

## CHECKLIST FOR SECULAR FRANCISCAN FORMATION RESOURCES

(As proposed by National Formation Commission member Anne Mulqueen, S.F.O., March 2001)

When a Formation Director or Formation Team needs to determine the extent to which a particular text is a good resource to use for Secular Franciscan formation, put it to the following test.

\_ Check for YES

Does the resource evidence explicit and consistent reference to the Second Vatican Council, the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the 1985 Ritual of the SFO, and the General Constitutions of the SFO?

Does the resource convey a clear statement of the nature of the Secular Franciscan vocation with emphasis on the permanent and secular aspects of this vocation?

Does the resource emphasize that our formation is never-ending process and that initial formation is simply the beginning of a Secular Franciscan's lifetime journey to God by following the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi?

Does the resource contain references to the following essential elements of each formation session: (1) The Gospel; (2) The SFO Rule; (3) Franciscan writings; (4) Church documents, especially Vatican II and subsequent documents on the role of the laity in the Church?

Does the resource provide opportunities to apply insights and knowledge acquired through the formation process so that, in truth, the lives of those in formation are transformed?

Does the resource contain clear examples of Secular Franciscan spirituality and apostolic involvement, especially with regard to the work of the apostolic commissions?

Does the resource emphasize that our vocation commits us to a life of living the Gospel in fraternity, to a communal way of life rather than a life of private piety lived in isolation from other Secular Franciscans?

Does the resource accentuate that in our daily lives, we live the essence of the Gospel by following Francis and Clare of Assisi (1) through a process of ongoing conversion; (2) in community; (3) as secular people; and (4) in life-giving union with all Franciscans?

Does the resource, if used for initial formation, fully explain the Rites and Ceremonies experienced during initial formation and does it emphasize the significance of these Rites and Ceremonies in the continuing journey of formation?

If you have checked "yes" for six or more questions, the resource can be considered good to excellent. If you have checked "yes" for less than six questions, in all likelihood the resource is not appropriate for primary use.