

Declaration on Formation of Lay Cistercians

Introduction

We recognize the need for a statement on formation with respect given to the autonomy of individual communities. This formation is necessary to build a common lay Cistercian identity as recognized and adopted in St. Marie de Huerta. It is important to recognize the difference between formation and a formation program. Formation takes place as our lives are being transformed and changed through our efforts to put into practice what we are learning.

Content of Formation

The fundamental tools to help us in our conversion to Christ in the Cistercian charism include:

- Lectio Divina
- Rule of St. Benedict
- Heritage of Cistercian literature
- Divine Office

The content of formation can be adapted to the circumstances and needs of the individual community and members – for example, the Bible, catechism, Christology, history of the church, history of salvation, etc. The most important tool in formation is the community itself, fostering a relationship that includes immersion in a specific monastery and modeling and mutual accountability in living the charism.

Role of the ILC

The ILC encourages the different communities to share their own formation resources through encounters, exchanges, forums, etc. We also encourage member communities to publish on their own websites their formation resources, including programs. A direct link will be created on the ILC website in order to facilitate access to this information. The ILC webmaster will work in coordination with, and at the direction of, the ILC steering committee.