

Spiritual Assistant Training Resources

OFS National Website

Updated 4/29/2021

Dear Spiritual Assistants,

Peace and All Good!

The CNSA has updated their webpages to include some additional resources for Spiritual Assistants. For those of you who have been in service for a while, here's a quick review of the webpages. For those of you who are new, this is an introduction to resources available.

What's new?

On the images of the website pages that follow, we have drawn arrows to indicate what has been added.

For those of you who are new, the website address is <https://secularfranciscansusa.org>. The CNSA home page is pictured below.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at mekofs@gmail.com.

Blessings!

Miriam Kennedy, OFS
CNSA Executive Secretary



Secular Franciscan Order - USA

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Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA)

What is the CNSA?

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants is the four spiritual assistants, one from each friar obedience (Order of Friars Minor, OFM Capuchin, OFM Conventual, and Third Order Regular), who provide assistance to the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States. The CNSA is responsible for guiding all the spiritual assistants of the OFS in the United States. The President-in-Turn of the CNSA, who serves for two years, is a member of the National Executive Council of the National Fraternity.



Our Friars and Support
Staff

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Spiritual Assistant
Resources

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SA Procedures and
Guidelines

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Spiritual Assistant
Training

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Spiritual Assistant Resources

Conferences and Workshops

- + Formation Course for National Spiritual Assistants to the OFS - November 2019
- + Our Life-Giving Union - Discernment & Discussion - August 2019
- + 2018 Regional Spiritual Assistant Workshop - Kansas City KS
- + 2014 Summer Seminar on Spiritual Assistance - St. Frances University, Loretto PA
- + 2010 CNSA Congress - Beaverton OR
- + 2008 CNSA Conference - Plymouth, MI

Key Documents and Links

- Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order (2009)
- + CIOFS Manual for Spiritual Assistance to the OFS

Key Resources Available from Smoky Valley Printing

The following documents are key references for all Spiritual Assistants. They can be purchased from Smoky Valley Printing.

- Handbook for Spiritual Assistance to the SFO (2012)
- Franciscan Family Connections
- Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order (contains the Rule of 1978, the General Constitutions, National Statutes, and other key resources.)

Province/Fraternity Relationships

- Provincials-PSAs-RSAs – 4-10-2021
- Fraternity Bonding 1-20-21

Reflections from the Friars

The Friars frequently record homilies and reflections and post them to the OFS Facebook Page. You can find them here:

[Link to OFS Facebook Page Videos](#)

Spiritual Assistant Procedures & Guidelines

Spiritual Assistant Procedures

- Canonical Establishment of Fraternities:
 - Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity – 4/16/2021
 - Information needed for canonical establishment 2021 – fillable form
 - Directive from CNSA mandating spiritual assistants for fraternities prior to canonical establishment
- Brochure – Installation of a Spiritual Assistant
- Brochure – Spiritual Assistance to the OFS
- Brochure – OFS Visitations

Spiritual Assistant Guidelines

- Clarification on Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity Issues
- SA Appointments Canons and Guidelines – August, 2018

Spiritual Assistant Training

If you are interested in becoming a Spiritual Assistant to the OFS, there is a training course, *Franciscan Family Connections*. For more information, see the first few pages of the book of the same title, which can be ordered using the form on the last page of *TAU-USA*. (*TAU-USA* national newsletter is sent to all professed Secular Franciscans in the United states, and is also available in digital form.)

Spiritual Assistant Training

- [Spiritual Assistant Training Program Guidelines \(2015\)](#)
- [Serving as a Spiritual Assistant – Relationships and Responsibilities \(PowerPoint\) \(PDF\)](#)

Spiritual Assistant Retreat, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, 2019. Based on *Family Connections*
- [Preparing to Become a Spiritual Assistant \(2008 CNSA Conference. Updated 2019\)](#)
- [Presentation on Role of Spiritual Assistants \(Kevin Queally, T.O.R., 2011\)](#)

Ongoing Formation on Spiritual Assistance

- [Spiritual Assistants and Ongoing Formation \(2009 NAFRA USA Meeting\)](#)
- [Fr. Michael Higgin, T.O.R. – Presentation on Altius Moderamen \(2019\)](#)