

Survey Summary

The summary was distributed to approximately 30 English-language groups. There were 11 responses (33%). Many of the groups that did not respond were not represented at Huerta and some were formed only in the last year or so.

1. Describe how the Identity document developed at Huerta helps you individually and as a community to embody your vocation as a Lay Cistercian.
 - a. Individually
 - i. The document reflects one's own vocation (3)
 - ii. Helps "define" the lay Cistercian way of life and provides affirmation of it (2)
 - iii. Calls us to responsibility and accountability (3)
 - iv. The document is the best articulation of what all lay Cistercians have in common
 - v. Little impact—have already moved beyond it
 - vi. Some members are at too rudimentary stage to recognize the value of it (2)
 - b. As a community
 - i. The document reflects one's own community (2)
 - ii. The documents confirms the group's constitutions (3)
 - iii. Useful for describing the lay community to initial inquirers (2)
 - iv. Enables the community to see itself as part of the greater whole (2)
 - v. It enables the monastic community to see the lay community in broader context (2)
 - vi. Little impact—have already moved beyond it
 - vii. Little impact—we are far short of it
2. Describe your relationship with your monastery including a reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of that relationship.
 - a. Strengths
 - i. Many resources are available on-line (presentations, chapter talks, homilies) (4)
 - ii. Monastery provides support and formation (4)
 - iii. Monastery provides liaisons and direct input to and from the monastery (4)
 - iv. Members meet on-line monthly (3)
 - v. Members stay at the monastery for meetings (2)
 - vi. Monastic community (monks and nuns) are individually supportive (3)
 - vii. Monastic community indicates that it is strengthened by presence of lay community
 - viii. Feel the monastery is one's spiritual home
 - ix. Members are of service to the monastery
 - x. Members are included in monastery events such as funerals, professions (2)
 - xi. Some members find spiritual direction at the monastery
 - xii. There is a commonality of prayer and a fraternal bond (3)
 - b. Weaknesses
 - i. Members live too far away to meet at the monastery regularly (4)

- ii. Ties with the monastery are weak (4)
 - iii. Place demands on the monastic community and its hospitality
 - iv. Place demands on individual monks and nuns
 - v. Members at a distance have trouble getting to meetings and finding accommodations (3)
 - vi. Some individual monks and nuns are not supportive of the lay community (2)
 - vii. Respecting enclosure is sometimes difficult—having monastic friends
 - viii. Does not feel the monastery is one’s spiritual home
 - ix. No place to meet at the monastery (2)
 - x. Members do not agree on the purpose and goals of the lay community
 - xi. Will next Abbot support the lay community
3. Has your relationship changed since the meeting at Huerta?
- a. The identity document gave us direction
 - b. It has helped us mature and provided deeper understanding (2)
 - c. We have asked for more monastic input to our decision-making
 - d. The monastery has asked the lay community to “interface” with other groups and we now have “affiliates” not to the monastery, but to our group
 - e. Have instituted dues
 - f. Have created individual and group statements that focus on our relationship with the monastery (2)
 - g. Created a leadership team
 - h. Abbot has become more involved in the community
 - i. Individual monastics have shown more interest in the lay community
 - j. The Abbot began sharing his Chapter talks with the lay community
 - k. Increased bond among lay Cistercians living close to each other
 - l. Deeper sense of community
 - m. Membership has declined after instituting greater structure
 - n. The aging monks and our aging members make a lay community difficult
 - o. Do not see any changes (3)
 - p. No