

## *Formation Transformation*

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I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ever since leaving my birthplace, I have heard the term STEELER NATION. Steeler Nation refers to the many Steeler fans that have left the “burgh” whether by choice, for job opportunities, or to discover lands beyond their own. These fans show up at the numerous games around the nation, wearing their black and gold and swinging their Terrible Towels. You can see them everywhere.

I am a member of another Nation, the SFO NATION. At my Solemn Profession in 1994, I became a member of a nation that spans the globe! We can be seen anywhere, wearing our TAU crosses and swinging the Gospels (well, not really swinging, but you get my point!) We are all part of the SFO NATION! We wear our TAUs and span the globe sharing the Gospels and doing good deeds, especially in the places no one dares travel.

The only way to become a part of the SFO NATION is through Formation; formation in classes, formation in fraternity, formation in our apostolates. Everything we are as SFOs comes from our Formation, and thus our transformation. No one gets a “free pass” or an option to “test out” to become an SFO. We must journey through the process, led by the Holy Spirit, and aided by our fraternity members, one step at a time. The SFO we become, and thus the SFO NATION we join, is all hinged on our good quality formation and our sincere desire to be transformed.

In September 2011, we met as a Region to delve into our newly released formation manual, For Up to Now (FUN) Manual. Is it a challenge? YES. Is it slightly overwhelming? YES. Is it a wonderful, concise, awe-inspiring Manual? YES!

We must want to open its pages, and devour its teachings, and burn in our hearts to share the knowledge within our fraternities, and enthusiastically bring our Franciscan Charism to our world! Do you think the Steelers never changed or updated their playbooks? Sure they did, as new plays and new ways to play helped them to victory. They had their losses along the way (nobody is perfect---not even the Packers!), but they learned as a team to build on those challenges.

Transformation can only come through change, and change only comes through learning. On April 21, the Regional Formation Commission will sponsor “A DAY OF FORMATION”. Your Regional Formation Commission is hoping this day-long retreat will become an annual offering. Registration is required, so do not delay! It can be used as the Pre-Profession Retreat required of all fraternity’s Candidates; it can be a way to ease your Newly-Professed into full fraternity; it can be used by your fraternity’s Formation Director as a model Pre-Profession Retreat; it can be used as a spring-board for starting the FUN Manual; or it can be used to reawaken and refresh your own SFO journey. Please---come and be fed! Then feed others!

Kathy Taormina, SFO

Queen of Peace Regional Formation Director

January 6, 2012 ~ Feast of the Epiphany