



Fraternity: *Our Way of Life*

*“The Lord Gave Me Brothers...”
(St. Francis of Assisi)*



***In three or four words, how
would you express what
fraternity is to you?***

***Please type your answers
in the chat.***



“Fraternity is...a call to build a community of love in harmony with all of God’s children and all of God’s creation to **reflect Love back to the God of Love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**”

*FUN Manual “Fraternity and Francis”
BY Tom Bello, OFS—former National Minister*

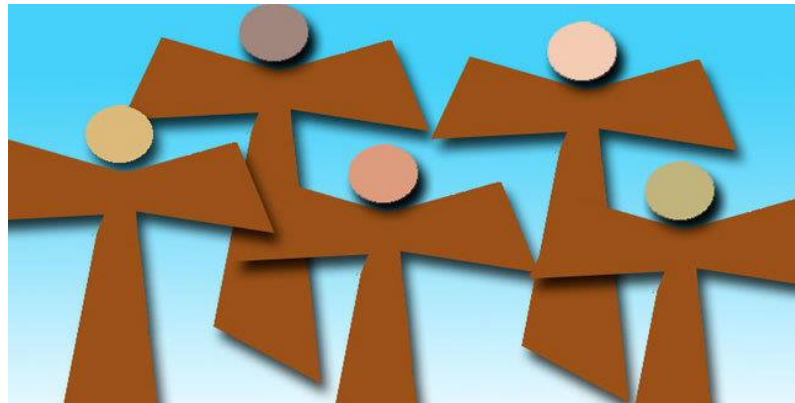


- The **entire Order is divided into fraternities**—Local, Regional, National and International
- The vocation to the OFS is a **vocation to live the Gospel in FRATERNAL COMMUNION** (GC 3.3)
- *The **HEART OF OUR VOCATION** is Jesus Christ and **around that heart is FRATERNITY.***

- *The local fraternity is the heartbeat of the Order-Subsidiarity*

Fraternity

- Is the means by which, and the environment through which we are called to live the Gospel.
- Fraterntiy is the key model for OFS Gospel Life
- The vocation of the OFS is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal communion.





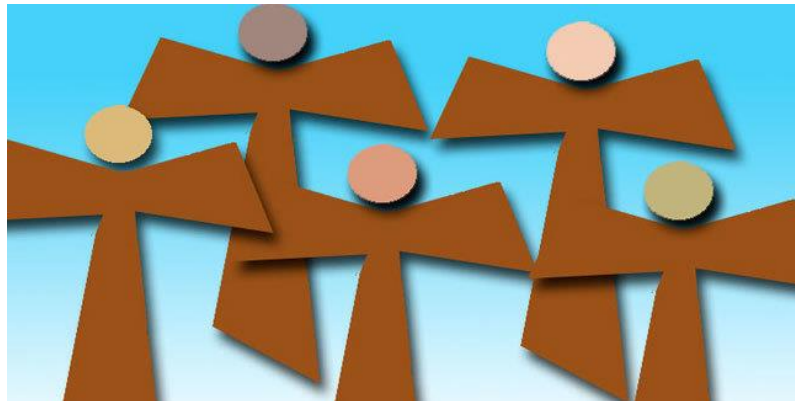
- *Fraternity is a call to unity and harmony with all of our brothers and sisters*
- *Fraternity is a call to unity and harmony with all of creation*
- *Fraternity is a call to build a community of love that reflects love back to the Trinity*

Article 42.4

(General Constitutions)

Fraternity

- Profession does not only commit those professed to the fraternity, but also, in the same way, it commits the fraternity to be concerned with their human and religious well-being.

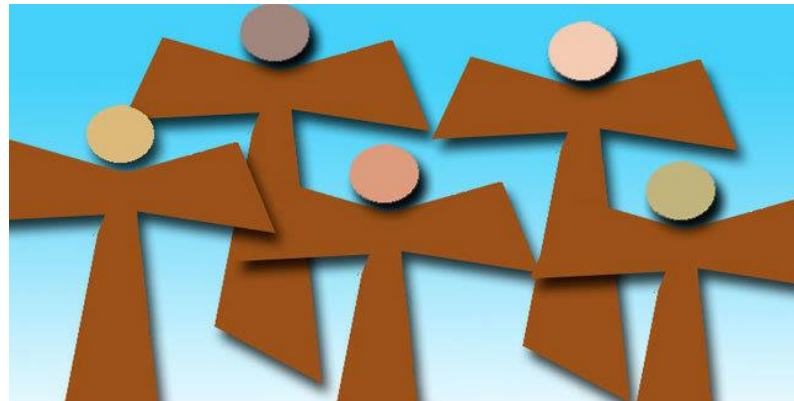


Article 28.1

(General Constitutions)

Fraternity

The fraternity of the OFS finds its origin in the inspiration of Saint Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed the essential gospel quality of life in fraternal communion.



Our Challenge: Show that Living the Gospel is Possible.



- Francis's great gift to the world:
 - He showed that the Gospel could be lived.
 - We are called to keep that gift alive.

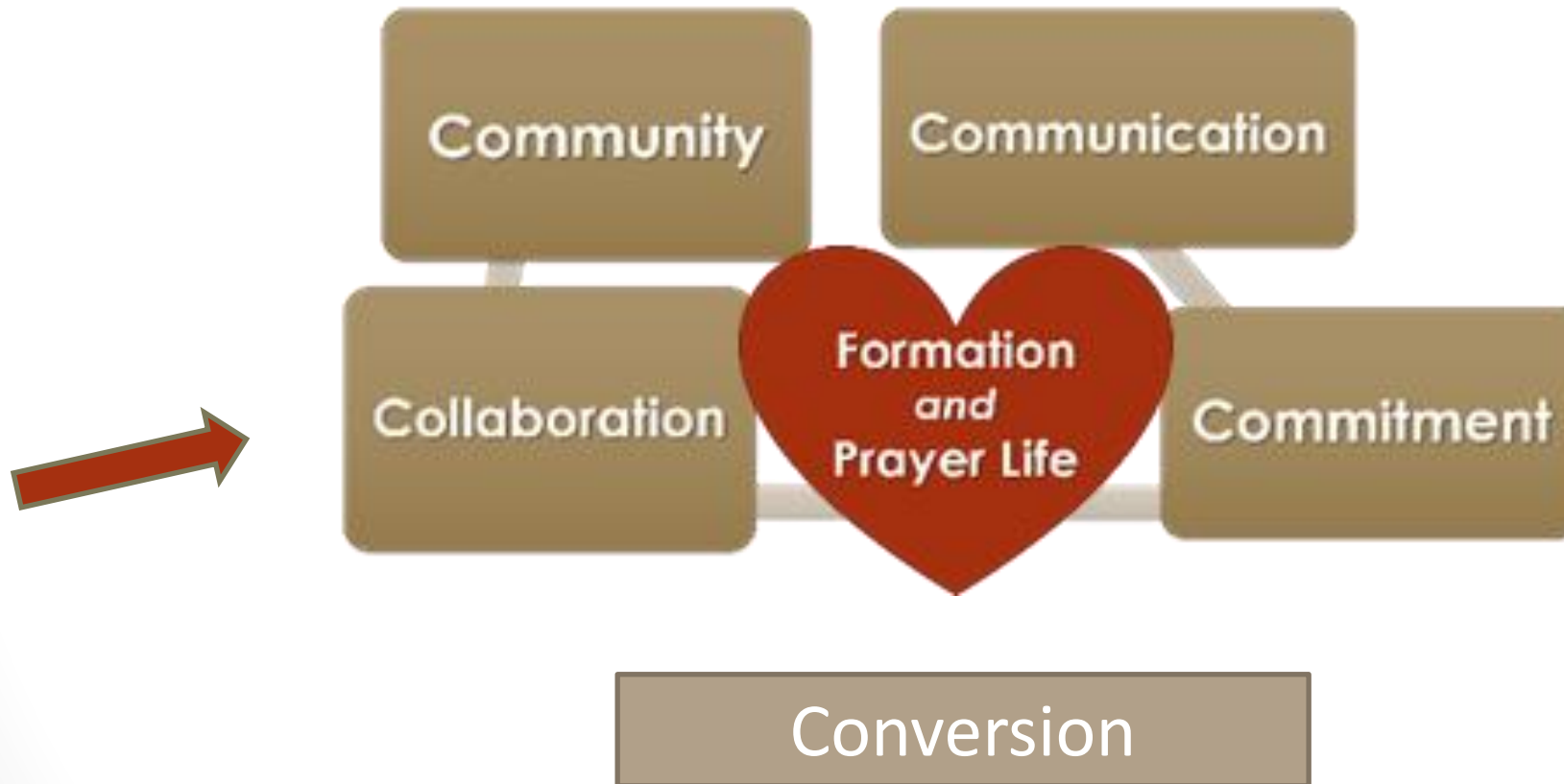
Fraternity is the perfect workshop for experiencing this challenge:



- Attitudes—ours and those of others
- The dynamics of fraternity life
- Our lives as lay people vis à vis our commitment to fraternity

Article 3.3 of the General Constitutions. "The vocation to the OFS is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal community

FRATERNITY: SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

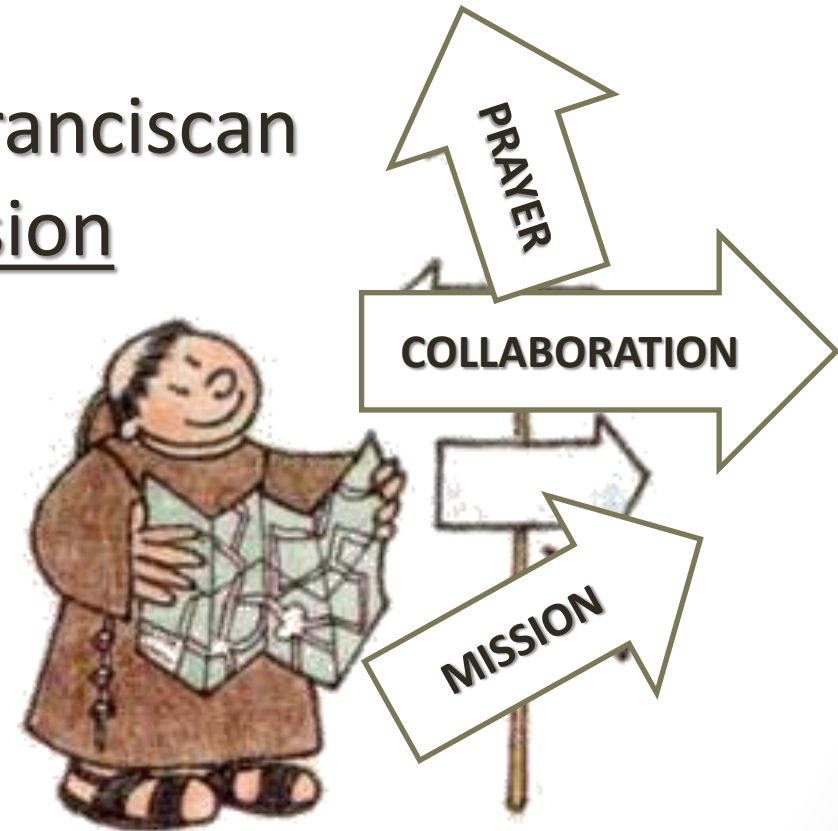


Our Challenge: COLLABORATION

In the Workshop of the Fraternity we find that:

- “The identity of the Secular Franciscan is expressed in a triple dimension
 - Personal (the inner life),
 - Fraternal (co-responsibility)
 - Universal (the mission).”

*Emanuela DeNunzio: Belonging to the SFO
GENERAL CHAPTER November 15-22, 2008*



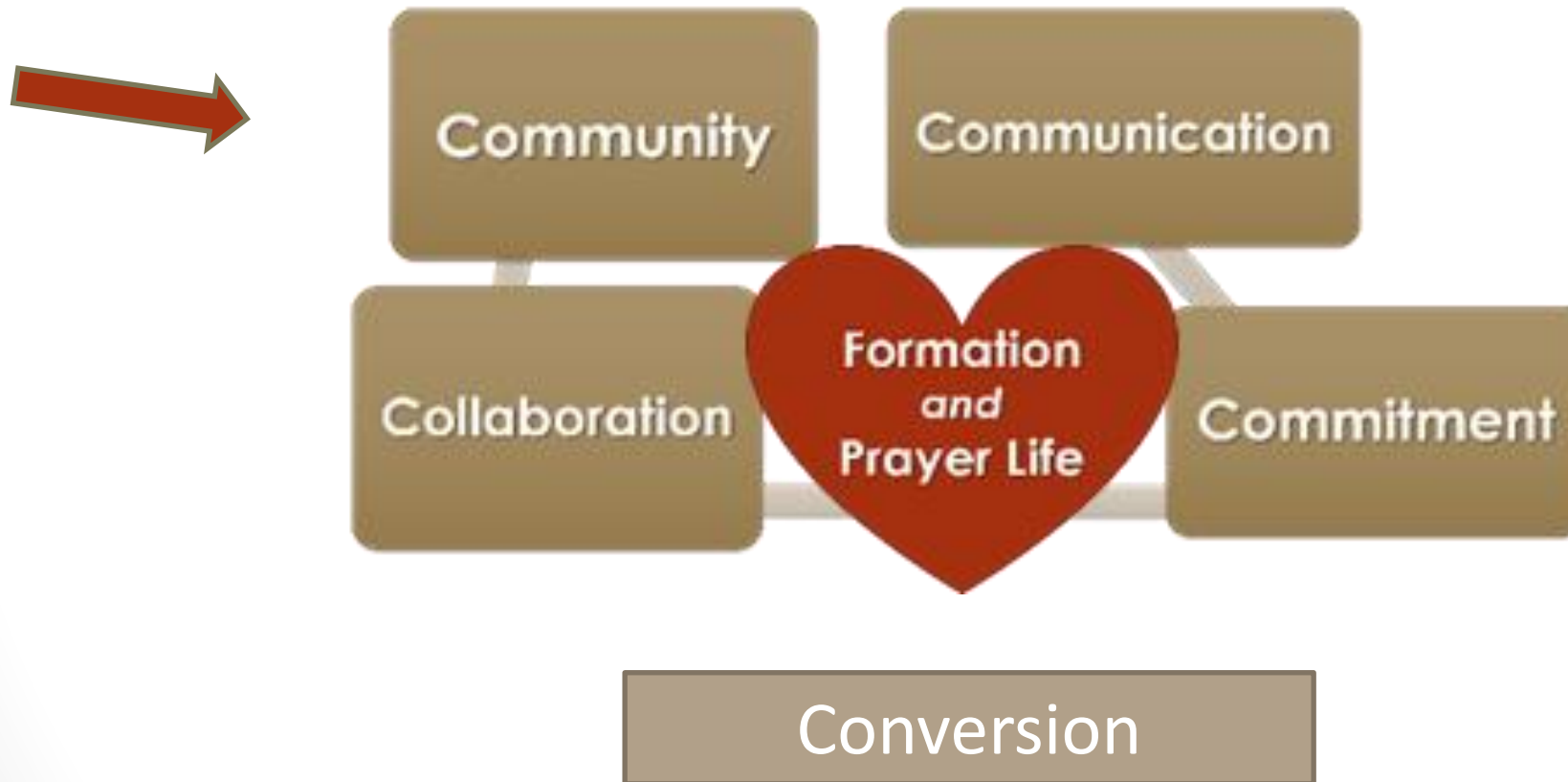
We Are Not Alone

- **Collaboration**
- Strength in **community**



We can go out to serve others because **we know we are loved and supported**

FRATERNITY: SPECIAL INGREDIENTS



Our Challenge: Community

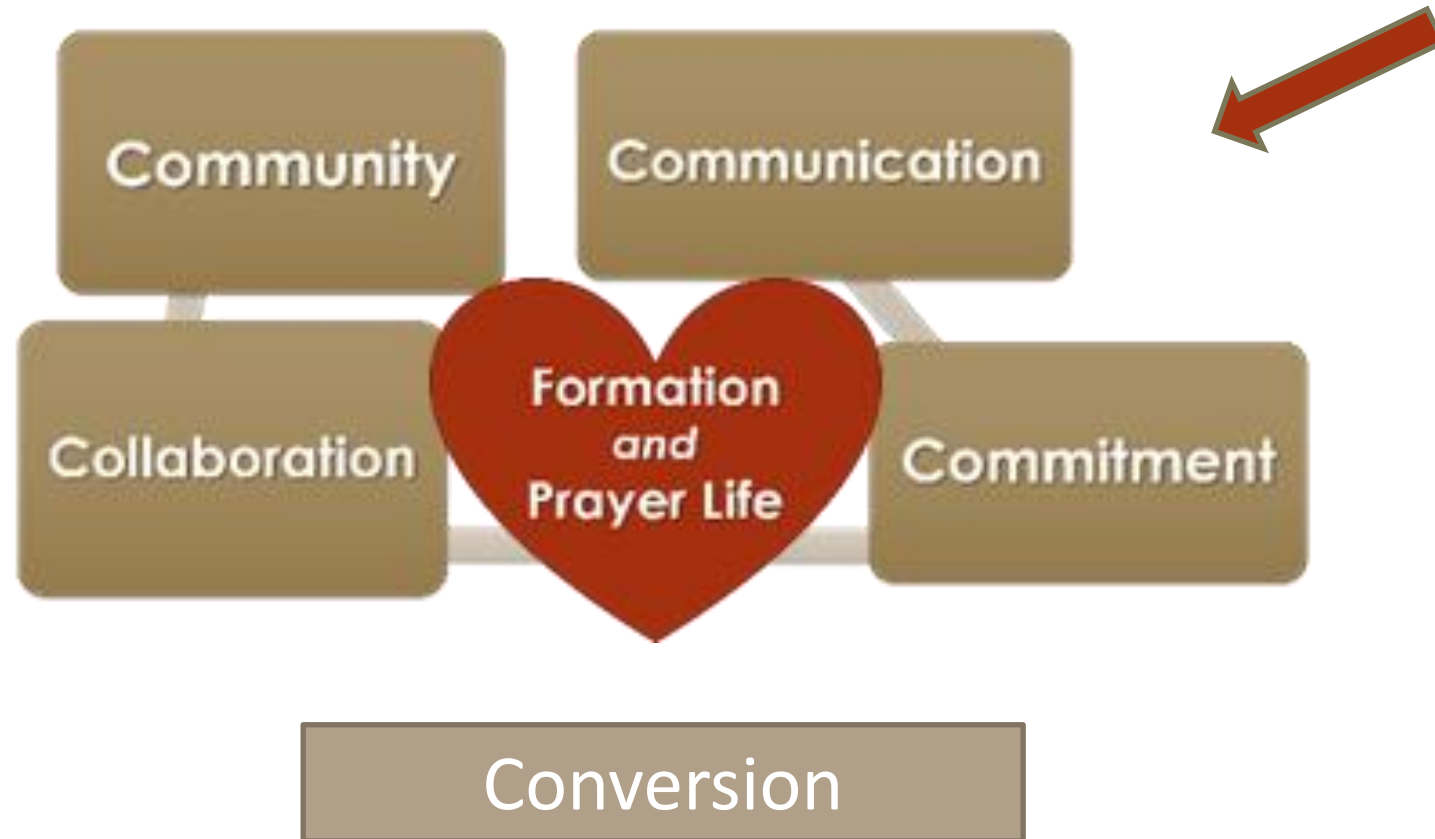
- Fraternity

is the perfect workshop for testing ourselves

- Poverty, humility, meekness...
 - Willingness to yield to others
 - Willingness to see that those who are different than we are have value
 - Called to be “poor enough” to be generous
 - Called to make ourselves available to bring others to God



FRATERNITY: SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

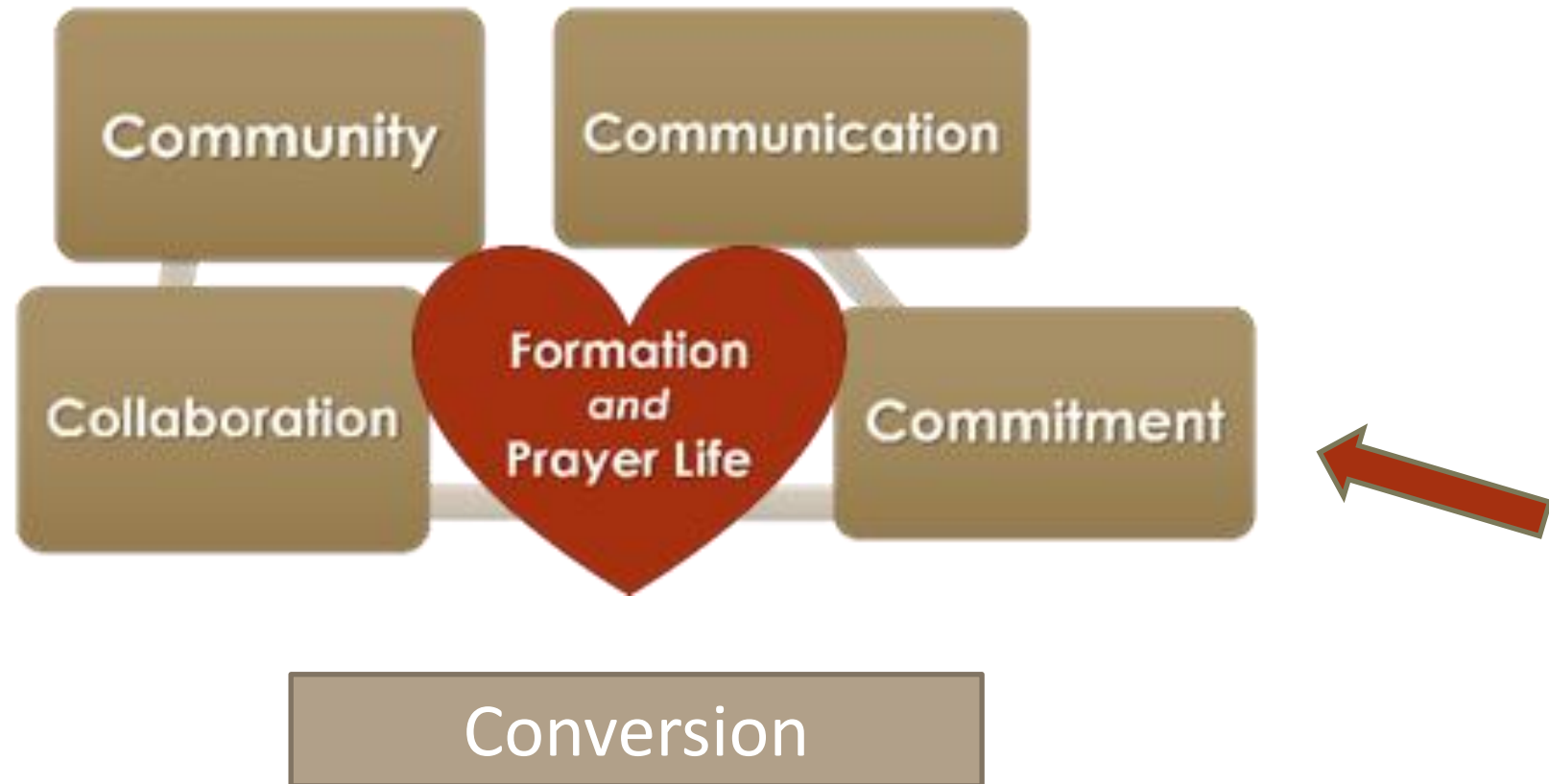


Our Challenge: COMMUNICATION

We must realize that **communication does not only mean talking or giving information; FIRST it means listening** to one another. It takes great patience and humility to truly listen to others, especially when we don't agree.



FRATERNITY: SPECIAL INGREDIENTS



Our Challenge: COMMITMENT

- Our daily remembrance of what we have **promised at profession.**
- *“**Fraternal life is built on the example of one who is ready for sacrifice; one who is willing to **serve despite weariness and distress**; does not allow him/herself to become disheartened. Fraternal life is the result of simple and humble witness.”** (FUN Chapter on Fraternity)*



Our Challenge: COMMITMENT

- What does our commitment entail?:

- CHARITY in our secular state
- LIVE the Gospel
- CHARISM of saint Francis
- WITNESSES AND INSTRUMENTS
- OUR LIFE AND WORDS
- RE-BUILD THE CHURCH
- PERMANENT CONVERSION
- FRATERNAL AND EVANGELICAL WORLD
- COMMIT ONESELF IN PUBLIC LIFE
- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION



FRATERNITY: SPECIAL INGREDIENTS



Our Challenge: Show that Living the Gospel is Possible.

CONVERSION

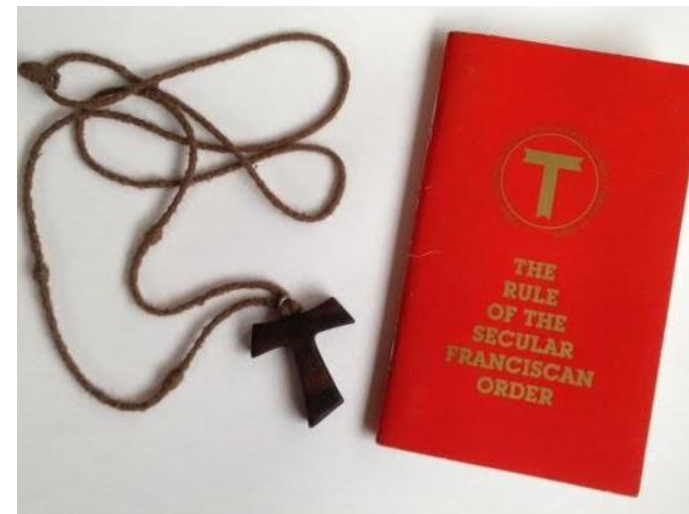
CONVERSION → AUTHENTIC EXAMPLE

CONVERSION → AUTHENTIC FRATERNITY

CONVERSION → AUTHENTIC MISSION

Our Mission: Go Forth

- Fraternity is the perfect workshop to prepare us for our Mission
- We are strengthened in our efforts
 - Through prayer
 - Through study of the Scriptures
 - Through study of our Rule
 - Through our service to the fraternity



Our Mission: Go Forth

- *Article 6:*
 - “Go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission...”
 - Called like St. Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example...”



- We are the “specialists” in the ways of the world...(Lino)

Mission: Our Talents Put to Use

- Presence in society:
 - In the light of the social doctrine of the Church – Every Fraternity should question its priorities in its own missionary commitment.

*Emanuela DeNunzio: Belonging to the SFO
GENERAL CHAPTER November 15-22, 2008*



Every Fraternity Should Consider Becoming:

- **A school of sanctity**
- **A school of formation**
- **A witness of ecclesial communion**
- **A participant in the apostolic purpose of the Church**
- **A presence in society**



ASK YOURSELF:

- **How am I brought closer to God through my profession?**
- **What is my commitment to the fraternity/region?**
- **Why is fraternity an important part of my life?**
- **How do I participate in the mission of my fraternity, the mission of the Order, the mission of the Church?**

Be Reminded of these Resources

- ***The Secular Franciscan Order for an Evangelizing Mission Together with all the Franciscan Family***. (Benedetto Lino, OFS, at the First International Congress for Missions and Evangelization-OFM-2014)
- ***How Should An Order Like the OFS Be Managed at All Its Levels?*** (Benedetto Lino, OFS, XIV General Chapter—November 2014)
- ***Belonging to the SFO*** (Emmanuela DeNunzio, OFS, General Chapter 2008)