



THE JOYS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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It was a remarkable
Spring this year for the
National Formation Commission.

Many emails, conference calls and
late nights at the computer were the
Prelude to the *Forming the Formators*
workshop May 12–15 at Our Lady of
Snows National Shrine,
Belleville, Illinois.

I had the great privilege of registering guests for the workshop; 130 attendees from every Regional Fraternity but two. Registration began at the NAFRA Chapter in October 2010 and continued through the months until May, the last registrant actually coming in as a walk-in on May 13.

National Minister Deacon Tom Bello commented that it was the largest gathering of Seculars other than of a Quinquennial, and he was proud and pleased to be a part of the event. Along with Regional Formation Directors, Regional Ministers, Regional Spiritual Assistants and local formation team members, several friars also gathered & encouraged the Seculars in this endeavor.

The day before the attendees arrived, the Formation Commission members gathered to prepare to welcome our guests and to polish presentations. There was great encouragement shown by Commission members for Commission members, and there was laughter, anticipating the FUN. All members agree that while we each played a part, along with the various authors of chapters of the FUN manual, Commission Chair Bob Fitzsimmons worked the hardest to bring this vision into the reality it is today.

Formatting the FUN manual was his life for months, and we are sure his wife, Patty is especially glad that this challenge has been met, embraced and completed. She has her husband back!

I never gave it a thought when we were handing out tasks. Yes, I would do the registration for the workshop and handle the room assignments. We each did our part, and this was mine.

But I was taken aback at the number of people, upon registration, who were so very grateful for the work done to make this event a success. I was even given little gifts by some!

What joyful and generous Franciscans! The evaluations, too, at the end of the workshop on Sunday morning, expressed much gratitude for the *servant leadership* of the National Formation Commission.

As we read through them we were so happy to have made a difference in their lives and to have shared a small part of the great task that lies ahead for all of us...forming the formators in each of our Regional and local fraternities!

For my part, I will spend the next year remembering in prayer whoever is doing the registration for the Quinquennial!

May they experience the (perfect) joy that I did in meeting and greeting each workshop participant and in the months prior to the event, in ironing out difficulties, answering questions, and simply sharing the love.

“Let up begin, for up to now we have done nothing.”

For Up to Now = FUN.

Let the games begin!

