

STATEMENT

of the
Conference of National Spiritual Assistants
Secular Franciscan Order, U.S.A.

to the
NAFRA Executive Council

regarding

PRISONERS AND THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

It is the mind of the CNSA that

1. Prisoners may become members of the Secular Franciscan Order, entering the Order through a fraternity established and existing outside of the incarcerating facility.
2. A fraternity may feel it proper to develop a cell or a satellite of that fraternity at an incarcerating facility in accordance with the SFO General Constitutions.
3. Fraternities in their own right are not to be canonically established in incarcerating facilities.
4. Secular Franciscans are encouraged to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those in prison in whatever way is most effective in the local circumstances. When isolated individuals honestly and sincerely express an affinity to the Way of St. Francis of Assisi, they are first to be encouraged to associate themselves informally with a SFO community or become "Friends of Francis" until such time as they are more free to enter the Order.

September 21, 2000