



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCAATION

STAGE II
July 2021 - June 2022

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION. Formation and mentoring

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ITINERARIES AND PROCESSES OF FORMATION AND MENTORING - SHEET 2 / 1

SHARING CHARISM AND MISSION WITH LAYPEOPLE

ANNEX I

A Gospel-based Family as our goal

Antonio Botana, FSC

Strictly speaking, we cannot "transmit the charism". Only the Holy Spirit, its author, can do that. It is up to us to prepare the way, the ground, the environment.... Formation programs are "catalysts" which facilitate a reaction, the encounter of the Spirit with the possible recipient of the charism. For this reason, they are also indispensable for sharing the charism between religious and laypeople. But, obviously, not all 'programs' are equally helpful.

The ultimate aim of a formation program is to form an identity, and not simply to transmit intellectual content. A person is ready to join a Gospel-based Family when he or she has assumed the collective identity that characterises this Family. In the meantime, he or she may be an aspirant, or a sympathiser, or a beneficiary of the Family's mission.

Depending on the recipients, their objectives and where they are in their vocational growth, a program can help them discover the deeper meaning of a humanitarian task or job, to feel the needs of those they serve as calls to be answered, to discover the vocational dimension of their profession, to understand their workplace as a place of presence and growth of the Kingdom.... From each charism, fresh expressions

can emerge, ranging from serving basic human needs to the highest levels of evangelisation.

Those of us, both religious and lay, who are living this way of engaging with the world with meaning and depth, thanks to the charism we have received, also have a responsibility to help our co-workers or people who come to us seeking meaning to make the same discovery. The responsibility is not only for those who engage in mission through largely active ministries, but also for those who enjoy more contemplative expressions of the charism.

Programs that aim to facilitate someone's joining a Gospel Family should not only focus on mission, but develop a spirit of communion, linking him or her with other members of the community.

Such formation programs are intended not only for laypeople, but also for religious themselves, who already live the charism daily. They are included in these formation programs, not only to share their personal experience of the charism with laypeople who are beginners or those who already live it in depth in their lay vocation, but also to hear and witness what these people have to share and to let themselves be challenged.