

Sharing The Vision

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

Ecumenical-Interfaith Committee Chair - Application Process Open

The National Executive Council is seeking applicants for the position of Ecumenical-Interfaith Committee Chair. (See related article in this issue of the *TAU-USA*.) Those interested in this opportunity to serve may contact National Secretary Mattie Ward, OFS at mamamattie1@gmail.com. Application deadline is August 31, 2016. The appointment begins November 5, 2016, for a period of two years. Many thanks to our current Chair, Anne Mulqueen, who will continue to serve until the 2016 NAFRA Chapter.

Management of the Order Project

There was a tremendous response to the Management of the Order (MOTO) Survey, as more than 2,000 members of the Order completed the survey. The results of this survey will be published in a series of reports, the first of which can be found in this issue of *TAU-USA*. This first report gives an excellent overview of the survey and a wonderful analysis of the key questions posed by our International OFS Council ("CIOFS"). It is fascinating reading with much food for thought. Further analysis of the results of the survey will be an ongoing project, taking place in stages, and communicated to the National Fraternity in a number of ways. The results from this survey will be extremely helpful in guiding OFS leadership in the years to come.

In spite of great efforts to publicize the MOTO survey, the invitation to participate in the survey did not reach every member of our Order as we had hoped. Additionally, due to time constraints set by CIOFS, the survey was available only in English, making it difficult for our Spanish and Korean speaking members to respond. For these reasons, the NEC and the MOTO Committee plan a "second wave" effort. Steps forward include translation and reopening the survey for OFS members who did not

participate previously. The realization that some members had not even heard of the MOTO survey points to the fact that effective communication across the Order is an ongoing challenge. Improvement in communication structures is extremely important to the National Executive Council.

The National Fraternity is very grateful to the members of the MOTO Committee, whose ongoing work is a gift to the Order. Special thanks to Committee Chair Mary Stronach for organizing this effort and keeping it on schedule; to Pat Serotkin for setting up the mechanics of the survey; to Mary Bittner for summarizing thousands of responses and writing the report to CIOFS; and to the all the MOTO Committee members who gave of their time and made unique contributions: Mary Frances Charsky, DonnaMarie Kaminsky, Anne Mulqueen, Dawn Rusinko, Karen Szczesniak and Carolyn Townes. To think of the combined Franciscan life experience of the members of this Committee is amazing.

Guidelines for the National Commissions and Committees

The NEC has spent considerable time working to update the NEC 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. We greatly appreciate the suggestions we received from the National Fraternity Council. One very helpful change will be to adjust the timing of appointments, i.e., Commission and Committee Chair appointments will take place *one year after* the election of a new NEC. Note that the term for a Chair will remain three years, but will not be congruent with term of those elected to the NEC. This adjustment will give a newly elected council time

to form and “get their feet on the ground” without the stress of making these important decisions immediately after being elected. This also allows time for dialogue between the NEC and the brothers and sisters in these leadership positions. It will ensure continuity in the weeks immediately following an election and a smooth transition when new appointments are made. These guidelines will be finalized, approved and posted on the NAFRA website within the next few months.

Youth and Young Adult Commission Study

The NEC continues its year of study and discernment to come to a better understanding of YouFra and define the direction for our National Youth and Young Adult Commission. In May, the NEC compiled and reviewed current and past YouFra and FYAA documents and resources. In July, the NEC will meet with former International YouFra coordinator, Ana Fruk, OFS. Ana lives in Croatia and currently serves on the Order’s International Executive Council as a CIOFS Presidency councilor. We look forward to talking with Ana about youth outreach and to the guidance she will give us.

Formation Directors Workshop in 2017

Our National Formation Commission is planning a Regional Formation Directors Workshop to be held July 20-23, 2017, at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. Financial assistance for attendees will be provided by the Duns Scotus Trust Fund.

The Franciscan Journey – now in Spanish and Korean

The Franciscan Journey by Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap., is now available in Spanish and Korean, and can be ordered from Smoky Valley Printing.

2016 Quinquennial

As of this writing 520+ Franciscans will very soon gather for the 19th OFS Quinquennial Congress. Approximately 15 percent of those registering for the Q received some scholarship assistance. Funds for these scholarships, in a total amount of \$14,400, came from NAFRA’s Restricted Funds for National Events and Regional Needs, set up from a bequest received in 2012.

We are blessed to have the following members of the International Council in attendance at the Q: General Minister Tibor Kauser, OFS, General Spiritual Assistant Fr. Martin Bitzer, OFM Conv., and Presidency Councilors Jennifer Harrington, OFS, and Ana Fruk, OFS.

Many thanks to our extraordinary Q Committee, ever joyful in their many preparations for this momentous event! God bless our Co-chairs Susan Simeone and Kate Kleinert, and Committee members Patsy Burgess, Judy Haupt, Barb Morgan and Kathy Wohnoutka. What a gift they are giving to our National Family!

2016 NAFRA Chapter Preparations Underway

Regional Minister Marie Thomas, OFS, Vice-Minister Jeane Swaynos, OFS, and the brothers and sisters of Five Franciscan Martyrs Regional Fraternity have been busily planning for our 2016 NAFRA, to be held Nov. 1-6, 2016, at San Pedro Retreat, Winter Park, Florida. Marie and Jeane assure us that Brother Sun will be there to welcome us! Chapter Registration and details will soon be sent to the National Fraternity Council members.

Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity to Host 2017 NAFRA Chapter

Regional Minister Steve White and the brothers and sisters of Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity have graciously offered to host the 2017 NAFRA Chapter, which will be held Sept. 26–Oct. 1, 2017, at Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, in Mt. St. Francis, Indiana.

Regional Spiritual Assistants added to NAFRA-L

Regional Spiritual Assistants are now included on communications that go out via our NAFRA-L list serv.

***To contact a member of the
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