

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace to you!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our first Open Forum for Local Formation Directors. As promised, I am sending you as much information as possible from our time together. Each item is numbered. The ideas presented by each local formation director are bulleted. I was only able to pick the highlights to share. Everything in this email will also be attached to this email in Word and PDF format documents. A separate document is attached with the prayer we prayed at the beginning of the meeting.

1- Zoom video only available in the email that was sent to you or by contacting Diane.

2- These are the links to access the entire collection of Formation Fridays on two different websites: (bookmark these pages for later access)

[JUAN DE PADILLA REGIONAL FRATERNITY FORMATION FRIDAYS](#)

[DIVINE MERCY \(FLORIDA\) LOCAL FRATERNITY FORMATION FRIDAYS](#)

3- [USA NATIONAL FORMATION PAGE](#) (initial and ongoing)--lots of information!

4- [CIOFS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS PAGE](#) (Rule, Constitutions, International Statutes--[ad experimentum for three years], the Ritual listed here is the International Ritual which is slightly different from the USA brown ritual.

5- [CIOFS CIRCULAR LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS PAGE](#) (Here you will find information on Memoriali Propositi.

6- HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WAS SHARED BY OUR LOCAL FORMATION DIRECTORS

- Topics chosen from **FUN Manual**. Members prepared ahead to present.
- Fraternity Spiritual Assistant uses the **FUN Manual** for ongoing formation talks.
- **BOOKS:** A number of fraternities either have read or are reading a book together. A couple have started a book club. Some of the choices for books: St. Francis of Assisi: His Life, Teaching, and Practice, Jon Sweeney and Richard Rohr; Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Brant Pitre; Franciscan Prayer by Ilia Delio, OSF

(they coordinate this book with our Rule); DVD Praying the Gospels through Duns Scotus by Mary Beth Ingham; A Knight and a Lady: A Journey into the Spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare by Bret Thoman; also for use during initial formation by Thoman-- St. Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty, and the Man who Transformed the Catholic Church and St. Clare of Assisi: Light from the Cloister.

- **Initial formation classes** have continued--sometimes meeting in a candidate's house; on the phone; on Zoom; more than one class meeting in a large church hall. DETERMINATION!
- Fraternity has a committee (formation team) to plan ongoing formation sessions
- A number of fraternities use the **Formation Fridays** for ongoing formation. Sometimes they add research. One fraternity is going to print out some of the offerings and have partners volunteer to make the presentations.
- **PRAYER PARTNERS** partners get together every morning or evening to pray Morning or Evening prayer together. Very successful. Has made a big difference in the fraternity.
- Another fraternity gathers all those in initial formation (aspirants, inquirers, and candidates) to pray Evening Prayer every Friday.
- One older fraternity has had an ongoing formation on the history of the fraternity. (sounds like a wonderful idea!)
- A fraternity sends a **pamphlet to homebound members** and those who either cannot attend in person or on Zoom giving them a taste of the ongoing formation material that was covered at the meeting.
- One fraternity has initiated a study of Memoriale Propositi with a comparison to our present Rule of 1978
- A number of fraternities are doing studies of the Rule and encouraging members to read the Rule during their prayer time.
- A formation leader invites professed fraternity members to stop by formation sessions to introduce themselves to the inquirers and candidates.
- A fraternity has included various ministries as part of the initial formation program
- They have also planned to have every member invite one family member or friend who is no longer a practicing Catholic to attend a fraternity gathering
- Fraternities are using DVDs by Brother Bill Short, OFM, available on Now You Know Media (Learn 25)
- One fraternity downloaded the videos of our last two retreats when they were available online. They view parts of them at meetings and discuss
- Two fraternities use PowerPoint presentations that I developed using the material from the Franciscan Journey and the FUN Manual. (If you would like to see these, I would be happy to send you a link.)

If I left out an important idea that you shared, please let us know.

Formation directors: If you have **members of your formation teams** who would like to be included in our **formation google group**, please send me their contact information (Name and email address).

Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Chair, National Formation Commission

Formation Director, Our Lady of the Angels Region

Formation Director, St. Francis Fraternity, Hackensack, NJ