



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Circ. 16/02-08

Rome, July 25, 2004  
Feast of Saint James Apostle  
To the SFO National Councils  
To the YouFra National Councils

Dear Brothers and Sisters: the Lord give you peace!

In compliance with the mandate of the General Chapter 2002, the YouFra Commission has updated the basic Documents for the persons in charge, the animators and spiritual assistants of the Young Franciscans:

- ✓ The YouFra, way of Franciscan vocation
- ✓ YouFra formation program
- ✓ Sample draft of Statutes for the YouFra National Fraternity

These documents were approved at the Presidency Meeting held from April 24 to May 1, 2004, and they have been translated into the CIOFS official languages. You will find the English version herewith attached.

In reviewing them, the Commission and the Presidency took into account the criteria and the indications of the General Chapter for all existing and emerging Fraternities of the Young Franciscans in the various countries throughout the world, as well as for those that require to be stimulated and engendered. As our prior General Minister wrote in sending out the first documents, "*these do not intend to exhaustively deal with the subject of the YouFra*", its way of development and the methods of adequate formation. In fact, we have to leave space for the necessary *adjustments* in accordance with the concrete realities of each National Fraternity, taking into account the great differences in the environmental, socio-cultural, economical and ecclesiastical situations in which the SFO and YouFra live. For example, these criteria of flexibility were of considerable importance in setting the maximum age limit for becoming a YouFra member, considering the fact that the customs of emancipation and maturity in Africa are not the same as those in Europe or North America.

We hope that the revision of these aids, a task performed with love and a sense of responsibility by the younger members of our secular Franciscan family, be welcomed with confidence and may be of use to everyone, young and adults, seculars and religious, in offering with joy and renewed hope, the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi to the young people throughout the world.

Today, in celebrating the feast of Saint James Apostle, *the impetuous and young* "friend of the Lord", I invoke his assistance to promote, with conviction and impetus, the vitality and the diffusion of Franciscan Youth.

Your sister and minister,

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Encarnación del Pozo