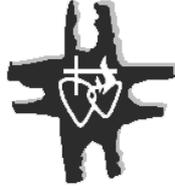


Congregazione dei Sacri Cuori

Casa Generalizia
delle Suore dei Sacri Cuori
Via Aurelia, 145 Scala C-Int. 10/14
00165 Roma (Italia)

Tel. + 39 06 638 11 40
Fax. + 39 - 06 638 10 13



Casa Generalizia
dei Padri dei Sacri Cuori
Via Rivarone, 85
00166 Roma (Italia)

Tel. + 39 - 06 66 17 931
Fax. + 39 - 06 66 17 93 55

Rome, January 20, 2014

TO THE COORDINATORS OF THE SECULAR BRANCH

TO THE BROTHERS/SISTERS ACCOMPANYING THE SECULAR BRANCH

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to you from this roman town from where we would like to wish each and everyone of you a prosperous new year full of the Lord's blessings.

We want to let you know that the brothers and sisters Team for the spiritual animation of the Secular Branch met for the first time from the 3rd to the 6th January in Rome. They had time to reread all the responses given to the questionnaire which had been sent to the different sectors of the Branch. Because of this, the Team wished to thank all the SS.CC. laity for their availability and collaboration.

An Index of the Secular Branch

The Team would already like to inform you that the Index of the Secular Branch is nearly ready. It contains all the names of the Secular Branch, that is, those who have made a public commitment in the different sectors of the Branch in our different Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Delegations or Regions.

However, since the life of the Secular Branch is in constant evolution, there are changes every year and it would seem to be important that the Index is updated each year. This means that the different Coordinators of the Secular Branch, send at an appropriate moment, information concerning the commitments made in their respective Sectors. And in the hope of improving the Index, you will be asked to send other information about the members in relation to their communities or Sectors. You will shortly be sent a letter in relation to this. We remind you in passing that each Sector must keep its Register up to date.

Development of the Secular Branch

In your responses to the questionnaire you asked the animation Team to inform you about the development of the Secular Branch throughout the world. This type of information can only come from you and the team will act as a bridge within the Congregation. With this in mind, you should consult the web site of the Congregation on a regular basis:

<http://www.sccpicpus.com/>

Each time that there is an event in your Sector(commitment, retreat, celebration of the Branch, annual Assembly...) write a note to the following address: *secgen@sccpicpus.com*

The animation Team's greatest concern is that there would be good interaction between the different coordinators of the Secular Branch throughout the world and a flow of information in the Congregation.

Action Plan

The animation plan responded to the triple mission entrusted to the team by the two General Chapters. A plan of action for the next 5 years has been drawn up (cf. *Annex*). This plan will need the collaboration of everyone. It is a plan with 5 main objectives:

1. Attention to the development of the Secular Branch.
2. Information to and motivation of the Congregation.
3. Provision of resources and instruments of spiritual animation and ongoing formation to the members of the Secular Branch.
4. The promotion of the Secular Branch by the members of the Secular Branch and also to other groups linked to our spirituality.
5. Interaction in and with the Secular branch.

We will give a small explanation of each objective.

1. Attention to the development of the Secular Branch in the world

Through this objective the team hopes to inform the members of the Secular Branch and the SS.CC. brothers and sisters of the development or the growth of the Secular Branch through the years, by updating the Index and getting information periodically from the coordinators and by, when possible, visiting the Secular Branch during the different visits by the General Governments.

2. Motivation of and information to the Congregation.

Some of the responses to the questionnaires spoke of how many of the SS.CC. brothers and sisters were neither motivated nor informed about the lived reality of the Secular Branch in their respective Sectors. The aim of this objective is, as far as possible, to keep the brothers and sisters of the congregation informed about the evolution and the mission of the Secular Branch in the world. Here, those brothers and sisters who accompany the Secular Branch have a certain responsibility to inform and motivate the brothers and sisters about what is happening in the different sectors of the Branch.

3. The provision of resources and instruments of spiritual animation and of ongoing formation.

Through this objective the animation team hope to create a virtual « library » of all the documents which have been produced up until now on the Secular Branch. This library will be composed of material produced in our respective Sectors . In the Library section of the Web site a certain number of documents are already available.

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

The same team hopes to offer certain material for the spiritual animation to the Secular Branch. The Coordinators and those accompanying them can also use material produced by the two general Governments throughout their mandate.

4. The promotion of the Secular Branch by members of the Secular Branch.

The person best placed to speak about and to promote the Secular Branch is primarily a member of the Secular Branch. Our lives and our joy in being a member of the Secular Branch should spread to others so that they might join us. We must respect other groups with their spirituality while still sharing our joy in belonging to the big family of the Sacred Hearts. This way of promoting ourselves happens mainly in the sharing of experiences as a Sector.

5. Interaction in /and with the Secular Branch.

One of the things on which you insisted in your responses was that of mutual interaction and acquaintance within the Secular Branch. This mutual acquaintance happens through communication and the use of new technology : the Website, the Congregational blog. We know that there are Sectors that have a magazine or a bulletin. All of these are important tools to ensure good interaction among the Sectors and within the Congregation. Don't hesitate. Send everything that you have to the following email address.: *secgen@ssccpicpus.com*

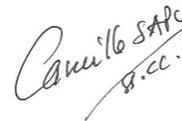
Other possible activities are being considered and will be duly communicated to you.

Let us finish by thanking the Lord for all that he has done for us in Christ. May « God with us » accompany each and everyone of us in our mission of proclaiming the love of God manifest in this world torn by sin and injustice.

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



Mary McCloskey, ssc



Camille Sapu, ssc