
Roles and Resources for Successful Formation

Our Lady of the Angels
Region Formation Workshop

Importance of Formation

- ❖ Holy Spirit is the principal agent of formation
- ❖ The entire fraternity is engaged in formation
- ❖ Formation is an aid in conversion
- ❖ Formation provides a clear notion of Franciscan identity

Group Discussion

- ❖ Why is formation essential in the life of a Secular Franciscan? In the life of the Fraternity?

Role of the Formation Director

- ❖ Co-ordinates the formation activities of the fraternity
- ❖ Instructs and enlivens
- ❖ Informs the council concerning the suitability of the candidate

Role of the Spiritual Assistant

- ❖ Communicates Franciscan spirituality
- ❖ Co-operates in the initial and ongoing formation
- ❖ Guarantees the fidelity of the OFS to the Franciscan charism

The Formation Team

- ❖ Formation Team
 - ❖ two or more persons working together on common formation goals
 - ❖ understand they must work in harmony
- ❖ Ground Rules
 - ❖ Commitment to the team approach
 - ❖ Good people skills
 - ❖ Respect
 - ❖ Willingness to suggest and accept correction

Group Discussion

- ❖ How well does my fraternity's Formation Team work together?
- ❖ What does Formation 'look like' in my fraternity?

Resources for Initial Formation

- ❖ Francis of Assisi: The Song Goes On
- ❖ Seeking the Gospel Life
- ❖ Clare of Assisi: The Letters to Agnes
- ❖ Francis, The Journey and the Dream
- ❖ Catholic Study Bible: Revised Standard Version or Jerusalem Bible
- ❖ Come and See
- ❖ The Franciscan Journey
- ❖ The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium) by Pope Francis
- ❖ From Gospel to Life: The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order
- ❖ To Cling With All Her Heart to Him: The Spirituality of Clare of Assisi
- ❖ The Franciscan Journey

Resources for Ongoing Formation

- ❖ To Live as Francis Lived
- ❖ Pick More Daisies
- ❖ Rule of the SFO: Origins, Development, Interpretation
- ❖ United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
- ❖ Called to Build a More Fraternal and Evangelical World: A Concordance of the SFO Rule
- ❖ A Poor Man's Legacy, An Anthology of Franciscan Poverty
- ❖ Following Francis of Assisi, A Spirituality for Daily Living
- ❖ The Greatest of These is Love, The Life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- ❖ Poverty and Joy, The Franciscan Tradition
- ❖ Pope Francis, In His Own Words
- ❖ Tau-USA National Newsletter
- ❖ The Troubadour and eTroubadour Newsletters
- ❖ St. Francis of Assisi Omnibus of Sources Volumes I and II
- ❖ Franciscan Prayer
- ❖ Dating God
- ❖ Build with Living Stones

Resources for Formation Directors

- ❖ The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order
- ❖ The General Constitutions of the SFO
- ❖ The National Statutes of the National Fraternity of the SFO in the USA
- ❖ The Ritual of the SFO
- ❖ Guidelines for Initial Formation
- ❖ Elements of Initial Formation, CIOFS, Rome
- ❖ For Up to Now (FUN) Manual

For Discussion

- ❖ How well do the resources my fraternity uses in Initial and Ongoing Formation meet the needs of my fraternity?
- ❖ What worked well?
- ❖ What needs improvement?

Audio Resources

- ❖ Artists and Composers

- ❖ Jerry Aull, Kitty Cleveland, Bernadette Farrell, Gretchen Harris, Marty Haugen, Michael Joncas, Robert Kochis, John Michael Talbot, David Haas, Josef Raischl, etc.

- ❖ Songs

- ❖ “All Creatures of Our God and King”, “In Perfect Charity”, “Prayer of St. Francis”, “Canticle of the Sun”, “Be Not Afraid”, “Here I Am Lord”, etc.

- ❖ Podcasts

- ❖ Br. William Short, OFM

Other Resources

- ❖ Websites

- ❖ The Holy See, CIOFS, NAFRA, OLAR Website, National Formation Commission

- ❖ Online Courses

- ❖ St Bonaventure University, Franciscan Institute, Franciscan University, Boston College, Notre Dame (STEP)

- ❖ You Tube Channels

- ❖ Vatican, Apostleship of Prayer, USCCB, America Media

- ❖ Artwork and Videos

- ❖ Giotto, Michelangelo
 - ❖ 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon', The Ten Commandments, St. Clare of Assisi and The Poor Clares

Selecting Good Formation Resources

- ❖ Follows authentic Roman Catholic teachings
- ❖ Contains examples of Secular Franciscan spirituality
- ❖ Emphasizes that formation is never-ending process
- ❖ Emphasizes Gospel values
- ❖ Provides opportunities to apply insights and knowledge
- ❖ Is suited to the needs of the individual? the fraternity?

Topics for Successful Formation

- ❖ The Life of St. Francis, St. Clare and Franciscan Saints and Blesseds
- ❖ JPIC & Catholic Social Teaching
- ❖ Important documents of the Church and of the Magisterium
- ❖ Vatican II
- ❖ Conversion & Penitence
- ❖ Franciscan Poverty, Joy and Humility
- ❖ Rule of The OFS
- ❖ Profession
- ❖ Fraternity
- ❖ Franciscan Theology, Spirituality and Tradition
- ❖ Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary
- ❖ History of the SFO

For Group Discussion

- ❖ What formation topics has my fraternity used for Initial Formation? Ongoing Formation?
- ❖ How can I apply what I've learned today to my fraternity's formation program?