



SHARING THE VISION

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Instrumentum Laboris: Animate & Guide with Servant Leadership

In preparation for the General Chapter to be held this November, the CIOFS Presidency issued the *Instrumentum Laboris: Animate & Guide with Servant Leadership* (IL). They have requested that each national fraternity review this important preparatory document and respond to the questions that were included. To solicit this input, the National Executive Council (NEC) organized several area-wide meetings, including a meeting with the full National Fraternity Council on April 10, 2021. Based on these conversations, the NEC compiled the OFS-USA response. **We wish to share this collective response with you and have included it in this issue of TAU-USA. (See pages 23-24.)**

Secular Franciscan leaders from across the United States overwhelmingly endorsed the IL. All those who were interviewed wholeheartedly agreed that:

- we cannot underestimate the importance of good leadership for the Secular Franciscan Order;
- there must be a deepening of our sense of co-responsibility within fraternities;
- we need to pay more attention to the spiritual aspects of servant leadership, particularly as described in the *OFS General Constitutions*.

We encourage local and regional fraternities to utilize “Animate and Guide with Servant Leadership” for ongoing formation. The complete document can be downloaded from our OFS-USA website www.secularfranciscansusa.org. At the home page, click on Search and type in “Animate and Guide.”

Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity

We are excited to announce the publication of revised guidelines for those wishing to start a new OFS fraternity. The *Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity* gives a clear explanation of each phase of this process from newly forming group to emerging fraternity to canonical establishment. The *Guide* lists requirements for each phase, outlines the responsibilities of the sponsoring fraternity and Regional Executive Council, and describes the mandatory involvement of First Order and Third Order Regular (TOR) Provincial Ministers. The *Guide* explains such terms as *altius moderamen*, and provides helpful instructions for everything from formation to record keeping. A great effort was made to ensure that this

guide was practical, while also capturing the spiritual aspects of the process.

The Guide begins with an introductory section entitled, “So you want to start a fraternity...” outlining the significance of this undertaking. It beautifully describes what is needed to form a fraternity into a *genuine ecclesial community*. The information in this first section will be helpful not only to those OFS forming new fraternities but can inspire all of us as we continue to focus on our national priority of Fraternity Life. **For this reason, we have included this section of the Guide in this issue of TAU-USA. (See pages 5-6.)**

The complete 23-page Guide can be downloaded from our website www.secularfranciscansusa.org. At the home page, click on Search, and type in “Guide to Canonical Establishment.”

National Council Elections – Last Call for Nominations

Tentatively, the 2021 NAFRA Elective Chapter will be held October 26-31 at Montserrat Retreat in Lake Dallas, Texas. While we will not know for several months yet whether we will be able to meet in person, we still need to prepare for the elections. If we can meet safely, and if a presider from the International Council is able to attend, we will elect a new National Executive Council. We continue to seek nominations for each position of Minister, Vice-Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Councilor, and International Councilor. *The call for nominations has been extended to July 31, 2021.* Nominations should be sent to the Nomination Committee Co-Chairs: Kate Kleinert OFS at kkleinert@msn.com and Emma Lowzowski OFS at ofs.minister.prairie@gmail.com

Invitation to Explore the CIOFS Website

Did you know

- ...there will soon be an outdoor sanctuary erected near Cannara, Italy, to commemorate the site where St. Francis preached to the birds?
- ...there is a series of videos commemorating the 800th anniversary of *Memoriale Propositi*, highlighting the similarities between the 1221 document and the current OFS Rule?
- ...there is a newsletter called *Koinonia* written by the General Spiritual Assistants? The current issue focuses on Servant Leadership.

This is just a tiny peek at what you might find on the International OFS website www.ciofs.info. **We invite you to explore this beautiful, updated, and easy-to-navigate website.** Where to start? Once on the

home page simply scroll down to see all the latest news and videos. Also, under the “NEWS” tab you can click on *Vox Franciscana (Franciscan Voice)*, CIOFS’s newsletter, edited by our own Bob Stronach, OFS, and published

twice a year. Each issue has wonderful articles on OFS events from around the world. Touring “ciofs.org” is inspiring! It will connect you with our worldwide OFS family and broaden your view of OFS life.



OFS-USA 20th Quinquennial Congress JUBILEE!

It is hard to describe the joy of being at a Quinquennial Congress—it is something you need experience yourself. The good news is that your opportunity to do just that is coming in 2022. The OFS-USA 20th Quinquennial Congress (“Q”) will be held August 3-7, 2022, in Phoenix, Arizona at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel. More good news! Due to a grant from the Duns Scotus Formation Fund, the registration cost has been cut

in half – just \$175 for those registering early. It is our hope that this will make it possible for many more of our brothers and sisters to attend this “twice in a decade” event.

Our Quinquennial theme, **JUBILEE**, was chosen to commemorate the 800th anniversary of *Memoriale Propositi*, as well as to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Quinquennial Congress held in the United States. Given these two anniversaries, there will be much JUBILEE joy! It will also be a time to join with hundreds of fellow OFS members to celebrate and renew our Franciscan calling in the spirit of conversion. You will not want to miss it!



3-7 August 2022 - Phoenix, AZ

Registration opens August 1, 2021,
and will be entirely online.

To register, go to our OFS-USA website <https://secularfranciscansusa.org>. Click on the “Quinquennial” button, easily found on the main menu at the top of the homepage. From the dropdown menu be sure to choose “Read Me First,” which will guide you through the registration process.



For any additional help you may email the Q Committee directly at ofsusa.qcongress@gmail.com.

Be ready to take advantage of the \$175 Early Bird registration, available until Dec. 31, 2021.

