

WELCOMING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY ENCOUNTER

El Escorial, Madrid, 2017, 19-20th July

Dear Christian Life Community brothers:

The World Executive Council in partnership with Comillas Pontifical University of Madrid, Spain, invite you to the International Formation Encounter on Family 2017. It is scheduled on 16-21 July 2017 in Madrid, Spain. We are grateful for the CLC Spain Executive Council and the national community for welcoming us.

Bearing the theme of:

**“See how they love one another.” A lay Ignatian look at Family.
In response to the call for a new family pastoral in *Amoris Laetitia*.**

Taking inspiration from *Amoris Laetitia* and availing deliberately of our Ignatian Spirituality heritage, CLC aims through this international encounter to:

- Share and deepen the universal experiences of family as a lay community, and strengthen the commitment of service to families as an Ignatian Apostolic Body.
- Broaden individual connections / networks on family ministries and knowledge.
- Identify and articulate immediate steps that can help the mission in the family frontier in national communities.
- Strengthen CLC as an Apostolic Body by forming a discernment group on family that can continue the conversations after IFE and move them into long-term action.

The path leading to the IFE. In Lebanon 2013, the World Assembly adopted “Family” as one of our four frontiers. We committed ourselves to act wherever our discernment leads us, to:

- Show openness, compassion, respect, and sensitivity to people who belong to diverse family realities.
- Create formation processes for couples and families, in collaboration with others

We committed to continue efforts in apostolic networking and advocacy using the bottom up approach, and to share our experiences and good practices. It was also in Lebanon that the dream for an international conference for the family was born.

It has been a deep consolation to note that our discernment is attuned to the movement of our wider Church. Early this year, Pope Francis published his apostolic exhortation on Family, *Amoris Laetitia*. It affirms our common mission in the Church. It has also been a source of inspiration and wisdom as we move forward.

With the regional and national initiatives and its fruits, we are certain that the IFE 2017 in July would deepen our exploration of how our CLC identity and vocation engage the family realities in today’s world.

United in Mission,

WORLD CLC FAMILY COMMISSION

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