

CONTENTS

A Note about Language ix

Introduction

From Bernard's Valley to Merton's Mountain 1

Chapter 1

Charism: A Gift from God (with a Greek Accent) 13

Chapter 2

Sacred Stories: Remembering Who We Truly Are 25

Chapter 3

Formation: You Are the Potter, I Am the Clay 39

Chapter 4

Humility: Down-to-Earth Spirituality 53

Chapter 5

Hospitality: Welcoming Christ, Welcoming Others 65

Chapter 6

Compassion and Community:
Where Two or Three Are Gathered 77

Chapter 7

Prayer and Liturgy: The Rhythm of the Day 89

Chapter 8

Contemplation: The Star of the Sea 101

Chapter 9

Conversion of Life: A Promise for All Time 115

Chapter 10

Stability: Blooming Where We're Planted 127

Chapter 11

Perseverance: Living a (Lay) Cistercian Life 141

A Final Word 155

Acknowledgments 157

Appendix 1

Vocations to Cistercian Monastic Life 159

Appendix 2

Vocations to the Lay Cistercian Family 163

Appendix 3

Cistercian Abbeys in North America 167

Notes 174

Selected Bibliography 178