



Annual Reports from the OFS USA Commissions and Committees and CNSA

2021

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## National Formation Commission Report to the National Fraternity Council August 15, 2021

**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 2021 Chapter.
- Co-hosted **Zoom call in Spanish** with our International Councilor, Willie Guadalupe, and Bro. Lombardo D’Auria, OFM Cap. The purpose is to meet with local formation directors of Spanish-speaking fraternities. This workshop on fraternity was the third workshop we have given in Spanish.
- Commission members are **maintaining contact** with Regional Formation Directors—
- **Talks given by Commission Members**
  - Three-day virtual retreat given to Guam: Intimacy--Personal, Fraternal and Universal Kinship
  - Workshop given to: Five Franciscan Martyrs Region—commission member attended their in-person chapter meeting and provided a workshop on Instrumentum Laboris and creating an IL for their region;
  - Talk on Fraternity to St. Katharine Drexel Region; Talk to St. Kateri Region; Talk on Instrumentum Laboris to Our Lady of Guadalupe Empress of the Americas (all virtual)
  - Talk on Instrumentum Laboris at 2020 NAFRA Chapter (virtual)
  - Talk on servant leadership to St. Margaret of Cortona Region (virtual)
  - Talk to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region Chapter on fraternity (virtual)
  - Talk to Capuchin Novices about the Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order (virtual)
  - Talk regarding training of Spiritual Assistants (virtual)
- **Commission members participate on the following:**
  - We represent the order on the Executive Leadership of Franciscan Organizations (ELFO)
  - We represent the order on the Franciscan Family Forum
  - We represent the order on the vocations panel of the Franciscan Family Forum and are in the process of producing three videos describing the formation process in our orders.
  - We represent the order on the CIOFS formation team where we are presently doing formation for the Arab countries on Zoom and have been producing the short videos on Memoriale Propositi.
  - We edit and translate documents for YOUFRA and CIOFS
- **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 Google Group.**
- **Posts on FORM**—We have been using the NAFRA-FORM to keep our RFDs updated. 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 for RFDs who do not participate on Facebook and on NAFRA-RSA and NAFRA-RM.

The posts are also shared in Spanish with several countries in Latin America. Fr. Frank Scornaienchi, TOR

Minister Provincial, Immaculate Conception Province, will be sending them to the Seculars in Mexico and South America.

- **We also have provided a regular series of 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.

#### **COMMISSION WORK ON OTHER PROJECTS**

- **National website:** Formation materials are available on the National website and will continue to be updated.
- **Formation Materials Project**
  - The NFC has met weekly to work on the formation materials. Despite some setbacks, progress continues. Although the formation team continues to work on this project, we will now begin to incorporate input from the National Executive Council. We cannot give a completion date at this time.

#### **COMMISSION MEETINGS**

- The Commission meets at least once a month to discuss formation topics.
- In July and August, we have been meeting to plan our **Regional Formation Director Workshop** to be held in Zoom format on August 27-28, 2021.
- 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 topic for 2021: **Living the OFS Rule**

#### **Goals for 2022**

- **Members of the NFC will be involved in ongoing formation at the Quinquennial.**
- **Formation Materials Project will continue**
- **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**

**National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission**  
**JPIC Happenings: November 2020 – August 2021**

- ✝ Facilitated a virtual 7 session book discussion group. The book we discussed was **CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. Wonderful book and great discussions!
- ✝ Also, facilitated a Lenten book discussion with **Walking with Francis of Assisi: From Privilege to Activism** by Bruce Epperly.
- ✝ Then, facilitated a group for **The Cross and the Lynching Tree** by James Cone. Out of this group came the idea for the **Franciscan Racial Equity Task Force**. Our introductory session had 16 Seculars interested in giving a voice to the plight of racial inequity for the Order.



- ✝ Over the course of the year, I attended the 4 JPIC Focus Groups that originated from the JPIC Visioning Workshop in May 2020. From the Immigration Focus Group, a Migrants Novena was created and circulated to the National Family to pray during November and December.

Care for Creation – Michael Huck, OFS (Mother Cabrini Regional Animator)  
 Immigration – Donna Hollis, OFS (National Councilor)  
 Mindful Dialogues – Carolyn Townes, OFS (National JPIC Animator)  
 Spirituality & JPIC – Patricia Grace, OFS (St. Francis Regional Animator)

- ✝ Attended the virtual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering: Feb. 6-9; the virtual Ecumenical Advocacy Days: April 18 – 21; the virtual Franciscan Federation Assembly (May & June).
- ✝ Back in September 2020, I was invited to be a part of an **Emergent Group** with different Franciscan entities. This group came out of the **Franciscan Federation** and is made up of about 35 Franciscan and Franciscan-hearted folks. I was then invited to be a member of the Federation’s Commission of Charism Services group, where we are trying to implement the recommendations from the Federation’s Assembly back in May and June 2021.



- ✝ From the Emergent Group also came the opportunity to sit on a panel discussion hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. The gathering, *The Franciscan Way*, was a Friday evening with keynote then all-day Saturday panel discussions with Q&A. The discussions revolved around the resolutions that emerged from the Emergent Group discussions. (photo on left)

- ✚ Facilitated a 4-week Advent Meditations and a 5-week Lenten Meditations series, which proved to be quite successful and needed by those who attended. They were attended by members from across the country and Guam.
- ✚ Conducted two virtual Prayer services for Lamentations and Hope. Both were attended by over one hundred Franciscans from the United States and Guam.
- ✚ Participated in the six Pax Christi weekly prayer services during Lent. I participate one week by praying the litany of repentance. Then we broke out into small groups to discuss the reflection.

- ✚ I co-facilitated a **JustFaith program: Just Engagement**, sponsored by the Franciscan Action Network and had about 16 registered participants. (photo on right)



- ✚ On July 14, 2020 the federal government restarted the practice of capital punishment following a 17-year hiatus from executions. Since then, Department of Justice has taken the lives of eight people, more than doubling the total number of executions administered by the government in the 57 years prior.

**Catholic Mobilizing Network** has been hosting virtual prayer vigils via Zoom to pray for the incarcerated, their victims and the families. I have been attending those prayer vigils as well as forwarding the information to the members. Once the new administration ceased federal executions, CMN began hosting first Friday prayer vigils for state-sanctioned executions. I have attended each and every prayer vigil in solidarity with the incarcerated, their victims and the families of both.

- ✚ Co-facilitated a 2-day virtual retreat with Patricia Grace, OFS for Spiritual Assistants of the St. Thomas More Region in July. Our hosts were Br. Bob Brady, OFM and Susan Simeone, OFS.
- ✚ I attended Nonviolence Workshops hosted by Pace e Bene; Depolarizing workshops by Braver Angels as well as workshops and gatherings by JustFaith, Catholic Climate Covenant, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Georgetown University, University of San Diego, and the Peace Alliance.
- ✚ Continuing to attend **Franciscan Action Network** Zoom gatherings every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The gatherings are small but filled with dedicated and inspired Franciscans – both Catholic and Ecumenical, who are involved with Franciscan Justice Circles (formerly National Solidarity Tables).
- ✚ Continue to host the National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission calls every fourth Tuesday of the month.

Humbly and peacefully submitted by,  
*Carolyn D. Townes, OFS*  
 National Animator  
 Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

## Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commission Annual Report, August, 2021

- Each Regional Franciscan Youth and Young Adult (FYYA) Animator (or the minister if there is no animator) received from the commission, a binder of *Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Essential Documents*. The intention is for the documents to be copied for local FYYA animators also and passed on when someone takes over the position, either regionally or locally.
- When our 11 week training series ended, we continued meeting monthly via zoom with regional animators for the purpose of ongoing formation, networking, and support. Many topics were presented not only by commission members but also guest speakers and animators. Gatherings have been well attended.
- Wrote articles for TAU USA: *The Road to Emmaus— A Perfect Model to Follow; A Little Bit of Love Goes a Long Way; and The Spirit is-a-Movin’*.
- Continued the weekly “Monday Messages to and from Youth and Young Adults” on Facebook. With the help of a few accomplished animators, commission is learning other methods to engage young people using social media.
- Are in the process of developing a 4-5 part training series for new Regional Animators and/or Ministers. These will be consolidated/streamlined from the original 11 sessions. Most presentations are on the website, but the personal contact will be important for those regions who were unable to attend our first trainings. Eventually we’re hoping regional animators can take on their own “new animator” training.
- CIOFS requested that we create a short video depicting Christmas traditions in the United States. St. Francis YouFra took this project on. Videos from YouFras around the world were joined together to create a sense of hope and unity among the youth.
- Intend to strengthen our resolve to help geographic areas connect to share ideas and support one another. We are doing this through phone calls, and both “instructional” and “social” zoom gatherings in smaller geographic groups.
- Are working on the breakout sessions we will be conducting at the Quinquennial (August, 2022).
- Are seeking ways to solicit donations to help young people attend the Q in Arizona and the YouFra International Gathering/World Youth Day (August, 2023) in Portugal.
- All FYYA Commission meetings this year have been conducted via zoom. Presenters have worked as teams and each presentation has been recorded.
- Recorded presentations, meeting notes, and handouts have been sent to animators each month as a follow up to the zoom gatherings.
- One of the commission members conducted evenings via zoom called “The Holy Spirits” as a take-off from “Theology on Tap.” During Lent and Advent, various speakers shared then invited discussion.

- We continue to encourage regions in appointing an FYYA Animator. Our goal is that each region appoints someone willing to become an expert in the why, what, and how-to of reaching out to young people. Requests for information come often to the commission, and we hope to be able to defer the questions to regional animators who understand the mission, goals, process, and resources available, for building relationships with our younger Catholics.
- We will send out a survey in September to determine progress in the regions, success of monthly gatherings, changes in leadership, to get general feedback, and to solicit pictures from which we can make a short video of youth and young adult happenings across the country.

**Vocations (1-800 Francis) Coordinator  
Theresa A Leone OFS**

**Report Time Frame: Aug. 13, 2020 and Sep. 19, 2021**

Expenses: \$0.00

"800" calls come through home phone equipment w/o addl. charge

"NEC"/website emails through my cell phone (to and from) w/o addl.

Charge

No travel expense

"800" Calls – approx.140 \

Website emails – approx. 200 / **Both of these groups covered both**

**"vocation" and "other" requests**

Of these 340 contacts:

Approx. 180 referred to new vocations or re-activation of former ones

Approx. 160 covered other topics

OTHER Topics included

Purchase of "red Rule Book" or other formation materials

"Database" questions re profession or such re members from members themselves or family history requests – most of these couldn't be answered because our Database is too "new"

Prayer requests

Donation and Bequest information

Need for Spanish or other language materials

Miscellaneous



## 2021 Annual Report- National Archives

This past year has passed so quickly. Many of our Regional archivists/secretaries contacted me after having received mailers or boxes of files determined to be more appropriately stored in their own Regional archives. Important letters, local annual reports, visitations and local Documents of Establishment were mailed out early this year. As more and more boxes are examined, many other papers will find their way back to Regional archives.

I wish I could say that every Region currently has a central, secure place for their valuable documents. Phone calls and emails have been circulated with suggestions of possible places for a safe, central storage facility. Having this information available now on our National website has been helpful as a reference.

Due to COVID travel restrictions, I felt another way was needed to get my hands on our archival records. These past 7 or so months I've been working with the archivist at St. Bonaventure University in New York, where our National archives are stored. Dennis Frank and I have collaborated on a plan for his sending one or two boxes at a time to me here in Wisconsin. As these boxes of files are received, they are carefully sorted. There is much duplicate material which is discarded and material not relevant to keep like maps and travel arrangements to meetings. Each file is then scanned onto an external hard-drive marked specifically for National records. The file is assigned a specific file identification number, and then the box is mailed back to SBU. In the future, when ALL files have been successfully saved electronically, they can be recalled at any time. Thus far, 81 boxes have been thoroughly checked.

Documents of Establishment are still missing for 7 of our Regions. It is hoped that these documents will be recovered eventually. Copies will be made for our files and the originals sent back to their Regions.

Requests continue to cross my desk from Regions. This August I have plans to drive to St. Bonaventure's with my computer and scanner to work on-site. I look forward to serving as National Archivist as long as I am needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Dale OFS  
OFS-USA Archivist  
July 2, 2021

Annual Report, National Historian, July 9, 2021

It's been a busy year adjusting to Covid19 and learning a lot of new ways to communicate. We've been able to keep both our local and Regional fraternity meetings going, complete with formation and preparations for new professions. Lots of challenges but people are mostly in good spirits.

On the History front, the book I am writing has taken me places and shown me things I never imagined. I've experienced a lot of personal growth and gained some valuable understandings. One topic of great importance is the diverse nature of our community. I really want to explore this because it is exactly what makes us strong, durable and responsive to needs. I wouldn't change it for the world.

The book, too, has experienced some changes. I'm using an "essay style" that allows me to add personal perspectives and reflections. I'm also looking at ways to produce this book digitally, which could make it less of an investment and result in a large savings. So far I've had no expenses beyond printer ink and paper, which comes to nothing. I've been able to do all my research online, though I admit there are a few places I'd love to visit in person, just to walk where our history has been happening.

After spending a lot of time gathering and studying material I've come to the conclusion that *we are in a special time for our Order*. I hope to explain and develop this for readers.

Other history projects that are happening are some very basic work with our Archivist and answering occasional questions, requests for information.

Looking around me right here and now, and looking forward into a future full of possibilities, I have become convinced that what we are as a community has immense value to our Church. By remaining aware of the presence of Christ in daily events (history) we have a gift. We can help others see him too.

We should keep watching what Pope Francis is doing. Our Order is perfectly positioned to help. What God has in store...!

See you at the Q, if not sooner!

## **OFS-USA-EIC Report September 7, 2021,**

### **Committee Members**

Mike Carsten OFS Chairperson  
Donna Hollis OFS  
Kelly Moltzen OFS

### **Year in Review**

#### **A highlight of the Committees efforts this past year**

- Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity – See attached report
- OFS-USA-EIC Annual Committee Meeting
  - Meetings are being held by ZOOM Video Conference
- Ecumenical Relations,
  - Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF) –
    - I am in regular dialogue with several members of the leadership team.
    - I was not able to attend the OEF 2021 Chapter.
  - Third Order Society of St. Francis (TSSF)
    - I will be attending their ZOOM Chapter in October.
- Many Zoom meetings with the JCFU
- Zoom Meetings with the OFS-USA-EIC
- Updating web site
- Updating Facebook
- Updating Twitter

Please see attached written 2020 Annual Report from the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Carsten OFS

Ecumenical & Interfaith Committee Chair

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## ***The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity 2021 Annual Report to the Member Orders***

***The Minister General and Chapter of the Order of Lutheran Franciscans (OLF)***

***The Minister, and Chapter of the Third Order, Province of the Americas, Society of St. Francis (TSSF),***

***The International Governing Body and Chapter of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF)***

***The National Minister and Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) USA***

**July 15, 2021**

**Sisters and Brothers,**

Since its inception in February of 2004, the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity (JCFU) has believed:

*“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 tradition of Francis and Clare.”<sup>1</sup>*

To This end, the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity (JCFU) has produced and led [Twelve] conferences throughout the United States, designed around *The Elements of Franciscan Unity*, bringing together the leadership of the four Orders to reflect and discuss those Franciscan principles we hold in common regardless of our ecclesial identification. Those conferences have been enthusiastically received and have served to further our mission to broaden our understanding of each other and to deepen our relationship – a mighty task, given the size of our communities, and the history of the church.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity Mission Statement (Article 1) *Revised and Accepted by Consensus at its Annual Meeting* February 16---19, 2004 St. Mary’s Retreat House, Santa Barbara, CA

<sup>2</sup>Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity Annual Report to the Orders. October 7, 2015. Updated July 13, 2021

## ***The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity 2021 Annual Report to the Member Orders***

Furthermore:

In 2015, the Conference took on an Interfaith Focus bringing Jewish, Christian/Franciscan, and Muslims together to experience each other through Spiritual Practices and Mutuality's.<sup>3</sup>

In 2017, the Joint Committee created a video to be used by each Member Order in its formation programs (we did this in place of hosting an *Elements of Franciscan Unity Conference*)<sup>4</sup>

In 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic the first Video Mini-Conference was successfully held utilizing Zoom technology.

In order to reduce the cost of our conferences, and in an attempt to give opportunity to involve as many members of our four Orders as possible, the Joint Committee continues to be committed to present these conferences in the various geographic regions of the nation.<sup>5</sup>

The Joint Committee through its Chairperson is committed to continue the work toward unity and be that bridging connection to the Member Orders through individual relationship with the Minister, National Minister, General Minister and Governing Bodies of the Member Orders.

### ***The Work of the Joint Committee in 2021***

For all of us the Covid-19 Pandemic changed the way we engaged in everything we do. Our August 20-22, 2020, Annual Meeting was canceled and the Joint Committee regrouped using Zoom. At that meeting we created our calendar and decided to utilize the Zoom format for our regular meetings as well as our Conferences through October 2021.

The Joint Committee decided on scheduling in 2021 two Zoom Conferences and one in-person Conference.

A Zoom Conference with presentations on the Elements of Franciscan Unity with breakout sessions and a special Agape Prayer service were created by Masud. The Committee elected to hire a Zoom Technician to help us navigate the Zoom process. Mr. Christopher Kearse from New York and our first Zoom Conference was held January 14-16, 2021, and was a great success.

Our second Zoom Conference planned for May 13-15, 2021, was canceled days before its start with the revelation of the hospitalization of our Zoom technician Christopher Kearse with issues related to Covid-19. Our Brother Masud notified the committee of Chris's death due to Covid-19 complications on May 12.

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<sup>3</sup> Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity History as prepared and presented at its Annual Meeting June 10, 2021, Via ZOOM.

<sup>4</sup> Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity History as prepared and presented at its Annual Meeting June 10, 2021, Via ZOOM.

<sup>5</sup> Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity Annual Report to the Orders September 26, 2013

## ***The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity 2021 Annual Report to the Member Orders***

Chris was 38 years old; he leaves behind a beloved partner, a 4-year-old and a 3-month-old daughter.

This Conference has been rescheduled for September 9-11-2021.

***The 2021- 2022 Calendar for the Joint Committee is as follows.***

1. ***Elements of Franciscan Unity Conference***, September 9, 10 & 11, 2021 Via Zoom.
2. ***The People of God a Sacred Prism***, in person Interfaith Conference November 14, 15 & 16, 2021.
  - a. Location: To Be Determined, in the New York City area if possible.
3. ***Elements of Franciscan Unity Conference***, May 19, 20 & 21, 2022
  - a. Location: To Be Determined, in Pittsburg PA if possible.
4. ***2021 Annual Business Meeting***. June 9, 10 & 11.
  - a. Location: ZOOM Conference

### ***The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity:***

Debra Snider-Scott, OEF

Ron Nuss-Warren, OEF

Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF

Rev. Beverly Hosea, TSSF

Br. Mark Molter, OLF

Br. Andrew Chavanak, OLF

Donna Hollis, OFS

Michael Carsten, OFS

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Respectfully submitted, July 15, 2021

*Michael Carsten O.F.S.*

Michael Carsten OFS, Chair

#### **Attachments:**

- Elements of Franciscan Unity
- Mission and Guiding Principles
- Brief History of the JCFU as presented by Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF at the 2021 JCFU Annual Meeting June 12, 2021

## **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

**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.



**The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity:  
A Brief History**

- I. **Roots in the work of the Ecumenical Commission of the Secular Franciscans (SFO)**
  - A. 2002 – Ministers of The Third Order, Society of St. Francis (TSSF) and The Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF) were invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the SFO Ecumenical Commission. The Secular Franciscans had been inspired, encouraged, and authorized to establish relationship with Franciscans of other Churches by the directives expressed by the Second Vatican Council and further encouraged by the International leadership of the Secular Franciscans.
  - B. The TSSF Minister Provincial sent Masud Ibn Syedullah in her place to represent The Third Order, Society of St. Francis; Fred Ball, Minister General of OEF, represented The Order of Ecumenical Franciscans.
  - C. Marcella Bina was Chair of the Ecumenical Commission of SFO; Fr. Paul Ojibway, an Atonement friar, was the Spiritual Advisor for the SFO Ecumenical Commission.
  - D. At the second meeting (2003) the Marcella Bina and Fr. Ojibway suggested that a new committee needed to be formed – one to intentionally focus on Franciscan unity composed (at least initially) of members of the three Orders: OFS, TSSF, and OEF. Masud and Fred, taken aback by the suggestion, agreed that it would be valuable to create such a committee, and further agreed to bring the matter before their respective Chapters. The Chapters of both TSSF, OEF, and OFS agreed in their respective 2003 Annual Meetings to support the endeavor.
  
- II. **The Birthing of a New Committee, and Program – Elements of Franciscan Unity Mini-Conference**
  - A. 2004 (Meeting in Santa Barbara) representatives met to create a mission statement and principles of working together. Representatives: SFO – Marcella Bina & Jean A. D’Onofrio, SFO; TSSF – Masud Ibn Syedullah & Diana Finch; OEF – Fred Ball & Nancy Vossler; Fr. Paul Ojibway, Spiritual Assistant (Resource Person).
    - a. It was established that the Joint Committee would be composed of two representatives from each of the member Orders.
    - b. The Joint Committee would meet annually.
    - c. Each member would serve at least a three-year term for the sake of continuity.
    - d. The Convener would serve three years.
    - e. Convener would rotate among the member Orders.
    - f. The Joint Committee could invite a resource person to its meetings.
    - g. The Joint Committee would be financed by the member Orders at a rate of \$1000.00 per year. The money would be used to support the cost of the Annual Meeting and Conferences/Programs offered by the Committee (less travel cost).

h. Travel cost to/from the Annual Meeting and Conferences would be paid for by each Order, apart from the annual contribution.

B. 2005 – Met at St. Francis House; New London, CT – Created Elements of Franciscan Unity upon which annual conferences were to be based. Original crafters: Marcella Bina and Jean D’Onofrio, SFO; Masud Ibn Syedullah and Dianna Finch, TSSF; Fredrick Ball, OEF. (Nancy Vossler was not able to attend the meeting.) It was also decided to launch the first Elements of Franciscan Unity Mini-Conference the following year at Little Portion Friary, Mt. Sinai (Long Island), New York, a friary of the Society of St. Francis (Episcopal/Anglican). Five members from each of our Orders would be invited, focusing on those persons holding positions of influence who could be agents to promote the acceptance and engagement of ecumenical cooperation among our Orders.

**III. Launch of the First Elements of Franciscan Unity Mini-Conference**

2006 – The Joint Committee convened the first Elements of Franciscan Unity Mini-Conference at Little Portion Friary, Mount Sinai, New York – a friary of the Episcopal/Anglican Society of St. Francis. Its purpose was to share the Elements as shared spiritual charisms among us; foster community and cooperative projects; be a witness of unity transcending our denominational designations. (See Mission Statement and Organizing Principles.)

**IV. On-going Annual Meetings, Programs, and Project**

- A. The Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity has met once each year (in person) since its inauguration. The purpose of the Annual Meeting was to plan program(s) and project(s), and to create a Joint Annual Report to go to the respective Chapter of Member Orders.
- B. The Joint Committee decided to use the theme and format of the “Elements of Franciscan Unity Mini-Conference as its major project, with the intention of familiarizing the various leaders of each of the member Orders to the life and mission of the Joint Committee.
- C. Areas of the USA where the Mini-Conference has been presented:
1. 2006 – Mount Sinai (Long Island), New York – Little Portion Friary
  2. 2007 -- Chicago, Illinois – The Cenacle Retreat Center
  3. 2011 – Mount Sinai (Long Island), New York – Little Portion Friary
  4. 2011 – Burlingame, California – The Mercy Center
  5. 2012 – Castroville, Texas (near San Antonio) – Moye Retreat Center
  6. 2013 – Westfield, Massachusetts – Genesis Spiritual Life Center
  7. 2014 – Tampa, Florida – The Franciscan Center
  8. 2014 – Federal Way, Washington – Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center
  9. 2015 – Tampa, Florida – The Franciscan Center (An Interfaith Focus: Jewish, Christian, Muslim Spiritual Practices and Mutualities)
  10. 2016 – Aston, Pennsylvania – Franciscan Spirituality Center (An Environment Focus using *Laudato Si*)

11. 2018 – Richmond, Virginia – Roslyn Retreat Center (*Agents of Peace in a Time of Fear*)
12. 2019 – Florissant, Missouri (St. Louis County) – Pallottine Renewal Center; OFS National Minister, met with Joint Committee and expressed that OFS would no longer be participating in the joint exchange between the Orders for the national/Provincial Chapter/Convocations.  
  
2020 – Canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Had been planned for Scottsdale, Arizona)
13. 2021 – via. Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, January 14, 15, 16.

**D. Production of Video for respective Formation Programs and Websites**

2017 – Created a video to be used by each Order in its formation program (did this in place of hosting an *Elements of Franciscan Unity Conference*)

**V. Expansion of Membership**

**A. The Order of Lutheran Franciscans joined the Joint Committee, 2017**

**B. The Order of Franciscans of Reconciliation joined the Joint Committee, 2018 (withdrew in 2020).**

**VI. History of Conveners**

Marcella Bina SFO,

Diana Finch TSSF,

Fred Ball OEF,

Ed Shirley OFS,

Masud Ibn Syedullah TSSF,

Co-Conveners Louis Canter OEF & Richard LeFevre (Br. Elijah) OEF;

Br. Jahiro OEF

Mike Carsten, OFS



## Annual Report 2021

The following information is from the mailing statistics for the June 2021 issue of the TAU-USA

The **English** lists are as follows:

<u>File Name</u>	<u># Records</u>	<u># Copies</u>	<u>Note</u>
TAU-USA_Intl.TAB	21 Intl	21	International
TAU-USA_Multiple.TAB	28 Mult.	100	2 or more copies
TAU-USA_Single.TAB	11,509 Single	11,509	1 copy

**Total Copies      11,630**

The **Spanish** lists are as follows:

<u>File Name</u>	<u># Records</u>	<u># Copies</u>	<u>Note</u>
TAU-USA_SP_Intl.TAB	1 Intl	1	International
TAU-USA_SP_Multiple.TAB	7 Mult.	86	2 or more copies
TAU-USA_SP_Single.TAB	451 Single	451	1copy

**Total Copies      538**

**Grand Total      12,168**

Printing and Mailing is handled by Valley Offset Printing in Valley Center Kansas.

Since candidates are now included in the TAU-USA mailing, it is very important that their data be added to the national database as soon as they enter candidacy. Keeping the mailing list updated is a constant challenge because the list comes directly from the national database. Any problems with individuals not receiving their issue is usually the result of missing or incorrect database information. Updating the database is a regional responsibility.

During the past year we have continued to translate the TAU USA into Spanish and Korean. There are fourteen active translators for the Spanish edition, which is mailed out in hard copy like the English, and available online.

In addition to the Spanish translation, selected article are translated into Korean by a team of seven translators and published only on the NAFRA website.

Jim Wesley OFS, TAU-USA Editor

Cindy Wesley OFS, Coordinator of TAU-USA translations



## Quinquennial Committee Report to the National Fraternity OFS-USA

Submitted 2021

20th QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS – August 3-7, 2022

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Phoenix Downtown

Theme: **Jubilee**



Mission: ***Celebrate and renew our Franciscan calling in the spirit of conversion.***

The members of the Q Committee include Donna Hollis, ofs, Claudia Kauzlarich, ofs, Kathy Taormina, ofs, Tim Taormina, ofs, Cathy Roszhart, ofs, co-chair, Steve Roszhart, ofs, Jan Parker, ofs, Mary Bittner, ofs, Br. Bob Brady, ofm, and Susan Simeone ofs. Kim Herndon, ofs is the new Vendor Coordinator (July 2020) and will join Zoom conferences from time to time. This past year we met in person for a full committee meeting in January 2020, conducted Zoom conference calls during the summer until it was recommended, we postpone the Q for one year. Our next scheduled Zoom conference call is August 23, 2021.

The Quinquennial Prayer stated below and published in the TAU newsletter was created by the Liturgy subcommittee. We ask for each Minister to read the Quinquennial 2021 Prayer during Regional meetings. Also ask each fraternity to include it in their prayers at the local fraternity gatherings during the next year.

### **20<sup>th</sup> OFS Quinquennial 2021 Prayer**

***Lord God, Heavenly Father,  
We come before you in awe of your love for us.  
We acknowledge Your divine seed in everyone.  
Through your merciful compassion  
help us to see our need for conversion.  
In our service to each other  
let us experience this time of JUBILEE!  
As we walk the path before us, we walk on  
foundations built by our brothers and sisters.  
We are thankful for our present  
and excited for our future,  
always believing that You, O Lord, guide our journey.  
AMEN***

### REGISTRATION

- Electronically registration begins August 1, 2021. Registrants will be able to select Breakout Sessions, purchase merchandise, donate, and more.
- The revised price due to a Dun Scotus grant is \$175.
- Registrants can make a \$100 non-refundable payment and then complete the cost within the year.
  - Early Registration \$175 (August 1 – December 31, 2021)
  - Full Regular Registration \$205 (January 1 – May 27, 2022)
  - Late Registration \$ 250 (May 28 – July 1, 2022)
  - Early One day only Registration \$83 (August 1-December 31, 2021)
  - One Day only Registration \$100 (January 1 to July 1, 2022)

### DRAFT SCHEDULE

- Celebration of the Eucharist is daily
- Morning prayer and daily reflection daily

- We are encouraging registrants to arrive Tuesday, August 2 due to heat and to flight arrivals
- Wednesday, August 3: Registration, Dinner and Opening Celebration of Eucharist
- Thursday, August 4– Saturday, August 6 mornings: include Keynote presenters and Little Fraternities
- Thursday, August 4 – Saturday, August 6 afternoons: Breakout Sessions and Service Project (Sat)
- Saturday August 6 evening: Jesse Manibusan concert
- Thursday – Saturday evenings: Informal sessions and entertainment
- Wednesday - Saturday evening meals and breakfast begins on Thursday and ends with dinner on Saturday
- Sunday - Travel

#### LITURGY

Liturgy Committee: Br. Bob Brady, ofm, Dcn Ed Mirasol, ofs, Kathy Taormina, ofs, Donna Hollis ofs, Further discussions will continue as we move closer to the Q 2022 Congress. If under 800 participants, then we will celebrate Mass at St. Mary Basilica.

- Contract completed and signed
- Masses will be in early evening
- Materials to be ordered this next year
- Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevares has accepted our invitation to celebrate the Opening Eucharist August 3, 2022
- Streaming is now available for us if we need this service.

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

Keynote Presenters: The keynote speakers address the general assembly once per day with questions to be discussed in small groups later that same day.

- Bishop John Stowe, ofm Conv., Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY
- Rev. David B. Couturier, ofm, Cap., Executive Director of the Franciscan Institute and Franciscan Institute Publications at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY Graduate Theological Foundation, Mishawaka, IN
- Doug and Marion Clorey, ofs, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Timothy and Kathy Taormina, ofs of Apple Valley MN
- 

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS will be offered in the afternoons Thursday through Saturday. The length of the sessions is one hour with time for Q & A unless otherwise identified on registration, schedule, and program.

Spiritual Assistants (2 days)

A - Gathering of Provincials, Provincial Spiritual Assistants and Regional Spiritual Assistants (2hrs)

CNSA A1 - A time for all Spiritual Assistants to gather, pray and discuss

CNSA A2 - How do I become a Spiritual Assistant? –

CNSA B - And I Showed Mercy to Them: ... (2hrs) Fr. Sam Nasada, OFM and Br. David Buer, OFM

C1 - Young People: A Treasure to Cherish - FY/YA Commission

C2 - Get Your Fraternity Ready for YouFra! - FY/YA Commission

C3 - Strength for the Journey: The Prayer Before the Crucifix - FY/YA Commission

C4 - Christus Vivit – “to young people and to the entire people of God” Pope Francis - FY/YA Commission

D1 - Convertirse en coautores en oración con Francis - Anne Mulqueen, OFS & Mary Stronach, OFS

D2 - Becoming Co-Authors in Prayer with Francis - Anne Mulqueen, OFS & Mary Stronach, OFS

E - The Passion of St. Francis - Anne Mulqueen, OFS

F - Revitalizing our life as Franciscans: Ethical challenges & leadership - Fr. Martin Carbajo-Nunez, OFM

G - Ser franciscano en la era digital - Fr. Martin Carbajo-Nunez, OFM

H - Importance of Franciscan Tradition in Formation of Modern Culture - Fr. Martin Carbajo-Nunez, OFM

I - Praying with St. Clare of Assisi - Layna Maher, OFS and Francine Gikow, OFS

J - Art as a Form of Prayer - Maria Tiznado, OFS

K - Liturgical Movement - Donna Hollis, OFS  
L - Andiamo, Walk to Assisi - Cathy Roszhart, OFS  
M - Bread Making Prayer with Blessed Virgin Mary - Jane Lowell-Chroniak, OFS & Judith Mussatto, OFS  
N - Un viaje franciscano hasta ahora - Heriberto & Maria Elena Prudencio  
O - The Gubbio Process: A Franciscan Approach to Handling Conflict - JPIC - Carolyn D. Townes, OFS  
P - The Leper in Me Sees the Leper in You: Understanding Unconscious Bias - JPIC - Carolyn D. Townes, OFS  
Q - The Spirituality of Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation - JPIC - Patricia Grace, OFS  
R - 세인트 프랜시스스의 추종자 - Sr. Woohee Sofia Lee of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi  
T - Reza Siempre – Saúl Morales Mendoza  
V - Q/A session - Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap.  
W - National Formation Commission Panel  
X - Q/A session - Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.  
Y - Q/A session - Marion & Doug Clorey, OFS/ Kathy & Tim Taormina, OFS/ Lori Hinker, OFS  
Z - The Loom of God - Tom McNamara, OFS

#### TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM AIRPORT

- Provided by national fraternity on August 2 and 3 to hotel from airport
- Provided by national fraternity on August 6, until afternoon from hotel to airport
- Contract completed this year

#### INTERPRETERS AND EQUIPMENT

- Possible interpreters will be hired depending on the need – assess in late May 2022 with the number of inquiries.
- Need to wait until registration is near completion to determine how many interpreters and/or equipment we will need

#### VENDORS

- New coordinator since the former vendor coordinator had to resign
- All for profit vendors were sent the approved flyer
- All the non-profit vendors were sent flyer indicating the change of dates to August 3-7, 2022.
- Local volunteers will help the coordinator before, during and after the Quinquennial Congress

#### VOLUNTEERS

Coordinators will develop the plan and implement the various areas of volunteering during Q. They resumed meeting via Zoom in August 2021

- Greeters at airport
- Greeters at hotel
- Registration table
- Vendor table for OFS items
- Little Fraternity Facilitators and placement of the fraternities within hotel
- Helpers with folks who have mobility concerns
- Runners within hotel to facilitate speakers or various needs of others
- Distribute and collect evaluations
- Hospitality Room will be hosted by different fraternities during the week. Only open when there is no scheduled presenter
- Aprons will be purchased
- AV screen coordinator for keynote speakers and general assembly presentations
- Other

## PROGRAM

- Being developed now as we obtain necessary information
- Keynote speakers entered with resume information
- Breakout speakers' presentations entered with resume information
- A list of possible businesses who may place endorsements and ads (from both Franciscans and businesses for program) given to Vendor Coordinator

## WEBSITE AND TAU-USA

- Quinquennial informational page is created and posted on National Website
- Dates and prices are on the website

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Simeone ofs  
Quinquennial Congress Committee



# Conference of National Spiritual Assistants CNSA Annual Report 2021

## I. SERVING THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY

FRIAR MINOR:	Jerome Wolbert, OFM, President-in-turn
FRIAR MINOR CONVENTUAL:	Christopher Shorrock, OFM Conv.
FRIAR MINOR CAPUCHIN:	Alexander Escalera, OFM Cap.
THIRD ORDER REGULAR:	Christopher Panagoplos, TOR
CNSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:	Miriam Kennedy, OFS
CNSA TREASURER:	Mary Frances Charsky, OFS

*“...the national assistants give their service to the national council, see to the spiritual assistance to the OFS in the whole territory of the national fraternity and at the national level, to the coordination of the regional assistants. If there is more than one, they form a conference and give their service collegially.” (OFS CcGg Article #90, 3-b 01-)*

The year 2021 has seen some welcome easing of Covid-19 restrictions, allowing for six Regional Pastoral Visitations and nine Regional Elections. As of this writing, however, the Delta variant is causing further postponements and schedule uncertainty.

The CNSA Friars continue to meet virtually, and have adjusted their other ministry obligations for 2022 to cover the anticipated increase in visitations and elections.

### OUR BROTHER ALEXANDER ESCALERA, OFM Cap.



In March of 2021, Brother Alexander suffered a major stroke and was hospitalized. Since then, he has had another stroke and has been diagnosed with brain cancer, a recurrence of his previous battle with cancer. The brain tumors are inoperable, and he has chosen not to undergo further treatment. He is now in April Garden Villa in Saratoga, CA receiving palliative care.

Brother Alexander has been, and continues to be, the recipient of prayers from our whole Franciscan Family.

## II. CNSA MEETINGS

- July 29, 2020 – Joint NEC/CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- October 2, 2020 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- November 2, 2020 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- November 30, 2020 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- February 16 & 23, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- March 22, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- April 20, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- May 24, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- July 20, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)
- August 26, 2021 – CNSA Meeting (Zoom Call)

### III. NEC MEETINGS

Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM, who was appointed President-in-Turn of the CNSA at the conclusion of the 2020 Chapter, participated in multiple Zoom calls for the NEC throughout the year.

*“The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants exercises pastoral care and spiritual guidance in regard to NAFRA as one of the integral component parts of the OFS by suitable means including participation in deliberations of its governing body [cf. Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance in the Secular Franciscan Order (hereafter Statutes for Spiritual Assistance), articles #19 and #20]. (OFS NAFRA Statutes, Article 2, #2)*

*“The President of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, in addition to the duties enumerated in article #90 of the General Constitutions, has the following duties...to attend meetings of the National Fraternity Council and of the National Executive Council, of which he is a member by right, collaborating with these bodies in all their activities...to act collegially with the other National Spiritual Assistants to coordinate spiritual assistance on the national level and to cooperate in the initial and continuing formation of the brothers and sisters [General Constitutions, article #90.3b; Statutes for Spiritual Assistants article #19]...to vote in all matters and in elective chapters.” (OFS National Statutes, Article 6, #6-a, b, c)*

### IV. VISITATIONS

*“With the consent of the appropriate council the request for the fraternal visit as well as for the pastoral visit is made...by the minister of the local and regional fraternity, at least every three years, to the council of the immediately higher level and to the respective conference of spiritual assistants...” (OFS CcGg Title VI, Article 92-2, a)*

Date	Region	CNSA Visitor	NAFRA Visitor
4/16-4/18/2021	St. Joan of Arc	Fr. Chris Shorrock, OFM Conv.	Donna Hollis
5/7-5/9/2021	Five Franciscan Martyrs	Fr. Christopher Panagoplos	Donna Hollis
7/9-7/11/2021	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM	Mary Bittner
7/15-7/18/2021	Los Tres Companeros	Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM	Donna Hollis
8/6-8/8/2021	Divine Mercy	Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM	Dennis Ross
8/13-8/15/2021	Brothers & Sisters of St. Francis	Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR	Josh Molidor

### V. ELECTIONS

*“The National Minister shall in a timely fashion contact the President of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants, requesting that he or a delegate attend forthcoming National Fraternity elections and ecclesial witness.” (OFS National Statutes, Article 11, #6-b)*

Date	Region	CNSA Witness	NAFRA President
8/15/2020	Queen of Peace	Kathy Taormina, OFS, Delegate	Dennis Ross, OFS
9/23/2020	Five Franciscan Martyrs	Br. Lombardo D’Auria, OFM Cap., Delegate	Donna Hollis, OFS
4/24/2021	St. Margaret of Cortona	Fr. Ignatius Harding, OFM, Delegate	Josh Molidor
6/5/2021	St. Francis	Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM	Donna Hollis
6/12/2021	St. Clare	Fr. Pio Jackson, OFM, Delegate	Josh Molidor
6/26/2021	La Verna	Fr. Chris Shorrock, OFM Conv.	Dennis Ross
8/6-8/8/2021	Divine Mercy	Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM	Dennis Ross
8/7/2021	St. Thomas More	Br. Bob Brady, OFM, Delegate	Josh Molidor
8/21/2021	Santa Maria de los Montanas	Br. Augustine Rohde, OFM Cap.	Donna Hollis

## VI. REQUESTS FOR CANONICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FRATERNITIES

The CNSA received three requests for Canonical Establishment documents for the following emerging fraternities:

- Mother Cabrini Fraternity, Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, Anderson, SC, Most Holy Name of Jesus Province, OFM
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, St. Lucie, FL, Our Lady of the Angels Province, OFM Conv.

Establishment documents were prepared and sent to the respective Regional Ministers. A third request came in from Holy Trinity Region for Francis/Clare Fraternity in Lexington, KY. However, it was determined that this was a reactivation.

Consistent with the *Guidelines for Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity*, released *ad experimentum* in April, 2021, five documents are now prepared and sent to the Regional Minister, one of which is to be returned, after signatures, to the CNSA Executive Secretary. This was done for St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity. The document is currently in a fire proof box at the Executive Secretary's home. Storage in the OFS National Archives is still under discussion.

## VII. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/INVITATIONAL EVENTS

- Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, presented at the Virtual OFS Summer Seminar, July 8th, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. He and David Seitz, OFS, provided participants with reflections on the seminar's theme, "When Justice and Peace Kiss."
  - The CNSA Friars assisted the NEC in a review of the draft of a revision of the International Statutes.
  - The CNSA Friars participated in the review and discussions of *Instrumentum Laboris*, the document that summarizes the questions from the 2017 General Chapter, "How should an Order like the OFS be managed at all its levels?" It will serve as preparation for the 2021 General Chapter, themed "Animate and Guide with Servant Leadership".
  - The CNSA, jointly with the NEC, published an *ad experimentum* release of the document, "A Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Order", on April 16, 2021. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 55 Seculars, Friars and Sisters provided their review comments, which will be used to update the document. The drafters of the document met on August 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the changes. It is anticipated that this document will be incorporated as an appendix to the current version of the *Handbook for Spiritual Assistance to the OFS* until the entire revision is completed.
  - Review and revisions continue on the remaining sections of the Handbook for Spiritual Assistance to the OFS. The document has been reorganized, and sections are being completed by the Friars. At this writing, the following sections are completed and in review:
    - Pathway to the Pauline Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order
    - Catholic Social Teaching and Catechism of the Catholic Church
    - Church Documents
- Revisions in progress:
- Spiritual Assistant Training
  - Appointing Spiritual Assistants
  - CIOFS Meeting Summaries and Annotated Bibliography
- The CNSA has held two virtual conferences with the Regional and Provincial Spiritual Assistants, one on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and a session on Spiritual Assistant Training on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

In preparation for the first gathering, the CNSA sent out a survey to determine priorities for discussion topics. The areas of priority were, “The Role of a Spiritual Assistant”, and “Networking and Support”. At the April 6<sup>th</sup> gathering, there was significant interest in Spiritual Assistant training, which became the subject of our July 27<sup>th</sup> gathering.

A summary of resources for Spiritual Assistance was assembled and sent out to the NAFRA-SA list. The feedback from the July 27<sup>th</sup> gathering has been compiled and is being reviewed by the CNSA to determine next steps.

- Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, and Miriam Kennedy, OFS, have continued to be involved in the Franciscan Family Forum. Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, has had to step away from the project given his new position as Assistant Director of the Office for Revitalization and Restructuring for the six OFM Provinces (US6) which are combining. The Core Group is leading a search for a replacement for Father Jack to be a co-facilitator with Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF. Fr. Ignatius Harding, OFM, has agreed to join the group. The Gathering Place is not meeting in July and August to give the Core Group some time for planning and assimilating a new member.
- The CNSA has continued to submit articles for each issue of the TAU.
- The CNSA and the NEC worked together to resolve several regional issues.
- Fr. Christopher Panagoplos has continued to record Sunday and Feast Day homilies, which have been posted to the National OFS Facebook page. They are widely viewed and appreciated.

*“The term of the President of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants is determined by the members of that Conference.” (OFS National Statutes, Article 13, #1-c)*