

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAY CISTERCIAN COMMUNITIES
House Report

- 1) Name of lay community: Cisterciënzergroep Sion
- 2) Contact person: Maria van Mierlo
- 3) Date group was established: 2002
- 4) Number of members: 37
- 5) Monastic liaison(s): br.Paulus van Bavel ocso and br.Alberic Brusckhe ocso
- 6) Date of adoption of the Lay Cistercian identity document: 2012
- 7) Charter and Statutes - most recent copy
- 8) Leadership Council - We are an officially registered association with notarial executed statutes, an annual general meeting, and an elected board of four members and one of the monks. Members of the board are chosen for a period of three years. One committee is responsible for the contents; small committees are formed for practical purposes. All administration is done by members.
- 9) Formation program – Our members participate in a program for novices, written by father abbot and one of our members. The program lasts 1,5 year. After that we have a monasticat of 2-3 years, the program for this group is also written by father abbot the same member of our group. The cloistergroup chooses the books to read themselves.

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. YES*
2. *Lay Cistercians communities are assisted by a liaison from the monastic community appointed by the Abbot/Abbess. YES*
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. YES*
5. *Lay Cistercian Communities have a leadership council, comprised of lay members, that is responsible for the administration of the group. YES*
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. YES*

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.

We have a board of four members, father abbot is present during the meetings as a special kind of extraneous. His opinion is very important, but he wants us to be independent and mature spiritual human beings, so he is rather careful with giving advice. The board members are chosen by all the members, for a period of three years.

We have to inform you about the current situation in the abbey of Sion. Father abbot told us that the monks are going to move to another part of the Netherlands. The monastery is too large nowadays, for the number of monks that live here these days. As you will understand, this means a lot for our group. We are trying to find our way through the questions that we have, looking for answers that we can not yet hear.