

# Sharing The Vision

## News from the National Executive Council (NEC) to the National Fraternity (NAFRA)

### **The Quinquennial on Video**

Many of the wonderful presentations given at our 2016 Q are now available on DVD. These DVD's give everyone the opportunity to share the Q experience, and more importantly the opportunity for solid ongoing formation. Many of these talks challenged us, speaking directly to us as Secular Franciscans living the Gospel in 2016. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these DVD's — view them together with your fraternity, use the excellent discussion questions from the Q program and revive your spirit once again! Quinquennial DVD's can be purchased at: [franciscanvideos.com](http://franciscanvideos.com).

### **Guidelines for National Commissions and Committees**

The NEC has finalized and approved the Guidelines for National Commissions and Committees. These Guidelines cover the responsibilities of the NEC in the selection and appointment process, as well as the meeting and reporting requirements for national commissions and committees. For copies see the NAFRA Website under Resources/National Guidelines.

### **NAFRA Committee Appointments**

*“The brothers and sisters, rejecting all ambition, should show love for the fraternity with a spirit of service, prepared both to accept and to relinquish the office.” (OFS General Constitutions, Art. 32)*

The following OFS members have accepted an appointment to serve the National Fraternity for a three-year term, from Chapter 2016 to Chapter 2019. Praise God for all servant leaders past, present and to come!

TAU-USA Editor – Jim Wesley, OFS

Archivist – Sharon Deveaux, OFS

Vocations – Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS

1-800-FRANCIS Facilitator – Kathleen White, OFS

### **Communications Committee and Public Relations – Changes Ahead?**

At our July 2016 meeting, the NEC addressed the questions: What is the mission of the Communications Committee? What activities fall under its purview? Are there structural changes that might improve the flow of communications? Is there a need for a Public Relations Committee, as opposed to the appointment of an individual? This discussion will continue in November at our 2016 NAFRA Chapter, first as we meet with the Communications Committee and then with the National Fraternity Council. Appointment of a new Communications Chair is on hold, pending discussion of these questions.

### **How can we thank them enough?**

After many years of service National Historian Bill Wicks, OFS, and Ecumenical/Interfaith Chair Anne Mulqueen, , are stepping down from these positions. Truly, we cannot thank them enough for all of the service they have given our Order.

### **NAFRA Historian and Computer Committee Members Needed**

The NEC is seeking applicants for the position of National Historian, and the Computer Committee is seeking new members. For information on these positions and the application process, please see the related articles on page 24 of this issue of the TAU-USA.

### **Youth and Young Adult Commission Study**

The NEC continues their study of YouFra to define the future direction for our National Youth and Young Adult Commission. In May, we reviewed YouFra and FYAA documents and resources. In

July we were blessed to have International Councilor Ana Fruk, OFS, as well as our General Minister Tibor Kauser, OFS, present with us at our NEC meeting for a discussion of YouFra. Ana is a former International YouFra coordinator and currently serves on the Order's International Executive Council as a CIOFS Presidency Councilor and YouFra Animator. Ana and Tibor gave us important input and good food for thought. We have grown in our understanding of YouFra and what is "ours to do." A report on our progress will be distributed prior to Chapter.

**Important note:** Our study of a direction for the Youth Commission at the national level was never meant to stop any of the good work that is going on with youth, locally or regionally. *Local and regional fraternities are encouraged to continue, or begin, outreach to youth as directed by the Holy Spirit.* Any questions on this, please contact your NEC Councilor.

#### **Twining Discussion with International Councilor Jenny Harrington OFS**

At our July meeting we met with CIOFS Councilor Jenny Harrington, OFS. Jenny lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, and is the Councilor assigned to the English speaking countries of Africa, and the United States and Canada. What a blessing to have Jenny's perspective on how we might connect with national fraternities in South Africa! CIOFS is currently working on guidelines for this kind of "twining." More on this topic will be shared at our 2016 NAFRA Chapter.

#### **2016 NAFRA Chapter and CIOFS Visitation**

Our 2016 Chapter will include a Pastoral and Fraternal Visit from the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS). Vice-Minister General, Maria Consuelo de Nunez, OFS (fondly known as Chelito) is our Fraternal Visitor. Fr. Francis Bongajum Dor, OFM Cap., is our Pastoral Visitor. Copies of the *2010 CIOFS Visitation Report* and the 2012 document *U.S. (NAFRA) Response to Recommendations from CIOFS* are available on request.

#### **National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Gathering – July 2017**

Our National JPIC Commission is planning a national gathering from Thursday evening, July

27 through Sunday, July 30, 2017, in St. Louis, MO. This event will be open to all OFS members. Details will be announced soon.

#### **National Formation Directors Workshop – August 2017**

Our National Formation Commission is planning a Regional Formation Directors gathering to be held beginning Thursday evening, August 17 through Sunday, August 20, 2017, in St. Louis, MO. (Note: This is a change of date from what was announced in the last issue of *TAU-USA*.) Details will be announced soon. Financial assistance will be provided by the Duns Scotus Trust Fund.

#### **NEC Guidelines for Approval of Contracts**

The NEC is currently reviewing contracts from several venues for two national gatherings that will be held in 2017. The NEC has agreed that all contracts that obligate NAFRA financially are to be seen and approved by the entire NEC.

#### **2016 NAFRA Calendar**

##### **October 28 – November 1**

NEC Meeting Visitation, Canterbury Retreat Center, Oviedo, Florida

##### **November 1-6**

NAFRA Chapter / CIOFS Visitation, San Pedro Retreat Center, Winter Park, Florida

#### **TAU-USA 2016 Schedule**

The winter issue of the *TAU-USA* will be mailed in January 2017. The deadline for articles is November 28, 2016.

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*Emails to the National Minister can be sent to:*  
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