

THE ROTATING INITIAL FORMATION PROGRAM

In an article Formation Commission member Fr. Richard Trezza, O.F.M. wrote for TAU-USA, *Issue #17, Fall 1997* entitled, "We're sorry, but you'll have to wait!" he lamented the situation whereby potential Secular Franciscans come to join our way of life, only to be told that the formation program is already underway and that they would have to wait until a new "class" has begun.

He spoke of a formation process which went in rotation or a cycle. In other words, the bulk of information presented during initial formation would have no beginning or end point – it would be ongoing. Whenever Inquirers present themselves and are deemed ready to begin the formation process, they simply "plug in" to where everyone else is.

Separate sessions would have to be held for the newcomers, however. These would deal with issues such as the life of Francis, a quick introduction to the way of life of the SFO, Regional particularities or whatever. The person in formation would stay in the cycle for the entire time of Candidacy. When this period of initial formation is ended, the new member joins the Fraternity in its program of ongoing formation.

The following diagram may be helpful:

ORIENTATION

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INQUIRY

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**SFO Rule;
Constitutions;
Franciscan Spirituality**

Particular Sessions During Candidacy

-Particular Franciscan Statutes

-Traditions and Customs

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TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT COMMITMENT

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ONGOING FORMATION WITH THE FRATERNITY

(Written by Fr. Richard Trezza, O.F.M, National Formation Commission, 1999, 2005)

Therefore, as a person enters a phase of formation, they will join the formation class at whatever lesson they are presently studying. When the other members of the group finish all the lessons in this stage of formation and move to the next stage of formation, the new person will go back and cover the lessons missed.