Monastic Rule

Your group is about to found a monastery, and you must develop a rule (or constitution) governing your religious community's life and work. Answer the following questions to begin developing your monastic rule. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space. Be sure to write your group members' names at the top of this handout. Keep in mind that the answers to questions 2 through 7 should support the community's ability to serve its mission, identified in question 1.

1. What is the charism (or mission) of your community? Will your community focus on education, missionary work, preservation of culture, care for travelers or others in need, prayer for souls in Purgatory, or some other important mission? Why is your community uniquely suited to this mission?

2. In which parts of the world (or types of places) will your community be located? Why?

3. How will your community members live? Why?

4. How will your community's prayer life be structured? Why?

5. How will your community support itself?

6. How will meals be organized? Why?

7. How will your community provide clothing for its members, and will they dress in a specific way? Why?