

National Executive Council News

National Fraternity Elective Chapter

The Call to Servant Leadership

The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will gather for an Elective Chapter October 13-18, 2015, in Clinton, New Jersey. This Chapter will be hosted by the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity. In the Franciscan tradition, Chapters are of extreme importance. These gatherings in the name of the Lord constitute true celebrations of life in fraternity, animated by the Holy Spirit.

General Minister Architect, Singing Friar Preside at NAFRA Chapter of Elections



General Minister Tibor Kauser, OFS, will conduct the National Chapter of Elections during the week of October 13. Joining him as pastoral witness will be General Spiritual Assistant Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano, TOR.

Tibor is an architect by profession. As architects do, he creates a vision of a structure and then designs it according to the needs of the occupants. As the new general minister (elected last November), he envisions an order of Secular Franciscans who are united in fraternities and living and breathing the Franciscan charism. During the last General

Chapter, he and fellow Presidency Councilor Benedetto Lino spearheaded a project to get councilors from around the world to reach out to brothers and sisters and to hear their concerns about the needs of the order and how to initiate appropriate changes. Tibor was professed in 1991. He and his wife Agnes joined the order together in 1989 – the same year they were married. They have three children, Jakab, Anna and Balint. He established his own architectural studio in 1999.



Father. Amando realized his Franciscan calling in 1981 during his second year of college, when he joined the Third Order Regular. He took solemn vows in Mexico in 1987. He studied philosophy, theology and music education. (You'll seldom see him without his guitar performing some of his own songs.) His assignments have taken him to Mexico City, where he served as formation director, and Texas, where he was involved in parish ministry and served as vocations director and initial formation director. At the 2007 TOR General Chapter, he was elected general counselor and later appointed as general spiritual assistant to the OFS-YouFra. In 2013, Fr. Amando was elected vicar general of the TOR. He currently is one of four general spiritual assistants for the OFS.

The International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS) provides guidelines for the celebrations of Chapters noting: "The Chapter is to be always celebrated in an attitude of conversion, since there is a search for greater perfection in life according to the Rule, in fraternity. In the Chapter, all personal interests and ambitions of power must be excluded. Everything must be done according to the example of Jesus Christ, in the spirit of service.

A poster for the NAFRA 2015 Elective Chapter. The poster features a stylized sunburst graphic at the top right. The text reads: "NAFRA 2015", "Be the Joyful Face of Christ to all!", "The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order", "ELECTIVE CHAPTER", "October 13-18, 2015", "Holiday Inn Clinton", "111 West Main Street", "Clinton, New Jersey 08809", "Hotel Front Desk: 1-908-735-5111", "Hotel Fax: 1-908-730-9768", "http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/clinton/connj/hoteldetail", and "Hosted by the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity New York and New Jersey". There is also a small image of a figure with arms raised in a circle.

Therefore, the essential aspects of a Chapter are: (1) the proclamation of the Word of God, which enlightens the themes to be discussed, (2) prayer and (3) the search for what is best for the life of the Fraternity.”

CIOFS adds that an elective chapter, at any level, is celebrated to: (1) reflect together on the situation of the Fraternity, (2) decide what should be done for the life and mission of the Order, (3) invoke the help of the Holy Spirit so that He may purify the hearts, enlighten the minds and make those present docile to His motions at such an important time for the life of the Fraternity and (4) choose and vote for the responsible people to guide and animate the Fraternity.

Prayer and discernment are vital for the good judgement to elect those who demonstrate:

- A true love for and deep sense of belonging to the OFS.
- A marked sense and spirit of service.
- Concrete availability of time, mind and heart for the Fraternity.
- Human, spiritual and character qualities, as well as the experience and preparation needed, to cope with the challenges the Fraternity might face in the given time.

The 2010 revised edition of the *Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership* is a wonderful resource for those called to servant leadership in the Franciscan Order. It outlines three essential characteristics of one who assumes a Franciscan servant leadership role: (1) that the call of commission is initiated by God, (2) that the response or commitment is wholehearted and (3) that the leader has or is open to receiving the vision necessary to serve in a servant leadership capacity. The handbook notes, “*The vitality and growth of fraternal life is usually related to the absence or presence of these characteristics in its leaders.*”

The *Handbook* also includes the following: Prayer for OFS Leadership adapted by Kevin Queally, TOR, and Anne Mulqueen, OFS:

PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

Give us, O God,
leaders whose hearts are large enough
to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek
more than our own enhancement —
though enhancement we hope for —
more than security for our own plans and vision —
though security we need —
more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants —
though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose and follow the leader
who will work with other leaders
to bring Your will to the agenda
and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who lead us to virtue
without seeking to impose
their own version of virtue on others.

Give us leaders who will provide
for the advancement of our Order
without dictating to others to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves
to choose as leaders those who can tell
strength from power,
growth from greed,
leadership from dominance,
and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,
to open our hearts to learn
from those to whom you speak in different tongues
and to respect the life and words
of those to whom you entrusted
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,
give us the vision as Secular Franciscans
to know where holy leadership truly lies,
to pursue it diligently,
to ask it to respect the integrity of every person
in the entire Order.

We ask these things, Great God,
with minds open to your word
and hearts that trust in your eternal care.
Amen

*Adapted and updated September 1, 2012
by Kevin Queally, TOR, and Anne Mulqueen, OFS*