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A NEW BEGINNING - - - A RIGHTFUL PLACE

*“...unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,
it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”
John 12:24*

As Secular Franciscans, we understand the need for change, progression and metanoia. Sometimes these processes are painful, but more often than not, we are blessed with new and exciting things that were always meant to be! Such is the way of the FYYA Commission. By a unanimous vote of the National Fraternity, the FYYA Commission has been dissolved and a FYYA Council has been established at the national level.

This two-year interim FYYA Council will lay the groundwork for the 2010 election of a National Franciscan Youth (YouFra) President and Council.

According to the SFO GC, Title VII FRANCISCAN YOUTH, Article 96 and 97:

- ▶ “The SFO fraternities will promote the vocation to the Franciscan Youth by means of appropriate and dynamic initiatives.” GC 97.1
- ▶ “The Franciscan Youth has a specific organization, methods of formation, and teaching methods adequate for the needs of the world of youth, according to the exiting realities in the various countries.” GC 96.5

How do we arrive there? What now?

National Youth/Young Adult Council

- ▶ June 2009 – Franciscan Youth (YouFra) Assembly in San Antonio, TX.
 - Present 2008 FYYA Statutes
 - Study YouFra vocational journey
 - Study YouFra Formation
 - Fundamentals/rules of elections
- ▶ 2010 – National YouFra election

Emphasis is placed on a 2 year-2 fold plan:

- ▶ **Ministry for and with the youth for their Franciscan journey, together with a second ministry to the SFO.**

A National Franciscan Youth (YouFra) President

- ▶ A president elected according to the SFO GC and USA~SFO FYYA Statutes
- ▶ Elected by Regional FYYA Presidents
- ▶ Forms a part of the SFO council at the National level and has a vote on that council if professed in the SFO
- ▶ Accompanied/Aided by an elected Youth Council, an SFO Fraternal Animator, and a Spiritual Assistant.

National Franciscan Youth (YouFra) President and Council responsibilities:

- ▶ Maintain records of FYYA groups/activities
- ▶ www.franciscanyouthusa.com
- ▶ Hold FYYA Assembly every 2 years
- ▶ Represent FYYA~USA within SFO~USA/CIOFS
- ▶ Annual Lenten H2O Project

Emphasis is placed on:

- ▶ **YouFra, supported by the SFO**

Note the change in Emphasis!

- ↓ 1994-2008 -Ministry to the USA~SFO by ministering to youth and young adults.
- ↓ 2008-2010 -Ministry for/with the youth for the youth's Franciscan journey encompassing a 2nd ministry to the SFO.
- ↓ After 2010 -Centered solely on YouFra fraternities, with support by the SFO.

The next important STEPS for the SFO:

- ▶ Keep your Regional and Local FYYA Chairs. If none, recruit one to network!
- ▶ Support FYYA with information (books, web access) and action (apostolates).
- ▶ Regions with YouFra groups need to support them with materials and opportunities to attend YouFra events; provide a Fraternal Animator and a Spiritual Assistant; and require a YouFra representative on the respective SFO Councils, according to the SFO GC.