

SFO FORMATION RESOURCES AND TEXTS¹

BELOW IS AN ESSENTIAL (BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE) LIST OF FORMATION RESOURCES:
(THE IMPORTANCE OF USE OF SACRED SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE OVERSTATED)

- T* *The RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER STATES* (AVAILABLE FROM NAFRA WEBSITE - www.nafra-sfo.org; OR BARBO-CARLSON - bevbarbo@informatics.net)
- T* *GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL FORMATION IN THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES* (AVAILABLE FROM BARBO-CARLSON)
- T* *ELEMENTS OF FORMATION: A REFLECTION ON THE FORMATION PROCESS STATES* (AVAILABLE FROM BARBO-CARLSON)
- T* GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS (AVAILABLE ON NAFRA WEBSITE)
- T* NATIONAL STATUTES (AVAILABLE ON NAFRA WEBSITE)
- T* INTERNATIONAL STATUTES (AVAILABLE ON CIOFS WEBSITE, www.ciofs.org)
- T* SFO RITUAL (AVAILABLE FROM ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER PRESS)
(ALSO AVAILABLE IN ORIGINAL FORM ON THE CIOFS WEBSITE)
- T* *HANDBOOK FOR SECULAR FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP* (AVAILABLE FROM BARBO-CARLSON)
- T* INITIAL FORMATION AND ONGOING FORMATION TEXTS
(SEE CHECKLIST FOR SECULAR FRANCISCAN FORMATION RESOURCES)
- T* *FRANCIS OF ASSISI: EARLY DOCUMENTS: THE SAINT, THE FOUNDER, THE PROPHET,* (www.newcitypress.com)
- T* *THE DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN II* (www.Amazon.com, OR ANY MAJOR BOOKSTORE)
- T* *CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,* (www.Amazon.com, OR ANY MAJOR BOOKSTORE)

¹ Fall 2004, the 1999 Handbook of Formation Resources will be available on the Formation Webpage.

CHECKLIST FOR SECULAR FRANCISCAN FORMATION RESOURCES

When a Formation Director or Formation Team needs to determine the extent to which a particular text is a good resource to use for Secular Franciscan formation, put it to the following test.

_____ Check for YES

_____ Does the resource evidence explicit and consistent reference to the Second Vatican Council, the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the 1985 Ritual of the SFO, and the General Constitutions of the SFO?

_____ Does the resource convey a clear statement of the nature of the Secular Franciscan vocation with emphasis on the permanent and secular aspects of this vocation?

_____ Does the resource emphasize that our formation is never-ending process and that initial formation is simply the beginning of a Secular Franciscan's lifetime journey to God by following the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi?

_____ Does the resource contain references to the following essential elements of each formation session: (1) The Gospel; (2) The SFO Rule; (3) Franciscan writings; (4) Church documents, especially Vatican II and subsequent documents on the role of the laity in the Church?

_____ Does the resource provide opportunities to apply insights and knowledge acquired through the formation process so that, in truth, the lives of those in formation are transformed?

_____ Does the resource contain clear examples of Secular Franciscan spirituality and apostolic involvement, especially with regard to the work of the apostolic commissions?

_____ Does the resource emphasize that our vocation commits us to a life of living the Gospel in fraternity, to a communal way of life rather than a life of private piety lived in isolation from other Secular Franciscans?

_____ Does the resource accentuate that in our daily lives, we live the essence of the Gospel by following Francis and Clare of Assisi (1) through a process of ongoing conversion; (2) in community; (3) as secular people; and (4) in life-giving union with all Franciscans?

_____ Does the resource, if used for initial formation, fully explain the Rites and Ceremonies experienced during initial formation and does it emphasize the significance of these Rites and Ceremonies in the continuing journey of formation?

_____ If you have checked "yes" for six or more questions, the resource can be considered good to excellent. If you have checked "yes" for less than six questions, in all likelihood the resource is not appropriate for primary use.