

**GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS  
FOR THE  
DUNS SCOTUS SECULAR FRANCISCAN FORMATION TRUST FUND**

*So that others may be enriched by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi*

**Who was Duns Scotus?**

John Duns, a Scottish Franciscan friar, came to be called Scotus, the Latin word for Scot. The friars recognized John's superior intellect and encouraged him to pursue studies in theology and philosophy. Duns Scotus spent a decade teaching in England and France.

Duns Scotus believed that God's love for humankind was expressed first and foremost through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the center and model of all creation, and that Christ was so important to the plan of creation that God would have become incarnate in him whether Adam and Eve or their descendants had sinned or not. Scotus further reasoned that if love was God's intention for creation from the beginning then the Virgin Mary, who gave human form to Jesus, would be untouched by original sin.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Pope Pius IX declared Mary's Immaculate Conception an article of faith; in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Pope Pius XI established the Feast of Christ the King. The fruit of Scotus' theology was recognized in doctrine and worship. John Duns Scotus was beatified by Saint Pope John Paul II; his memorial is November 8.

**What is the Duns Scotus Fund?**

In 1930, the Friars minor of Saint John the Baptist Province established a seminary near Detroit for friars in initial formation. The name of the seminary was Duns Scotus College. That formation center was sold in the 1990s, and the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order received part of the proceeds to continue the work of Franciscan formation. The portion allotted to the National Fraternity is now the Duns Scotus Secular Franciscan Formation Trust Fund ("DSTF").

**What can the fund do for us?**

The National Fraternity wants Secular Franciscans to grow in their understanding and experience of the Secular Franciscan charism. The DSTF promotes Secular Franciscan formation at all levels of fraternity. Supplemental money is available for worthy programs of initial and on-going formation. The DSTF provides financial assistance for formation-related needs that cannot otherwise be met.

The DSTF is particularly concerned with the development of healthy formation teams and directors. It encourages joint projects among neighboring local and/or regional fraternities. It seeks to foster creativity in formation content and format.

### **How does the fund operate?**

A board of trustees representing the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order oversees the fund. The Board of Trustees is chaired by the Minister of the National Fraternity. Additional members are the National Treasurer, National Formation Commission Chair, President-in-turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, a Friar from St. John the Baptist Province, an appointed OFS Secretary, and an appointed OFS Member-At-Large.

Those requesting funds evaluate their formation needs and design a plan to meet them. They assess their resources and determine what assistance they may need to accomplish their plan. Then they submit a proposal to the board requesting a grant for their unmet financial needs. The board in turn evaluates each proposal and makes a determination of which proposal(s) it will support.

### **Who may apply for assistance?**

Any Secular Franciscan or group of Secular Franciscans who needs financial assistance to improve formation, may apply to the DSTF. Requests from individuals or from local fraternities are made through the regional fraternity.

### **Application Process**

**Please provide the following information:**

1. the name of Applicant and Regional Fraternity;
2. a description of the project, including its intended providers and participants;
3. a statement of the anticipated results or benefits of the project;
4. a reasonably detailed estimate of the cost of the project;
5. a breakdown of costs to be covered locally or regionally and the costs requiring assistance from the DSTF;
6. the email address, phone number and address for the contact person for the proposal.

The application should be signed by the Regional Minister and the Regional Formation Director.

There are three funding cycles per year:

- Applications received by January 31 will be reviewed by March 15. The applicant will receive a decision by March 31.
- 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.

Submit your application electronically to the Secretary of the Trust Fund Board of Trustees at [DunsScotusTrustFund@gmail.com](mailto:DunsScotusTrustFund@gmail.com). This document can also be found on the NAFRA Website ([www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)) under Forms and Resources.