

12 May 2021

Report of Continuous Learning and Mentoring Work Group (Br Steven Joseph, Chair; Br Dunstan; Sr Julian; and Sr Margaret Mary).

The charge of this work group in January was to recommend actions to strengthen and sustain professed-member involvement in the CSL community. After reviewing core documents, considering potential changes, and soliciting input from all professed members, the work group submitted its final four-page report to the Abbot and Council in April. The report emphasized the need for CSL formation to be viewed as part of a 'Journey of a Lifetime'. Specific recommendations included easy access to updated formation manuals, forums for formation guides and advisors to learn from one another, and community-wide and small-group discussions related to the Rule of Benedict and associated vows and spiritual practices within the context of our dispersed, contemporary religious community centered in and by Christ.

A major focus of the report included recommendations for more explicit support of life-professed members and included several ways for members to continue to be involved, learn, and share their wisdom, as well as to be acknowledged for their ongoing presence and contributions.

The recommendations were included in a preliminary implementation plan, to be refined by a successor group over the summer. The plan provides for completion of 2021-tasks related to distribution of updated formation manuals and guidance, and to Abbot-reinforced expectations of those making solemn vows. Tasks for 2022-23 implementation include discussion-group facilitation, increased opportunities to share formation/transformation stories, and 'field testing' components (alluded to in the prior paragraph) of a new 'life-profession' chapter within the CSL formation manual .