

## Major Legend for Ongoing Formation for the Newly Professed

*The Major Life of Francis* by Saint Bonaventure is a thematic telling of Francis' life based on Franciscan spirituality.

### **Have the Newly Professed:**

- 1) read a chapter a month, each dealing with a different topic (there are 15 chapters and a Prologue);
- 2) read a writing of Francis that correlates to this topic (Formator chooses it ahead of time);
- 3) have *Newly Professed* discern which articles of the *Rule* best speak to the topic;
- 4) have *Newly Professed* discern and discuss how this aspect of Franciscan spirituality is present in their lives or how to try and make it present;
- 5) have *the Formator* select from one of the Council Documents, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* or *The Church in the Modern World* or *Dei Verbum* to make this topic pertinent to Church teaching today;
- 6) have *Newly Professed* select articles of the SFO *General Constitutions* that correspond with this aspect of Franciscan spirituality.



The main goals (not listed here in order of importance) of this approach to formation for the Newly Professed include:

- 1) Having the Newly Professed read an original source on Francis;
- 2) Having the Newly Professed read the Writings of Francis;
- 3) Having the Newly Professed delve into the *Rule* and *General Constitutions* of the Secular Franciscan Order and make them their own;
- 4) Having the Newly Professed reflect on the teachings of the Church;
- 5) Having the Newly Professed uncover the tenets of Franciscan spirituality;
- 6) Having the Newly Professed identify these tenets in their own lives;
- 7) *Allowing the Holy Spirit to be the primary agent of formation in their lives!*

*Material provided by Teresa Baker at the National Formation Team at the National Formation Weekend 2008.*