

**2018 NATIONAL ELECTIVE CHAPTER
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER OF CANADA
FUTURE ORIENTATIONS**

Life in the Local Fraternity

Remain focused on the animation and guidance of the life of the local fraternity from where the vocational life of the Order is lived.

Encourage each member to do his/her part to maintain the vitality of the fraternity.

Pay particular attention to maintaining contact with OFS members who are living in seniors' residences, meeting with them, and finding ways to ensure ongoing communications with them.

Become open to new realities and welcome people of other nationalities into local fraternities.

Be part of a welcoming fraternity that accepts members of fraternities that have become inactive.

Maintain contacts within local parishes from where the Secular Franciscan life is lived

Life in the Regional Fraternity

Ensure that regular visits to local and regional fraternities are conducted, particularly with fraternities that are experiencing challenges.

Maintain regional days of spiritual enrichment that respond to the needs of the members and that focuses on formation and sharing (members could take turns leading these days of reflection).

Formation

Move forward with the establishment of a National Formation Commission with a particular focus on meeting the formation needs of local fraternities; include a Spiritual Assistant on the Commission.

Assess the relevancy and access to available formation materials and ensure that they are appropriate for different audiences including youth and a new generation of members (right tools for the job and the right time to use them).

Explore the possibility of having Lester Bach's *The Franciscan Journey* translated into French and adapted to the Canadian reality; also consider using the JPIC supplement created within the National Fraternity of Canada as an adjunct to this tool.

Communications

Make every effort to keep in contact with all fraternities (canonical or not) and their members; all possible means of communications should be explored (paper, telephone, email, online).

Update the national website and create additional links to other Franciscan websites; also consider incorporating material from regional websites into the national website (eg. Franciscan Voice)

Ensure that all communications at the national level are available in English and French.

Outreach

Become sensitized to the needs of different generations (eg. Baby-Boomers, Generation X, Millenials, etc.) and their own particularities.

Become aware of the changing face of the church and reach out to immigrants and others who may benefit from Franciscan spirituality.

Leadership

Develop strategies for discerning and identifying leaders and develop guidelines for dealing with absences in leadership.

Develop training materials for leadership using a « servant leadership » model (customized to the Canadian reality).

Provide training in council responsibilities – share success stories.

Archives

Develop strategies for ensuring that archival documents are retained, especially when fraternities become inactive, and transferring them to higher levels of fraternity when required.

Circulate guidelines that specify what types of records should be kept by fraternities as part of their archives.