

SYLLABUS FOR FIRST MODULE

The emphasis in this first module of the Lay Spiritual Assistant/Formator class is on Formation, and specifically, the principles and methods underlying proper formation in the Secular Franciscan Order. The goal is to gain a thorough understanding that formation is not a matter of knowledge, but of shaping one's way of living. The time for the topics set out in this Syllabus is an estimate only, for the spirit of the class and attaining a thorough understanding of the topics are of prime importance. If a particular topic is not completed in the time allowed, it will be continued the following month, making it necessary to adjust the Syllabus accordingly.

You will be expected to fully participate in the class by participating in discussions and presentations when requested. Please do all the assigned reading before each class.

Primary Text: Guidelines for Initial Formation in the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States ("Guidelines")

This book is available in English, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese and everyone must have his/her own copy.

Secondary Text: The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity ("Decree") (Vatican II document)

Schedule: All classes will meet at 8:30 am for social time (coffee, etc.) and classes will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Dismissal will be at 4:00 pm except as set forth below.

Location: All classes meet at St. Gregory the Great Church, 13935 Telegraph Road, Whittier, CA, in either the Msgr. Ruddy Center or the Fr. Mackey Center.

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Nov. 21, 2009	A New Vision of Formation: Its Meaning and Characteristics Reading: Chapter 1 of Decree; Chapter 1 of Guidelines
Dec. 11, 2009	Agents of Formation Reading: Chapter II of Guidelines; Chapter 6 of Decree

At 1:00 pm the class will have a potluck lunch, and be dismissed after lunch.

- Jan. 16, 2009:** **The class will attend the annual Chapter (Ministers' Meeting) of St. Francis Region, at Marywood, 2811 East Villa Real, Orange, CA, and participate as observers. In the afternoon, the class will meet together to discuss their observations. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS AND INDICATE WHICH MEALS YOU WILL ATTEND.**
- Feb. 20, 2009:** **The Phases of Formation; Content of Formation: The SFO Rule**
Mar. 20, 2009: **as Point of Departure and Common Source for Formation**
April 17, 2009: **Reading: Chapters III and IV of Guidelines**
- May 15, 2009:** **A Methodology of Formation: How to Explain the SFO Rule to Candidates**
Reading: Chapter V of Guidelines; Chapters 2, 3 & 4 of Decree
- June 19, 2009:** **Aspects of Formation**
Reading: Chapter VI of Guideline; Chapters 5 & 6 of Decree
- July 17, 2009:** **Summary and Review**