

Sharing The Vision

News from the National Executive Council

by Jan Parker and Mary Bittner

Jubilee Year Begins June 6, 2018

40th Anniversary of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Minister General Tibor Kauser has announced the celebration of a Jubilee Year from June 6, 2018, to June 6, 2019, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the current OFS Rule. Pope Paul VI approved this Rule on June 24, 1978, with the apostolic letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha*. All fraternities are invited to suggest to the NEC ways in which this Jubilee year might be celebrated. Our National Fraternity Council has already put our 2018 theme into place:

“Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure! Celebrating 40 Years of our OFS Rule”

Results of the General Chapter

Early in 2014, the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS) asked all National Fraternities to consider “How should an Order like the OFS be managed at all its levels?” As part of a process of reflection, and in preparation for the General Chapter, we studied the various proposals CIOFS set forth in the *Instrumentum Laboris* in spring of 2017, and we submitted our responses.

We are excited to report that this great undertaking has borne fruit. At the XV General Chapter, our international leadership approved specific projects for each of the eight areas of priority – Formation, Fraternal Life, Building a More Fraternal and Evangelical World (JPIC), Leadership, Communications, Finance, Spiritual Assistance and Youth. Each project has specific goals and a timeframe. Budgets will soon be developed. The impact of these projects will be significant.

Each of these projects is described in detail in the Conclusive Documents of the General Chapter. These documents, along with the Minister General’s accompanying letter and the CIOFS Report on the State of the Order, are posted on our NAFRA website. We strongly encourage you to review them. As Tibor states in his letter, “These documents are the ones that the International Fraternity intends to use as a basis of our work during the next three years. *Therefore, it is very important that each and every sister and brother... has the opportunity to study them. Also, I invite all the councils on each level to study and work on these documents, so that the intentions and decisions of the General Chapter can be implemented.*” (Emphasis added.)

The NEC agrees that these innovative projects will help strengthen and renew life in the fraternities on the various levels. Moreover, they will help our Order meet the expectations of our Church, to “be a great service in the cause of the Kingdom of God in our world today... a model of organic, structural and charismatic union.”

Formation Visioning Workshop

In light of the new directives from the General Chapter, most particularly those concerning Formation, we have planned a special Formation Visioning Workshop to be held Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2018, in Kansas City, Kansas. Regional Formation Directors, Regional Spiritual Assistants, and a number of OFS members passionate about formation will come together with the National Formation Commission and members of the NEC to discern the direction our national formation will take in the coming years. Those interested in attending may contact Jane DeRose-Bamman for an application.

New OFS-USA Website Launch

Our new OFS-USA website will be launched by April 30. We are excited about the direction we are taking with the new website, which allows greater interactivity with our visitors. We ask for your suggestions and feedback as we go forward in establishing our presence on the web. (For more information, see the article in this issue of the TAU on page 19.)

New Documents on Website

New documents pertaining to Regional Elections and Visitations have been uploaded to our nafra-sfo.org website. These documents can be adapted for use by local fraternities. Our website also provides a link to the reports and resources from our 2017 NAFRA Chapter, including the OFS-USA State of the Order and some useful PowerPoint presentations.

National Database Assistance

Please note that our National Database Administrator, Cyl Maljan-Herbelin, is happy to assist you with questions about the database. You can contact her at cylmaljan@earthlink.net.

OFS-USA Logo



Our new OFS-USA logo (pictured) can now be downloaded from our website. Local and Regional fraternities are invited to use this logo widely, helping us create a “brand” for the OFS-USA. It is suggested that any lettering used in conjunction with the logo be in **Palatino Linotype** font, as featured on our new website.



Earthquake Relief - Mexico

Generosity for Our Family in Need

In response to the recent hurricanes and earthquakes, the National Executive Council put out a call asking for donations to assist our OFS brothers and sisters in the impacted areas. As of the end of February 2018, over 100 OFS members responded (individuals, local fraternities, Regional fraternities, NAFRA) donating nearly \$34,000 in relief.



Hurricane Relief - Puerto Rico

Donations were distributed to our family in St. Joan of Arc Region, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, the Puerto Rico National Fraternity, Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity in the Virgin Islands, and Catholic Relief Services for Mexico Earthquake relief. Thank you for responding to the call for help!



Hurricane Relief - Virgin Islands