

June 2009 -- Update on the NFC Standardized Formation Project “Forming the Formators:”

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National Formation Workshop delayed until May 2011
This delay will allow the NFC and the formation project writers adequate time to develop the materials and teaching assistance materials (as well as the participant’s guide), to develop the suggested format and use of the materials to be presented to the Regions, in order to assist their respective local formation directors, and to allow adequate time for the Regions to budget for 1 or 2 formators to attend the National Formation Workshop.

We do believe that this slight delay will allow us to assemble a more complete training experience for our formation directors and to provide all our regions with CIOFS recommended materials to supplement the materials already in use. Our goal is to make available the formation materials deemed essential by our CIOFS Presidency. This delay will, I think, allow us to provide the experience and guidance that has been asked of all nations by our Minister General and her International Council.

Ultimately, the Regional Fraternity (Regional Exec. Council & Local Fraternity Ministers) will decide how to use all or portions of this material to supplement or re-define formation within their regions and fraternities.

Lastly, please allow me to respond to some comments and questions we have received about what the new Formation is and what it is not:

1. This project at the request of CIOFS is being developed primarily to train the formation directors of the SFO. To that end, we are putting together a comprehensive program for use in developing more formation expertise at all levels of our Order. Our goal is to provide the formators with the most user-friendly and complete materials we can, to facilitate those topics of understanding that CIOFS feels necessary in the formation of Secular Franciscans.

2. While we will provide a sample formation program and a suggested schedule for implementation, the educational materials and programs are not “mandated” nor are they the only acceptable materials allowed in initial formation. These materials can be used in full or part as it best supports your own formation plans. We feel this formation plan can be a valuable resource for all.
3. We are, at all levels, open to the workings of the Holy Spirit and the actual topics selected for use in initial formation are ultimately based on the needs and desires of both the Regional and local fraternity councils.

As always, please send me your comments:
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Pace Fitz