



March 2018

News from the National Executive Council OFS-USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you have any questions or need additional information about any of these items, please contact myself or another member of the NEC. Thank you for your servant leadership and dedication to our Order!

Peace, joy and Easter Blessings!

Jan and the National Executive Council (NEC)

Jubilee Year for 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule

Our Minister General Tibor Kauser has announced the celebration of a Jubilee Year from *June 6, 2018 - June 6, 2019* to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the current OFS Rule. Pope Paul VI approved this Rule on June 24, 1978 with the apostolic letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha*.

Results of the General Chapter – Conclusive Documents

Early in 2014 the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS) asked all National fraternities to consider “how should an Order like the OFS be managed at all its levels?” As part of a process of reflection, and in preparation for the 2017 General Chapter we studied various proposals set forth in the *Instrumentum Laboris* and submitted our responses.

This great undertaking has borne fruit. Our leadership at the XV General Chapter approved specific projects for each area of priority – Formation, Fraternal Life, Building a More Fraternal and Evangelical World (JPIC), Leadership, Communications and Finance. Each project has specific goals, and a timeframe. Budgets will soon be developed. *The impact of these projects will be significant.*

The Conclusive Documents of the General Chapter describe each project in detail. Additionally, these documents include the Minister General’s accompanying letter and the CIOFS Report on the State of the Order. *Please read and share these* important documents which can be found on our secularfranciscansusa.org website under “Key Documents.”

2017 General Chapter Conclusions

Letter from General Minister Tibor Kauser RE: General Conclusions of Chapter
Combined conclusions document in English
Combined conclusions document in Spanish
Minister General's Final Report to Chapter
Final Message of the Chapter

How important is it that you pass this news along?

From Tibor’s letter, “These documents are the ones that the International Fraternity intends to use as a basis of our work during the next three years. *Therefore, it is very important, that each*

and every sister and brother...has the opportunity to study them. Also, I invite all the councils on each level to study and work on these documents, so that the intentions and decisions of the General Chapter can be implemented.” (Emphasis added.) The NEC agrees that these innovative projects will help to strengthen and renew life in the fraternities on the various levels. Moreover, they will help our Order to meet the expectations of our Church, to “be a great service in the cause of the Kingdom of God in our world today...a model of organic, structural and charismatic unity.”¹

2017 NAFRA Chapter Documents on Website

A reminder that the following documents from our OFS-USA 2017 NAFRA Chapter can be found at www.nafra-sfo.org under “Meetings Materials.”

- 2017 State of the Order OFS-USA
- Recommendation on the Franciscan Action Network (adopted at Chapter)
- PowerPoint presentations on Multiculturalism and Diversity, Youth and Vocations.

Spiritual Assistance and Formation Visioning Workshops

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) and National Formation Commission (NFC) in collaboration with the NEC will offer the following back-to-back workshops.

Please talk with your Regional Formation Director and Regional & Provincial Spiritual Assistants about attending these important gatherings.

Dates: Dates for each workshop are given below

Location: Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

Cost: The cost of room, board and transportation to and from the airport is covered for Regional Spiritual Assistants *and* Regional Formation Directors via a Duns Scotus Trust Fund Grant. *There is also limited funding available to assist with travel costs.*

Spiritual Assistant Workshop

Date: Arrive on Wednesday, Aug. 29

Workshop begins with dinner on Wednesday August 29

SA Workshop ends with dinner on Thursday, August 30

Formation Workshop follows – see details below

Who can attend the Spiritual Assistant Workshop?

- Regional Spiritual Assistants (RSA)
- Provincial Spiritual Assistants (PSA)

¹ Message of the Holy Father St. John Paul II to the Secular Franciscan Order, November 2002

Registration: Registration begins June 1, 2018. Registration forms will be sent to Regional Spiritual Assistants. Regional Ministers and Vice-Ministers will be copied on the Registration emails. Registration Deadline: July 1, 2018.

RSA's are encouraged stay! Regional Spiritual Assistants are encouraged to stay for the Formation Visioning Workshop which begins on Thursday evening, Aug. 30, and ends on Sunday morning Sept. 2.

Formation Visioning Workshop

Date: Arrive on Thursday, August 30
Workshop begins with Dinner on Thursday, August 30
Workshop ends after Breakfast on Sunday, September 2
(Note: Monday, September 3 is Labor Day)

Who can attend?

- Regional Formation Directors
- Regional Spiritual Assistants
- Selected OFS members interested in Formation **

Registration: Registration begins May 1, 2018. Registration forms will be sent to Regional Formation Directors. Regional Ministers and Vice-Ministers will be copied on the Registration emails. Registration Deadline: July 1, 2018.

What is "Formation Visioning"?

In light of the new directives from the General Chapter, most particularly those concerning Formation, we are asking Regional Formation Directors, Regional Spiritual Assistants and selected OFS members to come together with the National Formation Commission and members of the NEC to discern the direction our national formation will take in the coming years.

** The Formation Visioning Workshop is open to a limited number of OFS members who have served on Formation Teams in the past or who are interested in the future of formation in the OFS-USA. Cost of the workshop will be covered for those chosen to attend. Interested persons may contact Jane DeRose-Bamman for an application.

*Do you know someone who has a passion for Formation?
Please invite them to apply to attend this workshop.*

FY/YA Commission – Important Request

Kathleen Molaro, our Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commission Chair (FY/YA) recently sent an important email Ministers requesting help in identifying a Regional FY/YA Animator for each region. If our youth outreach is to be successful, we need someone from each Region who is dedicated to this ministry. Please pray, discern and invite someone you know to fill this position. For more information contact Kathleen at kmmolaro@gmail.com or any NEC member.

Vocations Tool Kit – Now on Website

From Jane DeRose-Bamman and the Vocations Committee: Our Vocations Tool Kit is now available on our website. The tool kit includes an introductory document, prayer cards, Come and See session outline, customizable promotional brochure with amazing graphics, a “Come and See” PowerPoint presentation including talking points, some testimonial questions, and more! Most of the documents are available in English, Spanish and Korean. Feel free to customize for your situation. Consider trying something new from the tool kit, but remember that our most effective promotional tool is living our vocations daily, i.e. there is no vacation from your vocation.

Updated Regional Election and Visitation Documents

All documents related to Regional Elections and Visitations *have been updated*. They are available on our secularfranciscansusa.org website. Click on “Resources.”

2018 Chapter – Save the Dates

Our 2018 National Fraternity Chapter (NAFRA 2018) will be held in St. Louis, MO., at the St. Louis Airport Renaissance (Home of the 2016 Q). Chapter begins with dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 9 and ends on Sunday morning, Oct. 14. New Regional Ministers are invited to arrive early on Tuesday in order to attend a mid-afternoon Orientation Meeting.

Report from the National Database Task Force

The database task force met October 25-29, 2017, welcoming new member Raymond Clarke. Members Neal Verzwylt, Roger Raupp and Bob Herbelin each reported on their areas of work. Roger is wrapping up his efforts on the web interface, to be incorporated into the work that Neal has begun. Bob is documenting the administrative interface to the database in preparation for the new development there. Development efforts are currently focused on getting some much-needed new functionality before Chapter this year (as part of the overall restructure/preparation for a new front end). The group plans to meet at some point in 2018 prior to Chapter. Although work proceeds slowly they have a very good working group with new enthusiasm and ambition. They will continue to work toward the goal of having a database that is ready for a “face lift”.

National Database Administrator

Cyl Maljan-Herbelin is our National Database Administrator. If you have questions, or encounter any issues with the database you may contact her via email at cylmaljan@earthlink.net. *Note:* Our previous Administrator, Bob Herbelin, has not retired - Cyl has stepped up so that Bob can concentrate on database updates. Thank you Bob for *continuing* your many years of service!

Host Region Needed ASAP for 2020 NAFRA Chapter

It is critical that we secure venues for our annual NAFRA Chapters at least two years in advance. This means *we need to look NOW for a location for our 2020 NAFRA Chapter*. Please check on the availability of retreat centers in your area and consider hosting your brothers and sisters for a Tuesday-Sunday timeframe sometime between September 8 and November 1, 2020. For more

information on what it takes to host a NAFRA Chapter please contact Jan Parker or Jane DeRose-Bamman. (I believe we have a host Region for 2019! Stay tuned.)

OFS Formation Events – Summer Seminar and Franciscan Institute

Secular Franciscan Summer Seminar at St. Francis University, Loretto, Pennsylvania:

<https://sites.google.com/francis.edu/2018-ofs-summer-seminar/home?authuser=0>

Secular Franciscan Conference at St. Bonaventure University in New York:

<http://www.sbu.edu/about-sbu/sbu-campus-maps-directions/franciscan-institute/summer-Fall-2018-programs#Secular>

Holy Land Outreach

Thank you for your efforts to promote the Good Friday collection for the Franciscans in the Holy Land. I pray that, overall, we made a difference, but I was sad to see reports from two parishes in my area where collections totaled \$44 and \$164. It's not too late to do a little more Franciscan begging. Here's the link for donations. <https://myfranciscan.org/good-friday/>



OFS-USA Logo

Our new OFS-USA logo (pictured) is posted on our website for download. Local and Regional fraternities are invited to use this logo widely, helping us create a "brand" for the OFS-USA. It is suggested that any lettering used in conjunction with the logo be in *Palatino Linotype* font, as featured on our new website.

2021 Quinquennial (Q)

The location and date of our 2021 Quinquennial Congress is set. It will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Arrival date is Wed., August 18, 2021. Departure is Sunday, August 22, 2021. Thank you for your quick response to our request to ratify the place and date.

Duns Scotus Trust Fund (DSTF) Grants

Those interested in applying for a DSTF grant please note the following:

- Applications received by May 31 will be reviewed by July 15. The applicant will receive a decision by July 31.
- Applications received by September 30 will be reviewed by November 15. The applicant will receive a decision by November 30.

Elective Chapter and Call for Nominations

Our 2018 Chapter will be held October 9-14 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in St. Louis, MO. At this Chapter we will be electing a new NEC. Let's be praying and discerning. The call for nominations will go out on April 13 – watch for the email. Nominations will close June 13.

CIOFS Newsletter – Vox Franciscana

Have you read the latest edition of Vox Franciscana? You don't want to miss it! I was amazed at the number of wonderful photos, the articles featuring personal stories from individual OFS members from around the world, the very formative articles on maintaining our Franciscan life and, of course, the latest news from the recent General Chapter. Here you can gain a good understanding of the new projects approved as a result of our study on Management of the Order. We can be very proud of our own Bob Stronach for his work on Vox Franciscana, but we are not surprised as he and Mary have consistently produced wonderful articles and photos that help communicate OFS-USA news as well. I have attached a copy OR you can find it online at: <http://www.ciofs.org/portal/en/main-page/ciofs-news/1995-vox-franciscana-winter-2017-2018>

Intercessions from CIOFS

For May

Universal: For evangelizers, that the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

OFS: For the national fraternities of Canada, Costa Rica and New Zealand (VFP).

Our Father...

JPIC Coordinators and Teams – Spread the Word - Mission Trip Opportunity

Franciscan Mission Service is offering a short-term Mission and global Awareness Trip for Secular Franciscans - Aug. 25 – Sept. 2, 2018. Register by May 1, 2018. Cost \$1500 plus flight. This is a great opportunity! More information in the next TAU-USA or contact Patrick Martin OFS at jpmmartin@gmail.com

Franciscan Mission Service – World Care Benefit

We continue our partnership with Franciscan Mission Service (FMS) and thanks to a donation given on behalf of the National Fraternity, the OFS-USA will have a half-page ad in the FMS World Care Benefit booklet. This benefit was held April 27 and is their biggest celebration of the year.

For more information on the World Care benefit go to

<https://franciscanmissionservice.org/support/worldcarebenefit/2018-2/>

New Documentary on St. Francis Will Feature OFS Members

Friar Dave Pivonka, TOR (see wildgooseisloose.com) is working on a documentary called "A Sign of Contradiction—the Story of St. Francis." Friar Dave recently contacted Jan Parker requesting names of OFS members who he could interview to be part of this documentary, and Jan provided him with the names of previous OFS JPIC award winners. From what we have seen so far, this will be a great promotional video – not only telling the story of St. Francis, but the story of Franciscans in today's world.