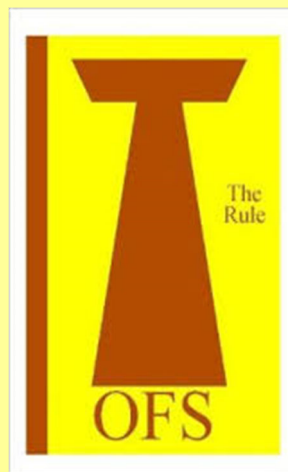


**Spirituality and JPIC:
Connecting with Young Adults**



Building Relationships.

Creating Encounters

**Sharing the Journey of
St Francis as a Young Adult**

THE GOAL

The Spirituality and JPIC Focus Group has looked at connecting with young adults with the goal of collaborating on JPIC projects. Through this initiative, we will seek to inform young adults about the Secular Franciscan Order and St. Francis' own journey as a young adult, create meaningful encounters and discussions on issues, and collaborate on projects in the community for justice, peace and integrity of creation.

In this booklet we provide our fraternities a framework in which to connect with young adults through college and university centers and Catholic young adult organizations.

LET US PRAY

Let us give thanks to our God and Father, our brother and Redeemer, Jesus and the Spirit of Love for the holy charism that was poured forth by our Seraphic Father Francis. May we serve our Loving Lord in all that we do. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Borrowing the words and wisdom of Brother Keith Warner, OFM, "Franciscans are social in nature....Our evangelical life orients us to engage society and its members...Franciscans are action-oriented...."*We practice a spirituality of social engagement, in dialogue with society,...*Franciscans are not content with understanding alone. We want to express our understandings through love, and practical action." (From: Social Praxis in Light of Christogenesis: Franciscan Wisdom for an Evolutionary World Address to the Franciscan Federation July 21, 2013 Keith Douglass Warner, O.F.M.)

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A PRELIMINARY NOTE

The Youth and Young Adult Commission has developed a plan to help individuals, fraternities, and regions step into the world of youth and young adults. The plan responds to a call from our Bishops on addressing youth: “The Church can offer them a vision of life based on a faith that calls each of them to holiness, community, and service.” Please explore the following websites for more information.

Youth and Young Adult Commission website:
<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/franciscan-youth/>

Canticle of Creation - Study Guide:
<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Canticle-YouFra-FD-Session.pdf>

JPIC SPIRITUALITY

Our work for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) is rooted in our faith in God and in the teachings of the Church. We turn to Catholic Social Teaching for guidance, since it is rooted in scripture, articulated in the wisdom writings of the Church, and reflected in the catechism. St. Francis provided us guidance in our Rule, which teaches us how to live a life of virtue within the human family and in harmony with God's created world.

We learn from *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, that the Church has always had the duty to scrutinize the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the gospel. We are guided by that teaching as we reach out to young adults.

HOW TO FIND YOUNG ADULTS

How can we make this as simple as possible? Simple steps are less daunting and allow for a better outcome. This is all about building relationships.

Finding Catholic organizations in proximity to the members of your Fraternity

- **Young adult groups at the parish**
- **Bible Study on Tap**
- **Newman Centers at local colleges and universities**
- **Catholic Centers at local colleges and universities.**
- **Diocesan centers.**



WHO SHOULD BE A PART OF THE INITIAL CONTACT TEAM

Reaching out to our sisters and brothers and sharing our Franciscan spirituality is everyone's responsibility. Yet, we know not everyone is comfortable reaching out to strangers. It may start with the Council members. When an organization has been identified to reach out to, see if there are any connections within your Fraternity. This could be a natural way of connecting. Form a small team who feel called to outreach and encounter. We all are blessed with charisms and should let the Holy Spirit guide us to use our gifts. Whenever possible ensure the outreach team is a diverse group.

FRANCIS CAMINO

Connecting with young adults through the story of St Francis's own conversion. People are generally aware of Francis and the birds and animals. Do they know of his youthful dreams, struggles, failures and ultimate conversion?

Creating the St. Francis Time Line & Creating
Your Own

OUTREACH THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook
Instagram
Twitter
Tik Tok

If you have members who are comfortable with these platforms, they might spread the word.

CREATING ENCOUNTERS AT THE CATHOLIC CENTERS

- Check the website
 - When is mass?
 - Do you have activities in common?
 - Are they involved in a project that your Fraternity may have gifts with which to help.
- Start attending mass with the students, staff and faculty.
- Meet the staff, build a relationship
- Offer to meet up with the students at their center. Make it a social, bring food and mostly the Franciscan charism of joy.
- When connecting don't forget the professionals: professors and campus staff.
- Offer to provide lectures on St Francis and Clare. Their lives are interesting and compelling.

- Offer to provide a table with Secular information at a Futures Fair.
- Check with fraternity members to see if they have children/grandchildren attending the university.
- Be authentic, focus on getting to know people and building relationships.
- Have a small handout package with you to share.
 - Fraternity Brochure
 - ♦ Small book on Francis
 - ♦ Small card similar to a business card with Fraternity Contact information

AFFILIATE PROGRAM

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone we built relationships with wanted to become a Professed Secular? Offer the Affiliate Program to those who don't want to make a permanent commitment.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR PARISH

Remember this is all about relationships.

- **Our fraternities are sisters and brothers from numerous parishes in most cases. Are we in a good relationship with our pastor and parish priest? What about the parish staff? As a fraternity are there activities we could be involved with that would assist our parish and start to build those relationships? Is there a ministry in need of volunteers? Is there a startup that could use our gifts and talents? Have we invited the pastor, priests, deacons, staff to a gathering? These are the people in contact with the parishioners, these are the people who hear about potential spiritual needs, longings that the Secular Franciscan life might fulfill.**
- **Use the parish bulletin to invite people to a gathering that may be a movie night, with a movie on St Francis, followed by a discussion and social time. Food is always a must.**
- **The parish bulletin and the diocese bulletin are places to advertise who the Fraternity is. Include articles and pictures of fraternity activities. Young people are drawn to outreach and service.**

SUMMARY

Remember it's all about sharing our Franciscan charisms and building relationships. Someone might not be called today or tomorrow, we have planted a seed.

*BE GENUINE IN SHARING
PEACE AND ALL GOOD*

Luke 10:1-2

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! “