Instructions

What will happen to the information that we provide on the survey?

Once all of the surveys have been returned, we will tabulate the responses and provide each Lay Cistercian Community with a summary of the information that has been gathered. The summaries will also be available on our web site.

While this information will be used to plan the 2011 International Lay Cistercian Encounter, we feel it will also provide individual Communities with a means of identifying resources, ideas and strategies they will be able to use with their own formation programs.

What is the time frame for completing the survey?

October 8, 2008: Surveys are distributed to all of the Lay Communities

February 27, 2009: Surveys are returned no later than this date to the Coordinating Committee

April 24, 2009: Coordinating Committee members complete the summary of the surveys returned to them.

May 8, 2009: Summaries of the survey from each of the language groups will be published

on the web site.

How to submit the survey

Use extra space to complete the survey if necessary. After you complete the survey, save the file with a new name such as "New Melleray Survey" or "Tarrawarra Survey", etc. Send the completed survey to the member of the Coordinating Committee representing your language group.

English-Language: Dennis Day
(dmday@dayxday.org)

Spanish-Language: Tina Parayre
(alberta.parayre@gmail.com)

French-Language: Marie-Christine Rossignol
(marie-christine.rosignol@wanadoo.fr)

If you have any questions about the survey or how to fill it out, please contact the member of the Coordinating Committee representing your language group.

A Survey Relative to the Formation and Transformation of Persons in the Cistercian Charism

Part One: Background:

1. In what year did your Lay Community begin meeting?

2. How many members are in your Lay Community today?

3. Do you have a leadership council or other administrative structure? ___yes ___no

    If so, please describe:

Part Two: Current practices:

1. On a scale of 1 –10 (with 10 being highest) where would you rate formation as a priority for your Lay Community? _____

2. Does your Lay Community have a specific formation process in place?

    ___yes ___no

    •   If yes, who is responsible for decisions about formation topics and methods?

    •   Please provide a brief description of your Lay Community's formation process and the methods used:

    •   What topics/content areas are covered in your Lay Community's formation program?

3. Does your Lay Community distinguish between initial and on-going formation?

___yes ___no

- If yes, please describe the differences between initial and on-going formation

4. How does your Lay Community help members translate and apply what they are learning and/or reading about monastic values and practices into their everyday lives?

5. What kinds of formation resources do your Lay Community members use to assist with their formation?

6. Please describe how the monastery with which you are affiliated is involved in providing formation for the members of your Lay Community:

7. If your Lay Community has formation resources that could be shared with other Lay Communities, please list them here:

8. How do you know if your formation program is effective?

9. If your Lay Community has a process for enabling members to make Commitments, how do you know if/when a member is ready for such a step?

10. What are some of the biggest challenges or difficulties your Lay Community has encountered with regard to formation. You are not limited in the number of topics you list, but please list them in order of importance.

Part Three: Perspectives:

1. Please list the most important topics you feel need to be covered in a formation program for Lay Cistercians. If possible, list these in order of importance.

2. What do you think are the most practical and effective strategies/methods for providing formation to members of Lay Cistercian Lay Communities:

Part Four: Suggestions

1. What could be done as a language group or geographical region to strengthen what Lay Cistercian Lay Communities are currently doing to provide formation?

2. What do you think the Coordinating Committee could do to help meet the formation needs of Lay Cistercian Lay Communities?

3. Other comments, questions or concerns: