**The role of the community coordinator**

As a shepherd, at the service of the community members

To carry the responsibility

He/she does not take decisions alone.

The coordinator gathers the member in harmony,

creates unity by announcing the identity and the mission of Faith and Light and is listening to the needs of the members.

The coordinator is elected to accomplish three functions

Gathers the members Shares the vision Accompanies

Gathers the members:

**Work as a team**

The coordinators animates / facilitates the meetings of the Coordinating Team. With the

Coordinating Team, they learn to collaborate, supporting each other in group work. He/she leads

the community delegation to the Provincial Assembly.

**Instill harmony**

He/she works with the Coordinating Team in order to develop a climate of harmony and sharing.

He insures that these to team work well together. He/she build bridges in time of conflict.

**Insures good organization of the community activities**

The coordinator shares his/her responsibilities with a team and they share responsibilities.

**Puts forward mobilizing projects**

With the Coordinating Team, he/she proposes to communities activities that generates

enthusiasm. He/she encourages the members of the community to participate in the activities offered by Faith and Light: meetings, formation sessions, retreats...

Shares the vision

**Communicates the vision**

The community coordinator fosters unity, guides, encourages and nourishes the Coordinating Team. He/she reminds everyone in the community that the community essentially exists to welcome and foster the growth of persons with an intellectual disability, their family members, along with friends, in the spirit of the Beatitudes.

**Builds unity**

He/she works with the Coordinating Team to see that the life of the community is in sync with the vision of Faith and Light. He/she sensitize the community to solidarity within the international family.

**Circulates information**

He/she informs the communities and gives news on the activities of Faith and Light in the Province and around the world and keep informed the Provincial Team of what is happening in the community.

He/she maintain a close contact with the Vice-Coordinators assigned to his/her province (or his/her delegate).

Accompanies

**Listens to the needs**

The community coordinator listens and is attentive to the input, desires and needs of each

community member, especially those whose voice is not easily heard or are on the margins of the community.

**Affirm the value of people**

He/she seeks future leaders and promotes the development of their gifts to serve through

whatever formation and encouragement is needed so that the life of the community will continue to be sustained after his/her mandate is completed.

**Inspires members to grow**

He/she welcomes and encourages people with disability to grow, the members of their families and their friends.

A Word to the newly discerned Community Coordinator:

Where to find support and confirmation?

While fulfilling these responsibilities, the Community Coordinator acknowledges his/her gifts and weaknesses in all simplicity. It is natural that one can experience difficult times. He/She can get discouraged or suffer from criticism, conflicts, or the community’s stagnation. The Community Leader can also feel overburdened. These moments of crisis cannot be avoided, and he/she must not flee from them.

At times like these, it would be helpful to remind yourself that the community chose you for this service and that you are not alone. The Holy Spirit will always come to aid you in your weakness. You have also been given people you can trust and call on for help.

As Community Leader in Faith and Light, you have many solid support mechanisms to rely on, in addition to the ones already listed above (for the coordinating team):

· The community members

· The Coordinating Team

· The Community Chaplain

· The Provincial Team,

· The Vice-Coordinator, who accompanies you.