The Padua Program: Foundations for Mission Leaders/Officers in Franciscan Institutes

Overview and Program Goals
Franciscan ministries seek to integrate the Franciscan worldview and its value system into organizational culture and decision-making. While everyone in a Franciscan organization has responsibility for mission, the Mission Officer bears responsibility for leading organizational efforts to imbue the charism into the day-to-day running of the organization. The Padua Program is dedicated to supporting the professional development of Mission Leaders through helping them to articulate and then translate the Franciscan narrative into effective organizational strategies for conduct and decision-making.

Learning about Francis and Clare provides one layer of knowledge, but this program’s goal is for participants to learn how the Franciscan narrative is applicable to ministry leadership today, i.e. how it applies to the role and responsibilities of a Mission Leader/Officer and in turn to every employee in a Franciscan organization.

Participants will explore and deepen their own personal vocation and life journey in the context of learning about Francis and Clare’s. Beyond the narrative, they will learn to apply the Franciscan value system to contemporary challenges in the workplace. To broaden participant’s knowledge base beyond the biographies of Francis and Clare, the program includes an overview of the Franciscan worldview, including Franciscan economics, as well as moral and ethical decision-making. Participants will explore the role of the Mission Leader/Officer and the development of “cojourners” at all levels of the organization and their broader communities. In addition, the program includes developing an understanding of how Franciscan ministries fit into broader contexts, i.e. the Catholic Church, various influential organizations or civic bodies with authority over the institution, as well as the Church’s ethical directives and Social Teachings.

Target Audiences
This program was developed to support lay leaders serving in mission integration roles, as well as those in senior staff positions within the administration of a congregation or province. However, all are welcome. Religious leaders who are perhaps new, learning or mentoring others in Mission Integration roles will also benefit from this program.

Program Components:
The program takes place over an 18-month period with workshops at the beginning and conclusion, and Webinars, and individual and group mentoring via videoconference during the intervening months.

Workshop 1: October 8-12, 2018 (The program convocation is at a dinner on Monday, October 8th and participants can schedule their departure on Friday morning, October 12.

Workshop 2: July 22-25, 2019 (The program convocation is at a dinner on Monday, July 22 and participants can schedule their departures on Friday morning, July 26)