

We, members of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) and their Spiritual Assistants (lay, cleric and religious), gathered in Congress at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center, in Beaverton, Oregon, from September 15-18, 2010, affirm the importance of Spiritual Assistance in the SFO.

At our gathering we studied various aspects of the SFO fraternity life in the United States today, especially as it regards spiritual assistance.

Gathered in assembly, WE AFFIRM:

- the need for spiritual assistance from within the Secular Franciscan Order, as well as from the rest of the Franciscan Family
- the *vital* need for formation of Spiritual Assistants prior to the beginning of their term
- the active role of the Spiritual Assistant in the life of the fraternity, in the formation process, **and** as a member of the Council
- the need for vital reciprocity between the SFO and the other branches of the Franciscan Family
- the need for on-going Formation for Spiritual Assistants.

WE WELCOME:

- the priority of Formation, both initial and on-going, in the SFO, as propagated by the SFO General Chapters and by our National Fraternity
- the guidance and animation of suitable and well-prepared Spiritual Assistants.

AS PROFESSED MEMBERS of the SFO and AS SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS we proclaim our lifelong vocation and commitment to Franciscan evangelical life.

FINALLY, we call on all members of the SFO to live out their vocation by active participation in the world, especially according to the mind of the Church and Catholic Social Teaching.