

Forming the Formators

Initial Formation

On Going Formation

Toward an SFO Plan of Study

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Formation Project

- Recommendations of SFO General Chapters 2002 & 2008
 - 1st Priority is Formation
 - Forming the Formators
 - CIOFS Manual

CIOFS – Formation Project

The Formation Project is the result of the priorities of the SFO General Chapters 2002 & 2008 actioned to CIOFS – Koinonia 2010-2

- 2006 Rome – 1st International workshop for National FDs

Meeting of the Presidency of CIOFS from 18-25 April 2009,

- 1. Initial Formation of Formators (Project I 2002 - 2008)**
- 2. Annual Theme for Ongoing Formation (Project II).** - (*I-Sense of Belonging; II-Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment*).
- 3. A Manual for Initial Formation for the *formandi* (project III).**

CIOFS

**Meeting of the Presidency 31 October – 7 November 2009 -
added 2 additional formation projects**

- 4. Formation for the Secular Franciscan Spiritual Assistants (Project IV).** The need was felt in this meeting of CIOFS for a “special formation” for Spiritual Assistants not members of the First Order and TOR, such as SFO laity and priests, or other religious.

- 5. Formation of Animators of YouFra (Project V).**

CIOFS essential topics (workshop)

Doctrinal Course

- Fundamental elements of Christian Doctrine
- Fundamental elements of Franciscanism & Fundamental elements on the SFO
- ELEMENTS OF ECCLESIOLOGY AND OF THEOLOGY OF LAITY

Formation

- THE VOCATION, THE CHARISM, THE MISSION of Secular Franciscans
- PROFESSION IN THE SFO
- THE NATURE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
- HISTORY OF THE SFO AND OF ITS RULES
- FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND HIS APPROACH TO DIVINITY
- CONVERSION-PENANCE & FURTHER ELEMENTS ON CONVERSION
- FRATERNITY AND SAINT FRANCIS
- WHAT IS FORMATION ? - & elements of learning
- FRANCISCAN YOUTH
- SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH

NFC Phase 1 -- 2009 & 2010

- NFC tasked to develop/adapt the CIOFS Material for the US
- Core list of essential formation topics - help future writers
- Toward a Ratio for the SFO
- **Promote understanding of Nature of SFO & our identity as SFO**

NFC Phase 2 – 2011

- National Workshop OL of the Snows, Belleville, IL – May 12-15, 2011
- Additional national workshops (NE, SE, SW etc)
- **Regional replication of workshop**
- **Distribute manual at workshop**

NFC Phase 3 – XREF, DVD, YouTube, new annotated Biblio

Toward an SFO Ratio

Suggested **Orientation** (may require some RCIA)

- O-1 CREED from CCC (IN BRIEFS)
- O-2 ECCLESIOLOGY OF THE LAITY (BAPTISM) C
- O-3 THE FRANCISCAN MOVEMENT can continue to Inquiry

Suggested **Inquiry** – assign additional reading (a bio of Francis)

- I-1 What is Formation C
- I-2 FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE C
- I-3 VOCATION & Discernment C
- I-4 CHARISM OF THE FOUNDER / MISSION OF THE ORDER C
- I-5 NATURE OF THE SFO - STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE C
- I-6 INDENTITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
- optional -- Franciscan Movement part 2
- optional -- DISCUSS - BIOGRAPHY OF FRANCIS

Candidacy

- C-1 – 3 RULE of The SFO (3-sessions as movements/relationship)
- **C-4** *JPIC – LIVED RULE*
- **C-5** *CONVERSION – PENANCE [CIOFS]*
- C-6 FRATERNITY AS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ST FRANCIS **C**
- C-7 & 8 PROFESSION (2-sessions – Baptism, consecration, Eucharist) **C**
- C-9 FRANCIS AND DIVINITY (Francis Vision) **C**
- C-10 Francis & Divinity (Franciscan Theology, Spirituality, Tradition)
- C-11 FRANCIS AND THE BLESSED MOTHER
- C-12 ST. CLARE
- C- 13 GC & National Statutes (annotated editions available)
- **C-13** *HISTORY OF THE SFO AND ITS RULE* **C**

- **C-14** *Franciscan Youth/FYYA (awaiting reorganization at NAFRA)* **C**
- **C-15** *Pastoral/Spiritual Assistance (optional module)*
- *FRANCISCAN SAINTS – SFO (current on NAFRA-FORM)*

Guidelines & Core Topics

Guidelines for Initial Formation

Approved October 1985

Ref: pp 25-35, 39

- Orientation
- Determine basic disposition to Franciscan Charism & life in fraternity:
- Content:
 - Overview of life of Francis
 - Branches of Franciscan Family
 - The SFO
 - Phases of Formation & expectations
 - Review Catholic Doctrine

Forming the Formators Core Topics

- **Orientation**
- **Content:**
 - *The Franciscan Movement*
 - *The Franciscan Family [C]*
 - **The Creed [C]**
 - **Ecclesiology of the Laity [C]**

Guidelines & Core Topics

Guidelines for Initial Formation

- Inquiry
- 1st Phase of Initial Formation begins more in-depth process of identifying and discerning vocation
- Content
 - The Church & Vatican 2
 - Lay Spirituality
 - Life of St Francis
 - History of the SFO
 - Structure of the SFO
 - Ritual of the SFO

Core Topics

- **Inquiry – suggest additional study on a bio of St Francis**
- **Content:**
 - **What is formation [C]**
 - **Basic Christian Doctrine [C]**
 - **Vocation & discernment [C]**
 - **Charism of founder & mission in the Church [C]**
 - **Nature of the SFO [C]**
 - **Identity of a Secular Franciscan**
 - ***Franciscan Movement 2***
 - **Discuss insights from a bio of Francis**

Guidelines & Core Topics

Guidelines for Initial Formation

- Candidacy – preparation to embrace vocation and make permanent Profession (consecrated life)
- Content:
 - Pauline Rule & Prologue
 - Sacred Scripture
 - Franciscan Spirituality
 - Trinitarian & Christo-centric
 - Franciscan Apostolic Life
 - Ritual

Core Topics

- **Candidacy**
- **Content:**
 - **Our Rule (x3)**
 - ***JPIC (1or 2) (tbd)***
 - ***Conversion – penitential movement (tbd) [C]***
 - **Francis approach to God [C]**
 - **PROFESSION (1 or 2) [C]**
 - **Franciscan Tradition & Spirituality**
 - **Fraternity [C]**
 - **Francis & Blessed Mother**
 - **St. Clare**
 - ***History of SFO [C]***
 - **GC & Statutes (study guides)**

National Formation Workshop

Forming the Formators

May 12-15, 2011

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Belleville, IL

