

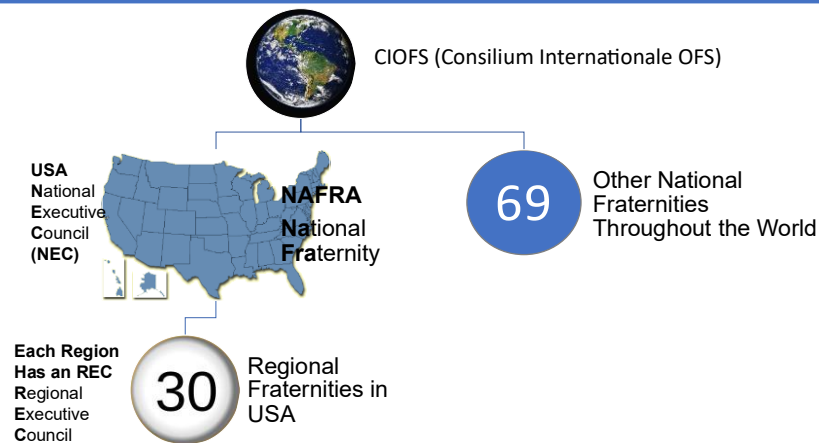
UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS of the OFS

OFS Rule

Article 20 “*The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of different levels – local, regional, national and international...*”

Article 21 “*On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions...*”

International Structure of Secular Franciscan Order



Local Fraternities

The local fraternity council consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer and formation director, who are elected to 3-year terms. The Spiritual Assistant is also a voting member of the council. Fraternities can choose to elect general councilors, who have full voting rights on the council.

Regional Fraternities

There are 30 regions in the US. We belong to Blessed Solanus Casey Region, which includes fraternities in CT, RI, Western Mass., Cape Cod and the lower Hudson Valley of NY down to Harrison.

The **Regional Fraternity** consists of all members of our region.

The **Regional Fraternity Council** is composed of the local ministers and the elected Regional Executive Council.

The ***Regional Executive Council (REC)*** consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director and general councilors, according to the Regional Guidelines. The Regional Spiritual Assistant(s) are also voting members of the REC. In Blessed Solanus Casey region, we elect a formation director (in some regions this is an appointed position) and 5 general councilors. Assignments for the general councilors are made by the REC to address the needs of the region. Typically, these involve staying in contact with a given number of fraternities, answering questions from local ministers, and conducting fraternal visitations and/or presiding at local elections as delegated by the regional minister.

National Fraternity

The ***National Fraternity*** consists of all Secular Franciscans in the US.

The ***National Fraternity Council*** is composed of the 30 regional ministers and the elected National Executive Council.

The ***National Executive Council (NEC)*** consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, 3 national councilors and an International Councilor, according to the National Statutes. The President-in-Turn of the CNSA is also a voting member of the NEC. In the US, the formation director is an appointed position.

CIOFS - Consilium Internationale Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

International Presidency- CIOFS Council of the Secular Franciscan Order

Members of the International Presidency are elected for 6-year terms, and include a Minister General, Vice Minister General and 7 councilors from across the world. The secretary and treasurer are appointed positions.