

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAY CISTERCIAN COMMUNITIES

House Report

- 1) Name of lay community: Our Lady Star of the Sea
- 2) Contact person: Mary Ricker
- 3) Date group was established: 1998
- 4) Number of members: 25
- 5) Monastic liaison(s): Sr. Marcia Trinique, Sr. Evelyn McGarry, Sr. Luanne Chabot
- 6) Date of adoption of the Lay Cistercian identity document: September 28 – 29, 2013
- 7) Charter and Statutes - most recent copy
- 8) Leadership Council - how many, how selected
- 9) Formation program - topics, activities, etc.

Three sisters are involved with the Lay Group and participate in monthly meetings. Others are occasionally called upon to give a talk. Some teaching on Christian and/or Monastic themes is imparted. The main foundation block of our group has always been lectio in common followed by personal sharing on the Word of God.

By preference we have no charters or statutes, nor charter of incorporation or by-laws. We have no leadership council, which is not to say there are no leaders. One of our group recently raised to ordination to the permanent diaconate meets with prospective new members on a monthly basis when possible. He initiates them into Lectio, RB, monastic and Cistercian spirituality. This continues for about one year or it could be longer depending on whether there are openings in the larger group. We wish to maintain the good dynamics we currently enjoy and this is affected by the timing of new members joining the larger group. This small group also serves as a natural screening process.

Apart from the inevitable needs, our Cistercian Friends are faithful in attending meetings. The spiritual bonds of this small community of faith are strong and are appreciated in the personal journey of each one. We have had one death. Illness and aging prevents some from regular attendance. Members often share in major community activities and events at the abbey and offer their services in various ways. The mutual enrichment is a great blessing.

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.*
3. *Lay Cistercian Communities recognize and adopt the Lay Cistercian Identity document approved in Huerta in 2008.*

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.*
5. *Lay Cistercian Communities have a leadership council, comprised of lay members, that is responsible for the administration of the group.*
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.*

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.