

September 2025 Report on Implementation of CSL's Five-Year Plan

CSL's *Five-Year Plan* was adopted by Chapter in June 2022 and its implementation began with the guidance of the Council and its oversight committees in July. Regular detailed progress reports have been provided to the Chapter. The most recent one, dated May 12, 2025, was approved by Chapter on June 6, 2025. Members may contact Abbess Martha for a copy of the original plan or subsequent Chapter reports, as needed.

A nutshell perspective of the past three years and the year ahead is provided below.



Worship and Convocations (c/o Abbess Martha, Worship Committee, Zoom and Convo Coordinators)

Goals	Key Deliverables thru 8/25	2025 Priority Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be centered by Christ and the Rule of Benedict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilitated seasonal discussions related to CSL's charism and the Rule have occurred. <i>Aug '25 discussion topic was Humility, RB Ch. 7.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Offer at convocations (and afterward) discussions related to the rule and vows for development of members and the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship communally in-person and online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The <i>Opus Dei</i> application has been updated for convocations; and 'refreshers' about praying <i>In harmony</i> were provided at recent convocations. ✓ Zoom-based weekly prayer was expanded – including time for fellowship, contemplative silence, and a Liturgy of Remembrance. <i>Prayer expectations for Zoom Vespers were issued by the Abbess to our membership in Aug'25.</i> ✓ Prior research of new on-site options for convocations led to changes for '25 (<i>July in Nebraska; October in Maryland</i>) and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continue to update the <i>Opus Dei</i>, including the <i>Rituale</i>; explore use of inclusive language; and pray in harmony. ❖ Include a Liturgy of Remembrance as part of a special All Souls Day Matins or Vespers, similar to special Lent Matins held on 3/22/25. ❖ Begin meeting at NE site in July; and coastal sites in MD <i>or</i> OR for October convocations.



Communications (c/o Tech Team) and Outreach (c/o Sr Mary Magdalene)

Communications Goals	Key Deliverables thru 8/25	2025 Priority Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide accessible resources for members and adapted technology platforms for community use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coordinated and updated resources (list_serv, zoom and hybrid services: public/private Facebook sites: newsletter; directory; and website) have been updated. <i>Leadership of these resources has been transferred in the 3rd Qtr to members of the Tech Team.</i> ✓ CSL's website and <i>Opus Dei</i> applications via Webcitz contractor were updated, with input from website content reviewers. <i>Additional work on the OD app is being planned. Google Workspace platform secured; and community-funded zoom account will be available 9/15.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tech Team (Brs. Florian, Jude T, John D, Jérôme, and Ronan) to continue to provide members and committees updated, accessible resources. ❖ Working with others: (a) provide website and <i>Opus Dei</i> edits, and new CSL-funded zoom domain for community use; and (b) explore use of M365 <i>Google Workspace</i> platform for nonprofits (see F&E below).
Outreach Goals	Key Deliverables thru 8/25	2025 Priority Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-engage with CSL community partners (ex., NAECC, ABC, TEC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Member and CSL services and ministries in support of CSL's charism have been reviewed to identify CSL priorities. <i>Members have attended quarterly ABC gatherings. Abbess contact with NAECC was reactivated in 3rd Qtr.</i> ✓ New CSL trifold brochure developed in 12/24. <i>Brochure was approved by the Abbess and printed copies for member use are expected in 4th Qtr '25.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Abbess or her representative to attend NAECC annual meeting on behalf of CSL; and Outreach and other members to attend quarterly online ABC gatherings. ❖ Trifold brochure copies to be printed by mid-year. Update online profiles of CSL; and build on CSL member ministries and Religious Life Sunday as bridges to TEC and local parishes.



Formation and Education (c/o F&E Committee and Three Deans)

Goals	Key Deliverables thru 8/25	2025 Priority Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Formation Program needs of members and the CSL community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professed-life, Oblate-life, and Formation Guide manuals were updated in '24 to better reflect the Journey of a Lifetime theme, Rule of Benedict key messages, and CSL's Customary. Targeted updates were made and provided to affected members for formation year effective July '25. More support of members was provided via orientation of new members, transition meetings, facilitated discussions for novices, and celebration of milestone anniversaries. F&E offerings and July '25 convocation provided continued support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue draft Manual changes to affected members for input. Document corollary procedures and practices not in CSL's Customary or Formation Manuals to assist members with program details. Rebalance availability of formation guides and support for shifting needs of professed-life and oblate-life members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide innovative educational and community-engagement offerings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiatives offered include Abbess-sponsored forums about the Rule of Benedict; member-proposed Advent/Lent books for discussions; and Saturday Night fellowship. 3rd Qtr book discussions and fellowship night were provided. Reassigned areas and new partnerships related to continuing education/ community development include: Safe Church training; online resources in support of continuing study; Archived Records; and a Document Platform for access by members. F&E Task groups actively working on these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide online offerings related to prayer, study, and service that further develop or enhance information in the Formation Manuals. Develop document platform (with Tech Team) to ensure user-friendly and sustainable access to formation and education documents and resources.



Finance (c/o Br Jean Baptiste) and Investments (c/o Br Robert)

Goals	Key Deliverables thru 8/25	2025 Priority Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate standard financial practices for CSL type of community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Financial Management framework (structure, policies, and job descriptions) was approved by the Council in 2023 and implementation (including regular financial reports to the Council and Chapter) was begun by the Superior, Finance/Investment Committees, and Business Manager. Internal review group formation continues as a goal for 2025. Changes in 2nd-3rd Qtrs '25 include a new CSL mailing address and transfer of accounts to a Council-approved bank. Some investment account oversight changes have been implemented; and performance of investments continued to be monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support internal annual review task group and approved follow-up actions; and budget for external audit every five years. Make banking changes that reflect member moves and new information. Continue to monitor performance of investments, and any needed investment support for the operating budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop charism-driven annual budgets, within a five-year budget planning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar-year based budget reports have been regularly provided to the Council and Chapter. Pledging guidance was provided to CSL's membership; and additional options for e-pledging are being researched. A rolling-year budget, with 2024 actuals as a basis for moving forward, has been developed; and fund categories for both continuing operations and new initiatives have been identified. Budget needs for '26 are expected from CSL Committees by Nov 1 '25; and '26 budget due Council by 1'26. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update stewardship strategies and pledging information, consistent with 2025 budget and CSL needs. Continue to discuss charism-related goals for investment of CSL funds and for <i>focus of operating budget</i>.