



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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Dear Formation Directors:

Thank you for completing the 2010 Annual Regional Formation surveys and for attending May Formation Meeting. Hope to see you all in the August Regional Retreat. The following is an update on the Regional Formation activities.

1) **2010 Annual Formation Survey**

- # of surveys received = 27
- # of people in Initial Formation = 139
 - Orientation = 37
 - Inquiry = 35
 - Candidacy = 67

2) **May 30, 2010 Regional Formation Meeting**

- Attendance
 - # of people attended = 54
 - # of fraternities represented = 28

- Profession: Gift & Commitment by Fr. Trezza
Fr. Trezza focused on who we are as Secular Franciscans. He reminded us that our profession as Secular Franciscan is **NO Different** than from the friars and sisters. Profession is derived from God. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a life time commitment. We are consecrate & dedicated to God's exclusive service. We do not belong to ourselves. We are transformed from within. We lose one self in service. We are God's property. We have no excuse. We know better. We took the vows. We are obligated to build up not just our fraternities, but the Body of Christ. To live a joyful, light-filled, Gospel Life as Francis did.

Profession is a solemn ecclesial act which should take place in the Liturgy of the Eucharist with witnesses from the church, fraternity, friends and family. Profession is the offering of one self to God. It is priesthood. It is sacramental. It is sanctification of our souls. Profession must be carefully planned, scheduled with church, friar/priest and rehearsed with music and appropriate ritual and prayers.

- On-going Formation Discussion
The following were recommendations from the fraternity discussion groups for on-going formation.
 - Engage the fraternity members in planning and conduct on-going formation programs.
 - The council should assist in the developing and evaluation of the values of the programs with the fraternity members, privately.
 - On-going formation programs should be carefully laid out and scheduled, such as topics, content, discussions, movies, CD, etc. , months ahead of time.
 - Quiet time before the meeting such as putting on soft music.
 - Focus on the topics. Minimize "lecturing" and allow time for small group sharing.
 - Conclusion - Apply the knowledge gained into the awareness into the daily lives of the members.
 - If available, try to use different media such as "show & tell", movie, CD, etc.

- Regional Formation Package
 - Each attendee received a Regional Formation package containing –
 - Fraternity council responsibilities as stated in the SFO Constitution
 - Initial Formation Chronology which is a time line for the different phases and ceremony of the Initial Formation program
 - Sample attendance sheet of the candidate
 - NAFRA SFO Formation Manual which contain recommendations for initial and on-going formation programs.
 - CIOFS 2010 On-going formation program
 - SFO Rules & Rituals

Any questions, please feel free to contact me at 917-699-4823 or clarevc@gmail.com.

Virginia Chin
OLTAR Regional Formation Director