CSL Planning – A Bridge Between Our Charism and Action A Report for The Winter Chapter Meeting, February 12, 2022

This report provides an update on CSL’s 5-year planning effort begun in the fall of last year. Since this need was first introduced, the planning group (representing a cross-section of members) has developed ten objectives to address issues that have surfaced in four areas: Spirituality, Communications, Formation, and Finance. Addressing these broad areas in specific ways will make the difference in how well we respond as a community to our calling to be Benedictines devoted to Christ through constant prayer, sacred reading, and service.

To help translate the objectives into real results, eighteen action items have been identified by planning subgroups assigned to prepare preliminary action plans for Council consideration. Their work will be completed this month. Examples of the action items include expanding our online services, better identifying ourselves for new inquirers, providing continuing education offerings, and having a financial strategy that adds value to our assets. The action items are being proposed for implementation from July 2022-27, in a staggered manner to balance both near and long-range needs with available resources, including available people and time. Implementation will be the responsibility of the Council and its designated work groups.

These items will be included in the 5-year plan to be reviewed by the full planning group in March before referring it to the Council in April and May for action, following any changes to be made. Subject to Council approval, the 5-year plan will be presented to the CSL Chapter in June. As one of our planners remarked, “Our task is to ensure the wheels of our Benedictine vehicle don’t fall off, while we work on our vehicle to ensure we have an enjoyable and meaningful ride ahead.”