

SHARING THE VISION

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Greetings of peace, Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the coronavirus pandemic many of our Franciscan gatherings have been cancelled. While we must follow our local, state and national officials regarding distancing, we encourage you to remain in touch with your fraternity brothers and sisters. Consider conference calls and video meetings where possible. Those who do not use a computer will welcome a phone call. The NEC is with you in prayer. With God's grace we will weather this storm.

Formation Visioning Update

A message from Diane Menditto, National Formation Commission Chair

Since Chapter, exciting things have been happening with the National Formation Commission and with our formation Visioning Team. In October, I reported to the National Executive Council that we were in the process of choosing writers for the new formation materials. Since then, the writers have been contacted and have begun their work. At the end of February, they submitted the first drafts of their chapters.

Along with the topics covered in *For Up to Now*, we are including new material. There will be chapters on "First Steps," Prayer, Scripture, Early Franciscan Sources, Servant Leadership, and Youth, and two guides for days of reflection—one before Admission and one before Profession. A facilitators' edition will accompany the formation texts.

The Visioning Team plans to review the second drafts of chapters by the end of June and to discuss the layout of the books. As you can see, we are making progress, and we are excited!

The National Formation Commission is also preparing our Regional Formation Directors workshop, which will be held August 20-23, 2020. We plan to utilize teleconferencing for this event, as travel may still be unwise at that time. We are hoping that every Regional Fraternity will be represented at the workshop.

What's New on the National Website?

Our OFS-USA website is a treasure chest with new items posted every week. Currently on the home page you can find our Minister General's letter on the

coronavirus pandemic, his Easter reflection, and a link to a selection of formation resources on our National Priority of Fraternity. On the [Guidelines, Forms and Other Resources](#) tab are the Transfer Form, Vocations Tool Kit, "Come and See Brochure," the Digests, and "How to apply for a Duns Scotus Formation Fund (DSFF) Grant." We continue to receive inquiries from the "Contact Us" tab on the website. Terri Leone, OFS, former Minister of Saint Katharine Drexel Regional Fraternity, assists us in responding to these emails and also returns calls received on our 1-800-FRANCIS phone line.

International and National OFS Statutes

The International Council of the OFS (CIOFS) is in the process of revising and adding to the International Statutes, increasing the number of articles from the current 24 to 83. The NEC is reviewing the current draft. Approval is scheduled for the CIOFS Elective Chapter in November 2020. If you would like a copy of the draft International Statutes, send a request to nec.ofs.usa@gmail.com.

The NEC's work on the revision of our own National Statutes continues. New sections will include the process of canonical establishment and deactivation of local fraternities. Election procedures and voting norms for OFS Spiritual Assistants will also be addressed. We will keep you updated.

Spanish and Korean Presentations at the 2021 Quinquennial Congress

Our 2021 Quinquennial Congress will feature several presentations for our Spanish- and Korean- speaking sisters and brothers. We look forward to the 2021 Q being the largest gathering of Secular Franciscans in recent memory. For registration information please see page 28 in this issue of *TAU-USA*.

Summer Seminar at Franciscan University

The Summer Seminar planned for this July at the Franciscan University in Loretto, PA has been postponed until the summer of 2021.