



CIOFS Call to Action to ALL OFS: Participate in Animating the Order

by Mary Stronach, OFS, International Councilor

The General Chapter in Assisi last November challenged all OFS members to look at our Order in a new light — to discuss and to determine where we are going as an Order and how we are going to get there.

In preparation for this major project, our National Fraternity has convened a National Committee for the Management of the Order. The members include: **Stan Bartley**, a recently professed OFS in Franciscans of the Prairie Region, **Deacon Tom Bello**, National Minister, **Mary Bittner**, National Councilor, **Mary Frances Charsky**, National Councilor, **Donna Maria Flanagan Kaminsky**, Spiritual Assistant in Lady Poverty Region, **Dawn Rusinko**, YOUFRA chair for Our Lady of the Angels Region, **Karen Szczecnsniak**, Spiritual Assistant in Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, **Pat Serotkin**, Regional Minister of Lady Poverty Region, **Bob Stronach**, National PR Co-chair, and **Carolyn Townes**, National JPIC Chair. International Councilor **Mary Stronach** will chair this committee. The **Holy Spirit** will be our inspiration and our guide.

The committee's task will be to respond to a report presented to the General Chapter in November and to address a series of questions based on the documents of the 2014 Chapter's main theme, "How Should an Order Like the OFS Be Managed at All Its Levels?" An additional document should also be reviewed, the 2014 Conclusions from the Chapter. The committee's responses will also be based on a general analysis and a review of all responses of surveys sent out to all OFS in the USA.

The questions that will be included in the surveys are:

1. What are the main strengths of our National Fraternity in terms of managing the Order?
2. What are the main weaknesses/challenges of our National Fraternity in terms of managing the Order?
3. What are the five priorities (most important and urgent aspects or areas) that our National Fraternity should work on to improve the management of the Order, and what are the concrete goals that you propose in order to carry out those five priorities?
4. What are the three main **strengths** in the management of the OFS at the International level?
5. What are the three main **challenges** in the management of the OFS at the International level?
6. What do you think the three priorities for the improvement of the management of the Order at the International level should be, and what specific proposals do you have for each one of those?

The committee will develop the survey, using these questions as a guideline. The survey will be sent to all our fraternities and, hopefully, will reach our individual fraternity brothers and sisters around the United States.

At the National Chapter this October, the committee will also have focus groups with our regional ministers based on the above questions.

The committee will compile the responses and develop a report that will be sent to CIOFS. Our report will then be incorporated with all the responses from around the world. Based on all the input, the Presidency will prepare a report to present at the next General Chapter, where the councilors will vote on a final document that will determine the direction and priorities for the Order.

As we move ahead in this endeavor, we ask all OFS members to make sure your voice is heard. Take the opportunity to respond to the survey when you receive it, or, if it would be easier, respond to the questions listed above and send them to Mary Stronach.

For copies of the reports on the "Management of the Order," go to the NAFRA website.
http://nafra-sfo.org/meetings_and_resources.html