

II. VISION

“O Divine Spirit, I want to be before you like a light feather, so that your breath may carry me where it wills, and so that I do not offer it the least resistance.” (F. Libermann: Commentary on the Gospel of John – 3:8)

2.1 The driving factor of our Spiritan vocation is evangelical availability to respond to the Spirit who speaks to us in the concrete situations of life.⁹ We wish to listen to the same Spirit, who speaks to us through our contemporaries and makes us open to his calls.

2.2 The Spirit inspires and invites us – both professed and lay Spiritans – to become community, united as one heart and one soul, to share deeply what constitutes our lives, our mission and our spirituality.

2.3 The “common soul” which animates and unites us is characterised by a life of prayer and community, with a commitment to defending the weak and the poor.¹⁰ It is a form of sharing, as laity, in the building up of the Kingdom of God. It presupposes on our part openness, respect, dialogue, simplicity and hospitality.

2.4 The source of our inspiration is the vision of our founders, Claude-Francois Poullart des Places and François Libermann, nourished and renewed by the living tradition of the Congregation. We recognise in the Spiritan charism a “treasure to be shared”¹¹, which is not reserved solely for professed members. We must take care not to hide this light under a bushel: we all feel, with the

⁹ H. Koren, *ibid.*, p 94.

¹⁰ Torre d’Aguilha 11.3.

¹¹ Information-Documentation 57, 2000.

encouragement of Pope Francis, “called to share in the same charismatic reality” and to share ideals, spirit and mission.¹²

2.5 Whether lay or professed, what binds us is a dynamic of “covenant”, blessed and strengthened by the Spirit. It expresses itself in fidelity, humility, forgiveness, reciprocity and solidarity.

2.6 Together we form “but one family, intent on one mission” (SRL 24.2), in which there is a commitment to a greater fruitfulness, with no hierarchy, but with our diversity and complementarity. This synergy “helps to give a clearer and more complete picture of the Church herself, while rendering more effective the response to the great challenges of our time, thanks to the combined contributions of the various gifts.”¹³ In some places, this mutually enriching relationship extends to other congregations that share the same Spiritan charism.

2.7 The Congregation derives from this reciprocal alliance a renewed missionary enthusiasm; the Spiritan charism appears in a new light and in all its richness; the know-how, professionalism and creativity of lay people opening up new paths.¹⁴

¹² Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis to all consecrated persons, III. 1, 2014.

¹³ Vita Consecrata 54, 1996.

¹⁴ Cf Vita Consecrata 55; Torre d’Aguilha 11.1.