



CIOFS

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**





QUESTION

1. Name the countries of the world where you have travelled.

Why did you go there?

2. Name a country of the world where you would like to go.

Why?

How about visiting our OFS brothers and sisters?



WHERE DO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE?

◆ 66 Established Fraternities (Have you visited any of these countries?)

ANGOLA • ARGENTINA • AUSTRIA • BELGIUM • BOLIVIA • BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA • BRAZIL • CANADA • CHAD • CHILE • COLOMBIA • COSTA RICA • CROATIA • CUBA • DENMARK • ECUADOR • EL SALVADOR • FRANCE • GERMANY • GREAT BRITAIN • GUATEMALA • HONDURAS • HUNGARY • INDIA • INDONESIA • IRELAND • ITALY • JAPAN • KENYA • KOREA • LEBANON • LITHUANIA • MADAGASCAR • MALAWI • MALTA • MAURITIUS ISLANDS • MEXICO • NETHERLANDS • NEW ZEALAND • NICARAGUA • OCEANIA • PANAMA • PARAGUAY • PERU • PHILIPPINES • POLAND • PORTUGAL PUERTO RICO • CZECH • CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO • REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA • ROMANIA • SLOVAKIA • SLOVENIA • SPAIN • SWEDEN • TANZANIA • URUGUAY • USA • VENEZUELA • VIETNAM • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE • UKRAINE



WHERE DO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE?

◆ 46 Emerging Fraternities (Have you visited any of these countries?)

• ALBANIA • BELARUS • BENIN • BULGARIA • BURKINA FASO • BURUNDI • CAMEROON • CHINA • CYPRUS • CONGO • COTE D'IVOIRE • EGYPT • ERITREA • ESTONIA • ETHIOPIA • GUINEA • BISSAU • HAITI • HONG KONG • KAZAKHSTAN • LESOTHO • LATVIA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA • MOLDOVA • MOZAMBIQUE • NAMIBIA • NIGERIA • NORWAY • PAKISTAN • PAPUA • NEW GUINEA • RUSSIA • RWANDA • SERBIA • SYRIA • SRI LANKA • SURINAME • TAHITI • SWITZERLAND • TAIWAN • THAILAND • THE HOLY LAND • TOGO • UGANDA

Going through training or have an interest in starting fraternity:

• ANTIGUA • CAPE VERDE • MYANMAR (formerly BURMA) • GREECE



HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO WE HAVE?

- ◆ We are a large family...around 400,000
- ◆ Our little brothers and sisters – YouFra – count 49,000 from 66 countries and 35 nationally recognized fraternities and 31 emerging fraternities.



TWINNING?



Won't you consider reaching out across the globe to a fraternity and partner with our brothers and sisters. Share, communicate, assist.

WHERE IS CIOFS LOCATED?

CIOFS Presidency

International Secretariat

Segreteria CIOFS

Via Vittorio Putti, 4, Int. 6

00152 Rome, Italia

Tel. 0039 06 45471722 Fax. 0039 06 45473094

E-mail: ciofs@ciofs.org Website: <http://www.ciofs.org>



OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON THE PRESIDENCY...

General Minister

Encarnación del Pozo, Spain



OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON THE PRESIDENCY...

Right: Encarnita. Center: Doug Clorey (Vice General Minister, Canada).
Left: Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano, TOR Italy



OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON THE PRESIDENCY...

Presidency Councilors

- Lucy A. Almirañez, Philippines
- Michèle Altmeyer, France
- Benedetto Lino, Italy
- Maria Aparecida Crepaldi, Brasil
- Tibor Kauser, Hungary
- Maria Consuelo de Núñez (Chelito), Venezuela
- Ewald Kreuzer, Austria



OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON THE PRESIDENCY...

Franciscan Youth Councilor

- Ana Fruk, Croatia

General Spiritual Assistants

- Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano, TOR, Italy
- Fr. José Antonio Cruz Duarte, OFM, Italy
- Fr. Amanuel Mesgun Temelso, OFM Cap, Italy
- Fr. Martín Pablo Bitzer, OFMConv, Italy



PRIORITIES

Will Also be Addressed at Chapter

- **Formation**
 - Theology of the Body, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Louis
 - The Basis for the FUN Manual
- **Communication**
- **Franciscan Youth**
 - 2nd International YouFra Assembly, August 2014



PRIORITIES

- Presence in the world
 - Haiti and Phillipines -- earthquakes and cyclones.
 - Serious violence in Pakistan and the persecution of Christians.
 - Campaigns against persecutions: Support for those suffering violence and war in Syria, Ukraine, Burundi, 25 OFS martyred in Democratic Republic of Congo, Christians martyred in Nigeria, Venezuelan crisis where more almost 25,000 died in 2013
- Emerging fraternities



WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENCY DO?

- Project China
- Project Haiti
- Project Africa
- Fraternal/Pastoral Visitations/National Chapters: 23 average per year
- Outreach to our suffering and lonely fraternities, letters of solidarity, makes requests for support in cases of tragedy
- The Business of the Order ... speaking of ...



Problems at the Top

- Same as problems at national and regional level:

At the last General Chapter in 2011 in Brazil, Encarnita shared her frustration. She was giving her report on the order. When it came to providing the numbers of Secular Franciscans in the world, she said:

“We cannot provide definitive data, because at least half of the established and emerging national fraternities refuse to answer a most simple survey... (There is) apathy or indifference to perform requests whether they are national councils or emerging fraternities.”



GENERAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

- Starts November 1 in Assisi
- Five from the United States
 - Two from the United States are on the Presidency ballot and are going:
 - Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister (observer)
 - Mary Stronach, OFS, International Councilor
 - Also going as observers:
 - Jan Parker, Secretary; Mary Frances Charsky, Councilor; Bob Stronach, PR Co-Chair



Central Theme of the Chapter

*How to Manage
an International Order
like the OFS...*



DISCUSSION # 1

Historical reasons that have not allowed us to manage, guide and animate the Order in the most effective and productive way.



DISCUSSION # 2

Major problems encountered since the Rule of 1978 approved by Pope Paul VI, in order to implement faithfully the letter and the spirit of the Rule and General Constitutions.



DISCUSSION # 3

The behaviors and widespread misconceptions that hinder the development of a truly fraternal life in the Franciscan spirit.



DISCUSSION #4

Suggestions for national fraternities on how to faithfully apply the spirit of the Rule and General Constitutions.



Comments for CIOFS

- Disconnect between those embracing the Pauline Rule and those who still want to live the Leonine Rule
- Pray the Rule to get it more deeply into our hearts
- Lack of connection among fraternities, even within the same region – sometimes outsiders not welcome
- “Not a single person who is properly formed” – motivation for ongoing formation
- Until a person has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, everything else is of little use