



# National Formation Visioning Project



We've been listening...

- To you.
- To your regional formation directors.
- To your Spiritual Assistants.
- To your local formation directors

# It's not just a question of reformatting...

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Our Catholic Faith
- Franciscan Sources
- Rule and Constitutions

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER  
(ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS)



## For Up to Now

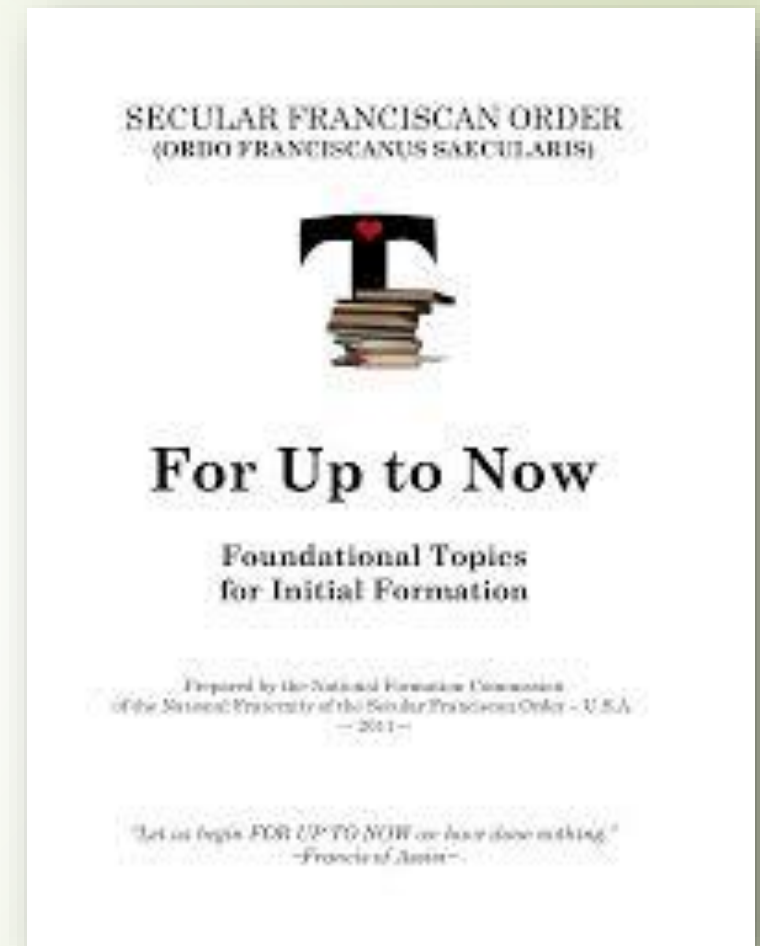
Foundational Topics  
for Initial Formation

Prepared by the National Formation Commission  
of the National Presidency of the Secular Franciscan Order - U.S.A.  
— 2011 —

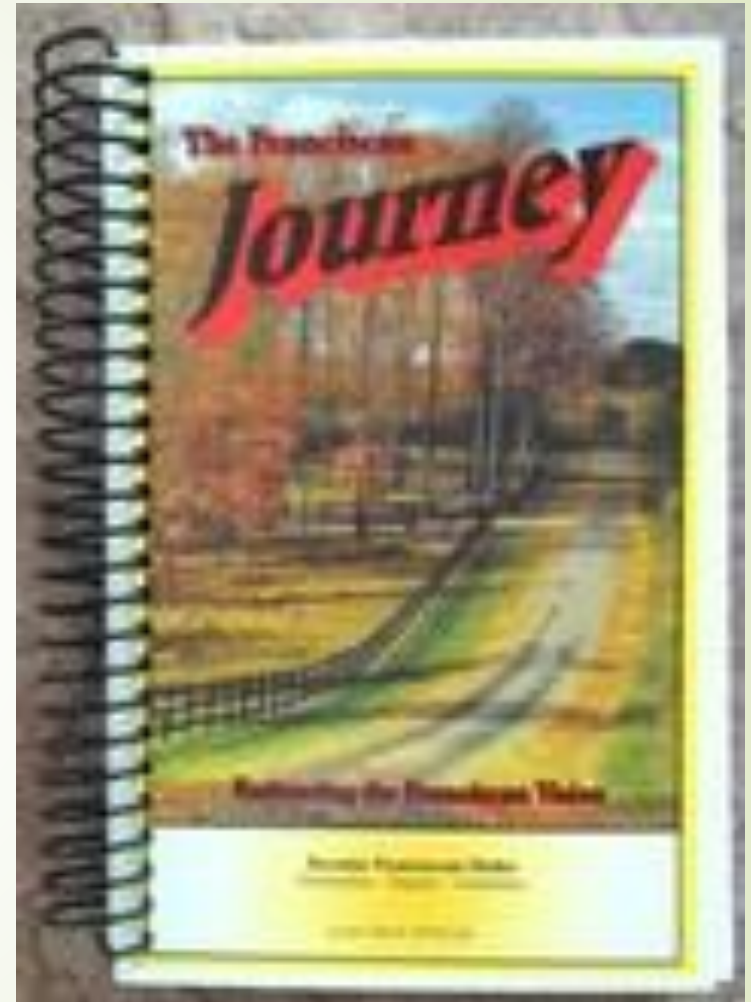
"Let us begin. FOR UP TO NOW we have done nothing."  
—Francis of Assisi—

# FUN Now Moves to the Background

➤ **Continues to be available as a resource**



**Franciscan Journey will  
eventually be set aside.**



# What is coming: Two Texts for Initial Formation + +

- One book for Orientation and Inquiry
- A separate book for Candidacy
- A guide for the formator
- A general procedural guide for formators



# What is coming: Two Texts + +

- User friendly
- Geared to initial formation and written in clear, straightforward language





Distinguished	Proficient	Intermediate	Novice
Focuses and maintains clear evidence of the voice appropriate	Focused on a purpose, evidence voice and/or suitable tone	An attempt to establish and maintain purpose and communicate with the audience	Limited awareness of audience and/or purpose
Depth and variety of ideas supported by rich, relevant details; analysis, and insight	Depth of idea development supported by elaborated, relevant details	Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated and/or repetitious details	Minimal idea development, limited and/or unrelated details
References substantial	Use of references indicate ample research	Some references	Few references
Logical and/or organization	Logical organization	Lapses in focus and/or coherence	Random or weak organization
Clarity of sentence structure and length	Controlled and varied sentence structure	Simplistic and/or awkward sentence structure	Incorrect or lack of topic and/or ineffective wording and/or



## Fraternity: A Fundamental Element of Franciscan Life

**Goal: For those in initial formation to appreciate, understand and participate in Secular Franciscan fraternal life (including universal kinship with creation.)**

**Opening Meditation: (Based upon St. Clare's Method of Contemplation)<sup>1</sup>**

*"Holy Father, I pray that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that the world may believe that you sent me." (Jn17:20-22)<sup>2</sup>*

*Hear and Gaze* upon the Scripture passage. Spend time with just letting the words and ideas seep into your being.

*Consider* what you heard. What resonated/attractioned you? What challenged you with what you know about fraternity life?

*Contemplate:* Rest with this for about 2 minutes. Let the Holy Spirit come and be still and let Him counsel you.

*Imitate:* Ask the Lord, what He would like you to do with the insights from this meditation. What are some ways you could incorporate these ideas into your life now? What idea attracts you? Why? Discern what would be possible to change/do now. Make a commitment to implement this change in your life. End with St. Francis' Prayer Before the Crucifix" (found on page 100 of the Ritual.)

**Read, consider and bring to prayer.  
Respond in your Journal.**

**St. Francis said:**

"The Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel."<sup>3</sup>

"Wherever the brothers may be and meet one another let them show that they are members of the same family."<sup>4</sup>

**St. Clare said:**

"For this is the way it must be: the abbess should be the handmaid of all the sisters."<sup>5</sup>

**OFS Rule states:**

"Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively."<sup>6</sup>

"The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels-local, regional, national and international."<sup>7</sup>

**General Constitutions of the OFS:**

"The vocation of the OFS is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal communion. For this purpose, the members of the OFS gather in ecclesial communities which are called fraternities."<sup>8</sup>



# So,,,Where are we headed?

- Identity as Catholics and as Franciscans
- Significance of our vocation
- Think, pray and identify as Franciscans
- Rule and Constitutions: Framework
- Secular Franciscans in the world today
- Evangelization
- PRACTICAL APPLICATION

