

## Frequently Asked Questions (or Not so frequent but important!)

### Did you know that...?

The sign of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA is any form of the **TAU** cross. (Worn as a pin, a ring or a pendant.)

Our **Minster General** is Tibor Kauser, OFS

The **International Fraternity Council—CIOFS**--is made up of the **Presidency** (which would be akin to our National/Regional Executive Council and includes the Minister General, the Vice Minister General, the General Secretary, General Treasurer, the International Councilors representing language groups and the President of the Council of General Spiritual Assistants) and the National Ministers from all countries with a National Fraternity.

**CIOFS (The International Fraternity Council)** gathers once every three years for a Chapter. In intervening years, the Order is governed by the **Presidency**.

There are approximately **300,000 Secular Franciscans in the world**

Our **National Minister** is Jan Parker; **Vice Minister**-Mary Bittner; **Secretary**-Jane DeRose Bamman; **Treasurer**-Jerry Rousseau; **Councilors**: Mary Frances Charsky; Joan Geiger; Willie Guadalupe; **International Councilor**: Mary Stronach; **Formation Commission Chair**: Mary Anne Lenzi; **JPIC Commission Chair**: Carolyn Townes; **Youth and Young Adult Commission Chair**: Kathleen Molaro; **President in turn of the Council of National Spiritual Assistants**: Br. Alexander Escalera OFM Cap.

There are also a number of special committees established to serve the needs of the Order.

The **National Fraternity Council of the USA (NAFRA)** is made up of the **National Executive Council**, and the **Ministers** of all of the regions in the United States.

The **National Fraternity Council** gathers once a year in Chapter. In the intervening months, the **National Executive Council** conducts the business of the National Fraternity.

The entire **National Fraternity of the USA** is invited to attend the **Quinquennial** held every five years.

There are **30 Regions in the USA** with approximately **12,000 members** in almost **600** fraternities.

**Our region is named Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity.**

The **Regional Fraternity** is made up of all the members of the fraternities which comprise our Region.

Our region is organized into **Clusters** which cover Northern NJ; Central NJ (including Staten Island) to Trenton; Manhattan, and Westchester

There are **30 local fraternities** in our region with **732 professed** members and **79 candidates**

We are the smallest region in geographic area and among the largest in number of professed and candidates in the USA

The **Regional Fraternity Council** is made up of the Regional Executive Council and the Ministers of all of the local fraternities in our region.

The **Regional Fraternity Council** gathers once a year to conduct business at the **Chapter of Ministers** (usually held in November). The **Regional Executive Council** conducts the business of the Region in the intervening months.

Our **Regional Minister** is Diane Menditto; **Vice Minister**-Richard Spana; **Secretary**-Frances Acosta; **Treasurer**-Debbie Wickham; **Formation Director**: Ed Wojciechowski; **North Jersey Councilor**-Ron Pihokker; **Central Jersey Councilor and JPIC Chair**-Chris Leone; **Manhattan Councilor**-Barbara Lyne; **Westchester Councilor**-Everlyn Pacheco-York. **Our Regional Spiritual Assistants** are Fr. Frank McHugh, OFM and Bro. Lombardo D'Auria, OFM Cap. **Regional Newsletter editor and Database Administrator**- Anna Geraci and **co-chairs of the Retired Friars Outreach Committee**- Patricia Franz, Jody Pihokker and Maddi Romaine.

The entire **Regional Fraternity** gathers once a year, usually in April, for **Convivenza** which is our **Chapter of Mats**

**Clusters** gather periodically

Our region has a **website**: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/>; a **Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheAngelsRegion/> and a **YouTube channel** <https://tinyurl.com/y8ofqkn3>

We have a news magazine called the **Troubadour**

We have an **E-Vents** online publication which is published as needed

**The local fraternity is the heartbeat and center of the entire order**

The name of **my local fraternity** is \_\_\_\_\_.

**My local Minister** is \_\_\_\_\_. **The Council members are:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Our latest **Rule** was approved by Bl. Pope Paul VI on June 24, 1978

Our **General Constitutions** were approved by the Holy See in 2001

**Initial Formation** in the USA has three phases: **Orientation, Inquiry and Candidacy** and lasts for about **three years**

The minimum age for **profession in the USA** is **21 years**

The **Formation manual** used in the United States is called the **FUN (For Up to Now) Manual**. It is based on the Rule, Constitutions and material covered in the CIOFS Formation Manual.

**Ongoing formation** lasts for the rest of our lives as Franciscans