

VII. CONCLUSION

At the Maynooth General Chapter, in 1998, in a presentation on Lay Spiritan Associates in the Congregation, it was stated that : *“Our associate brothers and sisters are companions along the way and we believe that we can find a mutual enrichment in each step that we take together. (...) To travel along together with the associates is perhaps the strongest sign of this present time.”*²⁶

Nearly twenty years later, this *Guide*, which draws upon multiple experiences in this area, is not meant to be an end, but rather a significant step on the "covenantal journey." It will be, hopefully, both a reference and a source of inspiration where the diversity of the Spiritan family seeks to be expressed. It does not pretend to reflect any local particularity but, instead, wants to encourage and guide the development of contextualized documents which meet the aspirations, experience and culture in the various circumscriptions and Unions.²⁷ In other words, this *Guide* is still a work in progress: *“We are not at the end of the journey of reflection regarding our identity and our place in the heart of the Congregation. We believe that we need to be open to the manifestation of the Spirit and the specifics of each group.”*²⁸

²⁶ Maynooth, 1.18

²⁷ Cf. Bagamoyo 2.14

²⁸ Torre d’Aguilha, 11.3