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March 3, 2016

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LCG NEWS! — SPRING 2006*Spring, 2006*

The values and
practices of the

LCG

PLAN OF

LIFE

~ embrace ~

Prayer

Work

Study

Silence

Solitude

Simplicity

Stability

Service

*Love in us mounts up to you, O Lord,
because the love in you comes down to us.
You loved us,
you came down to us;
by loving you we shall mount up to you.*

William of Saint Thierry
from Meditation 6.4

LCG Advisory Council Met in Oxford, Ohio in April

It was a Cistercian weekend in Oxford, Ohio according to Fr. Len Fecko, Pastor of St. Mary Church in Oxford. Fr. Len made welcoming comments to the Lay Cistercians attending Sunday Mass at St. Mary. Fr. Len joined the Lay Cistercians on Saturday for Evening Prayer, supper, and Night Prayer.

A meeting of the LCG Advisory Council occurred the weekend of April 21-23 in Oxford. The Greater Cincinnati area Lay Cistercian community hosted the event at the Izaak Walton Lodge facility in Oxford. Br. Paul Quenon traveled from the Abbey of Gethsemani to participate in the weekend gathering.

The Advisory Council members in attendance participated in a team building session on Saturday morning that was facilitated by Jane Endriss of Toledo. This session included an opportunity to share how we have been changed or transformed by our commitment as Lay Cistercians. We also shared our vision for the future of the Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani. Our reflections will be compiled and posted on the LCG website.

On Saturday afternoon we convened the Advisory Council meeting. Bob Siegel of Midland, Michigan chaired the meeting. A summary of the meeting will also be posted soon on the LCG website. Bob agree to be the chair of the Advisory Council for an undetermined length of time.

The discussions during the Advisory Council meeting included the need to develop a plan for the future needs of the Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani, the function of the LCG Advisory Council, and LCG applying for tax-exempt status. Each representative of local LCG communities in attendance provided an update of their respective community's activities and growth.

LCG communities are encouraged to share their experiences of effective group activities and efforts to build community.

On Saturday evening local LCG members and candidates joined the Advisory Council members for Evening Prayer, social hour, and supper. A presentation by Br. Paul followed by Night Prayer concluded the day. The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon, September 15, prior to the beginning of the 2006 LCG annual retreat at Gethsemani.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE ADVISORY MEETING](#)

Advisory Council Begins to Implement Changes

As a result of the meeting of the Advisory Council in April, follow up informal meetings and conversations have occurred to begin the implementation of changes and new responsibilities. As noted above Bob Siegel of the Midland, Michigan LCG community will serve as the ongoing chair of the Advisory Council. Bob has been serving as the mentor coordinator. He will continue with this responsibility, and will also begin processing LCG inquiries and applications for membership received from the LCG website that was previously performed by Mike Johnson.

Mike will continue to serve as LCG liaison to the International Lay Cistercian steering committee and liaison to the USA Lay Cistercian communities. Don Buckingham of the Columbus, Ohio LCG community will complete the paperwork and processing for obtaining tax-exempt status. Mary Guilbert also of Columbus will continue to serve as the LCG website administrator. Jane Endriss who is relocating to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from Toledo, Ohio will take over the editor role of the LCG News (newsletter), formerly done by Mike Johnson.

Additional roles and responsibilities are being identified and implemented. The Advisory Council is expected to finalize these matters by the conclusion of the next meeting in September. The LCG Advisory Council encourages LCG members and local LCG communities to strengthen their commitment in living the Plan of Life and to build genuine communities of support and prayer as we journey together on the Cistercian spiritual path.

Letter to LCG Members and Candidates:

With this issue of the LCG Newsletter, I complete a twelve year stint of editing the Newsletter. It truly has been a "labor of joy," but it is way overdue for a change in editing responsibilities. Fresh ideas and perspectives are needed.

Jane Endriss, a member of the LCG Advisory Council, has graciously agreed to assume responsibility for editing the Newsletter. We welcome Jane to this role and look forward to new perspectives and creativity. Jane would like to know of your suggestions for and needs in a newsletter. She can be contacted at: JENDR@aol.com.

As I was recollecting the years of writing and putting together the CLC and now LCG Newsletter, I reviewed the back issues of the Newsletter. I

traveled back through approximately 48 issues to the first issue that I wrote in January 1994. Much has happened in twelve years as our Cistercian lay associate program has matured and grown in numbers. The Holy Spirit has led us in these many years to achieve a clearer sense of who we are and what we are called to as Lay Cistercians. Our relationship with the Abbey of Gethsemani has been strengthened.

I would like to share a few excerpts from remarks that I made in an open letter contained in the first issue that I edited:

"With this issue a renewed effort is being made to produce the CLC Newsletter on a quarterly basis. The work and time commitment that is necessary to produce the Newsletter with any regularity can be demanding...

The vision of those who came together several years ago to dialogue about a lay contemplative lifestyle, to develop the Plan of Life, and to form the CLC association is still very much alive...

...it was never the intention of those who initially met at the Abbey of Gethsemani and formed the organization known as CLC to establish a formal lay organization. We simply challenged ourselves to live the Plan as best we could given our individual situations. Some monks of the Abbey of Gethsemani have supported this endeavor...there are local CLC support groups in Louisville and Cincinnati who shared a variety of activities that support a sense of community among CLC associates and friends.

This Newsletter will be one means in which the mission of CLC can be further communicated and by which those who have adapted the Plan of Life can build community...

Also, in this issue were responses from CLC members to a survey question, " What do you mean by contemplation?", I wrote:

Contemplation for me is the gift of the awareness of God's presence in creation, uniquely within me and my fellow human beings. This gift allows us to experience this presence in all dimensions of our being. We celebrate and communicate this presence through silence.

Let us continue to support each other in prayer, as we journey together along the Cistercian contemplative path.

Mike Johnson

Be still and know that I am God.

Reminder ! Do Not Forget Your Annual Offering to LCG

So far, approximately 30% of the LCG membership has responded to the request for an annual offering to LCG. It has become necessary to increase the suggested offering to \$10 a year. The LCG Advisory Council has been discussing the possible need to increase the annual offering for over a year now. An additional amount will be gratefully accepted.

It is anticipated that our expenses will be increasing due to higher postal rates, cost of administering the LCG website, printing of formation/mentoring materials, and LCG's support of the International Lay Cistercian website. If you have not already done so, please provide your 2006 financial support for LCG by submitting at least the \$10 amount. A form for this purpose is available on the website for those who access the newsletter electronically. The annual offering form is also available on the last page of the newsletter for the use of those who receive the newsletter by regular mail.

[CLICK HERE HERE FOR FINANCIAL OFFERING FORM](#)

REMEMBER THESE DATES!!!

September 15, 2006

LCG Advisory Council Meeting at Gethsemani

September 15-17, 2006

Annual LCG Retreat at Gethsemani Abbey

ATTENTION !!!

Please keep your contact information up-to-date. Notify us if you change your mail and/or e-mail address.

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Contact information:

E-mail: info@laycisterciansofgethsemani.org

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