

# Notes about the founding of the IFSB/SBLC

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During the first week after Easter 2003, the founder and two close associates of the *Carthusian Lay Contemplatives* (CLC) internet discussion group, traveled to France at La Grande Chartreuse, the motherhouse of the Carthusian Order founded by Saint Bruno in 1084, to meet with the Reverend Father Prior of La Grande Chartreuse Dom Marcellin Theeuwes, who had invited them. The Reverend Father is also the General of the Carthusian Order.

After a week of extensive talks, the Reverend Father presented eleven guidelines: to help better follow the spirit of Saint Bruno and to propose the path to a conceivable foundation of an international private association of the faithful, under canon law. Inasmuch as its organization and its practice would reflect truly the spirit of Saint Bruno in a form adapted to lay persons living in the world, this association could be then recognized by the Carthusian Order. He also suggested that the discussion group, known as the *Carthusian Lay Contemplatives* (CLC), be henceforth renamed in view of a creation of an aspiring association, as: the *International Fellowship of Saint Bruno* (IFSB) or the *Saint Bruno Lay Contemplatives* (SBLC). This renaming was requested by him, since the Carthusian order is protective of the name *Carthusian*. This protection extended even to the name of the order's own lay Carthusian retreat house, originally called the *Selignac lay Carthusian retreat center*; and the order changed it's name to the *Community of Saint Bruno*. The *Community of Saint Bruno* is located at the former Charterhouse of Selignac.

The Reverend Father pledged to assist the *International Fellowship of Saint Bruno* (IFSB), in the quest to share the fruits of Carthusian spirituality with those who are seeking to deepen their relationship with God.

So those who wish to learn more about the spirituality of Saint Bruno, of the customs of the Carthusian order and of their monks and nuns during the more than 900 years of the order's existence, are invited to navigate this website for further information, and are also welcome to join the IFSB member's forum.

And those who further feel a call to incorporate Saint Bruno's spirituality into their plan for spiritual growth, can eventually apply to become a member of the Saint Bruno Lay Contemplatives (SBLC). Being a Saint Bruno Lay Contemplative, entails to be a monastic without leaving our place in the world, but making our place one suitable for the habitation of the Holy Spirit, who is our guide, who is the source of our life, indeed, all life.

As of now, the IFSB/SBLC still remains an *aspiring* lay association, as we are just beginning to congregate and experience how to live Saint Bruno's spirit in the desert of the open world.

[Source](#)