

- **Cistercian History**

Candidates should read at least one of the following histories and discuss with his/her mentor:

The Three Founders of Cîteaux tr. by Nicholas Groves
The Cistercian Way by Andre Louf
Waters of Siloe by Thomas Merton

- **Cistercian Studies**

A review of Charism and fundamentals of Cistercian spirituality will acquaint the candidate with the Cistercian tradition. The writings of at least one of these authors is recommended:

St. Bernard of Clairvaux
Aelred of Rievaulx
William of St. Thierry

- **Periodic Review**

Continuous study of the history and growth of the Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani, as well as the Lay Cistercian “identity,” is also strongly suggested. This identity is shared by other lay Cistercian communities affiliated with monasteries around the world.

The candidate should become aware of the emergence of the International Association of Lay Cistercian Communities which serves to focus and unify the widening application of the Cistercian charism.

It is therefore suggested that the candidate periodically review the following documents:

- ***Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani Abbey Plan of Life (1989)***
- ***Towards the Formation of LCG Members (2001)***
- ***Companioning with The Plan of Life (2007)***
- ***Lay Cistercian Identity (Huerta, 2008)***
- ***Ecumenical Considerations for the Lay Associates of Gethsemani (2010)***
- ***Statement of Formation of Lay Cistercians (Lourdes 2014)***
- ***History of Lay Cistercian of the Abbey of Gethsemani by Michael Johnson***

It should be noted that the Abbey serves as a hub, with the LCG local communities as spokes around the hub. The Advisory Council, in conjunction with Abbey representatives, is entrusted to assure the continued integrity and devotion by members and our local communities to the Gethsemani Abbey and the Cistercian charism.