

Our Lady of the Angels
Regional Fraternity

CONVIVENZA

April 30, 2011, Yonkers, NY.

“SFO Region,

Past,

Present and Future.”

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1221 - The "*Memoriale Propositi*"

1289 - The Rule of Pope Nicholas IV

**1858-1861 – First establishments
of SFO Fraternities in the United
States**

1883 – The Rule of Leo XIII

1978 - The Pauline Rule

1883 - The Rule of Leo XIII

1965 - Vatican II

1970's - North American Federation

1978 - The Pauline Rule

1987 - Serious Regionalization discussion started

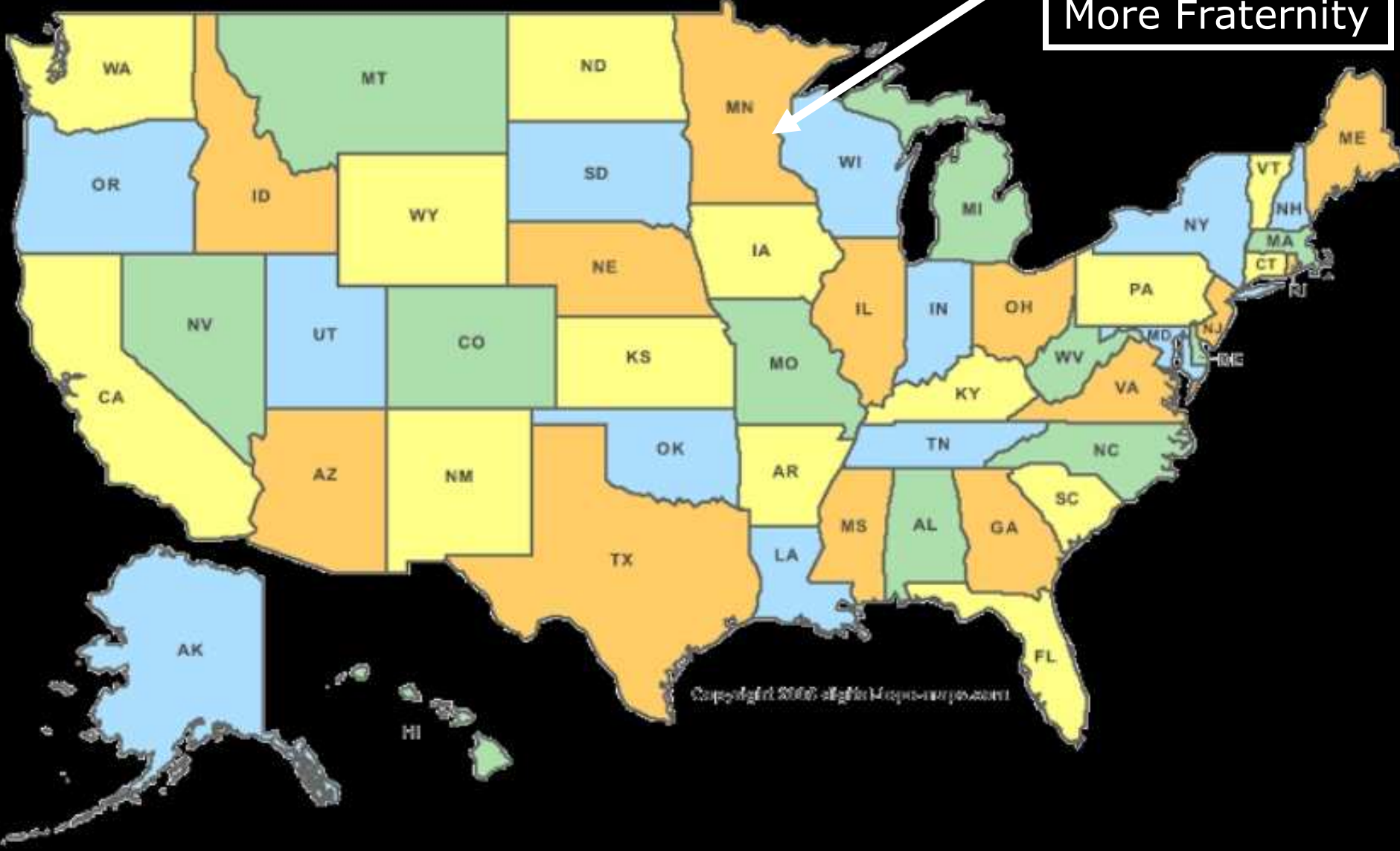
1988 - Regionalization Committee established

1991 - First Region (Hawaii) established

1996 - OLA Region established

2011 - Today

St. Thomas
More Fraternity

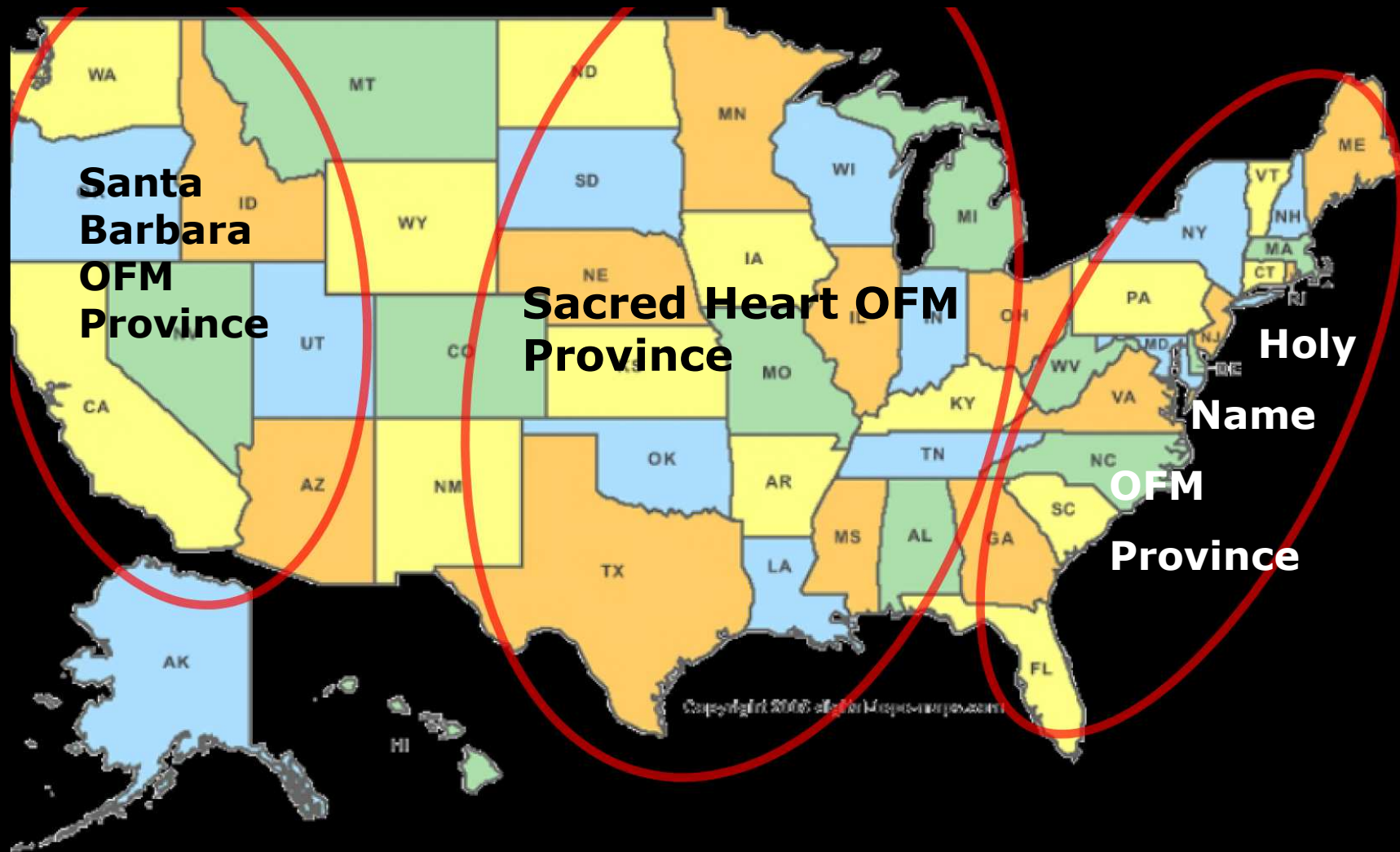


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I. C. SFO
Fraternities

I.C. TOR Friar
Province, HQ



**Santa
Barbara
OFM
Province**

**Sacred Heart OFM
Province**

**Holy
Name
OFM
Province**

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Altius

Moderamen

Rule – Article XX

The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels - local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.

AND NOW,

LET

REGIONALIZATION

BEGIN



September 15, 1987

TO: The Directive Board of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

God give you peace!

The Secular Franciscan Order of the United States held its Quinquennial Congress in San Diego, California, and considered its Rule. During this Congress, the Spiritual Assistants met several times with Fr. Carl Schafer, OFM, General Spiritual Assistant. As a result of these meetings, we, a group of concerned Provincial Spiritual Assistants, met in Washington, D.C., to discuss the question of "regionalization" within the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States.

Article 20 of the S.F.O. Rule states:

"The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels - local, regional, national and international. These fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions."

It is our understanding that these regions should be both geographical and inter-obediential as they are in most nations. Presently, the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States is divided along the Provincial lines of the First Order and the Third Order Regular.

In light of the above, we ask the Directive Board to re-open dialogue on this topic of regionalization. To this end, we have requested that this topic be placed on the agenda of the 1987 National Directive Board meeting, to be held at Mount St. Francis, Indiana, from October 22 to October 24, of this year. A more complete presentation will be given, with the opportunity for discussion, at that time.

To help guide your consideration of this topic, we would suggest that you read and reflect on:

~~The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chapter III, article 20;~~
~~Proposed General Constitutions, Title III, Section 3, #s 54 - 57;~~ *§ 47, 49, 59, 60, 63*
~~National Statutes, Section I, article 1.~~ *83, 84, 85, 86, 87*

We pray that a fruitful discussion will result from these considerations, which will facilitate the further growth and well-being of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States.

Fraternally in our Father Francis,

Angelus Croce, OFM Cap.
Thomas Gardner, OFM
John Kramer, OFM
George Maslar, OFM Conv.
Stephen F. Sabbagh, OFM

**If all objections must be
first overcome, nothing
will ever be started.**

Samuel Johnson

Men become prisoners of their procedures...

There are plenty of old pros who use their skills and experience to block progress rather than advance it....

The vast laden weight of vested interested is everywhere...

Whenever a reorganization is proposed, some people object because they become inseparably attached to old arrangements.

John W. Gardner

MOTTO

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.

**Think not about your frustration,
but your unfilled potential.**

Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible to do.

John XXIII

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Fahey, SFO

Laura Haukaas, SFO

Fr. Lawrence Landini, OFM

Mary Mazotti, SFO

Richard Morton, SFO

Jerry Rome, SFO

Elizabeth Ryder, SFO



THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

October, 1989

SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONALIZATION



INITIATION PHASE

SECULAR PROCEDURE:

I. An authorized representative of the provincial ministers informs the National Minister of their interest in forming a region. Copies of this letter shall be sent to the provincial ministers and provincial spiritual assistants involved.

The letter should also include the following details of the proposed region:

- A. Names of the provinces and fraternities,
- B. Names and addresses of the provincial ministers,
- C. Names and addresses of the fraternity ministers.

II. The National Minister then seeks the authorization of the National Executive Council to begin the process of establishing the region.

III. A delegate of the National Executive Council, in cooperation with the authorized representative, develops a discernment and deliberation process for the fraternities. For example:

- A. A discernment meeting of representatives of the fraternities should discuss both the benefits and difficulties of the new region,
- B. Within three months, the council and the professed membership of each fraternity shall similarly discern the benefits and difficulties of the proposed region,
- C. The fraternity ministers shall communicate the results of the discernment to their provincial ministers immediately. The provincial ministers shall communicate this information to the authorized representative facilitating the region and to the delegate of the National Executive Council who was present at the discernment meeting.

IV. Based on positive results of the fraternities involved, the provincial ministers and their representative shall write to the National Minister for permission to begin the developmental phase.

FRIAR PROCEDURE:

I. The provincial spiritual assistants shall work closely with the provincial ministers of the SFO during the entire process of the establishment of a region and shall keep their own ministers provincial informed of all developments.

II. At the end of the initiation phase of the region, each provincial assistant shall request his minister provincial to write to the National Minister of the SFO indicating support for the proposed region and willingness to accept or to delegate the responsibility of the *altius moderamen within the region*. A copy of this letter shall be sent to the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

DEVELOPMENT PHASE

SECULAR PROCEDURE:

I. The provincial ministers and their authorized representative shall appoint five to seven regional councilors; this appointment should reflect the provincial composition of the region.

The National Minister, with the advice of the regional council, shall appoint the regional officers: minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, and formation director.

II. Tasks of the regional council:

A. Quickly arrive at a name for the region; the name should not be that of any existing province.

B. Establish steps for the gradual separation from the provinces and begin the bonding of the fraternities forming the region, e.g., regional guidelines with a view to eventual statutes; a common and shared vision statement that will foster community and bonding among the fraternities in their defined, workable boundaries; financial arrangements; visitation program and formation concerns.

III. The region, especially through its minister, should participate as fully as possible in the National Fraternity with respect for National Statutes.

IV. After three years, the regional council and the provincial ministers may petition the National Executive Council for canonical establishment of the region.

FRIAR PROCEDURE:

I. The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants is requested to develop a plan as soon as possible to satisfy the *altius moderamen* within the regional structure, including the recruitment and appointment of the regional spiritual assistant.

II. The provincial spiritual assistants, in consultation with the regional council, shall propose a regional spiritual assistant according to the guidelines of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

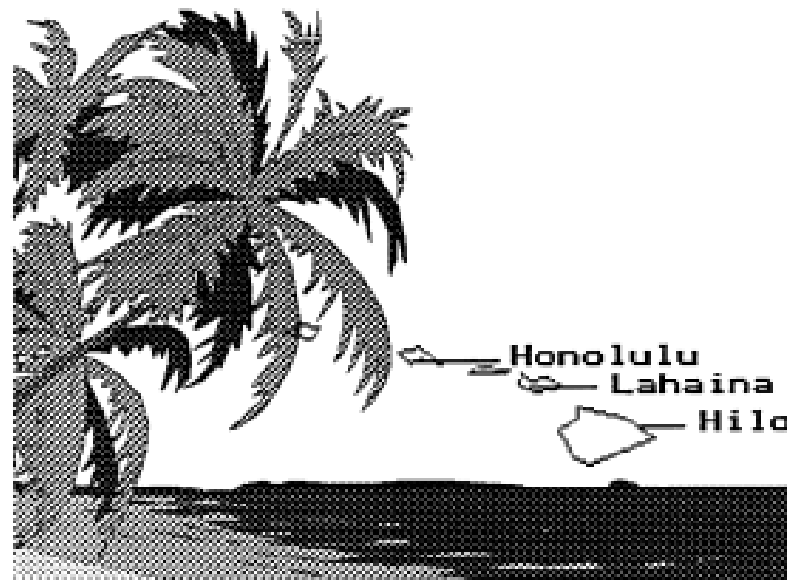
III. The regional spiritual assistant, in collegial action with the provincial spiritual assistants, shall appoint local assistants for the fraternities of the region.

INCORPORATION

SECULAR AND FRIAR PROCEDURE:

The celebration of the establishment of the region should be liturgical, fraternal, and social - a truly joyous occasion involving all Franciscans of the region.

THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY
OF
THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
U.S.A.



HANDBOOK OF REGIONALIZATION

PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER, 1991

ADVANTAGES OF REGIONALIZATION

- A SENSE OF UNITY FOR THE ORDER
- MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES
- STRONGER LOCAL PRESENCE

DISADVANTAGES OF REGIONALIZATION

- INITIAL CONFUSION
- LOSS OF CLOSE TIES TO A FRIAR PROVINCE

WHAT CHANGES?

- NEW, DIFFERENT HIGHER LEVEL FRATERNITY
- MORE INTERACTION ON THE LOCAL LEVEL
WITH OTHER FRATERNITIES
- MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- LOCAL FRATERNITY SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT
- PASTORAL VISITATION RESPONSIBILITY
- FRATERNITIES ESTABLISHED BY FRIAR PROVINCES
- FRIAR WITNESS AT ELECTIONS

THE PRESENT



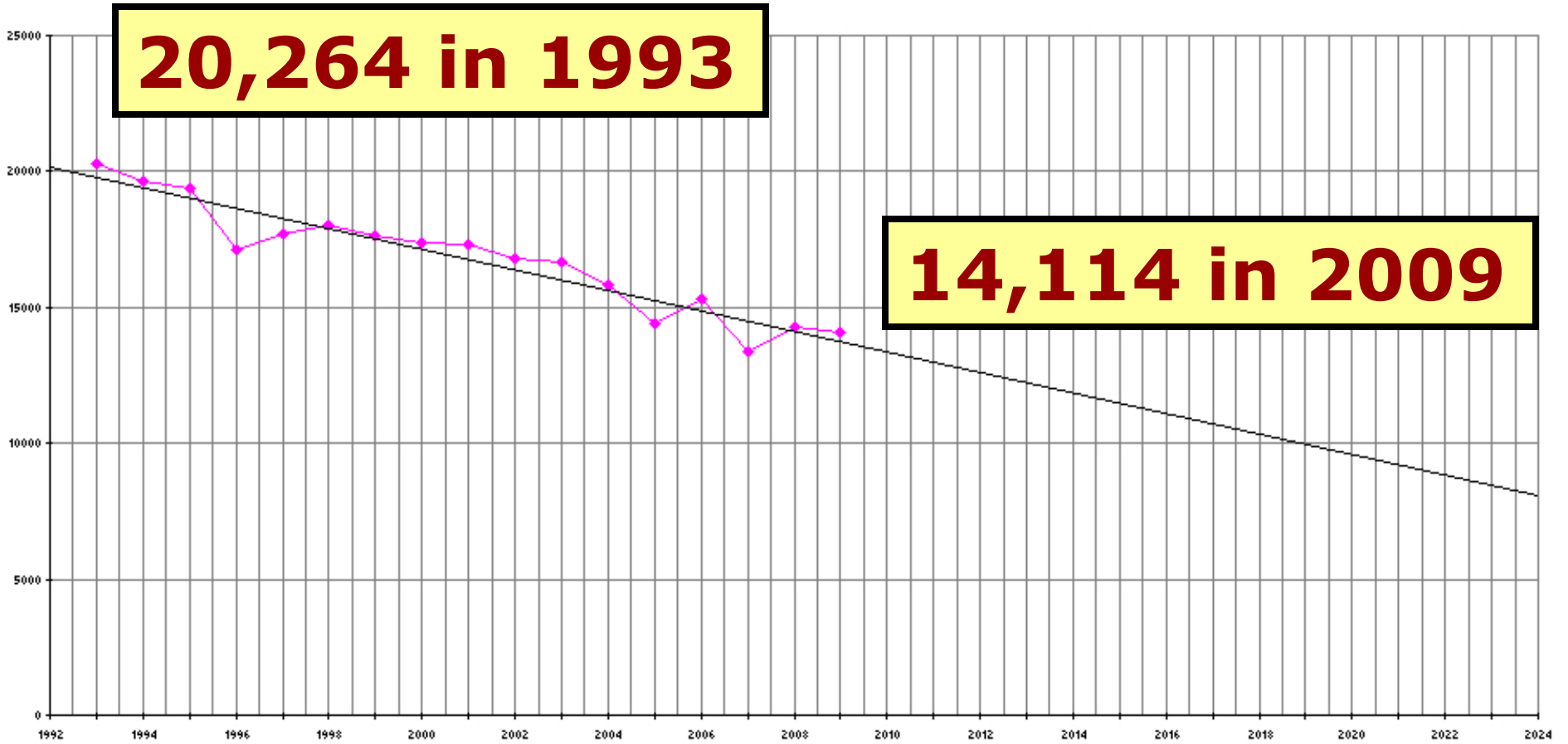
Northern NJ

	Sq MI	Frat.	Members	M/F
OLA	4,500	48	1,139	23.7
Q of P	365,500	29	557	19.2

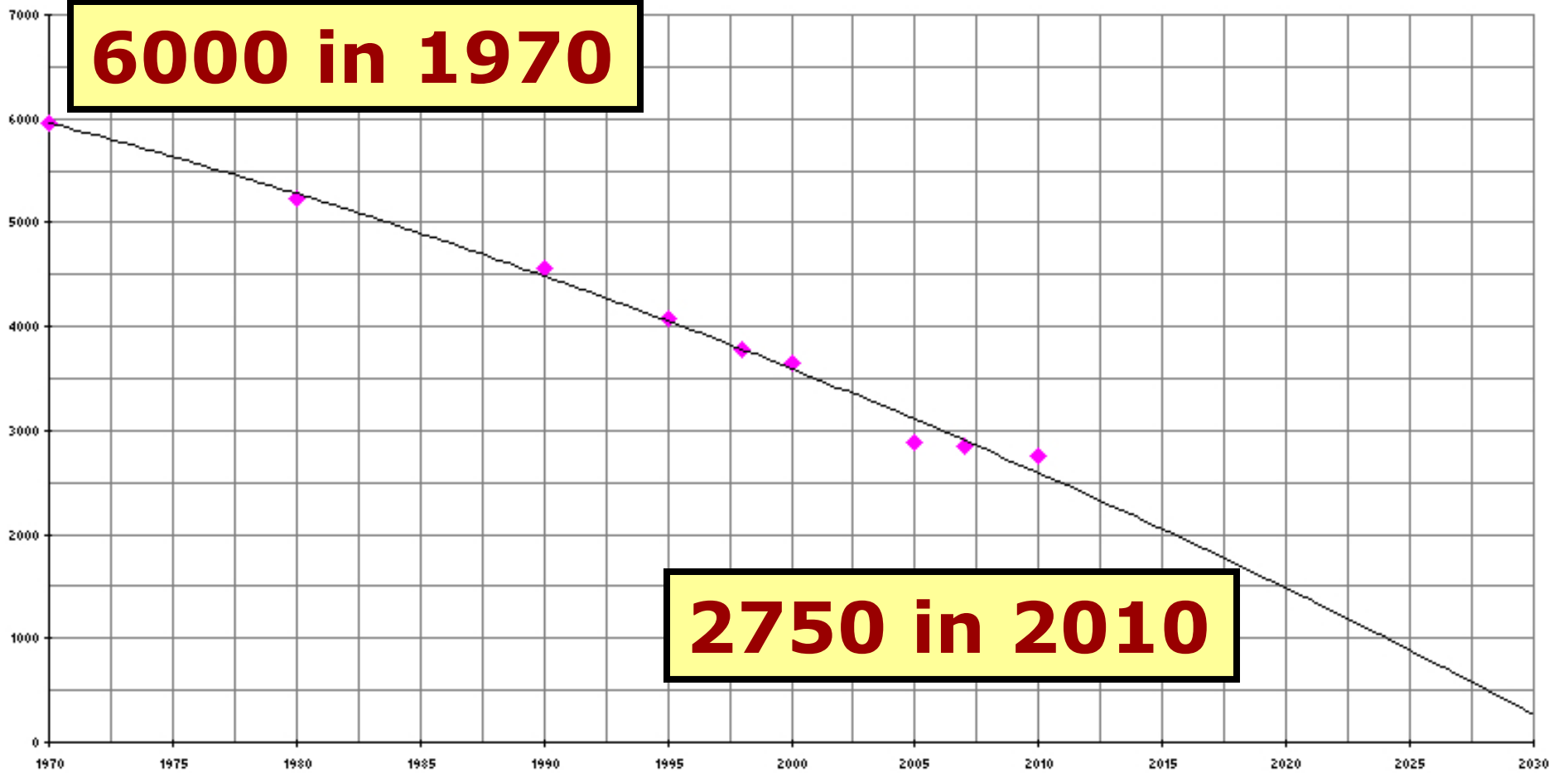
Germany + Spain 333,247

THE FUTURE

SFO Head Count - 1993 thru 2009



Friar Head Count - 1970 to 2010



LITTLE CHURCH

If you want your dream to be,
Take your time, go slowly.
Do few things, but do them well.
Heart-felt work grows purely.

If you want to live life free,
Take your time, go slowly.
Do few things, but do them well.
Heart-felt work grows purely.

Day by day, stone by stone,
Build your secret slowly.
Day by day, you'll grow too;
You'll know heaven's glory.

If you want your dream to be,
Take your time, go slowly.
Small beginnings, greater ends,
Heart-felt work grows purely.

If you want to live life free,
Take your time go slowly.
Do few things, but do them well.
Heart-felt work grows purely.

If you want to live life free,
Take your time, go slowly.
Do few things, but do them well.
Heart-felt joys are holy.

Day by day, stone by stone,
Build your secret slowly.
Day by Day, you'll grow too;
You'll know heaven's glory.

DONOVAN

From the motion picture "BROTHER SUN, SISTER MOON"

The Regionalization Song

1. You suddenly wake up one morning
And hear a new region is forming
You say Find this rather alarming
Just what is this new region for?

10/97

For years now we've been quite divided
But now we are getting excited!
For soon we will all be united
And that's what this meeting is for.

REFRAIN:

Walk with me, talk with me,
tell me a - bout all the good things you've done:
stay with me, pray with me,
leave all your blues in your shoes at the door.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with lyrics written below each staff.

2. The old way's a mess and we know it
The maps of our provinces show it
I think it's now time to outgrow it
And take this confusion away!

Let's get to some real nitty-gritty
There's groups that are in my own city
That I don't even know - it's a pity!
Let's take these divisions away!

Soon groups who are close to each other
Will know every sister and brother
And be able to help one another
This is the Franciscan way!

Refrain

3. We've worn out our cars and our tires
And half of us are frequent flyers
And the cost of this keeps getting higher
There must be a better way!

If regionalization is heeded
And not as much travel is needed
Our treasuries won't be depleted
We'll have more to just give away!

Refrain

4. This process that we are now choosing
At first may seem rather confusing
But remember, we're gaining, not losing,
Soon we will all know our place!

For some of us it may be harder
This rearrangement of the order,
Just give it your best shot for starters,
And trust in the Lord and His grace!

Refrain

5. The regions will give us in essence
A much stronger Franciscan presence
Just think of it - doesn't it make sense?
That's what a region is for!

I hope that you now see some reasons
Why we should form into regions
The outcome is sure to be pleasin'
That's what a region is for!

Refrain

REFRAIN:

Walk with me, talk with me,
tell me a - bout all the good things you've done!
stay with me, pray with me,
leave all your blues in your shoes at the door.

Devon Donald VanderVenet, SFO