



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

To: SFO and YOUFRA National Councils
To: SFO and YOUFRA International Counselors

A CENTRAL THEME OF ANNUAL FORMATION

Dear brothers and sisters,

May the Lord give you peace and joy!

At the beginning of this New Year, 2010, I am writing to inform all National Fraternities about the start of **a new formation project** that is being launched in response to the decisions taken during our 2008 General Chapter in Hungary.

As you may remember, "formation" remains the top priority for the entire Order. The General Chapter "recommended that the Presidency promote permanent Formation by proposing, to all the fraternities in the world, **a central theme of annual formation** and provide the necessary indications and aids to develop and study this theme ... the Chapter recognizes that the *sense of belonging, vocation to fraternity, and the importance and nature of the commitment of Profession* are all fundamental elements in the life of Secular Franciscans that must be undertaken, underlined and re-proposed with strength in initial and permanent formation." (Conclusions of General Chapter 2008)

In response to this decision of the General Chapter, the International Presidency has established a formation project group to develop a central theme of annual formation and to designate topics and points that can be used to expand upon this theme. The CIOFS annual formation theme project group consists of Ewald Kreuzer, SFO, Presidency Councillor, and Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano, TOR, General Assistant. The formation material developed around this theme will be available on the CIOFS **webpage**, like it was with the St. Elisabeth of Hungary formation program, on a monthly basis, and **in the four official languages of the Order**.

The central formation theme for the year 2010 will be: "**PROFESSION AND SENSE OF BELONGING**", the same theme as for the 2008 General Chapter.

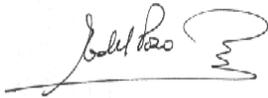
This theme will be developed through the use of a "monthly dossier" that will have three sections. In the first section, Fr. Felice Cangelosi's OFM Cap. presentation at the General Chapter about

“Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment” and that of Emanuela De Nunzio, SFO, about **“Belonging to the SFO”**, will be summarized. Each topic will be given six months. The second section will link the monthly topic within the context of the **liturgical calendar** or any other significant event related to the respective topic. The third section will link the monthly topic to the **Catholic Church’s Social Teaching** since the 2008 General Chapter’s conclusions strongly recommended that SFO members acquire a sound formation on this subject in order to enable their active participation in society. Each section also includes a few **comments and questions** for personal reflection and discussion at fraternity meetings.

We hope that this “monthly dossier” will be helpful for the formation work in our Secular Franciscan Order. Since this is a decision of the General Chapter, which represented the entire Order worldwide, all national fraternities are expected to give adequate attention to this central theme in the formation programs within their respective fraternities: national, regional and local. We encourage all formators to use this material to support the important formation work within their respective national fraternities.

May the Holy Spirit guide us in this worldwide formation process!

Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Encarnación del Pozo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Encarnación del Pozo
General Minister, SFO