

ORDER OF FRANCISCAN SECULARS – CHAPTER OF MATS

Precious Blood Parish Centre - February 22, 2014

Feedback from Small Group Discussion

GROUP 1

1. How to reform and enrich Fraternity

- Have more involvement in JPIC
- Meet in people's houses
- Keep the fraternity to manageable size 15-25.
 - Hearing situations – Sit too far from speaker
 - Too large groups may have it's own difficulties

Newly professed drop out – good formation is important, temporary profession may be good for some.

- We need to hear about our elderly members, especially those who cannot come to meetings. We should visit them.
- Bulletin – maintain consistency. Call those who drop off.
- Bottom line is good formation.

Enriching:

- Members can come to Council meetings. Cannot vote but okay to listen.
- Priest involvement – Recognition from priest is good.
- Encourage members to make presentations, attend conferences and share with the fraternity what they have learnt.

GROUP 2

2. How can we ignite more life in Formation

- Be organized on topic issues / be simple (a few issues at one time)
- Be friendly (Smile) – comfort people in a crisis
- Be a good listener and let everyone have their say
- Phone follow up if members are carrying hurts or sorrow.
- Respect others opinions and have respect for one another
- Pray for our members / visit the sick members
- Party socially (some food and drinks)
- Be authentic, true to yourself
- Keep meeting interesting with audio-visual
- Ongoing sharing - learn from each other
- Keep private the discussion within the fraternity – when personal sharing is given, do not take it outside of the fraternity.
- Celebrate birthdays of the month / month of profession to OFS

GROUP 3

3. How to push the frontiers of JPIC

- Formation / Ongoing Formation – Living beyond our means: Responding to the cry of for Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation in the world
- Consider OUR World (attitude) – our world: global and local (dual), a universal inclusive
- Conversion – What does JPIC mean:
 - to me (personal)
 - in relation to others (interpersonal). How are your actions affecting others?
 - in my political structure
 - to my environment

Concrete actions:

- Fair Trade / Development and Peace Fall Education Action Campaign

Feedback from Small Group Discussion

GROUP 4

4. Making visible and evangelizing through the OFS

- Through example: how we live our life – active
- Pro Life Walks, attend conferences, promote natural family planning, learn Theology of the Body
- Taking leadership roles in the Church
- Bumper stickers – pro life, peace, justice
- Making visible your faith through symbols, Tau cross, nativity set, rosary
- Boldness to proclaim Good News
- Social media – wise use, e.g. to promote OFS
- Speak up when precepts are questioned
- Evangelize – personal encounter of Christ
 - personal relationship
 - know his teaching (Gospel)
 - live the Gospel
- Reach out to people
- JPIC – Participate in Catholic / non-Catholic support groups
- Meet people where they are – letter of the law vs. spirit of the law (compassion)
- Pope Francis gentle ways of reaching out to others
- Incarnation (every human being is taken to the heart of God)
- Strengthening families – Every family father is called to be a Joseph, a mother to be Mary, and a child to be a Jesus. When love is visible in the family, this is the best way to evangelize to others.
- In pain or sorrow – chosen St. Monica – remain always faithful

GROUP 5

5. Practical steps to living the Franciscan life.

- Implement by living and taking it to the workplace
- Being as you are as a person; be better people
- Be more positive.
- Defusing gossip
- Ethics in the workplace
- Teach the Franciscan way
- Christian foundation – education
- Inter religious dialogue on different religions
- To be humble and a servant
- Accepting people, not being judgmental
- Live more by example
- Gratitude to the Lord and prayerful
- Communion with God through prayer
- Be aware of negatives in lifestyle
- More listening
- God's will in the workplace, life and family home: better to do the will of God
- Helping God's children
- Parish works
- More strength through prayer
- Educate self in the Franciscan Journey book
- Show mercy and forgiveness