



## 2008...WHAT AN ADVENTURE!!!

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It's a New Year!!! Or is it really??? We make resolutions; we promise ourselves and others that we will use the energy of a new year to change, to renew or to set out on a new adventure. So many choices in life, so many things to do and prioritize, do we really get anything truly accomplished?

I have learned throughout the years that the best way to begin anything new or different is slowly...slow but steady! Not giving up if immediate progress is not seen or felt.

This year the Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Commission *INVITES* you to a change, let's call it an adventure. It's an adventure to discover, or in some cases, to rediscover the meaning, the excitement and the boldness of our youth.

In the past several years the Commission has seen our focus shift from trying to begin to form Franciscan Youth Fraternities to ministering and journeying with the youth around us, and ultimately trying to find a way to accomplish both.

Our web site in 2008 will have a step-by-step journey to begin a Franciscan Youth Fraternity, along with ideas and opportunities to engage with youth throughout the year.

We *CHALLENGE* you, your fraternities and your Regions to choose any number of ways to share your Franciscan "Way of Life" with the youth in your lives!

We, as an Order and as a Community of Believers, need to stop the excuses and begin to share, teach and experience our Franciscan charism with the present generation of Catholic Youth, those yet to come into their own faith, as well as all youth. As a good SFO sister has taught me about the story of Christ walking on water...we need to be like Peter and "get out of the boat" and believe!

Your *RESOLUTION* is to choose one (or more) of the ideas listed below (or better yet...one of your own ideas!) to be accomplished in 2008, and give us feedback to post on the web site.

Experience our youth/young adults in a whole new way this year! Learn from them as they learn from us, journey along side them, and revel in their enthusiasm, spirituality and love of Christ! You may just be surprised and come back for more!!!

### ...share your Franciscan "Way of Life" with the youth in your lives!

- Participate in the FYYA 2008 Lenten H2O Project. Enlist your parish's youth group or confirmands.
- Donate, yourself or as a fraternity, to the FYYA Scholarship Fund.
- Help organize, or participate in, a fund-raiser for local youth to go to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in July.
- Participate in your parish's youth events (liturgies/car washes/bake sales/etc.) wearing your TAU cross.
- Go on a Youth Mission trip.
- Attend a Youth Leadership Class.
- Start an "Adopt a Grandparent Program" with the Confirmation Class.
- Have your fraternity purchase a Bible for all graduating seniors.
- Don't just make Rosaries for the youth, but deliver them while wearing your TAU.
- Start, or lead youth in a "Blessing of the Animals" locally for all faiths.
- Share the story behind the Crèche.
- Gather local youth who you think may be interested in Francis and talk to them about meeting regularly.
- Be a Fraternal Animator to a Franciscan Youth Group.
- Have your fraternity sponsor a Franciscan Youth Fraternity.
- Pray for Franciscan Youth USA unceasingly!