



New Fraternity Register Available

We are happy to announce the arrival of our newly designed Secular Franciscan Fraternity Register, available for purchase beginning May 1, 2014. From its inception in 2011 to its final design and production in early 2014, this little book has had quite a journey!

The idea for a new register began at our October 2011 National Fraternity (NAFRA) Chapter. Regional Minister Jerry Rousseau raised the topic of fraternity registers. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this very important book in the life of a fraternity, the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* states in Article 52.2 that the secretary has the duty “to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity”. A footnote elaborates this point stating, “Each local fraternity is to have at least a register of enrollments (admission, profession, transfers, deaths, and every other important annotation relative to the individual members)”. The fraternity register also includes information regarding the canonical establishment and subsequent visitations of the local fraternity. Visitation reports are appended to the register by way of a note or official stamp in the register which records the visit. (See Art. 93.2 of the Constitution).

During the ensuing discussion at our 2011 NAFRA Chapter it became clear that a variety of registers were in use throughout the country. It also came to light that many fraternities were using outdated or inadequate registers. What became most clear is that fraternities in need of a register had no source for an up-to-date, permanently bound, hardcover fraternity register.

As the discussion concluded, Regional Minister Hans Hueimmer, along with others, requested that the National Executive Council (NEC) look into designing and producing a standardized register and report back to NAFRA. The body agreed by consensus and National Minister Tom Bello accepted this request.

Research began, and in October 2012 the NEC reported on its progress. It was determined that our best option, given the parameters of interest, cost and the relatively small quantity of books needed, would be to ask TAU Publishing in Phoenix, Ariz., to take on this project.

TAU Publishing proved to be a great choice. They set to work on the design and layout, and in October 2013 they presented a sample register to the National Fraternity. This sample register had a unique design allowing “one entry per page” as opposed to a ledger-style register. The members of the National Fraternity were in agreement as to the wonderful quality and suitability of this sample register, but then came the question, “Which style of register do you prefer?” Exactly half of the Regional Ministers preferred a ledger style and the other half preferred the “one per page” style! What to do? We took this dilemma to our friends at TAU Publishing and they offered to produce registers in *both* styles!

In March 2014 the NEC approved the final drafts, and production is now underway. As of May 1, 2014, fraternities will be able to purchase a beautiful up-to-date, hardcover, permanently bound fraternity register *in their choice of styles*. To see a full description of each style and place an order, see the information on the back cover of this issue of the *TAU-USA*, or go to TAU Publishing’s website at <http://www.tau-publishing.com/>.