

LASA (Lay Associates of St. Ann)

LASA family is

- A group made up of lay people
- Baptized men and women
- Belonging to any social, economic and cultural category
- Willing to share the Spirituality, Charism, and Mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann and become a part of one big family.

Histry of LASA

Starting the Lay associates of Saint Ann (LASA) was concretized during the XXXI General Chapter in 2002. It was initiated by our Former Mother Generals, Mother Franschescina, thrust was given by Mother Ernestine Fernandes and further thrust and motivation provided by Mother Francesca and their teams.

- In 2004, Sisters of St. Ann, in Latin American countries, invited the laity to share with them the spirituality of our Founders and their Charism as a legacy from the Founders.
- In 2006, during the Bicentennial year of the Marriage of Carlo and Giulia, the General Council drafted the essential elements of the charismatic identity of the Lay Associates of Saint Ann; viz. Spiritual life, lifestyle, dimension of service and formative dimension.
- Over the past years, the Sisters in Latin American Countries Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Argentina formed the “Lay Associates of Saint Ann” (LASA)
- In the Philippines and in Cameroon, the LASA is growing stronger and steady.
- In Italy, there isn't a LASA group established formally; but through the educative mission, they are forming it gradually.

RELEVANCE OF LASA in the Indian context

- Though the Catholic population of India is insignificant when compared to the total population of India, we feel, a majority of the Catholics are practising their faith.
- The Charismatic movement and Jesus youth ministry made many people: old and young to read and meditate the Word regularly and be faithful to the sacraments. Many experience a longing to live the baptismal consecration in the best way.
- We share the Charism, Spirituality and Mission of the Congregation with the teachers and other Lay people with whom we associate.
- But we have only a few Catholic teachers in our Institutions who are rendering their educative services.

Charism

- A divinely conferred gift or power
- A spiritual power that gives an individual authority over people.
- Charism to the Institution is what the soul is to the body .

The purpose of LASA

- To share the Charism and Spirituality of our Founders and guide them to become role models to other families.
- To involve them in the mission of educating, healing and caring for the little ones and the poor.
- To lead them to a greater commitment- to live their baptismal experience as salt to the earth, light of the world and as leaven in a dough.
- To motivate them to become instrument of providence and sign of hope to the little ones and the poor.

Logo



- The logo describes the following:
- **The human figures** embracing the globe depicts the LASA members are to bring the message of God to the little ones and the poor become instruments of Providence, witnesses of mercy and signs of hope. This also shows unity of LASA family throughout the world.
- **The Heart:** Symbolizes true and chaste married love; the love that should exist in the family.
- **The House:** symbolises Confidence, unity and security that characterises family life.
- **The Anchor:** Anchor symbolizes hope; the theological virtue that expresses firmness, consistency and fidelity which prevents spiritual decadence.
- **The cross on the anchor:** Indicates that Christ is at the centre of family life. Through prayer they desire to unite their will to God's will.
- **In Spe:** In Spe is the **motto** of our Founders. In Hope, Carlo and Guilia walked the path of holiness.

- **LASA group** is the part of the religious family of the Congregation with whom they share the same Spirituality, Charism and Mission inherited from Our Founders.

Organization and Co-Ordination

- **At the local level**

Each Community must have a Sister in-charge together with a lay Co-ordinator

- **At the Provincial / Delegation / National level:**

The Provincial Superior / the Delegate Superior with their Councils

- **At the International level:**

Mother General and one General Councillor as point of reference.

LASA STRUCTURE

For Indian Provinces

Mother General

[Global chairperson]



General Councillor

Global coordinator



Province level commission

[Core group]

Provincial Superior

[Chair Person]



Councillor

[Convenor and coordinator]



Members

Or regional coordinators

OBJECTIVES OF LASA INDIA:

- To understand and appreciate the charism and spirituality of SAP.
- To create a greater sense of belongingness to SAP and LASA.
- To strengthen and deepen Christian Faith.
- To grow in the human and Christian values.
- To make known the history of our Congregation and the life of our Founders.
- To share our Charism, Spirituality and Mission with the Lay people.

PROFILE OF LASA MEMBERS

- Good practising Catholics.
- Baptized men/ women of any social background who decide to live the Christian life in the Light of the Venerable, Carlo and Guilia.
- Persons who identify themselves/wish to identify with the Charism, Spirituality and Mission of SAP.
- Committed persons who want to live the essence of their Faith.

LASA ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL UNIT LEVEL

1. Regular, weekly/ monthly prayer meetings for students.
2. Newsletters and handouts
3. Circulate copies on the life history of Founders and others.
4. Enact dramas, and thematic presentation on the life of Founders
5. Competitions (drawing, painting, elocution etc) on Founders life, Charism and Spirituality
6. Writings authored by Founders make available through Library
7. PowerPoint presentation on Founders- at Schools and Parishes meeting.
8. Pilgrimages
9. Formation of prayer groups in Schools
10. Visiting Orphanages, Mercy Homes and Hospitals
11. Religious instruction classes – to dwell on Founders life, Charism and Spirituality
12. Visiting home and spreading SAP spirituality- encouraging families to pray.
13. Organizing LASA Day and Couples Day
14. School assemblies based on SAP values
15. Counselling others, encouraging vocations wherever possible.
16. Training selected staff to be resource persons to facilitate and animate the LASA movement in the future