

National Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order in the
United States of America

National Chapter

October 20-25, 2009

Rio Rancho, New Mexico

PRESENTATION

Greetings

Pace e bene!

Peace and all good!

Paz e bien!

Paix et tout bien!



Greetings

Greetings from General Minister



“Buon Capitolo e tanto cose buone ai mie fratelli e sorelle.”

Leaving for Rio Rancho ...



Greetings

Doug Clorey

Biographical information

- from PEI, Canada
- husband of Marion,
who is also a Secular Franciscan
- four children
- work in the Public Service of Canada
- musician
- professed in 1986 and have served the Order in a
variety of roles
- elected during the recent General
Chapter as Vice-Minister General



Context of National Chapter

Gather as people called to follow Christ in footsteps of St. Francis

Gather as Franciscans have gathered for centuries

- to share our experience of living the Franciscan life, esp during past 3 years
- to assess what has worked well and what needs improvement
- to develop priorities for the next three years
- to elect those whom we wish to lead us in addressing these priorities



Sacred Time

Chapter is a time when the Holy Spirit will move among us and be experienced

A sacred time to be respected through prayer and fraternity

A time to recognize the giftedness of our community and of thanksgiving for those willing to serve

- those who have served during the past three years; and
- those who will accept to serve during the next three years

Chapter will mark another step on our journey together

Prayer for Guidance

Most High and Glorious God,
Bring light to the darkness of my heart.
Give me right faith,
certain hope
and perfect charity,
Most High and Glorious God.

Lord, give me insight
And wisdom
So that I might always discern
Your holy and true will.



Focus of Presentation

- Context in which we live our Secular Franciscan Vocation
- International Fraternity
- Priorities of the International Fraternity

Expectations of the Secular Franciscan Order

“The Church expects from the Secular Franciscan Order, one and only, a great service in the cause of the Kingdom of God in the world today ... the Church expects from you, Secular Franciscans, a courageous and consistent testimony of Christian and Franciscan life, leaning towards the construction of a more fraternal and Gospel world for the realization of the Kingdom of God.”

(Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the 2002 SFO General Chapter)

Living our Secular Franciscan Vocation

- as members of the Franciscan Family
- as members of four fraternities: local, regional, national and international
- challenge of seeing ourselves as belonging to all four fraternities
- during National Chapter, we focus on our belonging to the National Fraternity
- National Fraternity is part of the larger international family

International Fraternity

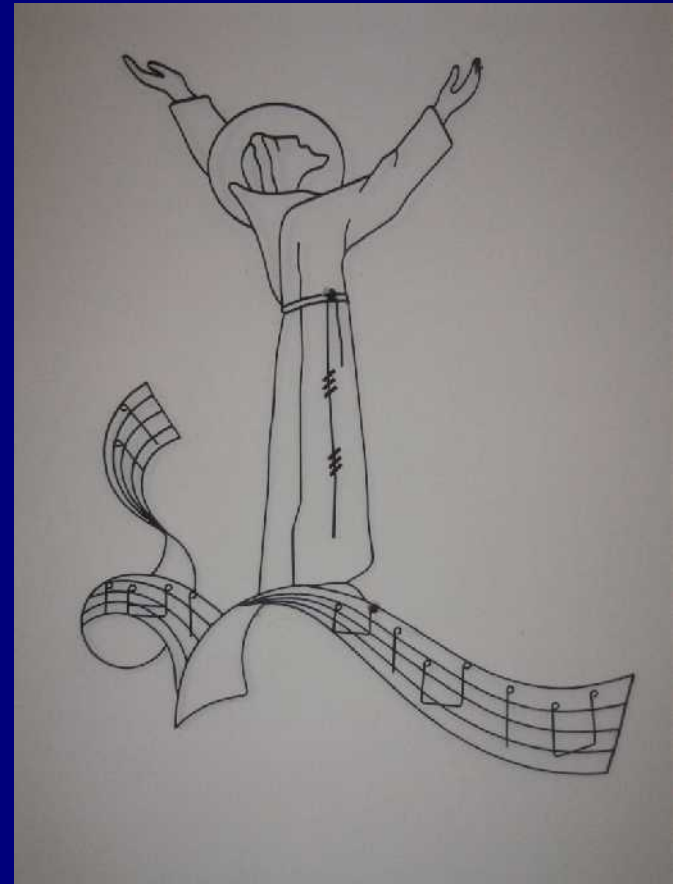
- union of all Catholic Secular Franciscan fraternities in the world (corresponds to the Secular Franciscan Order in its entirety)
- guided by International Council and International Presidency
- International Council consists of:
 - International Councillors elected by National Fraternities + International Presidency
 - meets once every 3 years in General Chapter
- International Presidency:
 - Minister General, Vice-Minister General + 7 Presidency Councillors + YouFra representative + 4 General Assistants

International Fraternity Demographics (cont'd)

- 3/4 are over the age of 50; almost 1/2 are over the age of 65
- more than 1/2 are married; an additional 1/4 were married but are now widowed
- 2/3 are women
- 2/3 live in urban areas
- more than 1/3 are poor
- over 500 Franciscan Youth fraternities, primarily in South America
- 1/2 of spiritual assistants are from the First Order or TOR

Wherever the Spirit Leads Us

Wherever the Spirit leads us,
Wherever we go,
Wherever the journey takes us,
Together we'll go.



2008 General Chapter Budapest, Hungary



2008 General Chapter Budapest, Hungary

- closing of 8th centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- theme: Profession of Secular Franciscans and their Sense of Belonging
- moment of grace and experience of sharing and fraternity
- continued commitment to formation and assumption of our secularity
- elections of leaders, presided by Fr. Marco Tasca, OFM Conv
- fields of action and priorities identified

2008 General Chapter Budapest, Hungary



2008 General Chapter Budapest, Hungary



Priorities of the Secular Franciscan Order

1. Formation
2. Communication
3. Franciscan Youth
4. Presence in the World
5. Emerging Fraternities

1. Formation

- full implementation of Formation Project
- central theme of annual formation to established
- encourage promotion of vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order
- preparation of tools for the formation of spiritual assistants who are not members of the First Order or TOR
- joint formation meetings with Franciscan religious



2. Communication

- improve communications both inside and outside of the Order
- increase role of International Councillors in communications
- “twinning” of fraternities at all levels
- enhance work on CIOFS website
- improved contacts with the local Church
- collaboration with other Franciscan organizations, especially other Third Orders

3. Franciscan Youth (YouFra)

- increased responsibility of the SFO towards YouFra
- distribution of YouFra materials world-wide
- development of tools to select and prepare fraternal animators to YouFra
- better integration of YouFra with SFO especially through inclusion of YouFra in SFO activities
- development of statistics regarding YouFra (where it exists and numbers)



SFO KOREAN NATIONAL ELECTIVE CHAPTER 2009

WELCOME AMANDO & DOUG



4. Presence in the World

- SFO presence in the world by “being” and “doing”
- “enter the city” by witnessing, and promoting justice, peace and care of creation
- Order needs to be present as such, not just through the initiatives of individual members
- presence in social events and in the promotion of human rights
- active participation in Franciscans International



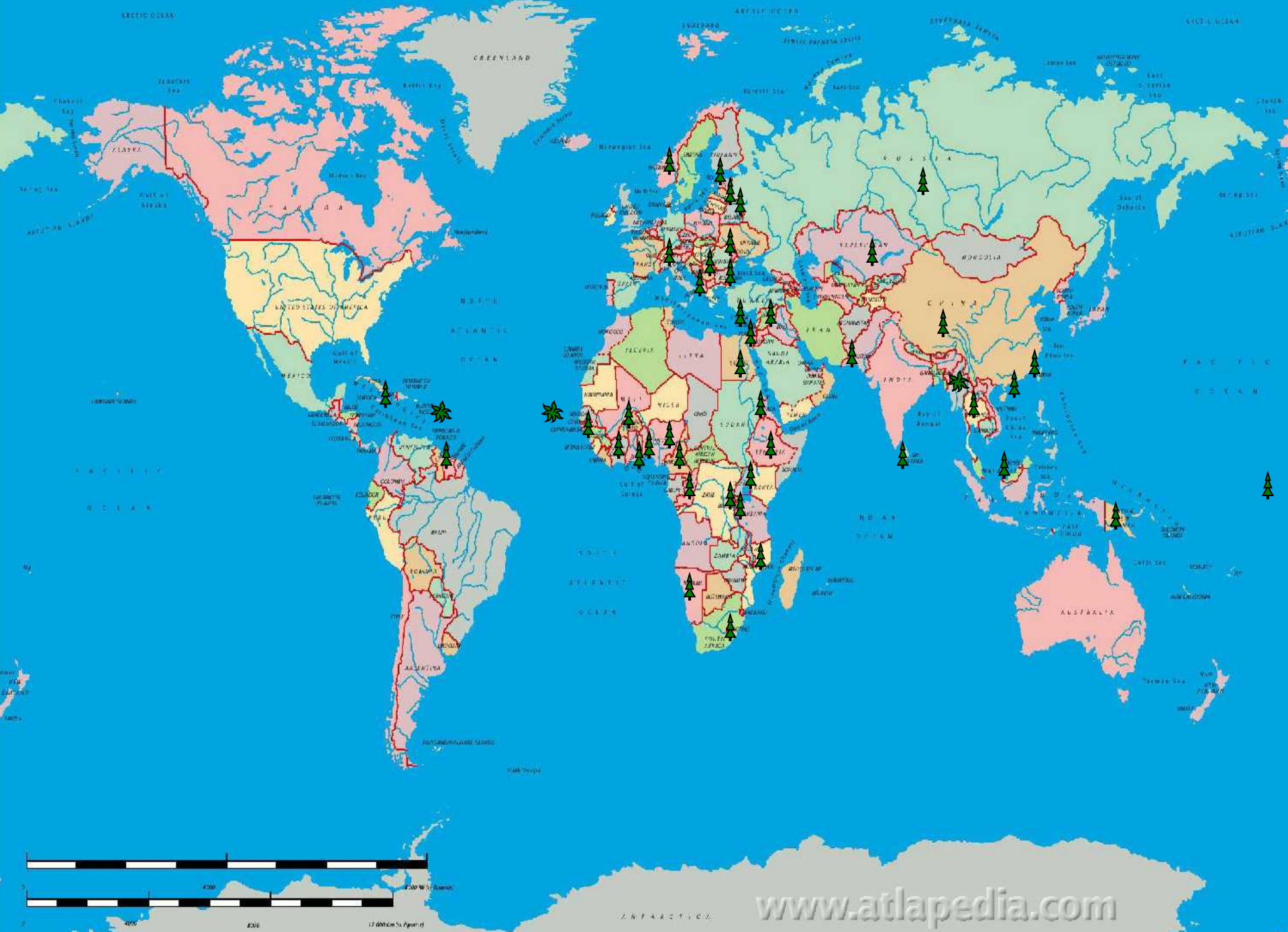
5. Emerging Fraternities

- sign of growth and richness of the Order
- need to be supported with particular care and attention
- Presidency Councillor to be designated
- all emerging national fraternities to be accompanied by established national fraternities
- explore opportunities to raise funds to support emerging national fraternities

Emerging National Fraternities

**Distribution around the
world**





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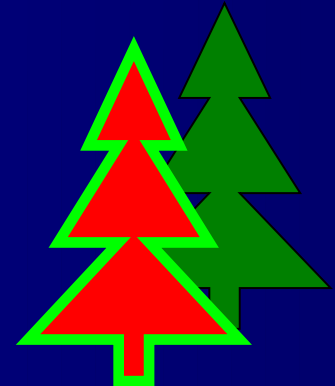
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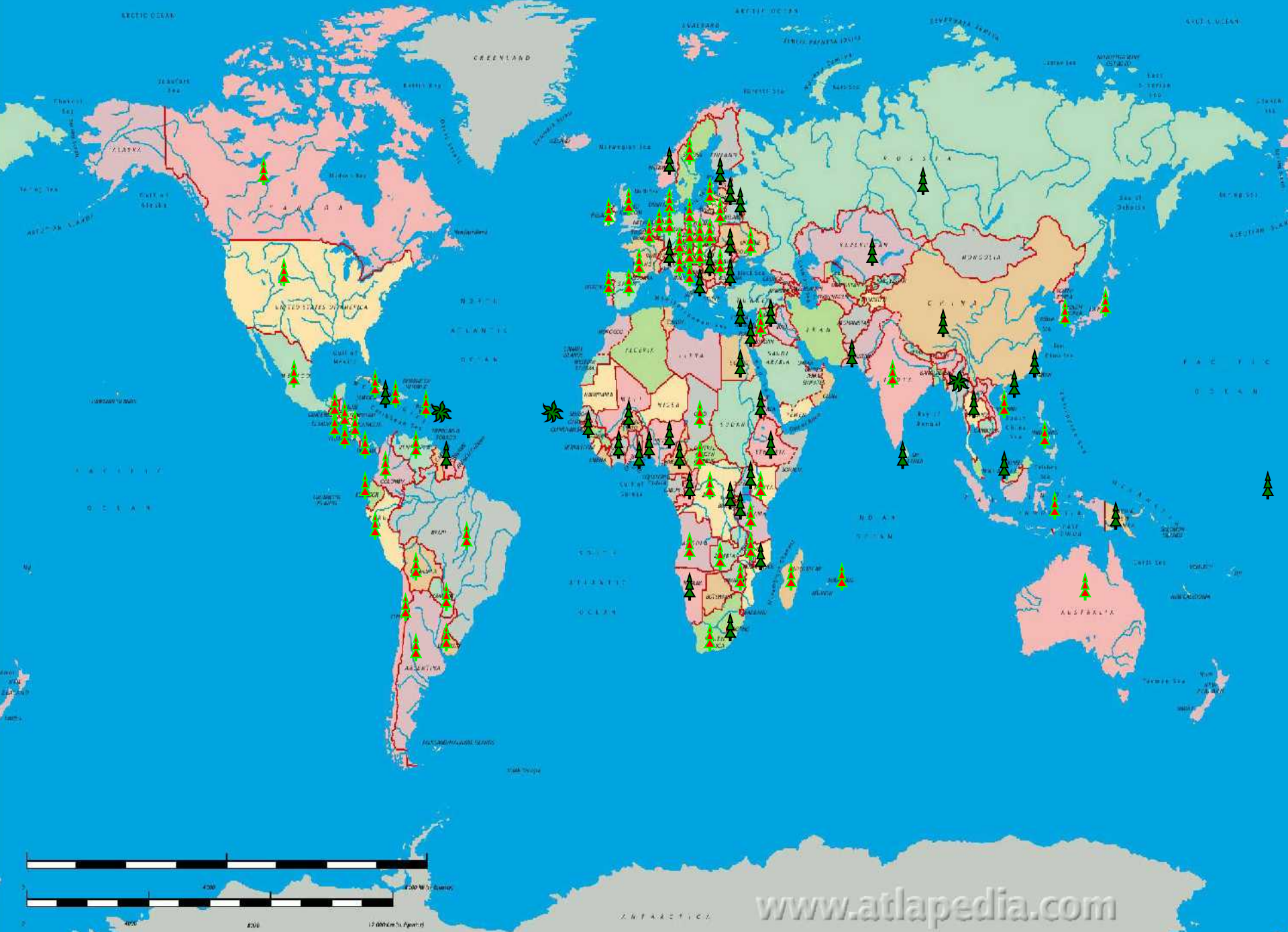
Emerging Secular Franciscan Presence in ANTIQUA



National and Emerging Fraternities

Distribution around the
world





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Priorities of the Secular Franciscan Order

1. Formation
2. Communication
3. Franciscan Youth
4. Presence in the World
5. Emerging Fraternities

Conclusion

- And, so, as we gather as a National Chapter,
- we gather to share our experience of living the Franciscan life, especially during past 3 years,
 - to assess what has worked well and what needs improvement,
 - to develop priorities for the next three years, and
 - to elect those whom we wish to lead us in addressing these priorities.

National priorities must reflect the priorities of the entire Order. Leaders should be chosen based on their skills to implement priorities

Prayer

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will move among us.

Let us pray that this Chapter may be a sacred time during which we experience the presence of God through prayer and fraternity

Let us pray that we will recognize the giftedness of our community and give thanks for the blessing of leaders.

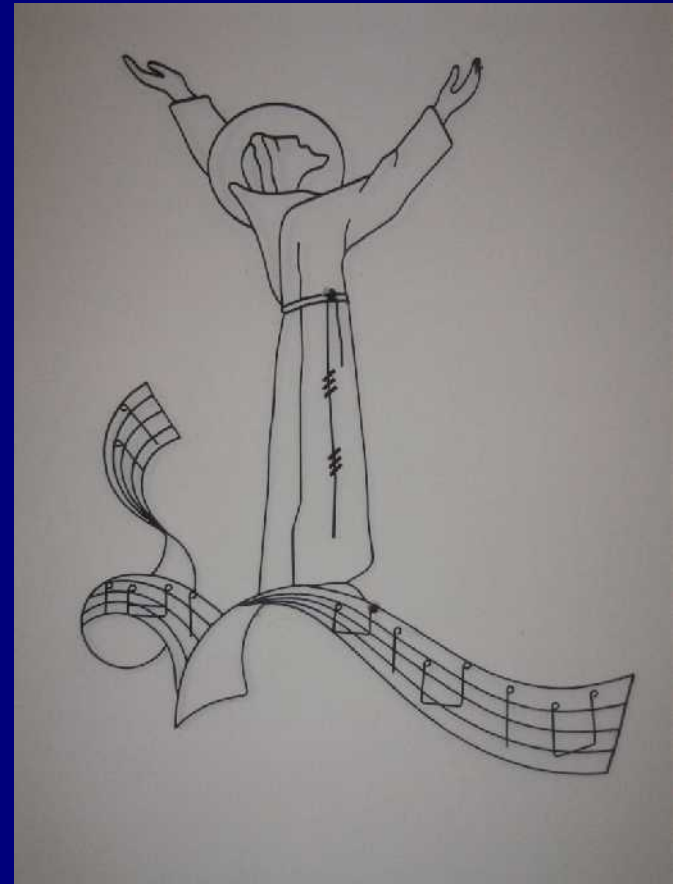
Let us pray that we may all be blessed as we take another step on our journey together

And, may the Lord give us His peace!



Laudato Sii O Mi Signore

Laudato sii O mi signore,
Laudato sii O mi signore,
Laudato sii O mi signore,
Laudato sii O mi signore!



May the Lord
give you peace!

THANK YOU.

