

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAY CISTERCIAN COMMUNITIES
House Report

- 1) Name of lay community: **Cistercian Lay Associates of Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey**
- 2) Contact person: **Frank Reynolds email: laygroup@live.co.uk**
- 3) Date group was established: **2000**
- 4) Number of members: **21**
- 5) Monastic liaison(s): **Dom Celsus Kelly, Abbot**
- 6) Date of adoption of the Lay Cistercian identity document: **2008**
- 7) Charter and Statutes - most recent copy. **As we are not a formal group, there is no Charter & Statutes**
- 8) Leadership Council - how many, how selected. **Three lay Associates who meet with the Abbot each month. Group members volunteer to be members of the Core Group.**
- 9) Formation program - topics, activities, etc. **There is not a specific formation programme. We meet with the Abbot once per month and receive teaching on spiritual readings chosen by Fr. Celsus. Members of the laygroup can also suggest ideas or spiritual reading for discussion and teaching. The readings are often taken from the writings of the saints. Recently we have also studied *Finding Sanctuary* by Abbot Christopher Jamison. Suggestions for future writings include the *Confessio* of St. Patrick. The Group also has an annual one day retreat at the Abbey with an invited retreat giver.**

Please describe your community's situation considering the characteristics described in the document generated in Dubuque on "Characteristics of Lay Cistercian Communities."(no need to answer number 1):

1. *Lay Cistercian Communities receive written recognition from the Abbot/Abbess of the monastery with which the lay community is associated.*
2. *Lay Cistercians communities are assisted by a liaison from the monastic community appointed by the Abbot/Abbess. Dom Celsus Kelly*
3. *Lay Cistercian Communities recognize and adopt the Lay Cistercian Identity document approved in Huerta in 2008. Yes.*
4. *Lay Cistercian Communities have a Charter and Statutes, approved by its members, which outline the spiritual goals of the group as well as its functioning and the link it has with the monastery. No. As an informal Laygroup, such a document is not seen as being necessary.*
5. *Lay Cistercian Communities have a leadership council, comprised of lay members, that is responsible for the administration of the group. Yes. A core group comprising the Abbot and three lay members*

6. *Lay Cistercian Communities have developed a formation program comprised of a curriculum of topics and learning activities that address the values and practices of the Cistercian Charism. **There is not a formal formation programme – see above under 9)***

If your community has a Charter of Incorporation or Bylaws we ask that you send it to us. If your community has a Council, we ask that you describe its formation, membership and election system. Your answers will be posted on the website of the association and may also be consulted during the international meeting in Lourdes.

House Report Submission Deadline: 31 December 2013

Please send to: thmcmahon@q.com