**National Formation Commission Report to the National Fraternity Council August 15, 2020**

**Formation Commission members**: Justin Carisio, OFS, Francine Gikow, OFS, Layna Maher, OFS, Mary Stronach, OFS, Spiritual Assistant-Anne Mulqueen, OFS, Chair-Diane Menditto, OFS

**COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS**

* **Ongoing formation for the National Fraternity Council**: The NFC will provide ongoing formation at the 2020 Chapter.
* Co-hosted **Zoom call in Spanish** with our International Councilor, Willie Guadalupe. Purpose was to meet with local formation directors of Spanish-speaking fraternities. This was the second time. We plan to continue this practice.
* Commission members are maintaining contact with Regional Formation Directors



* **Formation questions that are sent to the national website are forwarded to the NFC**. We contact the person and provide requested information. (This is ongoing.)
* **We also respond to questions posted on the NAFRA**-**FORM** listserv.
* **Posts on FORM**—We have been using the NAFRA-FORM to keep our RFDs informed. One of the main items being shared is the **Formation Friday** post each week. RFDs are encouraged to share with local formation directors.
* **Facebook**—
  + **Formation Friday:** (Excerpts from the FUN Manual and various formation resources are shared each Friday on Facebook. On many occasions these posts provoke discussion and questions. Visitors to our site have said that they are grateful for the material. We also share these posts on the NAFRA-FORM listserv for RFDs who do not participate on Facebook and on NAFRA-RSA and NAFRA-RM.
  + **We also have provided a regular series on quotes from the Early Sources**
* **TAU PERIODICAL-**
  + The Commission members have volunteered to rotate as authors of the formation article for the TAU each quarter. Each member has offered an article. We are starting on the second round.  
      
    **COMMISSION WORK ON OTHER PROJECTS**
* **National website:** Formation materials are now available on the National website and will continue to be updated as our new materials are published.

**VISIONING/Formation Materials Project**

* The Visioning Team is well into our work on the new formation materials—As a result of our visioning workshops we found that we needed to rework the entire FUN Manual.
* There will now be two texts:
  + For Orientation and Inquiry: **LET US BEGIN**
  + For Candidacy: **FOR THIS YOU ARE CALLED**
* We are also working on a **companion guide for the formator** containing ideas for presentation of the chapters along with extra material that can be used to make the chapter come alive and encourage transformation.
* Writers have been working on updating FUN Manual chapters for inclusion in the books
* . **New chapters have also been added**. For example, we now have a section called **“First Steps”** to be used prior to Orientation. In **Orientation** we have new chapters on **Jesus** and **Living our Faith**. At the end of Orientation, we have added a chapter called “**Stop and Reflect**” to strengthen the discernment process.
* In the **Inquiry phase**, we have added chapters on **Prayer,** the **Franciscan approach to scripture** and the **Early Documents**. At the end of Inquiry, we have added a “**Conversion Retrea**t” that can be used as a personal day of reflection or a group retreat.
* In the **Candidacy** phase, we have added chapters on being **Messengers of Peace**, **Franciscan kinship in frater**nity, a dedicated chapter on the **Constitutions**, **Youth**, Evangelization, **servant leadership** and, prior to profession a **commitment retreat.**
* The Visioning team (NFC plus Jan and Mary) has been working tirelessly on this project, sometimes meeting virtually 3 times a month. We are making progress even though we have not been able to meet in person due to Covid19.

**COMMISSION MEETINGS**

* The Commission meets at least once a month in addition to visioning meetings.
* In June, July and August, we met often to plan our **Regional Formation Director Workshop** to be held in Zoom format at the end of August 21-22, 2020..
* We have invited Regional Formation Directors and two members of each regional formation team. The NEC was also invited. Registration has been excellent. We expect close to 100 participants for our virtual workshop.
* The plan for the workshop will include a keynote and three plenary sessions. The third plenary session will be a panel discussion based on questions submitted by the RFDs. There will be time during the workshop for individual break out groups, general sharing and questions and comments.

**Goals for 2021**

* **If there is no Quinquennial in 2021, we plan to have another Regional Formation Director Workshop**
* **Visioning/Formation Materials Project will continue—Working on the new formation materials will be the main focus of 2021.**
* **Continue and increase communication with RFDs**
* **NFC availability to regions to assist with formation programs**
* **Continue to develop formation guidelines as needed**
* **Continue Formation Friday which has proved to be very popular**