Introduction

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**Items for this Directory/Guide of Lay Spiritan Associates:**
- Forward: Association in Church, Congregation, our Circumcision/Union.
- Lay Spiritan Identity: vocation, spirituality, community, and mission ...
- Formation Programme. Content and Method.
- Criteria of discernment to become a Lay Associate.
- Mutual expectations:
  - From the Congregation
  - From the Associates
- Relationship with the Congregation. Mission letter.
- Meaning of membership
- Finances.
- Outreaches.

**IV. PREPARATION FOR GENERAL CHAPTER 2012**

**4.1 GENERAL ORIENTATIONS**

The EGC was very positive about the suggestion of the General Council concerning the celebration of the next General Council. These suggestions need to be put into practice now, taking into account the opinions expressed at the EGC.

**Introduction**

Our recent Enlarged General Council was celebrated at Ariccia, (across lake Albano from Castelgandolfo), from the 26th to the 7th of June 2008.

During the EGC, information was sent out to the confreres by means of several bulletins of “Spiritan Newsflash” and afterwards in a special issue of “Spiritan News”. The delegates in their turn, on returning from Italy, will no doubt have informed the confreres of what was discussed.

The General Council, by means of this special issue of Anima Una (the new title for what was formerly known as I/D), wishes to let all confreres know about the practical follow-up to the opinions and ideas expressed at the EGC. These are not a collection of texts which have been carefully amended and voted on, as is the case for a General Chapter. Neither are they a few vague hopes and ‘pious wishes’. The aim of an enlarged council (of the Congregation or a circumscription) is essentially ‘practical’ – to make sure that our daily personal and community commitments are “built on rock”. The General Council has based this reflection on the minutes taken during the EGC and on the syntheses of topics made on the spot, so that this rich material forms a basis for the practical orientations in the next four years leading up to the General Chapter of 2012.
We considered it important that all confreres be aware of these orientations. The Congregation belongs to all of us. We all need to work together so that the poor are served better and the Gospel of Christ is more effectively proclaimed.

Fr Jean-Paul Hoch CSSp.
Superior General

which is mutual spiritual enrichment and service to the mission.

Torre d’Aguilha stated: “new circumscriptions will be attentive to the importance of lay associates and will support their development” (4.12).

3.4.4.1 Recommendations for the Next Four Years
- We encourage and support, at the different levels of the Congregation and in all circumscriptions, the creation and promotion of groups/movements of lay people associated and inspired by the Spiritan charism.

- 2009/2010. Each circumscription works out a common letter for Lay Spiritans in order to give a common vision of identity and service to groups/associations inspired by the Spiritan charism/spirituality. The aim of this is to arrive at a Vision/Mission Statement of what it means to be a Lay Spiritan, while respecting fully the specific nature and autonomy of each group/movement.

- 2011/2012. To reach a common letter for Lay Spiritans at the level of each Union of Circumscriptions.

- General Chapter 2012: evaluation.

3.4.4.2 Lay Spiritan Associates (with a written contract according to SRL 24.3; 247.1.19)

