



Memo to: Regional and Local Council members

From: Michel David, International Councillor, OFS Canada National

Re: Questions from the 2021 Instrumentum Laboris

Date: April 9, 2021

Dear Council members,

On behalf of the Council of the National Fraternity of Canada, I send you warm greetings and pray that St. Joseph looks after your Franciscan families in this year of his jubilee.

A General Elective Chapter is being planned for November 13-21, 2021 in Rome, Italy. Though there is some doubt that it will be held due to the Third Wave of COVID-19 we must still prepare for its eventuality.

The theme of the General Chapter is “**Animate and guide with a servant leadership**” and it is meant to help Secular Franciscans around the world to reflect on what it means to animate and guide in harmony with serving and leading. To help in this reflection, a working document (Instrumentum Laboris) has been developed and is being shared with you.

The Presidency of the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS) has sent us a 17-page Instrumentum Laboris that addresses issues of concern for everyone and follow up questions for us to consider. As International Councillor representing Canada, it will be my role to bring your concerns and answers to the General Chapter.

We at the National Council understand that reading a 17-page document is not everyone’s preference. However, this document has been prepared to help us consider and understand the issues that all Secular Franciscans are facing today due to the pandemic and that we will continue to face in the future.

Will you help us?

I am attaching several documents with this cover letter to help you, help us, help CIOFS to succeed in its goal “.....**In order to achieve our goals, we must deepen our sense of co-**

responsibility, which our General Constitutions address. They tell us that “the brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the Fraternity to which they belong, and for the OFS as the organic union of all Fraternities throughout the world.” This is essential and is an underlying factor for making appropriate changes or to improve our structures.” (CIOFS, Instrumentum Laboris, page 1)

Please take note of the following directives:

- Regions are expected to forward the package to their local fraternities as soon as possible and give them a deadline for returning the completed questionnaires to you.
- **Regions are asked to summarize the answers** for each question and send the summaries to micheldavid.ofs@gmail.com **BY JUNE 30, 2021**
- Though we hope that all nine questions are answered by each individual, fraternity, or Region, we ask that as a minimum the most relevant questions to you are answered.
- Both “Word” and PDF versions of the documents are included with this cover letter. In the “Word” version, you may answer the questions directly on the page. If you are unable to use “Word”, please send your answers in whatever format you please.
- In order to further help you understand the document Instrumentum laboris, OFS National will arrange for a virtual meeting using Zoom, to be held at the end of April. The meeting will be no more than 1 hr. The first part of the meeting will present the document, and the second part will be open to questions. Protocols for the meeting will be sent to the Regions soon.

Brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare, thank you for saying YES to this labour of love and by providing us with feedback on these important questions that will be considered in planning changes and the structure of our OFS.

May the Lord bless you.

Michel David, ofs
International Councillor