

**2022 National Elective Chapter
National Fraternity of Canada
Future Orientations**

Restructuring

Implement the resolution to regroup the nine existing regional fraternities within the francophone sector into two emerging regional fraternities. Provide continued support to the two emerging regions as they navigate the new reality.

Vocation Awareness

Establish a national team which would provide strategies to raise awareness on the vocation and mission of Secular Franciscans. This evangelization should make us visible and identifiable as Franciscans so that others might hear and respond to the call. This awareness should also be directed to those professed members who have lost their zeal for the vocation.

Outreach

Develop strategies to support Secular Franciscans in going out to others. Current demographics and the changing face of the church needs to be considered when reaching out to others. Let us move our national fraternity forward, not just in a spirit of survival, but in a spirit of revival!

Youth and Young Adults

Undertake greater strides to connect with youth and young adults. Develop guidelines that would enable fraternity life to be more “friendly” to younger people and their families. This could include recommendations as basic as the choice of time and place of fraternity gatherings, the development of a presence in social media and collaborating with common projects.

Formation

Formation, both initial and going, remains a challenge. Simplifying the formation process and focussing on the essentials, using a variety of formation tools in different media and perhaps limiting the initial formation period to no more than 18 months should all be considered. Resources should be developed to train council members, at all levels in their various offices.

Communications

Creating links between members across the national fraternity is an essential component of life in fraternity. The work already undertaken in this area should continue including the publishing of national bulletins, keeping the website current and a continuing presence on social media. The use of videoconferencing (eg. Zoom) and other online media (eg. livestreaming) is encouraged to maintain connections and decrease the cost of travel for meetings and conferences

Spiritual Assistance

Both First Order friars and the National Council celebrate the establishment of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA). There is a need for more spiritual assistants across the national fraternity which the members of the CNSA agree to discuss with the Provincial Ministers recognizing that it is the responsibility of the First Order to provide this service to the OFS. Greater collaboration and connection is called for between the secular spiritual assistants and the 1st order spiritual assistants.