

**REPORT TO THE ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY  
FROM THE YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT COMMISSION  
(March 16, 2002)**

Commission Members

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In keeping with our Franciscan and Christian Traditions, please find below the report from the Youth/Young Adult Commission starting with quotations from Sacred Scripture.

**Sacred Scripture**

**Jeremiah 1:4-9**

The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord God!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered me, Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying See, I place my words in your mouth!

**1 Timothy 4:12**

Let not anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in faith, and in purity.

**Gospel according to Matthew (19:14)**

But Jesus said to them, "Let the little children be, and do not hinder them from coming to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

**Rule of the SFO**

**Rule 17**

"...They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child."

**Rule 24**

"To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups, especially with youth groups...."

**General Constitution of the SFO, Article 96 and 97**

See attached....

**Mission Statement for the St. Francis Fraternity, Youth/Young Adult Commission**

The mission of the St. Francis Fraternity Youth/Young Adult Commission is to bring the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the youth of our area. Inspired by the Life of St. Francis of Assisi and guided by the General Constitutions of the SFO (Articles 96, 97) and reminded by the Rule of the SFO (Article 24), "To foster community among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meetings with other Franciscan groups, especially youth groups," the Commission is called to inspire, motivate, and assist the fostering and development of young Franciscan groups.

**2002 Goals**

**Goal 1**

To motivate and encourage our Fraternity members to be mindful of the importance of youth in the Franciscan Family.

**Goal 2**

To introduce the Catholic Youth of our area, and other interested young people, to St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

## **Plans for 2002**

To provide during the course of the year updates, resource material, and general information concerning the value of youth within the Franciscan Family to the Fraternity membership. This is to be done chiefly through the regular monthly mailings and/or through distribution at Fraternity gatherings.

To distribute materials, such as brochures/flyers, on the SFO way of life and call to CUA Campus Ministry Office, and notable Young Adult Events such as the Third Sunday Mass.

To continue to foster a more personal contact with those alumni and participants of the Cap Corp program through invitations to events and gatherings, as well as any other form of communication such as advertisements within Cap Corp newsletters, as directed by the Fraternity Council.

To explore and execute a fall presentation to those Youths (and parents), enrolled in a local Parish CCD program who are planning to be Confirmed in Spring of 2003, on Franciscan Saints and most in particular the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

To build contacts, resources, and a flow of communication with other SFO Fraternities, local and regional, as well as within the Franciscan Family of religious and other Church organizations through our continual efforts to enliven and execute the plans and goals of this Commission.

## **Budget for 2002**

To be discussed and distributed at the next presentation. It is anticipated that material costs will include such things as flyers and brochures for "other interested young people" outreach efforts (CUA campus), as well as possible materials for presentation on the Franciscan Saints as hand outs and/or gifts to CCD youths. Manpower costs, or labor needs, is also anticipated, especially for the presentation aspects. Exact needs will be outlined at the next presentation. But those who think they would like to provide assistance with regard to the Committee's labor needs for projects should inform Minister Plater of their desires.

## **Notes from the Commission**

The Commission noted that the National Commission is called Youth and Young Adults. Youth is typically defined in the US culture as being younger than 18 years of age, and the US Bishops define Young Adult as 18-39 years of age. In review of various SFO materials, those who are below the age of 18 are typically encouraged to participate in Fraternal life through a YouFra or Youth Fraternity (which is clearly defined and outlined by the Constitution and National Fraternity to methods of how this occurs). Those who are defined as Young Adults (18-39) typically enter Fraternal life via the normal means (i.e., Seekers, Inquirers, Candidacy, etc.). Although it was commented that because of difference found between the European meaning of Youth (typically those in their early 20s-- i.e. College age) and traditional American meaning of Youth (those in early teens to late teens) this might explain the language usage by the National Committee. It also has caused no amount of confusion at World Youth Day concerning event planning. Overall it should be noted that much of the SFO Youth/Young Adult Commission material is clearly directed toward a younger age than the typical young adult age as defined by the US Bishops. The Franciscan Youth Day hosted by the Regional Fraternity has had the younger age set in mind. Although there is a local Fraternity looking at College age set in Rockville. With all this in mind, the Committee came of the opinion that since the Council had already begun contact with the Cap Corp organization (typically mid 20s to early 30s) that continued work in this area, along with simple distribution of materials at CUA and other Young Adult events should fulfill the Young Adult calling of the Commission at this time. A concentration on a specific youth age set was decided upon. And not wanting to over tax the available resources of the Fraternity (people or otherwise), the idea of attempting Goal 2 of the National Fraternity came into being as giving a presentation on Franciscan Saints to those CCD students and their parents as they are prepared for Confirmation (since all youths entering confirmation typically choose a Saint name as their new Christian name).

Although the Commission is not recommending the creation of a Youth Group at this time, according to "A Guide for Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Ministry," it is generally recommended that with the CCD age set we have chosen (ages 12-14) "these students cannot be considered Candidates (for a YouFra), they can and should participate in the Franciscan lifestyle." As the Commission and Fraternity develops, further considerations and goals will be considered with the end goal of having an association or developing a YouFra as per the National/Regional Goals and directives.

## Title VII

## THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH

## Article 96

1. The SFO, by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to Saint Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them.
2. The Franciscan Youth (YouFra), as understood by these Constitutions and in so far as the SFO considers itself to be particularly responsible for it, is formed by those young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit to share the experience of the Christian life in fraternity, in the light of the message of Saint Francis of Assisi, deepening their own vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order.
3. The members of the Franciscan Youth consider the Rule of the SFO as an inspirational document for the growth of their own Christian and Franciscan vocation either individually or in a group. After a suitable period of formation, of at least one year, they confirm this option with a personal pledge before God and in the presence of the brothers and sisters.
4. The members of the Franciscan Youth who wish to belong to the SFO should satisfy the requirements of the Rule, the Constitutions, and the Ritual of the SFO.
5. The Franciscan Youth has a specific organization, methods of formation, and teaching methods adequate for the needs of the world of youth, according to the existing realities in the various countries. The national statutes of the Franciscan Youth should be approved by the respective national council of the SFO, or in its absence, by the Presidency of the International Council of the SFO.
6. The Franciscan Youth, as a component of the Franciscan family, requests from the competent secular leaders and religious superiors, respectively, fraternal animation and spiritual assistance.

## Article 97

1. The SFO fraternities will promote the vocation to the Franciscan Youth by means of appropriate and dynamic initiatives. They should see to the vitality and the expansion of the Franciscan Youth fraternities and will accompany the youth in their journey of human and spiritual growth with proposals for specific activities and contents.
2. The SFO fraternities commit themselves to give to the Franciscan Youth fraternities a fraternal animator, who together with the spiritual assistant and the council of the Franciscan Youth guarantees an adequate Secular Franciscan formation.
3. To promote a close communion with the SFO, all leaders of the Franciscan Youth at the international level and at least two members of the national council of the Franciscan Youth are to be professed Secular Franciscan youth.
4. A representative of the Franciscan Youth is to be designated by his or her council to form part of the SFO council of the corresponding level; a representative of the SFO, designated by his or her own council, forms part of the council of the Franciscan Youth of the same level. The representative of the Franciscan Youth has a vote in the SFO council only if he or she is a professed Secular Franciscan.
5. The representatives of the Franciscan Youth in the international council of the SFO are elected according to the international statutes which also determine how many there are, what fraternities they represent, and what their responsibilities are supposed to be.