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Rome, February 24, 2015

To the Coordinators of the Secular Branch

Copies to: the Major Superiors

To those SSCC Brothers/Sisters who accompany

Dear Brothers and sisters,

The spiritual animation team held its meeting in Rome from the 16th to 17th February. We dealt with two important points:

1. Accompaniment of the Secular Branch by SSCC brothers and sisters.
2. The possible meeting of the coordinators in 2107.

We will not spend time on the first point « accompaniment in the SB » as you will receive a copy of this document. The reason for our letter is to inform you and to invite you into the preparation of the **meeting in 2017**.

A. Results of the questionnaire

The team are very happy with all of the responses received. They had sent the questionnaire to 22 Sectors of the Secular Branch. They received 17 responses. 16 Sectors, represented by their coordinators, send « **yes** » to holding a meeting in 2017.

The length of the meeting(that is **a week**) had a high percentage. There is only one Sector who wanted more than a week, that is 15 days. One other Sector proposed a week but with 5 working days, as it is necessary to take into account your work reality.

The spiritual animation team also express their gratitude for **the availability of the Coordinators**. From the beginning we must all realize that the preparation of the meeting concerns everyone and needs the collaboration of each one.

Keeping in mind the Sectors who have responded and guessing that those who have not responded may also participate in this meeting, the spiritual animation team think that the total number of participants will be **about thirty people**. Added to this number will be: a member of the spiritual animation team, the translators.

There has not been so much agreement in relation to the **place of the meeting**. If we analyze the responses, many of the coordinators chose Europe (France, Spain, Italy); others South America (Brazil, Chile, Peru). The criteria are almost the same: presence of a lay community, the cost of transport, the facility in obtaining a visa...

B. Preparation of the meeting in 2017

In order to begin the preparation of the meeting already, the team are proposing the following different elements to you and await your reactions. These elements in fact come from your suggestions in respect of the content.

1. **Theme of the meeting:** *"The lay vocation inspired by the SSCC Charism. Honoring the past; living the present with passion; embracing the future with hope"*.
2. **Place of the Meeting:** After discussion and keeping in mind your responses, the animation team has decided to consider two places: **El Escorial** (Spain) and **Lima** (House of Spirituality "Hermasie Paget", Belén in Lima, Peru).
 - a) If the meeting takes place in **Spain**, each participant will pay **40 euro per day** (full board), that is 280 euro for a week. This sum does not include the additional expenses (secretariat, transport, translators, etc.).
 - b) If the meeting takes place in **Peru**, each participant will pay **30 dollars per day** (full board),that is 210 dollars for a week. That is also without including the additional expenses.

Whatever the place of the meeting, each participant must then add the cost of their airplane ticket or personal transport.

3. **Date of the meeting:** We have considered two possible dates:
 - a) From the 26th July to 2nd August 2017.
 - b) From the 24th July to 31st July 2017.

These dates are chosen to coincide with holiday times in the two hemispheres.

4. Content of the meeting

There will be three big moments:

- a) *Looking to the past:* this theme chosen will focus on the history of the Secular Branch (social-historical context; ecclesial context and its semantic evolution in the Congregation) and the present reality.
- b) *Living the present:* sharing the experiences of the Sectors (Prayer, Community Life and financial Solidarity, Apostolic Life, Initial Formation, and admission of members, Ongoing Formation).
- c) *Embrace the future:* the Lay vocation (Identity and influence of the Charism on my life; the contribution of the Charism to your society and to your Church; the challenge of our SSCC Charism for our Church and for our world...)

These three moments are shown in the following table:

1 st day	2 nd day	3 rd day	4 th day	5 th day	6 th day	7 th day
	LOOKING AT THE PAST History of the Secular branch - Social-historical context - ecclesial context - semantic evolution in the Congregation	2. Community life and financial solidarity 3. Apostolic Life	4. (Initial/Ongoing) Formation and admission of members EMBRACE THE FUTURE Lay Vocation How the SSCC charism influences my life ? What for you is the contribution of the SSCC charism to your society and Church ? How does our SSCC charism challenge our Church and our world ?	Liturgy	Excursion	Evaluation
				Plenary and pending themes		
Integration	LIVING THE PRESENT Experience of the Sectors 1. Prayer			Visit to the families of the SSCC laity		Closing mass and Celebration
Integration	Liturgy	Liturgy	Liturgy			
	Cultural evening	Cultural evening	Cultural evening			

5. Methodology

- All the sectors will prepare the themes of the meeting
- One or two Sectors will be chosen by the coordination team of the meeting to present the theme .This team will be put in place.
- A methodology which enables the participation of all the participants and which facilitates the sharing of experiences.
- A panel will be created to deal with certain themes so as to allow for a much broader response.
- Etc.

6. Questions needing a response

1. Do you agree with the theme (cf. number 1)? Suggestions?
2. Where do you want the meeting to take place: Spain or Peru?
3. Which date is preferable for you? a) or b)?
4. Knowing that these themes must be developed and the sectors involved in their presentation: can you think of any other elements to add to the table? (cf. number 4)
5. Have you any other suggestions for the methodology? (cf. number 5)

The team would like to have your response **before the 16th June 2015.**

Your suggestions are gratefully received.

We wish you a good Lenten journey and a holy Easter celebration!

In name of the Spiritual Animation Team of the SSCC Secular Branch,



Mary McCloskey, ssc



Camille Sapu, ssc