

VOCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy.....

By Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS

My husband started fishing a few years ago. Terms like “lure,” “sinker,” “snagging hook,” etc. were added to the household vocabulary. What I’ve learned is that when one is fishing it takes some time to figure out the best lure. I don’t go fishing with him much, but I have come to learn that the ways of attracting fish have some application with our efforts to expand the Order – looking for vocations. "Being fishers of persons called to the OFS."

The National Executive Council recently created a vocations committee. The Vocation Committee Mission:

To foster and sustain vocation consciousness among all people of the Universal Church by our Profession to the Gospel Way of Life. To initiate, encourage and support the efforts of the national OFS Family to promote the Secular Franciscan Order, with particular emphasis on nurturing individuals who desire, seek and commit to our way of life. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, this objective will be accomplished through prayer, development of promotional materials, sharing of ideas and maintaining national awareness.

The committee is focusing on the following tasks:

1. Creating a National Vocation Campaign based on both Prayer and Action
2. Creating Parish/Diocesan Awareness of the OFS
3. Compiling ways to initiate Personal Invitation



Our own personal witness is the strongest means of attracting others... do we walk the talk? Personal invitation is key in helping others know about the OFS and learn that it isn't some exclusive group.

Focusing on #3, many Secular are already successful. Because of this, the committee wants to compile what has worked well for you – “best practices.”

- Brochures/Handouts /Bulletin announcements
- Elevator speeches (1-2 minutes in length)
- Slogans/”One liners” to hook a person’s interest in learning more
- Social Media sites for you to reference or “Like”

What else do you use? Do you have a neat catchy phrase to respond when someone asks:

- What is that “T” around your neck?
- Secular what???

The OFS isn't a secret society. There are opportunities to reach out to persons young and old, social media savvy and not so connected. The tools will be shared to help us reach out to family, friends, parishioners, co-workers, people we encounter in our daily journeys.

Please email your ideas to: OFSVocationsCommittee@gmail.com or mail ideas to: Vocations Committee, c/o Secular Franciscan Order, 1615 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-6492 by August 31, 2014.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to respond. May the Holy Spirit lead us in sharing the news about the OFS and attracting people to the Order.