

The Structure of Spiritual Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order



“Live Giving Union”



Altius Moderamen

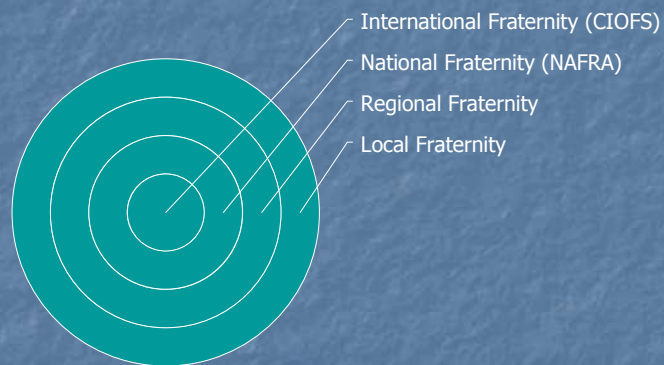
- “Higher Direction”
- Responsibility of a Friar Province to provide Spiritual Assistance to a fraternity “bonded” to it
- “Bonded” by reason of establishment

Altius Moderamen

From the Friars' Perspective

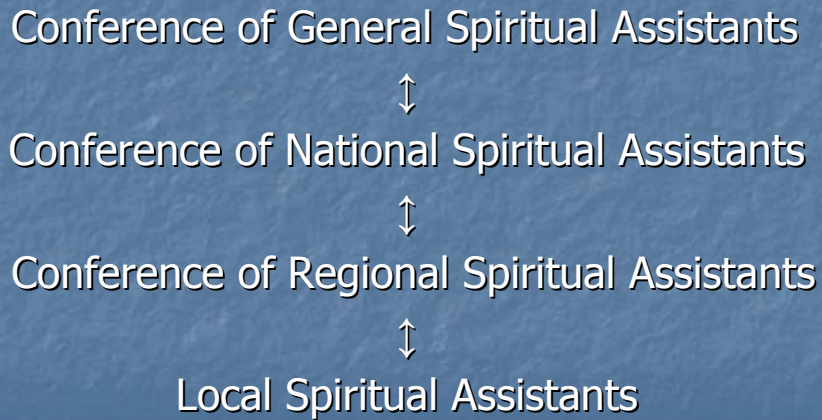


Secular Franciscan Order



Altius Moderamen

from the Secular Franciscan Order Perspective



Spiritual Assistance

Friars

SFO Fraternity

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| ■ Conference of GSA | ↔ | CIOFS |
| ■ Conference of NSA | ↔ | NAFRA |
| ■ Conference of RSA | ↔ | Regional Fraternity |
| ■ Local Spiritual Assistant | ↔ | Local Fraternity |

Appointment/Delegation

- General Spiritual Assistant = Appointed by Respective Minister General
- National Spiritual Assistant = Appointed by the Obedience in the Nation
- Regional Spiritual Assistant = Appointed by an Obedience with fraternities in a region
- Local Spiritual Assistant = Appointed by Minister Provincial or PSA

Job Descriptions

Provincial Spiritual Assistant

- Delegate of the Friar Minister Provincial
 - Informs Minister Provincial of the condition of local SFO fraternities and spiritual assistance
- Fulfills the "altius moderamen" to the local fraternities
- Establishes new fraternities witnessing the canonical establishment
- Responsible for Pastoral Visitation of local fraternities but can delegate this to the RSA
- Appoints local spiritual assistants
- Responsible for the education of friars about the SFO

General Spiritual Assistant

- Member of a Conference (TOR, OFM Cap, OFM, OFM Conv)
- Collaborates with the International Executive Council (Presidency)
- Informs his Minister General and his Order on the life and activities of the SFO
- Co-ordinates spiritual assistance to SFO on the International level
- Conduct Pastoral Visitations of National Fraternities
- Takes care of SFO relations with the Holy See
- Problem solves issues presented by CNSA

National Spiritual Assistant

- Keeps Major Superiors and his Order informed on the life and activities of the SFO in the country
- Gives assistance to the National Executive Council (acts as a Conference)
- Conducts Pastoral Visitations to Regional Fraternities
- Witnesses regional elections
- Fosters the interest of friars in the SFO & Franciscan Youth

Regional Spiritual Assistant

- Collaborates with the Regional Executive Council in animation of the SFO in a region
- Provides for the pastoral visitation of local fraternities (delegate of PSA)
- Witnesses elections on the local level
- Participates in a conference if more than one RSA
- Helps coordinates the formation of spiritual assistants

Local Spiritual Assistant

- Provides assistance to the local fraternity
- Member of the Executive Council
- Involved in Initial and On-going formation
- Collaborates with the membership in all liturgical celebrations
- Provide a vital connection between the SFO and the Friars (TOR, OFM, OFM Cap, OFM Conv.)