

**FORMATION PROGRAM FOR SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS
NOT BELONGING TO THE FIRST ORDER OR THE TOR (ANAPOT)**

Conference of General Spiritual and Pastoral Assistants to the OFS-YouFra (CAS)

1. HISTORICAL ASPECTS

- Saint Francis, founder of three Orders.
- History of the Franciscan Family:
 - a) General introduction to the Franciscan Family.
 - b) First Order of the Friar Minors (OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap).
 - c) Second Order, the Order of Saint Claire.
 - d) Third Order of the “Brothers and sisters of Penance”:
 - Secular Franciscan Order and Franciscan Youth.
 - Third Order Regular, male and female.
 - e) Other Franciscan movements: Secular Institutes, etc.
- History of the Secular Franciscan Order, its basic development throughout the centuries; presence, development in one’s own Country; relationships with the First Order and the TOR.
- Study and knowledge of the Rule of the First, Second and Third Order. (*Regula Bullata*, 1223; Rule of St. Claire, 1253 and Rule of the Order of St. Claire, known as “urbaniana”, 1263; the *Seraphicus Patriarcha* of Pope Paul VI, 1978 for the OFS and the *Franciscanum Vitae Propositum* of Pope John Paul II, 1982, for the TOR)

2. SPIRITUAL-LEGISLATIVE ASPECTS

- More detailed study of the OFS *Rule* and *General Constitutions*.
- More detailed study of the *Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the OFS*.
- Nature, identity, structure and organization of the OFS according to the new Rule and the General Constitutions, with emphasis on its secular nature and unity.
- Nature, identity, structure and organization of YouFra according to the OFS *General Constitutions*.

3. DOCTRINAL ASPECTS

- Greater understanding of the role of the lay faithful, the co-responsibility and collaboration between clergy and laity, religious and seculars in the mission of the Church (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, *Christifideles Laici*, *Letter of the General Ministers on the Franciscan Lay Faithful*).
- Active presence of the OFS in the Church and in society.
- Study of the social doctrine of the Church (from *Rerum Novarum* onwards) with specific regard to the duties and responsibilities of lay people.

4. FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS

- The role and tasks of the Major Superiors of the First Order and TOR for what concerns spiritual and pastoral assistance to the OFS and the YouFra. (cf. specially GG.CC., art. 85-89, 92-95; *Statutes for Assistance*, art. 5-11)
 - Relationship between Major Superiors and Assistants not belonging to the First Order and TOR (ANAPOT).
 - Representativeness of the ANAPOT.
 - Type of communication and mechanisms for connecting and evaluating.
- Appointment of Spiritual Assistants not belonging to the First Order and TOR and their relationship with the Major Superiors. (cf. specially GG.CC., art. 89.4-5, *Statute for Assistance*, art. 15)
 - Who appoints and how.
 - Selecting suitable and well-prepared Assistants.
 - Human maturity
 - Assistants who are male and female Religious from other Institutes should respect the OFS own identity and should not seek to associate the OFS fraternities to other lay groups.
 - Probation period
- The role and tasks of the Spiritual Assistants to the OFS and YouFra. (cf. specially GG.CC., art. 90. 92-93, 95; *Statutes for Assistance*, art. 12-24)
 - Liturgical formation
 - Consider other pastoral and work-related commitments of the ANAPOT.
 - Collegiality in the spiritual and pastoral assistance to the OFS and YouFra.
- Greater understanding of the nature of spiritual and pastoral assistance to the OFS and the YouFra, its collegiality and identity, through the attentive reading of the Statutes for spiritual and pastoral assistance to the OFS.

5. ONGOING FORMATION

For a continual update of the Assistants, we suggest the following:

- Annual formation/information courses on assistance, on the various difficulties, on the happenings in the OFS and YouFra. It is important for the ANAPOT to meet with the First Order and TOR Assistants on a regular basis in order to enrich their Franciscan life and to strengthen their service as Assistants.
- Mutual knowledge and exchange of programs and initiatives between the general, national, regional and local Spiritual Assistants.
- Reading of journals and other sources regarding the OFS, YouFra and spiritual assistance at the national and international level.

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