

CA A29: RE: CLM's 30th Year Anniversary and International Virtual Meeting

23 September, 2020

Dear Confreres, LMs & Seminarists,

In the midst of all the uncertainties and challenges that this year has wrought upon the world and our work as Missionaries it is important to never lose sight of and celebrate the wonderful blessings that we enjoy and which continue to bring us together. One of those blessings that we would like to invite you to join us in celebrating is the Society's 30-Year Anniversary of Columban Lay Missionaries (CLM) which takes place this year.

With joy and gratitude, we will celebrate this milestone in our Society's history by recalling the gradual unfolding of the CLM story – from the inclusive vision of our Columban Founders, Bishop Edward Galvin and Fr. John Blowick, to recognizing the lay missionary movement within the Church during the 1970 Society's Chapter, to facilitating opportunities for lay people working with the Columban's cross-cultural mission between 1982-1989, to the establishment of the Columban Lay Mission Program in 1990 and finally, to becoming formally recognized as Columban Lay Missionaries in 2005.

We celebrate this 30th anniversary milestone by honoring our past, treasuring our present and shaping our future. This is an opportunity for us to recognize and affirm the giftedness of our Lay Missionaries in their response to the signs of the times, and in their resilience and creativity to face new challenges in mission. Through partnership with each other, and with the ordained, students, priest associates and co-workers, as well as alongside people of different faiths and cultures with whom we journey, Lay Missionaries continue to flourish in their ministry, nourish their faith and strengthen their missionary zeal.

COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

48 Princess Margaret Rd., Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR
Phone: 2338 9174 Fax: 2338 1385 Email clmcltcoordinator@columban.org.hk

This year we have also had to face one of the greatest challenges of our lifetime, the coronavirus pandemic, which has affected all aspects of human relations. Afflicting every country it touches, it has the potential of creating devastating social, economic and political repercussions that will leave deep and long-lasting scars way into the future. As Columban missionaries, this unprecedented and devastating situation has limited our interaction with people, but it has also challenged us to explore new and creative ways to respond to the changed reality of our world.

The CLM International Lay Missionaries Meeting is held every three years, but due to the unforeseen circumstances that have been brought about by the pandemic this year's meeting, which had been scheduled to take place in Taiwan in October, will instead be conducted through ZOOM online conferencing. This **CLM International Virtual Meeting** will take place from **November 8 - 14, 2020** and the CLMCLT and the General Council are actively in the process of designing the format and content of the meeting to make it as engaging as possible for all the participants. Please keep us in your prayers during this important time of reflection and decision making.

To mark this 30th Year Anniversary of CLM, we would like to invite you to participate in an online Thanksgiving Mass that will be held on **October 6th, at 8pm HKT**. The invitation link will be communicated to you prior to the celebration and we look forward to your participation. We would also like to encourage each RMU to find its own way to recognize this important milestone.


To commemorate the 30th year anniversary we have created an exciting new logo, designed by lay missionary, Jhoanna Resari, that encompasses our journey so far and our hopes for the future.

May God continue to pour out his blessings and continue to lead, guide and protect you in all your endeavors during these uncertain times.

Kind regards,


Vida Amor Hequilan

CLMCLT Coordinator


Tim Mulroy

Society Leader