



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

Via Vittorio Putti, 4/int. 6 - 00152 Roma

Tel. +39 06.45471722 Fax +39 06.45473094

E-mail: ciofs@ciofs.org

www.ciofs.org

Prot. n. 3588

Rome, 19th of July, 2023

**To the OFS National Councils
To the YouFra National Councils
and through them to all the brothers and sisters
OFS and YouFra**

Subject: Franciscan Children and Adolescents

Dear brothers and sisters,

peace and good!

Among the specific tasks of our Order, art. 25 of the GGCC highlights that the OFS has a specific educational duty towards children and adolescents, as well as young people, to "*bear witness to the Christian faith, the evangelical spirit and secular Franciscan spirituality, both as individuals and as a fraternity*" (67 FIOFS Statute ad experimentum).

It is a responsibility we have as baptized persons but especially as a 'spiritual secular family': it is no coincidence that Article 25 of the GGCC is placed under the heading 'family'.

Some National Fraternities had long been asking for guidance, tools and documents to be able to organize and take care of the groups of children and adolescents they were forming.

The Presidency, therefore, approved two documents that we present with great joy and place in your hands, together with this letter, which is the result of the collaboration between the CIOFS Presidency Councilor appointed for this service and the YouFra International Responsible for Franciscan Children and Adolescents:

1) **Guidelines for the animation of Franciscan Children and Adolescents:** these are intended for OFS and YouFra animators, as well as for assistants, and are designed to provide basic tools for the animation service. They are the synthesis of experiential paths and documents developed over the years by various OFS and YouFra National Fraternities. We hope they can be a stimulus for national Fraternities that have no experience in the organization and animation of Franciscan children's groups. At the same time, while respecting individual realities, these guidelines provide common parameters for those National Fraternities that already have groups of Franciscan children.

2) **Guidelines for Franciscan Children and Adolescents:** they are intended for children. It was decided not to give a specific name to the document (such as Statute or otherwise) nor to the male/female child that presents the reality of Franciscan children's groups, so that each National Fraternity can do so drawing from its own culture (i.e. using the tool it already has).

We ask all OFS and YouFra National Fraternities to ensure that these documents reach every Regional and/or Local Fraternity, as well as every brother and sister.

We wish you all 'all good, every good'.



Tibor Kauser
Minister General OFS



Felix Chocojay
YouFra International Coordinator

