



**NATIONAL FRANCISCAN YOUTH  
YOUNG/ADULT COUNCIL**  
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## **WHY?**

During the annual National Fraternity meeting in October 2009, the SFO declared the year of 2010 as **CELEBRATE YOUTH!** CIOFS announced the #3 priority of the SFO as the Franciscan Youth.

Why? Why not celebrate the genders, or aging, or our diversity? Why zero in on an age-group and a mentality that most of us, as SFO, are well beyond--- and NEVER want to repeat?

Let's go back to the basics.

Starting with our SFO Rule, let's look at Article #24:

“To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups, *especially youth groups*. It should adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity. This communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them.”

Why *especially*? These words were added during the final revision of the 1978 Pauline Rule. The word *especially* means preeminently; more than ordinarily! Maybe the revisionists of the Rule not only understood the great gift of charism we have as Franciscans, but knew how open and exciting it would be to engage and share this with the next generation.

The 2000 SFO General Constitution devotes Title VII, the Articles, #96 and #97 to the Franciscan Youth. Article #96.1 states:

“The SFO, *by virtue of its very vocation*, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to Saint Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them.”

## **THAT'S WHY!**

The Franciscan Youth have their own Formation Program, A Way of Life, and in the USA, we have the National Statutes approved in 2008.

You have been given the Rule, the documents and the tools. You have access to all the information on the web site and a FYYA Council to assist you...

## **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

## **GO OUT and...**



### **Prayer and Aid for Haiti**

**Please continue to pray for Haiti and the victims of the Earthquake.**

On Jan. 19, 2010 a check for \$1,000.00 from our Donor Fund was sent to Catholic Relief Service for the Haiti disaster. And on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, another check for \$3,390.00 to CRS from the donations that was received in the last week. Thank you for your generosity for the Haiti Disaster.

Donations for the Haiti Disaster may be sent to Dennis Ross, SFO, National Treasurer. Make checks payable to NAFRA and write **For Haiti Relief** on the comment line.

**MAIL CHECK to:**  
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