



**Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee
&
Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity
OFS-USA-EIC
Annual Report for 2018**

Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee

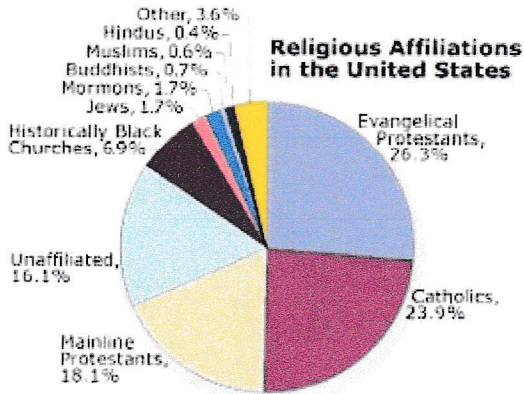
1. Page 1) Our Mission
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Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

1. Page 15) JCFU Current Membership with Membership Calendar for 2019
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4. Page 18 – 22 JCFU 2019 Annual Meeting/Report

2018 Action/Modeling for OFS-USA

1. Page 23) **Discovering Each Other**
 - a. The attached Flyer is one local fraternity effort to educate, evangelize and be instruments of peace in their local parish and the surrounding community.
 - b. The Members of the OFS-USA-EIC are here to help you create and implement this effort in your own community.
2. Page 24 -25) **Sultan and the Saint**
 - a. The Sultan and the Saint is a 60-minute documentary film created by Unity Productions Foundation. Unity Productions Foundation has developed lessons and learning exercises. All lessons are available with companion short videos on the film's website www.sultanandthesaintfilm.com/education. The Mission of Unity Productions Foundation is to counter bigotry and create peace through the media.
 - b. The Members of the OFS-USA-EIC are here to help you create and implement this effort in your own community.



Source: [My America](#)

OFS-USA ECUMENICAL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

OFS-USA-EIC

OUR MISSION

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee seeks to bring an authentic ecumenical and interfaith spirit and understanding to the ongoing renewal of the secular Franciscan Order. In the Spirit of our Lord and our beloved St. Francis, we seek to foster the ministry of reconciliation in every part of our fraternal life, and, thereby, witness to the world our unique Franciscan charism and our prophetic witness to the unity of all creation.

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee’s focus is to encourage and empower fraternal relationships through reflective, responsible, and respectful dialogue with our ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers. Our Rule and Constitutions and the documents of the Church provide us guidance in this endeavor.

Our task is thus to be an instrument of unity and understanding for the Franciscan family. Therefore, we challenge each other to bring a Franciscan focus to the ministry of unity through our intentional and continual building of ecumenical and interfaith relationships.



COMMITTEE GOALS

1. To initiate and advance dialogue within the existing structures of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in the United States.
2. To initiate a process of education and reflection of the OFS leadership and general membership in authentic ecumenical and interfaith involvement and collaboration.
3. To be a resource for education and programs for all levels of OFS life, local, regional, and national, who seek to initiate and develop ecumenical and interfaith sharing.
4. To develop the Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee into a model of ecumenical and interfaith collaboration in consultation with and support of the National Fraternity USA.



OFS-USA-EIC Report **July 21, 2018**

Committee Members

Imam Bashar Arafat – Committee Companion
Mike Carsten OFS
Rabbi Dorit Edit – Committee Companion
Donna Hollis OFS
Cami Mann OFS

DISCRIPTION OF THE ECUMENICAL-INTERFAITH COMMITTEE
PRESENT CHAIR RESPONSIBILITES AS OF JUNE 2018
NEW CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS OF JULY 2018
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OFS-USA NATIONAL
FRATERNITY CONSIDERATION

The Ecumenical-Interfaith Committee

The ecumenical interfaith committee exist to inform and engage our membership in working collaboratively with people of all faiths. the committee's activities are relational and action-oriented with a goal of developing relationships of respect and trust with those of different faiths expressions. The Committee strives to promote dialogue and an understanding of other faith expressions and to initiate and engage in activities and events that promote unity and peace.

The challenge is to foster relationships and participate in activities despite theological differences. This takes more than cooperation; it takes commitment. How to do this? That is the challenge each new committee faces in discerning its own unique path. Below are some committee responsibilities to consider:

(Ecumenical- Interfaith Committee Chair Application)

Chair Responsibilities as of June 2018

- The chair chooses and invites O.F.S. members to serve on the committee.
- The present committee has 4 members in addition to the chair.
- The committee will meet at least once each year.
- The chair attends The OFS National Fraternity Chapter.
- The chair submits a report the committee's activity for the year.
- The chair draws up a budget for the next fiscal year.
- The chair is a member of “**The Joint Committee for Franciscan Unity**”, which consists of 2 OFS [Secular Franciscans], 2 TSSF [Episcopal Franciscans], 2 O.E.F. [Ecumenical Franciscans], and as of 2018, 2 OLF Lutheran Franciscans.
- The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity” meets once a year,
- The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity conducts 1 or 2 national workshops a year.
- The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity rotates the Leadership responsibilities between the 4 Orders and the Chair of the Ecumenical-

Interfaith Committee - Chairs "The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity" when its turn in the rotation presents itself.

- The Chair or designee writes an article for each issue of the towel USA
- The chair exercises a leadership role and endeavors to bring forth the gifts of not only the committee members, but also the OFS

Chair Responsibilities at the request of our National Minister as of July 2018

- ECUMENICAL/FRANCISCAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS
 - The Chair will Coordinate with the OEF, TSSF and the OLF the invitation to participate in the OFS-USA Annual Chapter.
 - The Chair will coordinate and delegate to Regional Leadership (Regional Ministers or their delegate) to attend the Annual Chapters of the OEF, TSSF and OLF.
 - The Chair will cover as a budget line item the cost for Registrations for those Ecumenical Franciscan Leaders belonging to the OEF, TSSF and the OLF that are invited to the OFS-USA Chapter.
 - The Chair will cover as a budget line item the cost for transportation and miscellaneous expenses incurred as a part of the delegation of Regional Leadership (Regional Ministers or their delegate) to attend the Annual Chapters of the OEF, TSSF and the OLF representing the OFS-USA National Fraternity.

Proposed Additional Chair Responsibilities for consideration and approval

- ENGAGEMENT OF THE OFS WITH THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES/USCCB
 - Chair will work in union with the USCCB and their efforts at Ecumenical and Interreligious dialogue through **CADIEO** "Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers".
 - The Chair will maintain the annual membership of the OFS-USA in CADIEO.
 - The Chair will participate as much as possible in the CADIEO Leadership Institutes Training/Ongoing Formation Programs offered in 3-year cycles.
 - The Chair or their delegate should participate if possible in the annual CADIEO workshop/conferences.
 - The Chair will cover as a budget line item the cost of the annual CADIEO membership.
 - The Chair will cover as budget line items the cost of Transportation and Registration, for attendance at the CADIEO Leadership Institutes annual Training/Ongoing Formation Programs and the annual CADIEO workshop/conferences

Year in Review

A highlight of the Committees efforts this past year

- OFS-USA-EIC Annual Meeting
 - September 26 – October 1, 2017
 - Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality
- OFS-USA-EIC Ecumenical & Interfaith Conference
 - January 31, 2018
 - The “Sultan and the Saint”
 - Ann Arbor Michigan
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days
 - April 20 – 23, 2018
 - Washington DC
- Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity – Conference
 - “Agents of Peace in a Time of Fear”
 - May 3 – May 5, 2018
 - Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond VA
- OFS-USA-EIC Working with St. Bonaventure Fraternity
 - Reaching Out Beyond Our Faith Retreat
 - June 16, 2018
 - Fleming Island, Florida.
- OEF National Annual Chapter attended by our National Minister
 - June 28, 2018
 - Palatine Renewal Center, Florissant MO
- CADEIO Leadership Institute
 - July 23 – 28, 2018
 - Theological Collage, Catholic University of America, Washington DC
- Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity Annual Meeting
 - August 9 – 12, 2018
 - Detroit
- TSSF Annual Chapter
 - October 8 – 12, 2018
 - Franciscan Spiritual Center
 - Aston, PA
 - We need a Regional delegate

CADEIO

“Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.”

USCCB Secretariat - Ecumenical and Interfaith / CADEIO

The OFS-USA through the Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee has formally requested membership in the **“Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers”**. Please See CADEIO attachment for more details

This past July, I entered the three-year training program that **CADEIO** offers to Diocese and Religious Orders throughout the United States:

*“INTRODUCTORY ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
July 23-27, 2018 THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
at CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D.C.”*

The focus of the training is:

- Year 1, Ecumenical Leadership
- Year 2, Interreligious Leadership
- Year 3, Advanced Ecumenical & Interreligious Leadership

I am happy to report that I have completed the “Year 1, **Ecumenical Leadership Institute** Training/Ongoing Formation.

I believe it is important for the OFS-USA-EIC to be working with the Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. The Bishops of the United States taking up the call of the Second Vatican Council see the Ecumenical and Interreligious efforts taking place in Diocese across the United States as critically important. Important enough that they have created and maintain the CADIEO program. So that those called to the work of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue could be educated and well prepared.

One of the Program presenters was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Chair, Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. After his presentation, I was able to have lunch with Bishop Bambera; we discussed how opportune it was for the OFS-USA to be participating with CADEIO at this year’s Leadership Institute. His lectures were focused on the need for this effort to be taken to the grassroots. He was delighted we were present and leading the way.

I would recommend that the OFS-USA Ecumenical – Interfaith Committee utilize what the Bishops of the United States have graciously provided and that the CADIEO Membership, training and Certification be a part of the process of leadership within the OFS Committee.

ECUMENICAL/FRANCISCAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The effort of Ecumenical Franciscan Participation in each other's retreats, Community Gathering and Chapters.

Our National Minister has requested the following of the Committee Chair

- That the coordination effort for mutual invitation to major OFS events and the OFS National Chapter now be handled by the OFS-USA-EIC Chair.
- In the Past It was the Responsibility of the National Minister to attend or delegate attending the Chapters of the TSSF, OEF and OLF.

In Closing, I have made no attempt to show on this record the amount of preparation the committee involved itself in. planning, scheduling and preparing for the Gatherings, Conferences and Retreats and Annual Meetings as recorded in the OFS-USA-EIC Year at a Glance. I am sure that each of you understands what it takes to make things happen.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Carsten OFS

Ecumenical & Interfaith Committee Chair

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www.ofsusaecumenicalinterfaith.org

NAFRA 2019 Budget Request

<u>Name of Commission/Committee/Appoint</u>	<u>Requested amount</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>difference</u>
OFS-USA-EIC	\$19488.00	\$10212.00	\$9276.00

Breakdown of requested amount (all that apply):

Travel expenses (transportation/meals/hotels):

1) USCCB Secretariat - Ecumenical and Interfaith / CADEIO

a) CADEIO – “Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers”			
b) CADEIO - Interfaith Training & Certification			
i) Transportation	1 x \$500.00 = \$500.00	\$400.00	+\$100.00
c) CADEIO National Ecumenical Workshop			
i) Transportation	1 x \$500.00 = \$500.00	\$0.00	+\$500.00
Total	\$1000.00	\$400.00	+\$600.00

2) Ecumenical/Franciscan External Relations

a) OFS Attending OEF Annual Chapter			
i) Transportation	1 x \$500.00 = \$500.00	\$500.00	+\$0.00
b) OFS Attending TSSF Annual Chapter			
i) Transportation	1 x \$500.00 = \$500.00	\$500.00	+\$0.00
c) OFS Attending OLF Annual Chapter			
	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
d) OEF Attending OFS Annual Chapter			
i) Registration/Hotel/Meals	1 x \$700.00 = \$700.00	\$0.00	+\$700.00
e) TSSF Attending OFS Annual Chapter			
i) Registration/Hotel/Meals	1 x \$700.00 = \$700.00	\$0.00	+\$700.00
Total	\$2400.00	\$1500.00	+\$900.00

3) Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee Annual Meeting

a) Transportation/meals/hotels	4 x \$1000.00 = \$4000.00	\$1600.00	+\$2400.00
Total	\$4000.00	\$1600.00	+\$2400.00

4) Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

a) Annual Meeting Transportation	2 x \$500.00 = \$1000.00	\$800.00	+\$200.00
b) Annual Conference Transportation	2 x \$500.00 = \$1000.00	\$1600.00	-\$600.00
Total	\$2000.00	\$2400.00	-400.00

5) Major Conference – July 2019

a) The People of God a Sacred Prism			
i) *Event Transportation	4 x \$500.00 = \$2000.00	\$800.00	+\$1200.00
Total	= \$2000.00	\$800.00	+\$1200.00

*Attending Conference – The Organizers: 3 Committee Members, 1 Committee Companion

Name of Commission/Committee/Appoint Requested amount 2018 Budget difference

OFS-USA-EIC

Meetings:

1) USCCB Secretariat - Ecumenical and Interfaith "CADEIO"

a) CADEIO Annual Organization Membership Due's	\$200.00	\$0.00	+\$200.00
b) CADEIO - Interfaith Training & Certification			
i) *Program Registration Fee	\$600.00	\$600.00	+\$0.00
c) CADEIO National Ecumenical Workshop			
i) *Program Registration Fee	\$600.00	\$0.00	+\$600.00
Total	= \$1400.00	\$600.00	+\$800.00

**Two Separate Programs b) Training & Certification c) National Ecumenical Workshop/Conference*

2) Ecumenical/Franciscan External Relations

a) No added Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	+\$0.00
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3) Ecumenical Interfaith Committee Annual Meeting

a) Meeting room for 3 days	3 x \$150.00 = \$450.00	\$0.00	+\$450.00
b) Miscellaneous supplies for meeting	\$200.00	\$0.00	+\$200.00
Total	\$650.00	\$0.00	+\$650.00

4) Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

a) Annual Contribution	\$1500.00	\$1500.00	\$0.00
b) Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
c) Annual Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$1500.00	\$1500.00	\$0.00

5) Major Conference – July 2019

a) <u>The People of God a Sacred Prism</u>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i) Will Apply for Duns Scotus Grant			

Requested amount 2018 Budget difference

Workshop/Retreat expenses:

1) Major Conference – July 2019

a)	<u>The People of God a Sacred Prism</u>			
	i) Event Team Startup Planning/Scheduling Cost	\$1000.00		
	ii) Event Location Deposit	<u>\$2000.00</u>		
	iii) Will Apply for Duns Scotus Grant			
	Total	\$3000.00	\$700.00	+\$2300.00

Supplies/Postage:

1)	Printing, Mailing,	\$400.00	\$0.00	+\$400.00
2)	Periodicals			
	a) *Six Subscriptions to Ecumenical Trends 6 x \$56.00 =	\$336.00	\$112.00	+\$224.00
	b) Two Subscriptions to TAU-USA 2 x \$4.00 =	\$8.00	\$8.00	+\$0.00
	c) Books for Committee Members 4 x \$50.00 =	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>+\$200.00</u>
	Total	\$944.00	\$120.00	+\$824.00

*- Subscriptions for 3 Current Committee Members 2 Committee Companions 1 Future Committee Member

Contract expenses (e.g. Server maintenance):

1)	Constant Contact –			
2)	email marketing software (e-newsletter)	\$380.00	\$378.00	+\$2.00
3)	Web Site Subscription	\$144.00	\$144.00	+\$0.00
4)	G-Suite E-mail address	\$50.00	\$50.00	+\$0.00
5)	Domain Fee	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>+\$0.00</u>
	Total	\$594.00	\$592.00	+\$2.00

Total Projected Cost for 2019 Program (without Duns Scotus Grant Application)

\$19488.00 \$10212.00 \$9276.00

Narrative regarding requested amount:

This year's OFS-USA-EIC budget reflects major changes within the program and how the National Fraternity recognizes, allocates, and dispenses its available funds for this specific Committee.

First major change - funds that were a part of the National Ministers expense related to Franciscan External Relations: funds and the duties associated with them now fall to the Chair of the Committee and this budget per the request of the National Minister.

Second major change – I have joined the committee and the Secular Franciscan Order to the work of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. I follow to the best of my ability our Rule and Constitutions as they pertain to our involvement with the Church and the efforts of the Bishops. Due to this effort, today, the Chair of the OFS-USA-EIC is a Certified Ecumenical Officer representing the OFS at CADEIO as well as providing the services to the body at large through the work of this committee.

There are now six specific areas within the Ecumenical/Interfaith budget that require consideration and possible allocation of funds:

- 1) **USCCB Secretariat - Ecumenical and Interfaith / CADEIO**
- 2) **Ecumenical/Franciscan External Relations**
- 3) **Ecumenical Interfaith Committee Annual Meeting**
- 4) **Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity**
- 5) **Major Conference – July 2019**

1) **USCCB Secretariat - Ecumenical and Interfaith / CADEIO**

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CADEIO stands for:

“Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.”

THE CONSTITUTION of the CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION of DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL and INTERRELIGIOUS OFFICERS

ARTICLE I: NAME *The name of this organization shall be the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers (CADEIO) or the “Association.”*

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE *CADEIO is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. CADEIO shall not be operated for profit but shall be operated exclusively for charitable purposes. The specific purposes for which this Association is established are: 1. To stimulate an exchange of ideas, experiences and evaluations among Catholic ecumenical and interreligious officers. 2. To promote programs which further the work of Christian unity and interreligious cooperation. 3. To cooperate with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and other ecumenical and interreligious agencies.*

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP *1. Membership in this Association shall be open to ecumenical and interreligious officers of the Catholic arch/dioceses and eparchies of the United States canonically united with the Holy See of Rome. 2. For the purposes of this Association, an ecumenical or interreligious officer shall be understood as that person within a Catholic diocese or eparchy who is: a. the duly appointed ecumenical officer; or b. the chairperson of the ecumenical commission; or c. a member of the ecumenical commission assigned to represent it. 3. Each diocese in union with Rome shall determine one (1) ecumenical or interreligious officer to represent it in the Association. 4. An indication of the intent to affiliate with the Association, and the payment of the dues assessed by the Association, shall be conditions of voting membership. 5. Recognized canonical Catholic religious communities which have a special apostolate in ecumenism are eligible for membership in this Association. These shall be members-at-large and shall be approved by the Board of Directors. 6. Associate Membership in CADEIO shall be open to any individual upon payment of an annual associate membership fee determined yearly by the General Assembly. The associate member shall be entitled to receive the CADEIO Newsletter and other general*

announcements. If the associate member is duly registered, he/she shall be entitled to attend the General Assembly with full voice but no vote. ARTICLE IV: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1. The final authority in this Association shall reside in the General Assembly of its members. 2. Each representative shall provide the president with a written report of the activities in his/her region during the preceding year one (1) month before the General Assembly. 3. There shall be at least one General Assembly held each year as the Annual Meeting of the Association.

2) Ecumenical/Franciscan External Relations

This line item was previously placed within the work of and the budget of the Office of Minister. This year our National Minister has requested that this good work be placed within the efforts of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Chair and the related budget.

3) Ecumenical Interfaith Committee Annual Meeting

This line item covers as stated everything associated with the Annual Meeting of the OFS-USA-EIC. This year the Committee's Annual Meeting will coincide with the National Fraternity.

4) Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

The "Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity" is a separate Committee within the OFS-USA-EIC. This line item covers as stated everything associated with the JCFU. This includes in 2019 one Annual JCFU Committee Meeting and one JCFU Regional Conference.

Also included in the budget for the JCFU is the OFS Annual Contribution to the Committee of \$1500.00.

5) Major Conference – July 2019

The OFS-USA-EIC will be hosting a National Conference/Retreat in 2019. This will be the first such event hosted by the Committee. The location is yet to be determined. The program we will be presenting will be "The People of God a Sacred Prism", a two-day Retreat/Formation event focused on prayer as experienced by the Abrahamic Faiths. This even will be led by an ecumenical and Interfaith team made up of our Committee Companions and leadership from the JCFU.

The dollars reflected in our budget request are primarily start up and planning funds. It is my intention to apply for a Duns Scotus Grant to help with the cost of the program.

Submitted by: Michael J Carsten OFS
Date: 8-20-2018

On a separate page, please add a few paragraphs regarding the benefits achieved for the good of the Order with the 2018 expenditures to date and future anticipated benefits.

The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

Current Membership 2018

Franciscans of Reconciliation (OFR)

2019 Chapter date & location is not available at this writing

Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF)

2019 Chapter June 26 through 30, 2019
Roslyn Center, Richmond, VA

Order of Lutheran Franciscans (OLF)

2019 Chapter date & location is not available at this writing

Secular Franciscan Order (OFS)

2019 Chapter date & location is not available at this writing

Third Order Society of St. Francis (TSSF)

2019 Chapter Monday October 7 through October 11, 2019
Trinity Conference Center; West Cornwall, Connecticut

Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity 2019 Calendar

JCFU Unity Conference:

May 8 through 11

Pallottine Renewal Center – 15270 Old Halls Rd, Florissant, MO

JCFU Annual Meeting:

August 8 through 10

Holy Cross Retreat Center – 600 Holy Cross Rd., Mesilla Park, NM

Mission Statement & Organizing Principles
of
The joint Committee on Franciscan Unity
Revised and Accepted by Consensus at its Annual Meeting
February 16---19, 2004
St. Mary's Retreat House, Santa Barbara, CA

1 Mission Statement

For the sake of creation, we are called to bear witness to the essential unity of the church, the Body of Christ, by working towards Franciscan unity in all of its expressions. We will achieve this through dialogue and collaboration among the Orders which follow Christ in the traditions of Francis and Clare.

2 Organizing Principles

A. Inclusive of Any Franciscan Orders.

Any religious community following the tradition of St. Francis and St. Clare is eligible to participate in the work of the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity.

B. Shared Responsibilities.

In the spirit of egalitarian relationship, all sponsoring communities share equally the responsibilities of the Joint Committee, including number of representatives.

C. Responsive Dialogue between joint Committee Sponsors.

Committee members are responsible for maintaining a flow of communication between the Joint Committee and their sponsoring communities.

D. Model the Unity We Seek.

Acknowledging that we share a common Franciscan charism and are committed to bear witness to its dedication to the work of Franciscan unity, members of the Joint Committee work together in ways that demonstrate mutual respect, honor, and affirmation of the several gifts each brings to the work of the Committee.

E. Ministry of Reconciliation.

Central to the Committee's vision of Franciscan unity is its call to engage efforts toward reconciliation among its sponsoring Franciscan Orders, and the ecclesia they represent.

Further Clarification of Mission Statement

Excerpted from Minutes of Annual Meeting of April 12---14, 2007
The Cenacle Retreat Center, Chicago, Illinois

Discussion of our Mission Statement:

Based on our "revisiting" of our Mission Statement, we clarified our mission as bearing witness to a more egalitarian Franciscan unity, dialoguing on issues relating to broader mission, and to facilitate a better collaboration among our Orders. This committee is to live out the dream of Franciscan Unity. What are more clearer and visible ways which we can do this? Shared prayer, shared action and shared worship have validity for this committee's work.

Elements of Franciscan Unity

August 11, 2005 – Feast of St. Clare, St. Francis House – New London, CT

Reviewed November 5, 2006, Institute of Cultural Affairs – Chicago, IL

Revised 4/13/07

Approved 4/13/07

Baptism

Our Franciscan Orders understand that our Franciscan unity springs from our shared relationship with God through Holy Baptism. The waters of our birth in the name of the Triune God signify our unity in one baptism by one God.

This unity through baptism is the underpinning for our shared worship and witness as Franciscans.

Vocation

Our call to Franciscan vocation implies being conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ by means of the radical interior change that the Gospel defines as conversion – taking up our cross daily to follow Christ. Our particular vocation is to observe the Gospel by following the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

As members of Franciscan orders, we pledge ourselves, with life long intent, to live out our Franciscan vocation in community with our brothers and sisters.

Charism

As Franciscans, we see in the life of St. Francis of Assisi these gifts of the Holy Spirit: Holy Poverty (humility), love and joy. Through our Rules and through the individual and collective work of our Orders, we seek to manifest these gifts.

In our unified emulation of Francis, we seek to express a life that witnesses to poverty, love and joy.

Christ Centered

Franciscan spirituality is Christocentric to the extent that Francis fell in love with Jesus. This love transformed Francis' life. All that Francis did was shaped by what he saw in the Incarnation, and in the ministry and Passion of Jesus.

Franciscan spirituality is a way of life that is centered on the person of Jesus. Our unified mission as Franciscans is to make Jesus known to all – and to pray and work for the reconciliation of all creation.

Prophetic Voice

Fundamental to Franciscan spirituality is a commitment to strive for justice and peace among all people – and to affirm the inter-relationship and holiness of all creation. In a world torn asunder by conflict, divisions, intolerance and exploitation, our unified prophetic witness is an expression of God's light on a dark planet.

In our shared understanding of the spirit of Francis, we are called

- to courageous initiatives in the field of peace making and justice,
- to make definite choices in harmony with our faith whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression, violence or indifference, and
- to protect and restore all of creation.

Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity

The Reverend Dr. J. Frederick Ball, OEF

Jean A. D'Onofrio, SFO

Diana Finch, TSSF

The Reverend Dr. Ysidro (Sid) Mohn, OEF

Dr. Edward L. Shirley, SFO

The Reverend Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF

Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity
Annual Meeting
August 9-10, 2018
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Detroit Downtown
1020 Washington Blvd. Detroit, Michigan 48226

On Thursday, August 9th the Joint Committee gathered in Detroit, MI for our annual meeting. Those present at the meeting were:

Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF (Hyde Park, New York)
Sister Dede (Donna Rea) Bruns, OLF (West Warwick, Rhode Island)
Sister Donna Hollis, OFS (Las Cruces, NM)
Brother Alexander Steward, OLF (Richmond, MI)
Brother Mike Carsten, OFS (Grosse Pointe Park, Detroit, MI)
Brother Elijah (Richard) LeFevre, OEF (Salem, OR)

And those absent were:

Rev. Joan Verret, TSSF
Brother Louis Canter, OEF (Orlando, FL) who arranged to join us on Zoom Conferencing

Friday morning, following breakfast at the hotel, we walked two blocks to St. Aloysius Catholic Church where our official work would take place at one of their office conference rooms set up by Br. Mike Carsten, OFS. An opening prayer/reflection was led by Masud who shared with us the TSSF Principle: The Third Aim - To live simply, reminding us of what it means to be Franciscans.

The first Christians surrendered completely to our Lord and recklessly gave all that they had, offering the world a new vision of a society in which a fresh attitude was taken towards material possessions. This vision was renewed by Saint Francis when he chose Lady Poverty as his bride, desiring that all barriers set up by privilege based on wealth should be overcome by love. This is the inspiration for the third aim of the Society, to live simply.

Following the reflection, each of us went around the table and introduced ourselves to one another since we did have new faces in the room, our new OLF committee members. Masud then shared with all of us of the fundamental beginnings & elements of the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity. Masud agreed to write up a thorough history of the beginnings of the Joint Committee in order for us to share accurately with others. Below are some key points shared:

- * TSSF SFO. Secular Franciscans were invited to the TSSF Provincial Convocation in New Orleans 1997. Set a precedent of reciprocity where a representative would attend each others annual Chapters.
- * 2001-02 SFO invited a TSSF rep and OEF rep to participate in the annual ecumenical commission meeting. Fred, OEF and Masud, TSSF were in attendants. Talks began about creating a committee that would stand outside of the Orders. This news went back to the

Chapters and the formation of the committee began. Mission Statement and Organizing Principles was completed in Feb. 2004 (Refer to attachment)

- * Different lenses (shades or views) of Franciscans
- * 2005 Elements of Franciscan Unity (refer to attachment)
- * 2006 Little Portion Friary in Mt. Sinai, NY - Leaders of each Order came together to support the beginnings of the Joint Committee.
- * 2007 clarification of the Mission Statement (refer to attachment)
- * Interfaith Dialogue, Laudato Si, Agents of Peace

Following the history of the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity, reports from each Order, regarding age, member numbers, and the countries we preside in.

TSSF (TBA)

OFS

- * 797 years young.
- * The Secular Franciscan Order is present in 112 countries around the world with 70 constituted and 18 emerging national fraternities, together with a special kind of Secular Franciscans presence in other 24 countries. The Order has approximately 300,000 members.
- * YouFra (OFS - Young Franciscans) now has about 50,000 members in 34 constituted, 28 emerging national fraternities.
- * The United States alone, 12,244 professed and 1,076 candidates,

OLF

- * Established in January 2011.
- * There are currently 9 Life-Professed Members, 17 Novices, and 30 in various stages of Postulancy.

OEF

- * 35 years
- * Current Numbers:
 - Postulants: 17 (11 in active Formation)
 - Novices: 17 (10 in active Formation)
 - Professed: 57 (1 in discernment about release)
 - US, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland, Japan
- * 2019 Chapter/Convocation June 27-30 Roslyn Center, Richmond VA

Due to the gracious annual contributions from our respective Orders, according to our bursar, as of August 1st, 2018 the current balance in our account is \$3,278.28. Each of our Orders are to send in their annual contribution within the first quarter of the year. \$1,500.00. These monies help to cover the cost of our annual meetings and conferences, in addition to the video project on Formation that we filmed last year Fall and hiring a professional videographer/ editor.

Our conversations then carried over to reviewing the feedback and/or experiences from our past mini-conference this past May in Richmond, VA titled "Agents of Peace in a Time of Fear" led by Masud with Br. Louis joining us live on Zoom.

Following the discussion of our previous conference, we as the council began to explore the theme/Date/Location(?) of our annual mini-conference for 2019 led by Elijah. Elijah presented to the Council the idea of leading a program/conference as a Webinar series. The idea for this was to keep our costs down and to include more people who cannot afford to travel or take time off from their daily lives to attend one. Masud shared that the coming "Together" aspect of conference holds a lot of power and is also integral to the experience of a program to alleviate our differences and deeply exploring our commonalities. Masud went on to suggest we'd begin the program in person and then to extend the program through the use of a webinar format.

Elijah suggested a program which could be led by Kathy Lawler, OEF titled "Beholding The Face Of God: Beauty, Science And The Book Of Creation". Br. Mike raised his concern that the content might be too sensitive to some audiences and we would need to review the content before making a decision. Elijah forwarded the Franciscan Elements of Unity to Kathy Lawler as a source for her to use in order to inject signs of Franciscanism throughout the program that in its original form does not have. Rev. Dede expressed her excitement of the program and shared her feelings that science is a wonderful thing as being a direct reflection of God's Creation. Rev. Masud also brought up that his efforts with Rhett, bringing in a Catholic presence along side an Episcopal, made the presentation more agreeable and responsive to other faiths. We had all agreed to pick up this discussion after lunch.

Following our lunch, Br. Mike drove us to the Solanus Casey Center. We spent about an hour at the Center and viewed the tomb of where Fr. Solanus Casey was kept. Many of us were moved by this experience and it provided us with a much needed break for inner reflection as we continued our business.

In the end, the Committee agreed to reintroduce the Elements of Franciscan Unity program of which will begin in person at the Pallottine Renewal Center in St. Louis and will be extended using a webinar format. Masud will email each of us the program used in the past and we will then begin to assign parts to our Committee members to prepare. We proposed a face-to-face "kickoff" to the JCFU annual program/webinar series. Our 2019 annual conference will be:

(May 8-11, 2019)

Pallottine Renewal Center

15270 Old Halls Ferry Rd, Florissant, MO 63034

(Wed 8 people, Thurs-Fri-Sat 28 people)

Proposed cost for the program \$200 which includes an additional month of webinar presentations and dialogue.

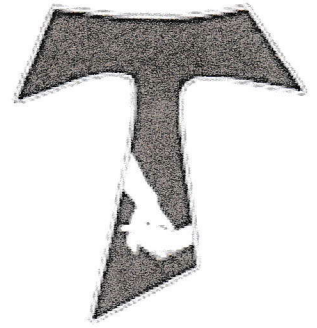
The next major decision to be made by the Joint Committee was to determine when/where we will have our annual meeting in 2019. Sr. Donna (OFS) graciously reached out to the Holy Cross Retreat Center of which she is a part of and provided us with costs that we found amazingly affordable. Our 2019 annual Committee Meeting will be:

(Aug. 8-10, 2019)

Holy Cross Retreat Center

600 Holy Cross Rd, Mesilla Park, NM 88047

Next, the Committee, with the hope of creating an online presence, voted on a proposed image/logo provided by Br. Elijah, OEF. The Committee responded with an unanimous YES! to the logo that you see to the right. The Committee agreed to the creation of a Facebook page, of which Br. Elijah will do, and a website that Masud will consult with his webmaster for specifics and cost options available to us.



To wrap up our meeting Br. Elijah opened up the floor to two other items. The first of these items was to invite additional Orders to participate in our efforts. Br. Elijah suggested that we extend a personal invitation to OFR (Franciscans of Reconciliation) from the Ecumenical Catholic Communion to join. Everyone present agreed to extend the invitation and Elijah will complete this task. Masud will also reach out to the Little Sisters of Saint Clare of WA and the Order of Saint Francis (OSF) to join our Committee's efforts. Secondly, on behalf of OEF, Br. Elijah asked those present what procedures their Orders already have in place regarding the release of vows and re-entry of members. OEF is currently drafting procedures that will be voted upon at their 2019 Chapter/Convocation gathering.

TSSF

Contact is made with the Chaplain's office. The person who asks for release if the person left the episcopal church they automatically released from the Order. The chaplain would have a pastoral conversation. Depending on the nature of release the person may stay on for a while until the Chaplain is convinced it is needed. If released it is brought before the Chapter for vote. Re-entry. Person placed under the care of the chaplain for up to a year and accountable to the regional. After living out their rule of life, spiritual director, and chaplains, a vote would be placed at Chapter to life profess again.

OFS

Refer to Article 58 of their General Constitution
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GC2000.pdf>

OLF

No re-entry procedures in place at the moment.

Upon this lengthy discussion, and full day of work, we ended our day on a high note by watching Br. Louis' video of the song "Prayer of St. Clare" in preparation for the Feast Day of St. Clare the following day.

The final day of our meeting, and over our final meal together as a Committee, we reviewed the work we've accomplished and began to assign our homework. This includes:

1. 2019 Program: Elements on Franciscan Unity. Masud will email the format of what has been used in the past. When received we will assign the parts to the committee members.
2. The focus during our time in St. Louis will be relational. Each Element will be accompanied by a 10-15 min. presentation, followed by small group discussions.



Discovering Each Other

An educational Series presented by

Troubadours of St Clare Fraternity

Secular Franciscan order

Guest Speaker
Imam Saleh Qazwini
The Islamic Institute of America
Dearborn Heights MI.



- Islam is a contested religion. (clerics, governments, pundits on tv)
- Islam not monolithic in philosophy, nationality, cultures and race
- Who speaks on behalf of Islam? (Quran, Prophet Muhammad)
- Overview- Islam regards itself as a continuation of previous Abrahamic faiths (Judaism and Christianity)
- Shares more commonalities than differences with Abrahamic faiths
- Story of Birth of Islam in mecca year 570 CE
- Discuss Arabia before the birth of Islam and what Islam brought
- Roots of Faith
- God's Oneness and Unity
- God Justice, mercy and compassion
- Afterlife
- Prophets and Messengers
- 5 pillars of faith
- Obligations of Muslims
- Prayer, Alms, Pilgrimage, Fasting, etc.

Basis Misconceptions

- is Islam a violent religion? How did it spread?
(no compulsion in religion)
- Terror groups that falsely speak on behalf of Islam

January 20 2019 1:00 PM

St. Lucy Catholic Church 23401 Jefferson Ave, St. Clair Shores

THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT



FOR TEACHERS



UPF Unity
Productions
Foundation