

A COMMON TREASURE

The groups of laypeople throughout the world embody, with great freedom and diversity the charism, spirituality and mission that Etienne Pernet and Antoinette Fage passed on to us. There are common elements within this great diversity.

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We offer this 'Common Treasure' as a sign of identity. Each group will be able to own it, in its own reality. It is an open text that can evolve, arising from their life and with a common Laity/LSA reflection.

II. THE FAMILY SPIRIT

Within the diversity of the groups there are characteristics that are shared by all which turn out to be fundamental elements of our Charism and which we call: Family Spirit.

COMMITMENT WITH THE POOR:



Persons who have experienced poverty themselves or persons and groups of various social classes commit themselves with those who are impoverished. Others organize themselves to develop projects that will improve their living conditions.

R.L. 17: 'I have seen the affliction of my people... I have heard their cry... Go, I send you.' Called in this way, we are sent to the poor. We travel with them on a journey of exodus and liberation, the path of the covenant.

THE INNER AND THE OUTER DIMENSION - SPIRITUALITY



Transformation

Persons are committed in a personal transformation and in a transformation of society because they believe that another world is possible.

R.L. 10: In this world where so many are searching, but where values and anxieties, good and evil, are intermingled, we contemplate the work of God. We listen to His Word and allow the Spirit of Jesus to modify and convert our outlook.

MUTUALITY IN RELATIONSHIPS



Mutuality

As at the beginning of the Congregation people, whatever their social status, positioned themselves in solidarity with, and among, those who are impoverished.

R.L. 20: As we share in the aspirations, the values, the joys and sufferings of the poor, we learn with them to let ourselves be converted to the Gospel. We discover the Spirit of the Lord at work in an act of love, in forgiveness, and in service to others at the cost of one's tranquillity and sometimes of one's life.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER



Care

Within this family people take care of one another; they are concerned to change their personal life and to help others improve theirs.

R.L. 19: We search with others for ways to create an environment where each one is called by name, invited to be creative and gradually to take part in building up the world.

COMMITTED TO STRUGGLE AGAINST DIFFICULTIES



Hope

There is a spirit of perseverance, of hope and of zeal – despite the poverty and weakness there is a belief in the capacity to rise.

R.L. 9: In the midst of these situations we are acutely aware of the evils afflicting exploited workers and the poor, and are particularly attentive to them and their families. We work among them to promote the health and dignity of persons, especially by the care of the sick, social and family work, and other tasks according to the spirit of the Congregation.

LIVE WHAT WE BELIEVE



Believe

People seek to live in the unity of Life-Faith. Their choices are marked by their desire to live according to what they desire for others. Sharing and going more deeply into the Word of God gives light and support for this journey.

R.L. 9: Together we are sent to those who have neither voice nor influence in this world, so that our actions may 'speak Jesus Christ', Good News announced to the poor.