

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH

AS IN HEAVEN: THAT WE MAY LOVE YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART

BY ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU, WITH OUR WHOLE SOUL,

BY ALWAYS DESIRING YOU, WITH OUR WHOLE MIND

BY ALWAYS DIRECTING ALL OUR INTENTIONS TO YOU,

AND BY SEEKING YOUR GLORY IN EVERYTHING.



REALITIES OF THE ORDER

NATIONAL VISIONING WORKSHOP

HOW DO THE REALITIES OF THE ORDER APPLY TO **USA?**

AUGUST 2018



FIVE DOCUMENTS: HIGHLIGHTS

- **MANAGEMENT OF THE ORDER – INITIAL REPORT**
- **MINISTER GENERAL'S REPORT – GENERAL CHAPTER - 2017**
- **CONCLUSIVE DOCUMENT – GENERAL CHAPTER - 2017**
- **TERMS OF REFERENCE – FORMATION**
- **REGIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS**



HOW SHOULD AN ORDER LIKE THE OFS BE MANAGED AT ALL ITS LEVELS?

REFLECTION ON THE IDENTITY

AND NATURE OF THE OFS

BENEDETTO LINO, OFS



FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

“ WHICH PREVENT THE ORDER TO FULLY DEVELOP INTO WHAT IT SHOULD BE.”

- LET US ASK OURSELVES: ARE ANY OF THE PROBLEMS, WHICH WILL BE MENTIONED, ALSO TRUE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN THE USA? AND, IF SO, ARE THEY FORMATION ISSUES?***



FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

WHICH PREVENT THE ORDER TO FULLY DEVELOP INTO WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

- **LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMITMENTS WE MADE WITH OUR PROFESSION.**
- **LACK OF COMMITMENT OF MANY PROFESSED MEMBERS TO ENTER INTO A SERIOUS CONVERSION JOURNEY.**



FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

WHICH PREVENT THE ORDER TO FULLY DEVELOP INTO WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

- **IGNORANCE OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURES, THE WRITINGS OF SAINT FRANCIS, THE ESSENTIAL TEXTS OF FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY, THE OFS RULE, THE GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS, THE RITUAL.**
- **ABSENCE, OR LACK, OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES.**



SOME CONCRETE PROBLEMS – DO WE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IDENTIFY?

- **LACK OF COOPERATION. AUTHORITATIVE MINISTERS**
- **LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES**
- **EXHAUSTING WORKLOADS**
- **INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT OF NON-ELECTED MEMBERS.**



SOME CONCRETE PROBLEMS

- **LACK OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ORDER WHICH DEMAND CONSISTENCY AND CONTINUITY.**
- **LACK OF WELL PREPARED AND AVAILABLE PERSONS.**
- **LACK OF FORMATION TO GUIDE AND ANIMATE PROSPECTIVE FRATERNITY LEADERS.**



SOME CONCRETE PROBLEMS

- **INSUFFICIENT FRATERNAL AND PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT OF FRATERNITIES**
- **INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL CHURCHES AND THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.**



SOME CONCRETE PROBLEMS

- **INSUFFICIENT INTERACTION WITH THE REST OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY.**
- **LACK OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL COMMUNICATION.**
- **LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE OFS-YOUFRA RELATIONSHIP.**



**SO... ARE ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS ALSO
TRUE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN THE USA?**

***IF SO, HOW DO WE, AS FORMATORS
ADDRESS THESE ISSUES IN THE USA? ...
BECAUSE THESE ARE FORMATION ISSUES!***

MINISTER GENERAL'S REPORT

PROBLEMS AT THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY LEVEL: APPEALS

“During the triennial, many - in our view, too many appeals - have arrived at the presidency, presenting problems and seeking support that, in the first place, should never occur, and should certainly not appear at the highest level of the order, without having tried to resolve them, in the spirit of subsidiarity, at a lower level.”



MINISTER GENERAL'S REPORT

PROBLEMS AT THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY LEVEL:

The roots of these conflicts are: lack of knowledge of our spirituality, improper legislation, strong personalities, authoritarianism.

Centralism on the part of those responsible for animating and guiding the fraternities, lack of communion or cooperation.



**SHOULD THESE CONCERNS
BE ADDRESSED
IN OUR NATIONAL FORMATION PROGRAM?**

MINISTER GENERAL'S REPORT

FORMATION COMMISSION (VISION)

The major task of the commission is to provide formation materials and to help the efforts of the national fraternities in forming the formators. (Should we at national be doing the same for regional?)



CONCLUSIVE DOCUMENT: DECISION GENERAL CHAPTER - 2017

FORMATION

A permanent international secretariat for OFS formation will be established to coordinate the work of both initial and ongoing formation at the international level so as to deepen the Secular Franciscan's identity and sense of belonging to the OFS..

Should we, at the National level, also have such a commission with the same goals?



TERMS OF REFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL FORMATION OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

“...there is a need to find new, original and effective ways to offer formation, especially initial formation, with uniformity and cohesion, worthy of an order extended throughout the world, an order that is called to develop a fundamental role of a mature apostolate that is accredited by the church, in collaboration and in concert with the rest of the Franciscan family.” (conclusions, general chapter 2002)



TERMS OF REFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL FORMATION OFFICE

Introduction

... implement formation with basic content that is similar for the whole order. It could then be adapted to the social, cultural and religious context according to the needs and realities of each national fraternity.



TERMS OF REFERENCE: COMPOSITION

The ideal number of people for this Office or Secretariat of International Formation would be five brothers/sisters, among them would be a Spiritual Assistant. We should have permanent collaborators and temporary ones. Among these members there should also be a qualified YouFra member.

(Could this also be a national model?)



TERMS OF REFERENCE: MISSION

Basic formation does not change, and in a world order, Christian-Franciscan formation should be shared fundamentally everywhere. .. We should not forget that we need a certain coherence between initial and on-going formation. .. The contents of formation should not change each time the councils change ...



TERMS OF REFERENCE: MISSION

In formation, we must ensure continuity. Formators who are well prepared at all levels ... are a fundamental resource. We must invest in formators (and, perhaps, not elect them), be it in local fraternities as in other levels... Formation is not “political.” It is life, and it is founded upon sacred scripture, revelation, theology, spirituality, history, the law and the magisterium of the church. and ... these things do not change.



TERMS OF REFERENCE: GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To create an International Formation Office with the following guidelines:

- The coordinator should have responsibilities which would be shared with the other members of the office according to their capabilities and experiences .**
- The permanent members should write, propose themes, presentations, projects and concrete programs of a general and local nature in order to help the national fraternities in their work in their own countries.**
- To share ideas and suggestions from the national fraternities.**



TERMS OF REFERENCE: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To establish continuity in the journey to become a Secular Franciscan

- **To offer a total program, but leaving open the agenda (different cultures, social and ecclesial realities ...) based on the General Constitutions and the CIOFS formation manual**



TERMS OF REFERENCE: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To collaborate with on-going formation

- In the development of formation material (agendas, specific booklets, power points and videos...)**
- To create information on the cloud (a type of library) where we keep all material that is developed and make it available to those responsible for formation and the national ministers.**



TERMS OF REFERENCE: SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To create a formation school

- **to help organize courses for formation for formators**
- **to improve and multiply the formation courses. To suggest ideas, recommend and send material for workshops**
- **traveling formation schools**
- **formation scholarships to form brothers and sisters on very specific themes**



TERMS OF REFERENCE: CONCLUSION

The life of formation ... has as its principal objective to develop one's vocation during one's whole life, and this life of formation and prayer should take me to the mission -- to evangelize.



How do we, at the national level, take this message to heart and implement a formation commission with goals and objectives that are true to the mission and vision of the whole order?

We do not have to use the same models or approaches, but we should maintain the continuity of the message. This is our task.



REGIONAL REALITIES: ANNUAL REPORTS

- **Some of our new leaders lack the depth of experience**
- **Large area to serve**
- **Aging members; dwindling numbers**
- **Declining Spiritual Assistants (friars/religious)**



REGIONAL NEEDS: ANNUAL REPORTS

- **Ministry to youth**
- **Better ways to bring people together and bridge distances.**
- **New technology and social media outreach**
- **Formation for secular spiritual assistants**



***IN VIEW OF ALL THAT WE HAVE HEARD, WE NEED
TO ASK THE QUESTION:***

“Who are we meant to become? ... Who is God calling us to become?” In our visioning, we have to consider “the identity and well-being of both the community and the individual. (They) are important and interconnected.”

-- Ted Dunn



GOING FORWARD WE SHOULD REMEMBER...

Transformational visions begin with an acute understanding of these painful realities and all-out assault on a status quo.

-- Ted Dunn

