



Salt and Light

Publication by Latin American Secular Branch – November 2024 – Number 3.

LAY IDENTITY AND MISSION SS.CC.

"We are all associated with the laity, in one way or another, in parishes, schools or other apostolates. Do we have a clear idea of its place in the work of evangelization? It is a challenge that asks us for urgent reflection, creativity and practical initiatives in our concrete situations" ("Our vocation and mission ss.cc." Patrick Bradley ss.cc. p.189, 1992)

For the Secular Branch, this year has been a time of deep reflection on the different aspects of our ss.cc lay vocation. On the way to our ELARS 2025, we would like to take this opportunity to raise the issue of SS.CC identity and mission at the center of our communities and sectors.

IDENTITY IN RELATION TO THE OTHER BRANCHES. What we have built and today we know as Secular Branch ss.cc. could not have been achieved without the support and promotion of SS.CC brothers and sisters. This relationship was the starting point and today we feel that we have our own place, which we are consolidating, through the life of our lay communities, and through the search for more exchange and co-responsibility in the different tasks or works in which we participate.

The Synodal perspective invites all of us baptized to reform the Church through communion, participation and mission. This perspective proposes new challenges that connect this process of linking SS.CC lay identity with the common mission. And from this perspective we want to propose a set of challenges both within the Secular Branch and also in our Congregational family that lead us to a fuller experience of the synodal path.

GET READY TO WALK TOGETHER. Traditionally, we lay people have always been called to tasks that initially do not require further training, and then if the possibility has been given, that participation has been transferred to spaces requiring higher levels of training.

Despite the positive aspects of this, we want to highlight in this reflection the need to think about training more specifically for our identity, rather than for the function to which we are called. To move from having training alternatives for lay people linked to specific tasks or responsibilities, to promoting training spaces and processes that strengthen greater knowledge of our role as baptized people in our Church, that illuminate our particular vocation.

**What formation spaces should we implement to ensure more complete formation for the laity in our ss.cc. family?
What initiatives can we promote from our sectors and at the Latin American level?**

LOOK AGAIN AT OUR LAY COMMUNITIES SS.CC. AS CHURCH BUILDING AND CONGREGATION BUILDING SPACES.

In this perspective of co-responsibility and contribution to our common mission, we as Secular Branch have a great opportunity through our ss.cc lay communities. This way of living our vocation can also become a space from which we can promote processes of welcoming, listening, and also the fermentation of new congregational projects that can enrich the works or spaces to which we are linked. Revaluing the lay community space must be a task that invites us to systematize the processes experienced, relaunch methodologies of reflection and discernment, apostolic action and social participation.

How can we organize in our communities and sectors to systematize and expand the development of our ss.cc lay communities? What instances could we generate or propose?

TOWARDS A COMMON SHARED MISSION FROM CO-RESPONSIBILITY, JOINT PLANNING AND SHARED SUPPORT.

A common ss.cc mission invites us to think about new ways to combine the experiences lived as Branches in our family. We must as Sectors in our territories promote dialogue between Branches, not only for celebration and sharing, but also for reflection and discernment about the works and apostolic tasks that are implemented or should be implemented. For this, new meeting spaces between Branches in each territory are needed, which open new forms of relationship and joint commitment. And within our Secular Branch at the level of each territory or perhaps at continental levels, create structures that are capable of representing the ss.cc lay people in Congregational spaces. The last General Chapter evidenced this pending challenge for our family in this regard.

How to build spaces of co-responsibility for the common mission in our sectors? How to consolidate the experience of the ELARS, as a space for reflection and discernment of the Secular Branch that favors the common mission

where we are? What organization at the continental level could favor adequate representation of our sectors at the level of the entire Congregation?

To continue our path... *(Click on the image)*

We invite you to watch the video of our last intersectoral meeting in 2024, a Latin American space that keeps us connected



We complementarily include the separate video of the talk that Patricia Villarroel ss.cc recorded for our meeting. General Superior of the Sisters.



We also share a new video from our ELARS NEWS, with many news from our sectors. A great job by correspondents, editing team and translators, to keep us united and communicated. We invite you to see it and share it.



This being our last issue of the year, our team of correspondents has produced a fraternal Christmas greeting from all sectors of the Latin American Secular Branch. Wishing all the lay men and women ss.cc. a Merry Christmas.



This week we launch a new section where we will find links to resources sent by our correspondents. In this issue the Bolivia sector gives us a creative acrostic about secular identity. Thank you Pamela for the shipment! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EqHnDjBgVhv6oiCbyl3Di-r2gRzzodFH/view?usp=sharing>

Responsibles for this publication
Lorena Huaco, Pablo Espinoza y Manuel Lozano

Translations:
English: Claudia Lema
French: Elizabeth Zapata
Portuguese: Solange Leal

Email address:
Boletinsalyluz2020@gmail.com

**Subscribe on Facebook and YouTube to Encuentro Latinoamericano.
And support us by clicking like, writing your opinions and comments!**