

Formation Texts

Formation texts should fulfill a number of different purposes. Among them are the following:

- We have to increase our awareness of & knowledge of our Secular Franciscan vocation. (Emphasized in Carole Gentile's presentation "What Do We Do As Franciscans?" Quinquennial Congress, July 2002)
 - Formation texts must help us in this process.
 - This increase of awareness and knowledge is an important function of the formation text for both initial and ongoing formation.
- Formation texts should also assist members of the Formation Team in the process of discernment.
 - The Orientation Phase and Inquiry Phase of formation are critical in the discernment of a vocation. ("Come and See" by Teresa Baker, SFO and Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap, pgs 7-11)
 - "The goal is for the local fraternity Council to come to a mature discernment of the candidate's suitability for commitment to a Secular Franciscan way of life.", ("Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership" edited by David D. & Therese A. Ream, SFO, pg 38.)
 - The person in initial formation also needs to accurately discern if he or she has a vocation and the candidate needs to determine if the Secular Franciscan life is for himself or herself. ("Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership" edited by David D. & Therese A. Ream, SFO, pg 39.)
- It is our opinion that in any formation text the inclusion of Reflection Questions can help us both increase our knowledge of our vocation and assist us in the process of discernment of our vocation.
 - Reflection Questions can give the Formation Director a clear focus regarding points that the author of the text wants to stress.
 - Reflection Questions help us take information given and translate it to real life situations. This helps us "think on our feet" in our attempts to go from Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel.
 - Reflection Questions can assist members of the Formation Team in leading the formation group discussion / sharing sessions.
 - Commentary minus Reflection Questions puts the onus on the Formation Director to develop his or her own questions.
 - Does the formation text include Reflection Questions?

Ordering Formation Materials

- **The National Formation Commission benefits from your orders from *Better Communication Effort*.**
- A list of formation texts & materials available from Better Communication Effort can be found on the last page of Tau-USA (NAFRA Newsletter)
- Although the ordering page for *Better Communication Effort* indicates a separate S&H charge for each book ordered, these charges are adjusted when you buy a number of books, even if they are single copies of different texts.
- A catalogue for *Franciscan Resources* can be ordered from their address (found in the tables in this document)
- Both *Better Communication Effort* and *Francis and Clare Publications* do not ask for materials to be pre-paid, but *Franciscan Resources* does. *Franciscan Resources* will only accept Mastercard or Visa.

More Texts in the Bibliography

- Since this comparison is so limited in the number of books presented we would hope that more books could be added to it in the future. If you have a text that you would like to review according to the table presented here, please send the review to: Christine Washington, SFO, 116 Chapel Drive, Hueytown, AL 35023-1635, 205/491-9214, clunawash@aol.com