



Rome/Madrid
December 2016

Dear National Executive Councils:

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.

A frontier of many fronts

The responses that we have received from the Survey (President’s letter 2015) last year gave us a glimpse of many worthwhile efforts happening on the family front. The survey results reflected the diverse challenges that each national community faces. It also revealed countless experiences of joy and hope as we participate more fully in the family frontier.



**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA**

This year alone, Family is a major theme during meetings and national assemblies in parts of Asia, Latin America and in the All Africa Assembly. In April 2017, Poland CLC will host a CLC meeting on Family.

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.

Details

In the next pages, you will find more information regarding the IFE including the criteria for choice of participants. It also contains the financial implications, the cost and how WExCo is exploring ways of meeting the costs.

We look forward to a meaningful encounter with you.

United in Mission,

Edel Churu

Vice President, World ExCo
Coordinator, WEXCO Family Commission

Fernando Vidal

Director, Institute of the Family
Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid

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I. Dates and Venue

Arrival day: 16 July 2017
Meeting days: 17 – 20 July 2017
Departure: 21 July 2017

Venue: Casa de Espiritualidad San José, Avda. Reyes Católicos 12 28280 EL ESCORIAL, Madrid, Spain.

Venue website: http://www.sccc.es/casasespiritualidad_san_jose.php

II. Participants

Selection profile:

1. Significant hands on involvement in the family ministry within their local / national communities or local church
2. Committed to foster the efforts of the family ministry of their national communities
3. Endorsed by the National Executive Council
4. Minimal capacity to work in English (will be a great help, but not required).

Please note that you are welcome to endorse any number of representatives from your national community, but the World Executive Council may ask you to select among the endorsed names to keep a good balance between participants from the various CLC regions.

Please express your confirmation to participate the IFE on or before 17 February 2017. Kindly email us via exsec@cvx-clc.net with the names (arranged according to level of priority) of your participant/s and the accomplished Participant Endorsement Form (Annex A).

VII. Languages

The IFE on Family will be conducted in the three official languages of CLC: English, French, and Spanish. Translators will be provided for plenary sessions. A basic level of English can help facilitate better exchanges during the sessions.

VIII. Financial Implications

The cost to implement the IFE on Family in Madrid, Spain is projected at EUR 25.000,00. This amount is allotted for seventy (70) individuals, participants and resource persons. It covers the board and lodging, materials, and translation needs for the event. The international traveling requirements of each participant (i.e. airfare, visa processing fees, other related fees) are not yet included in this figure.

Financial help from the Apostolic Fund is available, but limited. Considering the world community's economic diversity and unequal distance to the venue, the following are options to

help meet the financial needs of IFE on Family 2017. Please discern on the most adequate option for your representatives:

1. National communities take care of their representatives' (a) IFE cost in Madrid, i.e. €357,00 per person and (b) traveling expense
2. National communities take care of their representatives (a) IFE cost in Madrid, i.e. €357,00 per person and (b) part of the traveling expense, considering that they may ask for financial support for travel costs, to be stated on the Participant Endorsement Form (to be submitted not later than 17 February 2017).
3. National communities take care of their participant/s' (a) IFE cost in Madrid, i.e. €357,00 per person, (b) traveling expense and (c) donate any amount to increase the common fund for those in need of traveling assistance.

IX. Important Dates to Remember

DATES	ACTION	RECIPIENT
2016 December	Invitation to National Communities	National Executive Councils
17 February 2017	Confirmation of Participation With Endorsed Names of Representatives and Filled In Form Request for Subsidy	World CLC Secretariat exsec@cvx-clc.net
2017 March	World Executive Council finalises participants	
	Selected participants will be notified by the W-ExCo through Regional links and the National ExCo	Regional links & National Executive Councils
2017 July	IFE on Family	

ANNEX A: Participant Endorsement Form

Name of Participant			
Gender	Age	Language/s	
Contact Information			
Email	Mobile	Tel No	
National Community			
Initiatives of National Community in Family Frontier:			
Participant's Role / Involvement in the Family Ministry in Local and National Community:			
Expectations from IFE on Family 2017:			
Financial Responsibility*: National Community will cover the cost of			
A. Airfare			
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO			
<input type="radio"/> Full Amount: €	<input type="radio"/> Partial Amount: €	<input type="radio"/> Request for Subsidy: €	
B. IFE 2017 Registration Expenses			
<input type="radio"/> Full Amount: € 357,00 per person			
C. Donation to IFE 2017 Expenses			
<input type="radio"/> Amount: €			
Specify Entry Visa Requirements Needed from Organizing Team:			
<input type="radio"/> Invitation Letter <input type="radio"/> Others (specify details):			
Endorsed by			
Name			Position

**Please ask the National Executive Council to accomplish this form per participant.*