

December 27, 2020

Dear Franciscan Federation Members:

As you know, the Annual Federation Conference (AFC) planners have been meeting for several months with the Executive Leaders of National Franciscan Organizations. (We use the acronym **ELFO** to designate this group.) [See the list of ELFO members.](#) We have completed seven very profitable zoom conversations and are preparing to move to a third stage of discussions in January. Since the collaborative work with these *conversation partners* will have an important role in our June assembly (June 11-14), we want to give you a chance to meet these leaders *now*. (Yes, AFC 2021 will be **virtual** and we think that making these introductions now, via four upcoming **zoom sessions**, will increase the value and impact of our June Conference.)

You may know the work and mission of many of these organizations. At the same time, we understand that some may not be as well known. The upcoming zooms are an opportunity of double benefit. For the executive leaders it is the chance to make many aware of their work and current challenges in a very personal way. For the Federation members it offers knowledge of a wide range of Franciscan ministry and witness that is now in the very capable hands of lay executive leaders. The mutual commitment we share to keeping the “voices of Francis and Clare” alive in the public square demands that we have a high degree of cooperation with one another.

We ask that you plan to attend these sessions, all four if possible. It is also important to have at least one member of the congregation’s leadership team or council attend the sessions.

The four zoom sessions, **Franciscan Federation Moving Forward**, will be held on the **third Thursday** of the months of **January, February, March, April**. The time is **1-2 pm Pacific, 2-3 pm Mountain, 3-4 pm Central and 4-5 pm Eastern Time**. The format for the first three sessions will offer an interview with two of the **ELFO** members. (The Federation and Franciscan Pilgrimage Program leaders will not be part of these interviews.) The following schedule of the ZOOM sessions, hosted by the Commission of Regions, include three sessions with **ELFO** and one with the **Emergent Group**.

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| Jan. 21 | Franciscans International – Kevin Queally, TOR
Franciscan Mission Service – Liz Hughes |
| Feb. 18 | Franciscan Media – Kelly McCracken
Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities – Debi Haug |
| March 18 | Commission of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition – Darleen Pryds
Franciscan Action Network – Maria Orlandini, OSF |

April 15: Emergent Group – Persons who are newly vowed or associate members of Franciscan Congregations and “Franciscan hearted” persons who share a passion for the Franciscan charism and promoting its proclamation in THIS HOUR. This group will also be part of AFC ’21. It will be important to have a sense of who they are before our Conference begins. Don’t miss this session!

Click here to Register: <https://franfed.org/moving-forward/> Register by Jan. 20.

The sessions will be recorded and available on the website for later viewing.

May the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, fill us with light, hope, peace and joy as we celebrate the Feast of Feasts!

Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF

CCS and AFC Planning Group

Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF

COR and AFC Planning Group