

REJOICE!

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Deacon Tom Bello

The National Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order in the
United States of America

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:4-7.







"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" OR "Be the Joyful Face of Christ to All," our prescient 2015 NAFRA Theme, which says much the same thing, these words and joy lie under, around and through everything that follows in this Annual Report, be it good or bad.

The Two Greatest Concerns I pray most about

WE CONTINUE IN 2015 TO SHOW BOTH A
LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE ESSENTIAL
DOCUMENTS AND OF THE FRANCISCAN
CHARISM AND THE LACK OF A SINCERE
LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO LIVING
INTENSELY THE GOSPEL LIFE OF CHRIST
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINTS FRANCIS
AND CLARE.

Three Recommendations

One, More Individual and Fraternal Prayer from our hearts at every Secular Franciscan gathering.

Two, Better Formation, from Initial to Ongoing, in every Fraternity, Local, Regional and National, at every opportunity.

Three, More social sharing and JOY at every Secular Franciscan gathering.

One, More Individual and Fraternal
Prayer from our hearts at every Secular
Franciscan gathering.

ACTION ITEM NUMBER ONE: EVERY SINGLE
FRATERNITY IN EVERY REGION NEEDS
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE.

ACTION ITEM NUMBER TWO: EVERY PROFESSED
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ASKS THE HOLY SPIRIT
FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO BRING MORE
AND BETTER PRAYER INTO ONE'S LIFE AND
THE LIFE OF THE FRATERNITY, AND THEN
FOLLOW THE SPIRIT'S LEAD!

Two, Better Formation, from Initial to Ongoing, in every Fraternity, Local, Regional and National, at every opportunity.

ACTION ITEM NUMBER THREE: EVERY YEAR, WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF THOSE YEARS WHEN WE TRY TO GATHER THE WHOLE FRANCISCAN FAMILY AT A QUINQUENNIAL, THE NATIONAL FORMATION TEAM WILL GATHER ALL THE REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTORS AND, IN THE SAME YEAR, BUT ON A DIFFERENT DATE, THE REGIONAL FORMATION TEAM WILL GATHER ALL THE LOCAL FRATERNITY FORMATION DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS FORMATION.

ACTION ITEM NUMBER FOUR: EVERY CANDIDATE IN EVERY LOCAL FRATERNITY WILL HAVE A MENTOR FROM THAT FRATERNITY, IN ADDITION TO THE FORMATION DIRECTOR, TO JOURNEY WITH THE CANDIDATE.

Other Recommendations for better Formation, perhaps not given the importance of ACTION ITEMS NUMBER THREE AND FOUR, but still valuable, would be:

Every Candidate at the beginning of Candidacy receives or purchases THE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS, and does homework in the Documents between each Candidacy session.

Every Candidate before Profession reads Friar Felice Cangelosi's article on Profession on which Friar Richard Trezza based his article on Profession in the FUN Manual.

Every Candidate will watch Friar Richard Trezza's Presentations on Profession from YouTube. Part One: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZgowg5egpU>. Part Two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JWlcoeiTIY>.

Every Candidate will discuss both articles and both presentations with the Mentor and/or Formation Director and/or other Candidates.

Every Candidate before Profession chooses and completes a service apostolate to the satisfaction of the Mentor or Formation Director.

Three, More social sharing and JOY at every Secular Franciscan gathering

ACTION ITEM NUMBER FIVE: EVERY SECULAR FRANCISCAN GATHERING WILL HAVE TIME AND POSSIBLY REFRESHMENTS FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION BETWEEN AND AMONG SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35).

Four Works in Progress

One: Youth and Young Adults

Two: Vocations

Three: Communication

Four: Outreach

Three: Communication

“The Communications Committee will examine the current avenues of communication that exist in the Secular Franciscan Order of the USA, evaluate how well these avenues are working, and then set goals for improvement and/ or additional means of communication if necessary. These avenues of communication would include: between and within all levels of the Order, both from the higher levels to the individual members AND from the individual members to the governing bodies. (Also,) between the Order and the Church and the world.”

ACTION ITEM NUMBER SIX: PLEASE, CONTINUE OUR ADMITTEDLY “TEMPORARY” NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

Four: Outreach

ACTION ITEM NUMBER SEVEN: EVERY FRATERNITY AT EVERY LEVEL, LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL, WILL ADOPT AND REPORT PROGRESS (LOCAL FRATERNITIES TO THE REGION, REGIONAL FRATERNITIES TO NATIONAL AND THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY TO THE WHOLE NATIONAL FAMILY) ON AT LEAST ONE APOSTOLATE TO THE MARGINS, AS EACH FRATERNITY SO DEFINES THOSE MARGINS.

Possible Apostolates

Apostolates may be to those in our own Franciscan family sick and unable to attend gatherings and to those who have disappeared from our gatherings without any explanation. Apostolates may be to the hungry and homeless, the imprisoned and hospitalized in our local areas. Apostolates may take the form of International outreach to migrants and refugees, the sick and suffering throughout the world.

Perhaps our recipient of the 2015 Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Award, Sister Caritas Barajingitwa, LSOSF, who I pray will join us at our National Chapter, will offer more ideas on possible apostolates for all of us.

The Words and Example of Pope Francis

The dimension of fraternity belongs in an essential way to Gospel witness. In the early Church, Christians lived fraternal communion to the extent of establishing an eloquent and attractive sign of unity and charity. The people were astonished to see Christians so united in love, so willing to give and to forgive one another, in such a fellowship of mercy, of benevolence, of reciprocal aid, unanimous in sharing the joys, sufferings and experiences of life. Your religious family is called to express this concrete fraternity, by restoring mutual trust — and I emphasize this: restoring mutual trust — in interpersonal relationships, so the world may see and believe, recognizing that Jesus' love heals wounds and renders all as one. Pope Francis to ***THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR*** 26 May 2015





COMMUNICATION

OUTREACH/JPIC

VOCATIONS

NAFRA
PRIORITIES
2012-2015



FORMATION

YOUTH

SPIRITUAL
ASSISTANCE