



# CIOFS Presidency at work

This page appeared in the CIOFS publication, *VOX Franciscana*, and is available at the following link: <https://ciofs.info/news/vox-franciscana/winter-spring-2023/>

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP



Tuesday's meeting began with Minister General Tibor Kauser giving a formation talk on servant leadership.

Leadership is tied to community; that is, a leader needs a team to move ahead with a project or strive for a goal. So, he said, a leader helps form and protect community, and helps members grow in their OFS vocation.

When looking at traits of leaders, one should recognize that leaders are not uniform. "Look at Moses, Jesus, St. Peter, St. Francis, St. Bonaventure..."

But some characteristics should be common to OFS leaders:

- Help form and strengthen the fraternity – it's the OFS home.
- Encourage and maintain communication, which brings people closer.
- Encourage collaboration, with mem-

bers using their charisms and talents.

- Serve the growth of everyone.
- Do not be afraid of new approaches.
- Be prayerful (be ready to be with the Holy Spirit).
- Live a sacramental and penitential life.
- Embody a spirit of service ("washing the feet of others").
- Maintain an overview; have vision.
- Be able to organize; and be ready to speak.
- Always be open to dialogue, and able to evaluate a situation.
  - What would Jesus do?
  - Listen. Consult. Discern. Decide.
  - Collective decisions are collegial when everyone respects one another.
- Love your brothers and sisters. (Mutual respect essential for servant leadership.)
- Be Franciscan.

## MINISTRY OF SERVICE



Being a Secular Franciscan means being engaged in a ministry of service, Noemi Paola Riccardi reminded fellow members of the CIOFS Presidency in a Monday morning session.

"St Peter tells us what to do and how to do it: 'Let each one place the gift he has received at the service of others...' and '... whosoever does a service, let him do it with the strength that is given to him by God...'"

She went on to point out that in the OFS the function of "animation and guidance" is a collegial one. "Guidance and animation are entrusted to a set of elected persons, called to exercise co-responsibility and co-participation. We know well that with Profession we are all 'animators' or, at least, called to 'animate' the Fraternity, making available the talents/gifts God has

given us."

She noted some key traits of service, among them:

- Personal presence (a fundamental requirement).
- Witness of life (living evangelical life).
- Prayer (it is the fuel for serving).
- Collaboration (taking active interest in all service areas).
- Graciousness ("Pope Francis emphasised that, like Jesus, we must serve without asking for anything and reiterated that we must not take control of service 'by turning it into a power structure.'")

Noemi identified another important element of service – listening. Listen before acting or making decisions. She suggested following the advice of a Greek philosopher: "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak."

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

*Do You Have the Gifts and Talents Necessary to Serve the Order?*

or

*Have you observed these gifts and talents  
in one of your brother or sister Secular Franciscans?*

## **WE ARE SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR:**

National Formation Commission Chair

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Commission Chair

Youth/Young Adult Commission Chair

Tau-USA Editor

Our OFS USA Family is seeking applicants for the above positions. Please discern whether your God-given gifts and talents will fill this need.

Please contact National Secretary, Susan Ronan, OFS, at [ofsusasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ofsusasecretary@gmail.com), AND National Vice Minister, Diane Menditto, OFS, at [diane.menditto@gmail.com](mailto:diane.menditto@gmail.com), for an application form prior to May 22, 2023.

**Applications will be due by June 9, 2023.** (Extended deadline)

The qualities required for these positions include:

- Strong knowledge of our Catholic Faith
- Good writing and communication skills
- Ability to travel, as needed, including attendance at the annual National Chapter
- Experience conducting "Zoom-style" and "In-Person" meetings
- Ability to prepare and meet an annual budget
- Experience and skills relating to the particular position (e.g., leading a formation program or serving as a local or regional formation director; participating in programs to further justice, peace, or integrity of creation (JPIC) or serving as local or regional JPIC chair; participating in Youth/Young Adult activities to share the love of the Franciscan Order with the youth; producing a newsletter for fraternities, other volunteer work including use of specific software programs for newsletters).

Application forms for individual positions will be emailed to interested persons. The NEC will review all applications and determine whether virtual interviews will be conducted. The appointments will be made by August, 2023.

For additional information, contact

Susan Ronan, OFS, at [ofsusasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ofsusasecretary@gmail.com)

and Diane Menditto, OFS, at [diane.menditto@gmail.com](mailto:diane.menditto@gmail.com)