

## **NAFRA GUIDELINES FOR DE-ACTIVATING A REGIONAL FRATERNITY**

1. When an established Regional Fraternity of the National Fraternity (NAFRA) no longer has the viability and stability to maintain its Secular Franciscan life, fraternity and mission, it may be declared de-activated by the National Fraternity.

2. A Regional Fraternity established by NAFRA can be de-activated by NAFRA for any one or more of the following reasons:

2.1 It no longer has enough viable fraternities to support the activities of the Region nor is able to name a full slate of candidates for the offices of the Regional Fraternity.

2.2 It has not had regular Regional Fraternity meetings for a period of three (3) years.

2.3 It no longer participates in the activities of the National Fraternity nor cooperates with the National Executive Council (NEC).

2.4 It no longer contributes Fair Share or otherwise supports the National Fraternity.

2.5 It has not had a newly forming group or emerging fraternity for at least ten (10) years.

2.6 It has not sought a Pastoral or Fraternal visitation for at least six (6) years.

3. The official de-activation of a Regional Fraternity happens in the following manner:

3.1 The de-activation of a Regional Fraternity is normally carried out upon the request of the Region.

3.2 When a Regional Fraternity officially requests de-activation, the National Executive Council should consult with CNSA in regard to the request. Consultation should be on-going between the NEC and CNSA concerning this matter.

3.3 The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) and the National Fraternity Executive Council take the initiative to conduct a Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation after such a request.

3.4 Following the Visitation mentioned above, the National Executive Council discerns whether and when to approach the Provincial Spiritual Assistants of the friar provinces with fraternities in the Region. If the de-activation is to go forward, the National Fraternity Minister then communicates to them that the process of de-activation has been initiated.

3.5 The National Executive Council then decides whether to approve the request for de-activation and, if approved, submits it to the National Fraternity Council.

3.6 The National Fraternity Council will vote on the de-activation request from the Regional Fraternity at its next opportunity.

3.7 A ceremony of de-activation may be celebrated at the National Fraternity Council meeting.

4. When a Regional Fraternity is de-activated,

4.1 provision will be made with the help of the National Executive Council for the remaining fraternities to be transferred to the nearest Regions.

4.2 the records of the Regional Fraternity are acquired by the National Fraternity and kept in its archives.

4.3 the common fund and other assets are to be disposed of according to the decision of the Regional Fraternity about to be de-activated and /or are distributed to the member fraternities.

4.4 the original document of establishment with the date of de-activation recorded on it, a list of the active fraternities, and the Regional Archives are to be sent to the Archives of NAFRA.

Approved by the National Executive Council  
February 16, 2006