk order of books recommended by the movement at a substantial discount. We will work with a member of the community on a list and we will provide the books at very significant discount. The ordering community will be responsible for shipping expenses. These books will have to be paid for at the time of ordering.

**Easter & Christmas Poster:**
HAB will also provide a web address from which communities can order posters. There will be an “order window” of about 3 weeks during which posters can be ordered in bulk (10 or more). This window will close 2 weeks before the date at which delivery of the posters is required. Posters ordered after the deadline will be much expensive as they will be provided by “Print on Demand” and delivery will depend on the date of order. This order form will require payment at the time of ordering. More information will follow in the next few weeks.
For more information contact Merrilyn Sikora at info@humanadventurebooks.com

**BOOK OF THE MONTH: THE POWER AND THE GLORY BY GRAHAM GREENE**

*A Reflection on “The Power and the Glory” by Marcie Stokman*
When I read the final page of Graham Greene’s, *The Power and the Glory,* I knew with greater certainty the purpose of my life. Not a small thing. It was worth my time! Ranking as one of Greene’s best works, *The Power and the Glory* explores a priest who clings to the Faith while at the same time tries to make sense of his brokenness, sin, and his relationships with others and with God.

In the late 1930’s, the Mexican people were under attack by the revolutionary, social government of President Plutarco Calles. In this anti-Catholic environment, the Church was being intensely persecuted. People suffered in deplorable conditions. Priests were shot. Greene knew the situation first hand because he was commissioned by his publisher, Longmans’ to visit the area with the purpose of investigating these tensions between the Church and state. From Greene’s travels he heard a story about a fugitive priest who, in spite of his alcohol struggles, continued to serve the people. He also heard about Fr. Miguel Pro, the newly ordained Jesuit who came back to his native country in 1926 to secretly serve the people for a year before he was captured and executed for treason in 1927. By intertwining both of these stories, Greene formed the basis of his masterpiece, *The Power and the Glory.*
The time in Mexico proved to be a time of growth for Greene as well. He wrote, “I began to examine more closely the effect of faith on action. Catholicism was no longer primarily symbolic; a ceremony at an altar...It was close now to death in the afternoon.” (Ways of Escape, Graham Green pg. 79) After witnessing those who suffered for the faith, his own understanding of Christianity was enlivened by the paradoxical truth that faith thrives on persecution.

The novel’s protagonist, known at times as ‘the whiskey priest’ is on the run from the police during a time of persecution. Woven throughout his hiding are episodic encounters with others. There is an emphasis on the power and glory of God’s grace working through everything, even weak, broken individuals who long to do His will yet do so in ways that seem hopelessly inadequate. The priest, aware of his sinfulness, thinks he does not love, but he does. He clings to the faith. He perseveres in his vocation in spite of his honest brokenness and that of others.

“How often the priest had heard the same confession. Man was so limited he hadn’t even the ingenuity to invent a new vice: the animals knew as much. It was for this world that Christ had died; the more evil you saw and heard about you, the greater glory lay around the death. It was too easy to die for what was good or beautiful, for home or children or a civilization it needed a God to die for the half-hearted and the corrupt.”

In this passage from The Power and the Glory, Graham Greene reveals a clue to the meaning of his book's title, but it is the ending of this book that those who read it seem to be most changed by. It is the ending where readers are faced with the true horror of life, which is not sin or weakness or even violence. The real horror is not waking up to the true purpose of life.

GIUSSANI: PUBLICATIONS

The books and CDs proposed over the course of these years serve to constantly introduce us to the sensibility of Fr. Giussani and the charism as he transmitted it to us. Among the recent publications you'll find Generating Traces in the History of the World, by Luigi Giussani and American Protestant Theology: A Historical Sketch, USA, McGill.

Spirito Gentil: The complete list of CDs is available on the website: www.clonline.org/list_cd.asp. Contact CL National Office to order: jfromm@clhac.com. Please note that availability is not always guaranteed.

TRACES

"Traces is an example of the positive gaze on reality that is born of the experience of the Movement,” as Fr. Carrón has told us. “Assuming this gaze, this perspective on the world around us, helps us to have a different judgment on other news from newspapers, TV, or Internet, and it helps us not to be disarmed and incapable of reacting adequately before what happens. Thus, in addition to being a primary instrument for sharing the nature and life of the Movement, the testimonies and letters in the magazine are, above all, a help to live our experience to the fullest." So the commitment to sharing the magazine through different channels — from sales in public places to promotion of subscriptions — is, above all, a chance to put ourselves into play.

Contributions

We encourage you to collaborate with Traces by writing a letter (300 words) of witness about your experience of the Fraternity Exercises 2013, and any other striking moment of your life, for upcoming issues. We also appreciate suggestions for article topics. Please correspond directly to Suzanne Tanzi at traces@clhac.com.

Writing opportunities and internships

Traces is always seeking out experienced and new writers for articles—if you or anyone you know has this talent to share please let us know. There are also openings for volunteer copyeditors, or copyeditor trainees. Please send your request and background information to traces@clhac.com.

Advertisements

Finally, it is possible to advertise your firm or activity in the magazine and on the website. Information that indicates the usefulness of these instruments—subscription numbers, reader profiles, and commercial specifications—is available. For inquiries or submissions, please contact: traces@clhac.com.

Subscriptions

For English subscriptions, log onto http://us.clonline.org/default.asp?id=827#b20088 to subscribe online, or contact traces@clhac.com for subscription forms.
The site, www.clonline.org contains important information essential to helping us follow the Movement. The site includes; texts of Fr. Giussani and Fr. Carrón, the Pope's interventions, significant events, transcriptions of the School of Community, the book of the month, and other readings proposed by the Movement. The archive is divided by themes and is constantly being updated. There is a mobile version with optimized graphics for the latest generation mobile phones. To be kept up to date you can subscribe to the weekly newsletter.

The site www.scritti.luigigiussani.org provides books and articles by Fr. Giussani in pdf format, some are available in English. The purpose of the site is to promote the knowledge and study of Fr. Giussani, by facilitating access to the texts and providing search tools and support to users and researchers, such as the reconstruction of the history of editorial publications.

Please report directly to the postulation for the cause of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Luigi Giussani your testimonies about his life and story, as well as important events that have happened after his death and are attributed to his intercession. Information communicated will be treated with the indispensable discretion required.

Postulation for the cause: Via Porpora 127 – 20131 Milan (Italy), tel. + 39 02 26149301
email: segreteriapostulazione@luigigiussani.org

Crossroads Cultural Center is a cultural center in New York, Washington, DC, Boston, MA, Denver, CO, Los Angeles, CA, Austin, TX and Houston, TX, whose purpose is to communicate, through cultural events, the remarkably vast, open, and profoundly enriching life of Communion and Liberation. Our passion for what is human springs from the education that we receive in the Movement.

More particularly, the initiative for Crossroads starts from the acknowledgment that we, our society and the Church are in need of a new education. What characterizes Crossroads as a Catholic cultural center is that particular ability that can only come from the event of Christ present here and now in His Church: to encounter people and to look for, and give value to, everything that is true, good and worthy of praise in all the expressions of human life. Therefore, the suggestion of Saint Paul - “Test everything, retain what is good,” (1 Thess. 5:21) sums up the ideal of Crossroads much more than any predetermined subset of issues or people who fall under the “Catholic” label. Thus, Crossroads aims to be, above all, a place where education takes place; that is, where we may learn to look with openness, curiosity and critical judgment at every aspect of reality. Since 2004, Crossroads has organized and sponsored a variety of panel discussions and conferences, lecture series, concerts and plays. To learn more, visit our Web site at www.crossroadsculturalcenter.org where you can also register to be informed regularly about our activity. You can also find us on Facebook. Crossroads also has a blog (http://www.crossroadsculturalcenter.org/blog) that is motivated by a desire to develop a judgment of world events in light of our charism.

Suggestions and/or contributions as to topics and speakers are most welcome, as well as the possibility to expand our presence in other cities in the US through the establishment of local Crossroads’ branches.

Please note that Crossroads is a cultural center, and not simply a “name”, a logo, or a trademark. Therefore, whoever intends to use Crossroads to organize or promote any type of event should first get in contact with Angelo Sala: asala218@gmail.com Point of contact: Rita Simmonds, info@crossroadsculturalcenter.org

The WorkCenter grew from the desire of a group of friends to face the personal responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities of the working environment in light of the encounter with the Christian event. The WorkCenter is a non-profit association of professionals and business people who share a concrete and human desire to promote the dignity
of the person in all its dimensions, work included. Together, we share the desire to help one another discover the meaning of our work in the challenges we face. Members of the WorkCenter provide mutual support in the following areas:

- Helping members prepare for job interviews;
- Mentoring in rethinking career paths;
- Providing professional contacts starting from our own professional network;
- Reviewing CVs and Resumes;
- Organizing meetings and seminars on networking and financial business management issues;
- Organizing lectures and seminars with professionals and sharing experiences which may help to guide the personal development of the individual.

If you are interested in participating - either as a job seeker or volunteer - please visit and register with our website at [www.workcenter.us](http://www.workcenter.us) or contact: Stefano Ratti (DC) rattigno@yahoo.com; Joe Wiener (NY) jswiener@gmail.com

### SONG SECRETARIAT

An Internet site has been established that provides rich documentation on the songs of our history. The “Service Site for Songs” is an instrument internal to Movement and thus should absolutely not be publicized. To have access to the site, the responsible of the community should contact Sebastian Modarelli at s_modarelli@yahoo.com.ar

### AVSI: WWW.AVSI-USA.ORG

AVSI Foundation is a not-for-profit organization for international development founded in Italy in 1972 by members of Communion and Liberation. It supports human development around the world according to Catholic social teachings, focusing on the education, economic and healthcare sectors through direct project implementation and dissemination of lessons learned and judgments on main global issues, drawing on its field experiences.

AVSI-USA is a non-governmental organization with non-profit status. AVSI-USA shares the vision and method of AVSI and seeks to communicate all the richness of AVSI to the U.S. public, with attentive openness to every possibility of working together with a diverse range of supporters, collaborators and institutions, offering them an opportunity to express their solidarity with others around the world and to further AVSI’s mission. Since 2000, AVSI-USA has grown steadily in experience, capacity and achievements, supporting initiatives in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, and Haiti. AVSI-USA has a headquarters in New York and an operational office in Washington, DC. One highlight over the last year were donations collected in the U.S. which have helped to provide basic supplies and educational support for Syrian refugee families in Lebanon.

There are many ways to get involved and join the family of supporters of AVSI’s work throughout the world. On our website [www.avsi-usa.org](http://www.avsi-usa.org), you can sign up to receive regular e-newsletters, link to our Facebook or contribute through Paypal. Charitable contributions to AVSI-USA are always tax deductible and can also be made by check payable to AVSI-USA and sent to: AVSI-USA 529 14th Street, NW, Suite 994, Washington, DC, 20045.

A great best way to get more involved with AVSI-USA’s work over the long term is through the Opportunity program which supports partner organizations in Mexico, Brazil and Kenya. The giving program offers families, groups or individuals the chance to begin a relationship with one of the organizations, committing an annual support and receiving periodic communication. Please contact us to learn more! Contacts: Ezio Castelli, Jackie Aldrette, Kristin Kennalley. Phone: (202) 429-9009; E-mail infoavsi-usa@avsi.org

### GS (STUDENT YOUTH)

GS, the high school contingent of Communion and liberation, has its own life within the life of the community: its own school of community, vacations and retreats. Students, teachers and youth group leaders are all welcome to participate. If you know any teachers or students who may be interested, please help them make a connection. For inquiries, information on local weekly meetings (School of Community), Advent and Lent retreats, and Winter and Summer vacations, contact national GS responsible, jmedina@clhac.com