

THE POST FORMATION "BLAHS"

The period of initial formation has ended. The fraternity no longer has Inquirers or Candidates. Now what? Is that all there is? Some fraternities have had a constant flow of newcomers, even if only one a year, that the entire fraternity is taken up with the initial formative process. When these people make their commitments, some fraternities wonder what comes next.

ZERO IN ON FRATERNITY

With less effort placed upon initial formation, this would be a good time to look at fraternity life in general. Take some time to ask the tough questions. The local Council would be able to facilitate by proper planning for the year. How is fraternity life going? Are we still the inspirational group that people wish to join - make a life out of? Is our prayer life really making a change in our personal and communal lives? Do we need to revamp the way we do prayer? Are we still friendly to one another or are we comfortable in the cliques which we have created? Have we left some business undone? Are someone's feelings still hurt? How are we resolving crises?

LEADERSHIP FORMATION

How are we replacing ourselves? Who's coming up through the ranks, so to speak, to take on positions of leadership? Are local elections a drag because NO ONE wants to run for an office? Review how you use the talent in the fraternity. What do you do to enable people to take on positions of responsibility? Buy the **Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership**. Go through it at upcoming fraternity meetings, pray over it, discuss it. Leaders . . . TRAIN PEOPLE TO REPLACE YOURSELVES!

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