New NAFRA Website to Go Live in Spring

By Mary Stronach, OFS International Councilor

Renew. Refresh. Restore. Three words that will define the new website for the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States. Thanks to the efforts of NAFRA's new webmaster, Lee Potts, OFS, the new website is well on the way to restoring all the assets of our old website and providing a fresh, new look with updated features.

The new NAFRA website will be going live on April 30. Among its features are a calendar for national and significant regional events. The calendar will also include Secular Franciscan dates and feasts. Once finalized, the calendar will allow members to register for events.

A blog will offer regular articles, both from the TAU and from our national council – to update and inform on the most pressing and important topics. Imagine, regular communication – not just with our ministers but with the whole order in the United States and with the general public – anyone who loves Francis!

There will be sections dedicated to Formation, Franciscan Youth, and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. For those who are hungry for more Franciscanism, there will be links to International, National and Regional sites.

Once the site goes live, we anticipate a feature that would allow people to find local fraternities, provide contact information and meeting dates, and pinpoint locations with the help of Google maps.

For our members of the family who struggle with the English language, a Google translation feature will translate pages of the website as needed. A word of warning here, while Google translate has advanced dramatically over the past few years, it is far from perfect in translating everything accurately and completely. It does, however, provide an overview of a page, which will assist our non-English speakers.

Web visitors will be able to contact any one of the members of the National Executive Council, link to Social Media, including YouTube, and access FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

Of course, the new website will also host documents for formation, the Rule, the Constitutions, the *FUN Manual*, documents for visitations and elections, past and present copies of *TAU-USA* to download, the Vocations Toolkit, and much more.

Webmaster Lee, who has experience designing websites both for the Order and professionally, says that every website is "always a work in progress. However, as we find new features or wish to add more information, the publishing system we will now be using makes updating very simple and easy."

Visit often starting in May, check the following website, http://secularfranciscansusa.org because, soon, it will be live, and we'll be "improving, adding, changing and modifying as we go!" Let us know what you think.