

## **V. FORMATION**

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*“The Congregation also offers formation to its associates.”* (SRL 135.1)

**5.1** The programme of formation, conceived or adopted by circumscriptions is more or less structured, depending on those for whom it is intended. It aims, in its principles and whatever be the level of commitment, to offer elements of missionary spirituality and to help to promote awareness and participation to the universal mission in the local churches.

**5.2** For Spiritan Friends, it is an ongoing formation, adapted to the needs, expectations and dispositions of these people and to the particular context.

**5.3** For Fraternities, it will especially stress the living Spiritan tradition, in its historical and spiritual dimensions.

**5.4** Guidance is provided by the professed and by lay people. The laity themselves take part in the planning and provision of the formation programme.

**5.5** For Lay Spiritans, the structure is more elaborate.<sup>23</sup>

**5.5.1** An initial programme, in sessions, is generally offered over 2 years. It is approved by the circumscription.

**5.5.2** It aims to develop an awareness of what it means and what it requires to be a Spiritan lay missionary in today’s world.

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<sup>23</sup> When available, examples of formation programme implemented in various circumscriptions will be found at the Congregation’s website ([www.spiritanroma.org](http://www.spiritanroma.org)).

**5.5.3** It can comprise: an experience of individual and community prayer; a sense of Spiritan community; elements of Christian theology and missionary approaches; a deepened introduction to the spirituality, charism and history of the Congregation; the study of the writings and life of our founders; conditions for a durable solidarity with the poor and marginalised; a critical analysis of structures, values and mechanisms of societies; the dialogue between cultures and religions; the safeguarding of creation; best practice for the protection of minors and vulnerable people.

**5.5.4** Beyond the initial formation programme, it is critical to put in place a programme of ongoing formation and renewal, using especially Congregation publications (reviews, books, chapter documents, multimedia products). They will touch upon in a special way new topics and current Spiritan experience.