

2014 VDEI USA District Assembly – Proposals
(For Review and Discussion at June 2014 Team Meetings)

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Jamie Bono

Members: John Szamreta, James Musumeci

Spirituality Proposals

That USA District keep the spirituality of the Institute at the forefront of all that we are and do, specifically at our team meetings, Regional Gatherings and Congresses, and Daily Life.

Team Meetings

Theme: Attention should be given to understanding and sharing of best practices so that team meetings can be spent in quality time of prayer, reflection, and relationship-building.

- A. It is proposed that facilitators meet on a regular basis to discuss best practices. Examples: meeting criteria (templates), how to include spiritual growth, experience of “3-5’, personal prayer and personal reflections.
- B. It is proposed that there be a periodic meeting with all members to discuss best practices of team meetings. Examples: The tone of the meeting should encourage and challenge our living out the 3-5s; Share our living out this spirituality in our daily life – perhaps guiding questions to make this an easier task; to come to a better understanding of our intellectual sharing as well as what it means to us personally, as the trust level increases in the group; team lessons should incorporate Fr. Parent’s spirituality.

Regional Gathering and Congresses

Theme: The National and Sector meetings should be a time for spiritual growth.

- A. It is proposed that different types of activities be part of regional gatherings and congresses. Examples: A member could give his/her personal experience and encourage others to share in small groups (a lot of people are capable of this); have someone from outside the Institute talk on a spiritual subject, gather input on

the wide variety of spiritual practices that already exist within the Institute, e.g. meditation and works of charity; Talks should not be given at the level of spirituality 101 nor at a graduate level; use a team meeting format at regional meetings with groups formed from members of different teams (in this way we get to know people of other teams). Talks on spirituality other than VDei is important and complementary and can help members with making comparisons with charisms of other religious entities. Annual retreat given by someone familiar with VDei

B. Prayer Times

[It is proposed that more time for private reflection, sharing and prayer be part of our gatherings.](#)

Examples: Provide optional opportunities at Congress for people to practice various prayer forms, especially those that are part of the 3 fives, or to share aspects of their spiritual journey or spiritual practice with others. Schedule as optional activities during a previous break time or before breakfast, with other options at the same time for members to choose from: Reflective Prayer or Meditation; Rosary; Eucharistic Holy Hour, Lectio Divina, Taize prayer

C. Time Management

[It is proposed that the schedule reflect a balance between talks, discussion, prayer, free time.](#)

Examples: Arrange the schedule so that talks don't go longer than 30 minutes and the entire session not go longer than 75 minutes; Every minute of the regional meetings need not be scheduled with a talk or discussion; Free time is appreciated; Find ways to emphasize companionship, rest, and refreshment; Business time should be acknowledged as needed; Work out a healthy balance within total gathering time; Less talk! Shorter reflections, maybe 30 minutes. Use the maxim: "less is more"

D. Liturgy

[It is proposed that our prayer life be very much at the center of our activities and life and should a shared responsibility.](#)

Examples: Other venues of prayer be explored such as different uses of space; a task force or ad hoc group formed to study and assist the Liturgy Committee with the ministry of prayer direction; wider group be involved in the selection, preparation and execution of our prayer activities when we are gathered together as a large group.

Daily Life

Theme: Help members develop their personal spirituality within the Institute and better understand our witness with our daily words, actions and deeds of who we are as Voluntas Dei members.

- A. It is proposed that team meeting lessons and talks at regional gatherings address topics related to this issue.

Examples: The challenge of our Five Acts of Charity; simplicity of lifestyle which flows, in part, from the simplicity of our spirituality; explicit exploration of Fr. Parent's works with built in ways to utilize this in personal prayer and reflection, e.g., Jesuits have Ignatian spirituality which people can learn and utilize for daily living, similar could be said for Benedictines or Norbertines etc., (of course we are not an order but we have a spirituality); Use a team meeting format at regional meetings with groups formed from members of different teams (in this way we get to know people of other teams) and share aspects of their spiritual journey or spiritual practice with others; use technology as a means to gather people in prayer.

FORMATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Timothy Sullivan

Members: Rory Murphy, John Anderson, Eileen Theys, Alex Ibarra

Formation Proposal # 1

Clerical and Lay Formation

That the USA District create and communicate a clear formation process and structures for all members, according to their status. (Married couples, lay single members, affiliates, seminarians/clergy and all in ongoing formation).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. We nurture and encourage people's call to ongoing formation.
- b. Both clergy and married couples help mentor others through the formation process.
- c. We stress that accountability is on the self.
- d. We explore way of welcoming new people into the team.
- e. We develop a support structure and program for men in formation to priesthood.
- f. With the assistance and input of our Affiliates: We develop a support structure and program for Affiliates.

Formation Proposal # 2

Team Formation

That the USA District shall develop and improve its communication and sharing of important information regarding Team focused Formation amongst its members in all stages of formation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Examine, discuss and share the best practices of how teams are identifying and meeting the needs of members.
- b. Write team lessons that speak to the spirituality of V.Dei with suggested focused questions.
- c. Provide additional links to the theological/spiritual resources for lessons to supplement team lessons and bridge theological concepts or current events in the church with the team lessons.
- d. Provide regular opportunities for team coordinators to share common highlights, practices and concerns regarding team meetings.

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE - Submission #1

Chairperson: Anthony Bruno

Members: Paul Lang, James Burns, Timothy Corbley, Marty Theys

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR 2014 ASSEMBLY:

1. That the USA District updates our statutes to allow amendments to the USA District of Voluntas Dei Statutes (Chapter XII paragraph 67).
2. That the USA District amends its statutes for District-wide meetings (Chapter XI paragraph 66)
3. That the USA District seeks transparency of District finances & minutes with the membership as a whole and proposes an amendment to Responsibilities of the District Council (Chapter III paragraph 5A).
4. That the USA District amend Chapter V General and Particular Formation of membership with regards to that the District stay faithful to and enforce the basic financial obligations of members as it pertains to Time, Treasure, and Talent. (Chapter V paragraph 21e.)
5. That the USA District amend Chapter V General and Particular Formation of membership with regards for the inclusion and role of single women and other persons as Associate Members.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND US DISTRICT STATUTES

I. PROPOSAL

That the USA District develops and implements a procedure for amendments to the USA District of Voluntas Dei Statutes.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Statutes presently do not provide for amendment. Amendments may be proposed at the Assembly (as is now being done), by the District Council, or should the Council decide not to propose the amendment, a majority of the voting members may propose the amendment. Robert's Rules of Order suggests the 2/3rds vote for bylaw amendments; the Statutes seem to be more analogous to a bylaw than to a resolution.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT ...

The Statutes of USA District of Voluntas Dei Secular Institute be amended adding:

1. These Statutes may be amended at any District Assembly by the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3rds) of the delegates present and voting at that Assembly.
2. These Statutes may be amended from time to time at any District-wide meeting of the District upon thirty (30) days prior written notice, including a copy of the proposed amendment, sent to all vowed and committed members of the United States District by ordinary mail or by electronic mail at the members address on file with the District.
3. A proposed amendment may be offered by the District Council or, upon the receipt by the District Council of a petition signed by a majority of the vowed and committed membership containing the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall be offered by petition Said petition and proposed amendment must be received by the District Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the next District-wide meeting.
4. An amendment will be deemed approved and take effect immediately upon the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3rds) of the vowed and committed members in attendance at the meeting or voting by a proxy filed with the District Council.
5. The new procedure can be marked Chapter XII Amendments - paragraph 67.

III. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED BY: The Structures Committee

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO CREATE AND DEFINE SCOPE OF DISTRICT-WIDE MEETINGS

I. PROPOSAL

That the USA District amend the statutes to incorporate and define scope of District-wide Meetings forms a committee for the inclusion and role of single women and other persons as Associate Members.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

The District believes that Voluntas Dei must be made more available not only to its members but to prospective members as well; yet the cost of travel to national meetings is a continuing concern for the growth of its membership. If, in addition to the present financial constraints of the members, the increasing costs of travel is added the District stands to lose the joy of sharing our consecrated life with too many otherwise qualified and dedicated persons. The proposal not only broadens the areas from members are drawn to meetings it also allows inquirers and aspirants better opportunities to share in the spirituality of the entire Voluntas Dei membership.

Cost of transportation- as well as other budgetary considerations-render unreasonable pre-fixed subsidies for air travelers. The District Council, using an ad hoc committee from the host Sector, can better fix "base" and "cap" amounts as venues and fares change.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT ...

1. Three (3) national meetings of the District shall be held annually, during the first full week of March (hosted by the Annunciation and Assumption Sectors and being one and one-half (1 ½) days), during the first full week of August (hosted by the Annunciation Sector and being two and one-half (2 1/2)days), and during the first full week of November (hosted by the Visitation Sector)
2. Vowed and committed members are expected to attend all national meetings (unless a grave reason prevents attendance); all other members are encouraged to attend all national meetings (unless a good reason prohibits attendance).
3. Each member is expected to pay the expenses involved in attending national meetings. However, the District Council shall establish a "base" and "cap" for travel expenses for each national meeting based upon the then currently prevailing air transportation fares to the location of the meeting. A member attending a national meeting may deduct from his financial obligation as set forth in Paragraph 49 hereof, the difference between his air travel costs and the "base" as fixed by the District Council, but not to exceed the "cap" fixed by the District Council.
4. The details of organizing each national meetings, subject to the final approval of the District Council, shall be the responsibility of the host Sector(s). The

responsibility for providing multimedia avenues, when and where available, to aid the gathering of members who are not able to attend the national meeting shall rest with the other Sectors, it being the desire that more active participation in meeting discussions will result.

5. The Below chart gives a basic cost per person to attend a typical Voluntas Dei Meeting of 1 ½ to 2 days. Voluntas historical records indicate the member paying an average of \$189 per member or \$250 per couple @ a retreat or convention center (Northeast) including meals and additional cost of \$4,000 is paid by Voluntas for speaker, VIP guests, Members who need financial support to attend, Music, etc.
6. When not using a convention / retreat center the cost of rooms goes down averaging \$125 a night for a double room. The expenses for the Voluntas organization remain close to the same for speaker, VIP guests, Members who need financial support to attend, Music, etc. In this venue there is no meals included. The membership either partake in arranging a meal for the group or each is on their own for meals.

(Next Page Attached General Breakdown of Basic Expenses for member to attend a national meeting)

III. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED BY:
The Structures Committee

Preliminary Cost Structure

Cost per Individual (City Specific Expenses)

Lodgings (Average Cost per room per night at 3+ star hotel)	
Los Angeles:	\$172
New York	\$230
Chicago	\$135
Houston	\$110
Philadelphia	\$220
Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$125
Washington, DC	\$125

Approximate Flight Cost (purchased one month in advance)								Average
	LAX	NYC	CHI	HOU	PHL	MSP	WAS	
To: Los Angeles	X	\$430	\$340	\$390	\$430	\$360	\$480	\$405
To: New York	\$360	X	\$280	\$290	\$300	\$360	\$210	\$300
To: Chicago	\$280	\$330	X	\$340	\$340	\$150	\$315	\$293
To: Houston	\$300	\$340	\$300	X	\$360	\$400	\$350	\$342
To: Philadelphia	\$380	\$420	\$330	\$360	X	\$430	\$370	\$382
To: Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$	290	\$330	\$150	\$300	X	320	\$292
To: Washington, DC	\$	410	\$200	\$310	\$330	\$300	\$360	\$318

Subtotal: Los Angeles	\$577
Subtotal: New York	\$530
Subtotal: Chicago	\$428
Subtotal: Houston	\$452
Subtotal: Philadelphia	\$602
Subtotal: Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$417
Subtotal: Washington, DC	\$443
AVERAGE	\$493

Group-wide Expenses	
Meals (Assuming 3 meals at \$12 per meal per person with 100 people)	\$3,600
Speaker Fees	\$1,500
Printed Materials	\$500
Conference Room Fee (will vary widely)	\$1,000
Total	\$6,600
Total per person	\$66

TOTAL - Cost per individual (average city)	\$559
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SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE FINANCIAL STATUS AND MINUTES TO ITS MEMBERSHIP

I. PROPOSAL

That the USA District seeks transparency of finances and minutes with the membership as a whole.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Several teams expressed in varying degrees concern about a lack of transparency within the organizational structure of the District. Several of the foregoing items are made available regularly. The effect of this proposal will codify the duty of the District Council to expeditiously keep the membership informed of what is going on, yet reserving to the Director the absolute right and duty to withhold such information as he, in his charity, justice, and absolute discretion, concludes shall remain with the District Council.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT ...

1. The District Council provide to all vowed, committed, and probationary members, and aspirants upon written request minutes of its meetings, together with information about ministry outreach, annual budget, itemization of revenues and expenses, and financial obligations of the District, all of which items shall be redacted by the Director as he deems appropriate and reasonable. The foregoing items shall be provided prior to the next meeting of the District Council.
2. A process be implemented that makes public, within the membership, the above mentioned items through a portal within the Voluntas Dei website.
3. This item can be amended in Chapter III – paragraph 5A of our statutes

III. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED BY:
Structures Committee

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO AMEND GENERAL AND PARTICULAR FORMATION OF MEMBERSHIP – PART 1

I. PROPOSAL

That the USA District stay faithful to and enforce its basic financial obligations of its membership.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

This provision emphasizes one's personal commitment, to the best of their available time, God-given talent, and, after providing for their security, the financial ability to live a life in accordance with their vows and promises.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT ...

1. Each member shall remain responsible for the stewardship appropriate to his status in the Institute in accordance with the Constitutions and Statutes related to his time, talent, and treasure to the Institute.
2. This item can be amended in Chapter V paragraph 21e.

III. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED BY:

The Structures Committee

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO AMEND GENERAL AND PARTICULAR FORMATION OF MEMBERSHIP – PART 2

I. PROPOSAL

That the USA District appoint a committee to address full integration of unmarried, celibate women into the Institute.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Pope Francis stated in his dialogue with Rabbi Abraham Skorka of Buenos Aires (and published at Chapter 13 in *On Heaven and Earth*), “[I]f all these riches [the gifts of maternity and tenderness given by God to women] are not integrated, a religious community not only transforms into a chauvinistic society, but also into one that is austere, hard, and hardly sacred. The fact that a woman cannot exercise priesthood does not make her less than male. This proposal does not open the door to the admission of unmarried women into the Institute, rather it explores whether there is a key to that door.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT ...

1. That the District Council appoint a standing committee to address full integration of unmarried, celibate women into the Institute as Associate Members.
2. The committee is charged with investigating whether other secular institutes include unmarried women with unmarried men and married couples as members of equal standing.
3. The committee shall also advise the District whether a secular institute may include unmarried single women, unmarried single men, and married couples with ordained clergy in membership. And if so, what is necessary to be done to admit unmarried, celibate women as Associate Members of the Institute.

III. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED BY:
The Structures Committee

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE – Submission #2 in a different format. (The committee plans to present the proposals in both formats at the assembly)

Chairperson: Anthony Bruno

Committee Members: Paul Lang, James Burns, Timothy Corbley, Marty Theys

The Structures Committee moves:

The Statutes of USA District of Voluntas Dei Secular Institute be amended adding:

CHAPTER XII

Amendments:

66. 67. These Statutes may be amended at any District Assembly by the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3rds) of the delegates present and voting at that Assembly.

These Statutes may be amended from time to time at any District-wide meeting of the District upon thirty (30) days prior written notice, including a copy of the proposed amendment, sent to all vowed and committed members of the United States District by ordinary mail or by electronic mail at the members address on file with the District.

A proposed amendment may be offered by the District Council or, upon the receipt by the District Council of a petition signed by a majority of the vowed and committed membership containing the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall be offered by petition Said petition and proposed amendment must be received by the District Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the next District-wide meeting.

An amendment will be deemed approved and take effect immediately upon the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3rds) of the vowed and committed members in attendance at the meeting or voting by a proxy filed with the District Council.

EXPLANATION: The Statutes presently do not provide for amendment. Amendments may be proposed at the Assembly (as is now being done), by the District Council, or should the Council decide not to propose the amendment, a majority of the voting members may propose the amendment. Robert's Rules of Order suggests the 2/3rds vote for bylaw amendments; the Statutes seem to be more analogous to a bylaw than to a resolution.

The Structures Committee moves:

The Statutes of USA District of Voluntas Dei Secular Institute be amended as follows:

CHAPTER XI

District-wide Meetings:

66. Three (3) national meetings of the District shall be held annually, during the first full week of March (hosted by the Assumption and Florida Sectors and being one and one-half (1 ½) days), during the first full week of August (hosted by the Annunciation Sector and being two and one-half (2 1/2)days), and during the first full week of November (hosted by the Visitation Sector. Vowed and committed members are expected to attend all national meetings (unless a grave reason prevents attendance); all other members are encouraged to attend all national meetings (unless a good reason prohibits attendance).

Each member is expected to pay the expenses involved in attending national meetings. However, the District Council shall establish a “base” and “cap” for travel expenses for each national meeting based upon the then currently prevailing air transportation fares to the location of the meeting. A member attending a national meeting may deduct from his financial obligation as set forth in Paragraph 49 hereof, the difference between his air travel costs and the “base” as fixed by the District Council, but not to exceed the “cap” fixed by the District Council.

The details of organizing each national meeting, subject to the final approval of the District Council, shall be the responsibility of the host Sector(s). The responsibility for providing multimedia avenues, when and where available, to aid the gathering of members who are not able to attend the national meeting shall rest with the other Sectors, it being the desire that more active participation in meeting discussions will result.

EXPLANATION: The District believes that Voluntas Dei must be made more available not only to its members but to prospective members as well; yet the cost of travel to national meetings is a continuing concern for the growth of its membership. If, in addition to the present financial constraints of the members, the increasing costs of travel is added the District stands to lose the joy of sharing our consecrated life with too many otherwise qualified and dedicated persons. The proposal not only broadens the areas from members are drawn to meetings it also allows inquirers and aspirants better opportunities to share in the spirituality of the entire Voluntas Dei membership.

Cost of transportation- as well as other budgetary considerations-render unreasonable pre-fixed subsidies for air travelers. The District Council, using an ad hoc committee from the host Sector, can better fix “base” and “cap” amounts as venues and fares change.

The Structures Committee moves:

The Statutes of USA District of Voluntas Dei Secular Institute be amended as follows:

CHAPTER III

Responsibilities of the District Council

5A. The District Council provide to all vowed, committed, and probationary members, and aspirants upon written request minutes of its meetings, together with information about ministry outreach, annual budget, itemization of revenues and expenses, and financial obligations of the District, all of which items shall be redacted by the Director as he deems appropriate and reasonable. The foregoing items shall be provided prior to the next meeting of the District Council.

EXPLANATION: Several teams expressed in varying degrees concern about a lack of transparency within the organizational structure of the District. Several of the foregoing items are made available regularly. The effect of this proposal will codify the duty of the District Council to expeditiously keep the membership informed of what is going on, yet reserving to the Director the absolute right and duty to withhold such information as he, in his charity and absolute discretion, concludes shall remain with the District Council.

The Structures Committee moves:

The Statutes of USA District of Voluntas Dei Secular Institute be amended as follows:

CHAPTER V

General and Particular Formation of Membership

21e. Each member shall remain responsible for the stewardship appropriate to his status in the Institute in accordance with the Constitutions and Statutes related to his time, talent, and treasure to the Institute.

EXPLANATION: This provision emphasizes one's personal commitment, to the best of his available time, his God-given talent, and, after providing for his security, his financial ability to live his life in accordance with his vows and promises.

The Structures Committee moves:

That the District Council appoint a standing committee to address full integration of unmarried, celibate women into the Institute as Associate Members. The committee is charged with investigating whether other secular institutes include unmarried women with unmarried men and married couples as members of equal standing. The committee shall also advise the District whether a secular institute may include unmarried single women, unmarried single men, and married couples with ordained clergy in membership. And if so, what is necessary to be done to admit unmarried, celibate women as Associate Members of the Institute.

EXPLANATION: Pope Francis stated in his dialogue with Rabbi Abraham Skorka of Buenos Aires (and published at Chapter 13 in *On Heaven and Earth*), “[I]f all these riches [the gifts of maternity and tenderness given by God to women] are not integrated, a religious community not only transforms into a chauvinistic society, but also into one that is austere, hard, and hardly sacred. The fact that a woman cannot exercise priesthood does not make her less than male.

This proposal does not open the door to the admission of unmarried women into the Institute, rather it explores whether there is a key to that door.

MISSION AND VISION COMMITTEE

Chairpersons: Carol and Joel Livingston

Members: William Konicki, John Campoli, Paul Tolve

MISSION AND VISION PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1 - TEAM MISSION

That the United States District of the Institute Voluntas Dei live out its mission of “Creating Peace and Brotherhood in Jesus Christ” by engaging in apostolic works that offer a unique expression of the vision of our spirituality.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT :

1. At regular intervals time be allotted at team and general meetings to foster a better understanding of our mission as it is articulated both in our documents and in a “reading” of the signs of the times.
2. That the District as well as each team undertake some project that would directly benefit the poor and destitute, with a view towards the projects of the Mission Office of the Institute and those of our own members.
3. That the District make joint efforts in the peacemaking by affiliating with the efforts of but not limited to: Pax Christi USA, Network, Peace Keepers.org etc.

PROPOSAL 2 - RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

That the USA District begin a process to increase public awareness of Voluntas Dei as an Institute and its ministries.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT WE:

1. Form preaching teams of Voluntas members, both priests and couples, to lead days of recollection, retreats etc. at parishes and other religious organizations.
2. Encourage the preachers to discuss the life and contributions of Fr. Parent and the history and ministries of the Institute.

3. Encourage the preachers to highlight the successes and joy of clergy and laity collaborating closely in IV Dei as a desirable model for a way to be Church.
4. Update the literature of the Institute for distribution by the preachers.
5. Study the feasibility of the USA District staffing a parish with clergy and laity as a model of collaborative leadership.
6. Encourage the Central Council of IV Dei to promote the cause of sainthood for Fr. Parent using his writings, miracles, biography and personal stories.
7. Engage the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and the Volunteers of God, both organizations founded by Fr. Parent to collaborate with IV Dei in promoting his cause.

PROPOSAL 3 - BUILDING VOLUNTAS COMMUNITY

That the USA District continue to seek creative ways and procedures to strengthen our Voluntas Dei Community; and develop ways and methods of inviting new members to the Institute, especially younger people.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT WE:

1. Provide support so that economic hardship will not hinder a person from joining, or belonging to the Institute
2. Help new members with children with a support system; ie. child-care, minimizing travel time, expenses; using modern media
3. Actively recruit culturally diverse members so that all feel welcomed
4. Ensure that the technology we use will help inquirers feel connected to the Institute
5. Ask team members to be committed to Team Meetings, practicing Team harmony and unity, and willing to build the Team by inviting new members
6. Encourage Team members share new ideas on inviting people to join Voluntas. To broaden input encourage inter-team sharing of ideas. Teams, for example could meet via Skype, or at a national or local meeting to share more ideas.
7. Reach out to College Campus Ministers in Catholic Centers at Universities to educate about who we are
8. Reach out on parish levels making ourselves more visible. Make sure that pastors and parish organizations and ministries that we belong to or serve know we are Voluntas members.
9. Assign a team member to be a "New Generations Recruiter"

PROPOSAL 4 - BUILDING INCLUSIVITY

That the Voluntas Dei Institute USA District develop a policy to practice a theology of inclusivity which would recognize, respect and respond to the gifts and charisms of every member.

II RECOMMENDATIONS

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE:

1. Establish a task force to:
 - a) Study Vatican II documents that support inclusive theology
 - b) Review literature about and visit contemporary and creative parishes that practice inclusive theology
 - c) Make proposals on how the USA District can better recognize and use the unique gifts of our women and each of our members in the areas of leadership, spirituality, service and peacemaking.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY: George F. Hazler, Kay and Joseph McGlyn

That the United States District develop and implement ways and methods to increase the local Church's awareness of consecrated life and in particular the Voluntas Dei Institute to assist others in strengthening their spirituality based on "The Will of God," "The Presence of God," and "Living in the Present Moment."

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL WE RECOMMEND THAT

1. we develop information within an attractive brochure (pamphlet) which defines a Secular Institute and Voluntas Dei in Particular. (The printed word remains a valid method of communication,)
2. within the brochure we include quotes from our founder, Father Parent, pertaining to the spiritual development of both clergy and laity.
3. we would distribute these brochures to parishes, colleges and universities and also use them as handouts for the priests who are preaching for the Voluntas Dei Missions.
4. Promote the USCSI video Mountaineers of the Spirit

Who will implement/expenses?

I recall having a brochure/communication committee in the past and I would presume that group would be responsible. I still believe there is need for the printed word/ folder/brochure/hand out. The design/publication would determine costs.