

# Congregazione dei Sacri Cuori

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Rome, January 20, 2014

## **TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE SS.CC. CONGREGATION**

Dear brothers and sisters,

With this letter, *the spiritual animation team of the Secular Branch* would like to inform you about *its first meeting*. This took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in the sisters' Generalate House (Via Aurelia). Present at the meeting were : Mary McCloskey, Consuelo del Saz, Elizabeth Smith, Felipe Félix Lazcano and Camille Sapu. All of these members were chosen by the two General Governments to form the team of spiritual animation.

The meeting opened with a word of welcome from the Superior General, Emperatriz Arrobo and closed with the presence of the two Superior Generals, Emperatriz Arrobo and Javier Álvarez-Ossorio.

The most important points dealt with in this meeting were the following:

1. Revision and understanding of the chapter decision concerning the Secular Branch.
2. Study of responses received from the questionnaire sent to the Secular Branch.
3. Drawing up of a Plan of Action.
4. Reflection on the formula of commitment used by the Secular Branch.
5. Index of the Secular Branch.
6. Dates and an evaluation of the meeting.

We are not going to give you a full report of the meeting. We just want to keep you informed of certain points which the animation team thought it important to share. These include :

### **A. *Index of the Secular Branch***

This is the first attempt to put all the members of the Secular Branch throughout the world together. It is also an instrument which can be used to make contact with the different Sectors of the Secular Branch. We included the email addresses of all the Coordinators of the Sectors. As you will see, the presence of the Secular Branch throughout our Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Delegations or Regions, is a reality. A reality which should be a source of joy for which we can give thanks to God. As it is said, there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

However, the spiritual animation team of the Secular Branch is aware that this first edition is not perfect.

## **B. An Action plan**

This is a simple action plan which will involve the collaboration of everyone. In the sense that an urgent call is addressed to the Major Superiors and those who accompany the Secular Branch, to help us to better fulfill our task of animation : requests will be made from the animation team which will require a response from you.

The action plan has 5 objectives:

### **1. Attention to the development of the Secular Branch**

The growth of the Secular Branch throughout the world is seen in the number of members that it has had for some time. The effort which has been made so that lay people can share our spirituality is due to us as brothers and sisters but also to the laity themselves. Our mission now as a team is to keep you up to date about important events within the Secular Branch through the different reports which we will receive. That is why those who accompany the Branch must not forget to remind the different Coordinators of the Sectors to send information to the animation team for the good of the whole Congregation.

### **2. Information to and motivation of the Congregation**

It is not enough to know that the Secular Branch exists and has existed for a long time, or that it is part of our history as a Congregation. It is important to integrate this presence within us as Religious of the Congregation. The acknowledgement is made by the laity themselves that sometimes the motivation of the brothers and sisters throughout the world isn't very strong.

On analysing this, the team thinks that perhaps this is due to insufficient information about what the different Sectors of the Secular Branch are living in the respective Provinces. Those who accompany them are asked therefore to be attentive to informing and enabling the other brothers and sisters of the Province to participate in certain events held by the Secular Branch. It is a call to availability for the good of the Secular Branch.

### **3. Provision of resources and instruments of spiritual animation and ongoing formation to the members of the Secular Branch.**

One of the things that the team is thinking of putting in place is a library on the Secular Branch. There already exists a lot of material produced in our Provinces and which aren't know by others. A request will be made so that we can put our resources together for the benefit of everyone. We know that a good number of documents are already available on the Website.

*<http://www.sscpcipus.com/en/documentation-on-secular-branch>*

The brothers and sisters desiring to send their reflections on the Secular Branch can send them to the animation team through the Secretary General of the brothers. And we would also like to let you know that a reflection on the formula of commitment within the Secular Branch has been written. It will be sent on to you shortly.

**4. The promotion of the Secular Branch by the members of the Secular Branch and also to other groups linked to our spirituality**

The fact that there are lay people who feel called by God to live, as lay people our SS.CC. charism is a source of great joy and also a responsibility for the Congregation. Concretely speaking, the Secular Branch is a richness for the Congregation and for the Church. It also has a specific contribution to make to the mission of the Congregation.

It is true that the members of the Secular Branch are the ones who are primarily responsible for its promotion. We too, as brothers and sisters, have a role to play which is not any less important in the promotion of the Secular Branch. The SB is part of the inheritance left to us by our founders. We could say that the Holy Spirit is still continuing to make this a living heritage today. Its continual renewal requires the support of each brother and sister.

The team is aware that besides the Secular Branch, there are other groups which are organized who share our spirituality. These groups must also be equally accompanied and cared for. We could also say that this is a source of richness for our spirituality and a sign of God's love that we have been endowed with such a charism.

**5. Interaction with and within the Secular branch.**

An important element which has come out of the different responses received to the questionnaire which was sent out to the Secular Branch, is that of interaction within the Sectors of the Secular Branch. There are already, as we have said, a certain number of documents written on the Secular Branch.

*<http://www.sscpicpus.com/en/secular-branch-508>*

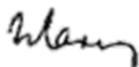
We would like to stress the existence of the Blog *<http://sscpicpus.blogspot.it/>* in which the laity are encouraged to collaborate and participate.

In our first meeting we tried to make a general assessment of our situation as a Congregation vis-à-vis the Secular Branch. We know that the members of the Secular Branch are becoming more and more numerous in the world and that it will grow in the future. God continues to lead His « work by the hand » A joy for us all.

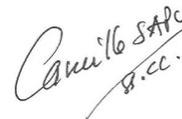
Let us pray that God will help us all along with our SS.CC. laity, each in their own situation to show His love to the world. Someone said the « our spirituality is always up to date ». This is true and we must believe in that.

Have a good and happy 2014

On behalf of the spiritual animation team of the Secular Branch,



Mary McCloskey, ssc



Camille Sapu, ssc