

NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF SECULAR FRANCISCANS OF CANADA
NATIONAL FORMATION COMMISSION
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Preamble:

The work of formation within the Secular Franciscan Order has been identified as a key component in supporting the orientation and development of new members coming into the OFS, through a comprehensive formation program. To promote the living out of the vocation as Secular Franciscans, ongoing formation is essential for continued transformation to the fullness of Christ, individually and corporately, within all levels of the OFS in Canada.

The landscape of fraternities across Canada demonstrates changing demographics, cultural diversities and linguistic needs. From the 2017 national statistics of the OFS, there are 1,777 professed members that belong to 114 local fraternities. Some of these fraternities are well resourced in formation programs, whilst others face many challenges in lack of trained personnel to facilitate formation and minimal formation resources. The positive response to Formation Workshops held in three Provinces in 2015 /2016 noted the appreciation for this support of the National Fraternity of Canada. Thirty-five percent of local fraternities were represented at three Formation Workshops. Feedback from these workshops included a desire for more formation resources to be made available, in English, French and Korean; request for formators' training and the ability to share a database of formation resources across Canada. In response to this need, a National Formation Commission would be better positioned to serve many local fraternity needs of formation resources and personnel development based on the scope of work that this would entail

Objectives:

The purpose of the National Formation Commission is to identify and make available formation resources based on the needs of local fraternities within Canada, through a needs assessment survey of all local fraternities. To provide resources that assist members in the work of formation, which include development Formation resources of teaching skills, group facilitation, concepts of adult education, mentorship, leadership and team work. Formation resources will be made available online in both official languages.

Scope:

The National Formation Commission responsibilities include: collecting, collating and analysing a needs assessment from all local fraternities within Canada, to determine specific needs of formation resources and skill development required to enhance the work of formation; to provide Franciscan formation resources that are in keeping with cultural and linguistic preferences, including youth and young adults.

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Methodology:

Regional Ministers and Formation Directors will be invited to nominate a professed member from their Region, who is experienced in the work of formation and willing to participate as a member of the National Formation Commission until the next National Elective Chapter of Elections in May 2021. In proportional representation, preference for three members from the Francophone Regions and three members from the Anglophone Regions. Nomination of a professed member from a Korean community, a Spiritual Assistant, and a member who is experienced in the work of Franciscan formation of youth and young adults. In addition, to have a technical resource person familiar with managing a Franciscan website and web-based learning.

Schedule:

The National Formation Director will be the chair of the National Formation Commission, responsible for organizing, facilitating monthly teleconference meetings and overseeing project development. The National Fraternity Council will be kept informed of the activities of the National Formation Commission through reports from the National Formation Director.

Deliverables:

An evaluation component of the projects initiated by the National Formation Commission will be undertaken to determine utility and efficacy of the formation materials developed. This output measurement will be inputted into the design of improving formation resources generated by the National Formation Commission.

Budget:

Funding for the work of the National Formation Commission will be taken from the National Formation budget and reviewed annually by the National Fraternity to ensure adequate funding is attained to continue the work of the National Formation Commission.

Members' roles and responsibilities:

Members will be required to serve for the duration of the term of the National Formation Commission. Their role and responsibility are to represent and liaise with all the fraternities within their Regions through the Regional Formation Directors. Responsibilities include participating in monthly teleconference meetings; working with members of the team on formation project work.

*Submitted by Jewel Jasmins, ofs,
National Formation Director*