

List of OFS-USA Initiatives For Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule – update June 1, 2018

Categories	Description	Timeframe	Contact Information
Theme	<p>In September 2017, the National Fraternity voted to adopt the following as the National Theme for 2018:</p> <p align="center">“Renewed and Confirmed: Live the <i>T</i>reasure!”</p> <p align="center">Celebrating 40 years of our OFS Rule</p> <p align="center">National Secular Franciscan Fraternity Theme for 2018</p>	September 2017-October 2018	Jan Parker, OFS, National Minister, jansfo@yahoo.com
Newsletter Articles, Formation Workshops	<p>Emphasize to the local ministers and their formation directors, the anniversary of the Rule. Regional newsletters included articles concerning the anniversary. In March 2018, the Region held its first bi-annual formation directors’ workshop which had a focus on the Rule. The presentation on the Rule by showing them the instructions on how to put together a “Billy” bookshelf from Ikea. (A pdf file that I had download.) I shared that that, regularly, people just throw things without even looking at the instruction manual. (Especially men) But we were honored 40 years ago to be given our manual for life, our Rule. (By Pope Paul VI and the Church.) We talked about the three Chapters of the Rule... Only one person KNEW what they were. We share why we needed to know the importance of those chapters. We then discussed the “28” articles of the Rule. I DID go a few moments before someone corrected me! We discussed how the Rule was descriptive rather than proscriptive, and why that was important to the life of a Franciscan! There was sharing from the formation directors and their team of ways to share the “instructions” of the Rule without falling off the shelf like a book off an improperly constructed book shelf!</p>	Fall 2017-Fall 2018	David J. Dieringer, O.F.S. Formation Director Our Lady of Indiana Region, Dier736@comcast.net http://olirf-ofs.org/newsletters/
Newsletter Articles, YouTube videos, Prayer cards, Copies of the Rule, Ongoing Formation focus.	<p>Regional Newsletter articles.</p> <p>During the anniversary year our plan is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Producing a two-minute video on our YouTube channel on the history of the Rule. 2. The ongoing formation at our Chapter in November will be on the Rule. 3. Distribute a prayer card with the Rule as focus <p>The Regional Minister will write to all Local Ministers asking them to highlight the History of the Rule in their ongoing formation and report back on what they are doing to celebrate so we can publish in our newsletter.</p>		Diane Menditto, OFS, Regional Minister Our Lady of the Angels Region, dianefmdfm@aol.com http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html

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Ongoing Formation focus. Day of Recollection	<p>My fraternity has chosen The Rule as the focus of our ongoing formation sessions and Day of Recollection for the anniversary year. In addition, I've been focusing on the Rule when doing formation during Visitations. As far as specific techniques, here are two that we've tried.</p> <p>1) Choose an article of the Rule and print it out using a very large font. Cut the text into 8-12 pieces (i.e., phrases or clauses). (Small fraternities can do this all together; large fraternities can break into groups of 7-10; you will need additional copies of the article.) After distributing the clauses or phrases, allow a bit of time for silent reflection. Then, members are asked to share, in order, what just their phrase means to them. As well as promoting good sharing, this tests everyone's knowledge of the text of the article. We also tried a variation on this exercise in which each person had to give a capsule summary of what the previous person said before giving their own reflection.</p> <p>2) Introduce this exercise by giving a bit of the history of how the 1978 Rule came to be written, perhaps mentioning the Assisi Congress of 1969, and the 17 Elements of Secular Franciscan Spirituality that were identified there. Then remind everyone that St. Francis' original Rule was said to be just a string of Scripture verses, and invite them to consider what the OFS Rule might look like if it was just quotes from Scripture. Divide the group into small groups of 3-4. Ask them to work together to identify verses from scripture which reflect the most important components of a secular Franciscan Spirituality, using the 17 Elements as a starting point if they wish, along with their personal experience of how various Scriptures have served as a "Rule" in their own lives. Mention that although the time is limited, they do not need to rush; they will are not expected to have a complete Rule with a verse for every element. Each small group should have at least 1-2 copies of the Bible. Allow at least 30 min for the small groups to work, and then additional time for them to share the fruits of their reflection with the entire group.</p>		Mary Bittner, OFS, National Vice-Minister, mbittner@umich.edu
Ongoing Formation focus	<p>We have scheduled ongoing formation as the primary focus for three different months spaced quarterly throughout the year (one for each chapter).</p> <p>We use the rule itself along with a book titled 'Called to Proclaim Christ' by Benet A Fonck OFM.</p>		Kristi Loar, OFS, Regional Formation Director, Mother Cabrini Region, folkloar@sbcglobal.net
Retreat	A weekend retreat/workshop. There will be six sessions all on formation which is critical to the understanding our Rule and our charism. Topics have to do with our materials, vocation, methods for successful formation sessions (initial and ongoing), the role of the spiritual assistant in formation, and outreach to grow our fraternities. Our goal is to create unity while honoring our diversity, and to build "fraternitas" among those who are providing formation for their fraternities. This relates to many articles in our Rule.	October 2018	Esther Stewart, ofs, Regional Formation Director, St. Thomas More Region, maryestherstewart@gmail.com
Celebration/Retreat,	40 th Anniversary Celebration with the theme: "Renewed and Confirmed - Find Your Treasure." A two-day celebration. Activities	June 23-24, 2018 and	Marie Bianco, OFS, Regional Secretary,

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Liturgy, Ongoing Formation focus	including a potluck picnic and end the day with Mass (Bishops and other guests invited). Opening Ceremony including comments from the Regional Minister and a reading of a letter St Pope John Paul II delivered to the Secular Franciscan Order, at a General Chapter of CIOFS, November 22, 2002. Followed by a reflective presentation that all fraternities will participate in. Articles of the Rule (2-3 articles) will be assigned to each fraternity. Each fraternity will plan an activity that reflects each of the assigned articles. At the ceremony, one person from each fraternity will read the assigned article. That will be followed by someone from your fraternity reading a short Spiritual Reflection written by Lester Bach as presented in his book, <u>Giving Life to the Words - A Spiritual Commentary</u> . Each activity will be bi-lingual. There will also be a presentation by First order and possibly OFS presenters. Other activities, picnic, conferences, T-shirts, retreat, invitation for local youth groups from area parishes and colleges to experience OFS life in celebrations, newsletter articles, Use Tree of Life activity. Distribution of copies of the Rule.	various other dates	Our Lady of Guadalupe – Empress of the Americas Region. mbbsfo@gmail.com
3-day Visitation	Theme "Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure! Celebrating 40 Years of our Rule." Ongoing Formation during the 3-day visitation will consist of a short presentation on the Rule by the Regional Formation Director, then small table (approximately 6-8 people) discussions of different articles of the Rule, in a 2 hour total time frame. Ideas for the discussion / questions, (at each of about 10 tables based on a different article of our Rule), were taken from Katherine Drexel Region ongoing formation resources which used the format in 2013/2014. (pdf attached)	June 29-30, 2018	Mary Nelson, OFS Lady Poverty Region Formation Director 814-746-6783 marytodpt@gmail.com
All Franciscan Family Gathering,	All Franciscan Family Gathering where members from all families are invited to participate--First Order, Seculars, OEF, TSSF, sisters, brothers etc. The theme for this event is "Francis, Sign of Hope" the theme of the congress where Pope John Paul II spoke in 1982, where he refers to our Rule as an Authentic treasure.	October 2018	Kathleen Molaro, OFS, Regional Minister, St. Junipero Serra Region, kmmolaro@gmail.com
Creation of a Resource book for Youth/Young Adults	The National Franciscan Youth and Young Adults Commission is working toward completing a resource that can be gifted to Young Adults. The book will highlight each Article of the Rule, with resources, discussion questions, ideas for JPIC activities and personal reflection questions to accompany each Article.	2018	Kathleen Molaro, OFS, National Youth/Young Adults Commission Chair, kmmolaro@gmail.com
Ongoing Formation focus	We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Rule by having our members focus on each article by asking them three questions for each article. We have done this at our District Gatherings and will focus on it at our Chapter gathering. We have asked all our fraternities to go through this process during the 2018 calendar year. It is important to us that each of our Franciscans can do three things for each article; 1. Explain each specific article in his/her own words, 2. Write comments about each article, and 3. Write a list of suggestions for living out the article in 2018 and beyond. (pdf attached)	2018	Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS, La Verna Region Regional Spiritual Assistant, lamnieuhr@gmail.com
Day of Recollection,	A Day of Recollection with presenter Br. Richard Contino, OFM and the theme was "Companions on the journey with Christ and Mary."	2017-2018	Gene Keenan, OSF Regional Formation

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<p>Conference Day, Day of Formation for all in initial formation,</p>	<p>A Conference Day of Identity and Mission of the Secular Franciscans in the World with presentations by the Regional Minister, Regional Vice Minister, a fraternity minister, formation director and two other seculars.</p> <p>A Regional Day of Formation for all in Initial Formation and their minister and formation directors.</p> <p>The REC is planning to sponsor another Day of Formation this year and the theme will be "Praying the Rule".</p> <p>These events are all Rule driven and are meant to enhance initial and ongoing formation for our brother and sisters.</p>		<p>Director TAU Cross Region, gkeen238@optonline.net</p>
<p>On-going Formation</p>	<p>On-Going Formation on the <i>Rule of the OFS</i> conducted by our Fraternal Visitor, Mary Bittner, OFS, National Vice-Minister for Regional Fraternity. (pdf attached)</p>	<p>April 2018 (with more planned for future)</p>	<p>Deacon David Ream, OFS, Regional Minister, Franciscans of the Prairie Region, umbria2@earthlink.net</p>
<p>Special Eucharistic liturgy, newsletter articles, Ongoing formation focus (FUN Manual and <u>The Franciscan Journey</u>)</p>	<p>Highlight the 40th Anniversary of our 1978 Rule at the Annual Ministers' Meeting in June – with a special Eucharistic liturgy. And of course we will party -- cake and all! The Jubilee is being highlighted in the regional newsletter as well. Gather information from our fraternities and groups this Fall about how the Jubilee is being celebrated more locally.</p> <p>Highlighting references to both <u>The Franciscan Journey ...</u> and the FUN Manual. (word and pdf documents attached)</p>	<p>June 2018</p>	<p>Trish Naughton, OFS, Regional Formation Director, Troubadours of Peace Region, pnaughton7@aol.com</p>
<p>Daily reflection on the Rule, ongoing formation focus, Celebration Liturgy (inviting Bishop and parishioners, etc), laminated name cards with Rule citation</p>	<p>Encourage members to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and discuss the Rule using Luke Amato, OFS's books, "Praying the Secular Franciscan Rule" every day. 2. Read and briefly study a different Rule article at each of our Gatherings in the up-coming year. 3. Read and discuss the Rule using "To Set Themselves Free" by Theresa Baker, OFS during their Gatherings. 4. Invite Bishops to celebratory Mass in honor of our 40th. They will also invite all the OFS, SA's, and parish members. <p>During the Annual Meeting this year, every Minister was given a laminated name card which reads: "Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Secular Franciscan Rule, 24 June 2018" with an image of the newly designed TAU and on the reverse side, the words from Article 4 of our Rule.</p> <p>Next year, the Ministers will probably be given a copy of the little red Rule Book.</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>Marie Thomas, OFS, Regional Minister, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, mariemt.ofs@gmail.com</p> <p>Five Franciscan Martyrs Regional Website: www.ffmr-ofs.org/</p>
<p>Celebration Retreat and Liturgy</p>	<p>Our Lady of Guadalupe – Empress of the Americas will hold a two-day multi-lingual event to celebrate this special Anniversary from Jun 23-24, 2018 in El Paso, TX. Bishop of El Paso will give a blessing, Special Liturgy and prayers, guess speakers and break out sessions to focus on each article of the Rule will be planned by each fraternity.</p>	<p>June 23-24, 2018</p>	<p>Maria Bianca, OFS, Regional Secretary, Our Lady of Guadalupe – Empress of the Americas Region http://olregion.sfou.sa.org</p>

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			mbbsfo@gmail.com
Regional Gathering	Divine Mercy is planning a regional gathering and celebration on Oct 27 to be held at the Diocese of Saginaw Center for Ministry.	October 27, 2018	David Seitz, OFS, Regional Minister, Divine Mercy Region https://divinemercuryregion.com dmrofsdavid@gmail.com
Presentation, group sharing	40th anniversary Rule presentation, inclusive of small group sharing, as Formation at our Annual Minister's Gathering, June 1-3, 2018. The theme is: "Rebuild My House". The introduction of the Gathering will be about the "Welcome Mat" and we will have one at the entrance of the meeting room. The next day participants will be given a diagram of a house to label, thus understanding what the foundation, the walls and the windows are about regarding our Franciscan way of life. Each person will be given a little brick and a Red Rule Book, containing the dates 1978-2018, as a remembrance of what we celebrated at the Gathering.	June 1-3, 2018	Hazel Martin, OFS, Regional Minister, Queen of Peace Region http://www.queenofpeaceregion.org yankeefan50@outlook.com