

International Association of Lay Cistercian Communities

House Report
December 2013

1) Name of community:

Genesee Lay Contemplatives

2) Contact person:

Dionne Parker, Chair

3) Date group was established:

Established in 1993 by Abbot Fr. John Eudes who designated Fr. Francis Steger as Spiritual Director. Fr. Francis retired from this position in 2010 and was succeeded by Fr. John Denburger.

4) Number of members:

Currently 27, capped at 35

5) Monastic liaison:

Fr. John Denburger

6) Date of adoption of Lay Cistercian Identity Document:

2009

7) Leadership Council, how many, how selected:

There are six members of the Council: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Admissions Coordinator, Formation Director, and Monastic Liaison. The abbot appoints the monastic liaison who appoints the Formation Director. The other four offices are elected by the community. Council elections are held every three years; members may be reelected for a second three year period. Committed members only are eligible to vote.

8) Formation program – topics, activities, etc:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF G.L.C. FORMATION PROGRAM*

1. Recognition of the primacy of Scripture
2. Growth in the knowledge of and love for the Cistercian Patrimony
3. Respect for the “grace” and “call” of our lay state
4. Engagement in the flow of the Liturgical Year
5. Use of a variety of formation methods (presentations, small group discussions, Monastic speakers, tapes and films, occasional guest speakers)
6. Guarding and preserving “Silence” during our monthly meetings

7. Participation as community in Mass as the source and summit of our Community Day
8. Emphasis on the practical life applications of our formation studies
9. Unification of the morning and afternoon sessions around one common theme:
TOPICS
 1. Scripture
 2. Cistercian History
 3. Cistercian Spirituality
 4. Liturgical Year
 5. Church Teaching

The Genesee Lay Contemplatives does not have a Charter of Incorporation or Bylaws . Our Way of Life may be found on the Abbey website www.geneseeabbey.org, under Who We Are.

*As set forth in GLC Council Procedural Book, Summer, 2010