

*This PowerPoint is to assist you in considering the questions for the May 11 Commission meetings and subsequent discussions. The presentation consists of the results of the survey conducted by the Commission of Charism Services and compiled by Larissa Arnold, Ph.D. who assisted the Commission.*

# Commission of Charism Services Survey



Franciscan Federation  
of the Sisters and Brothers  
in the United States

APRIL 2021

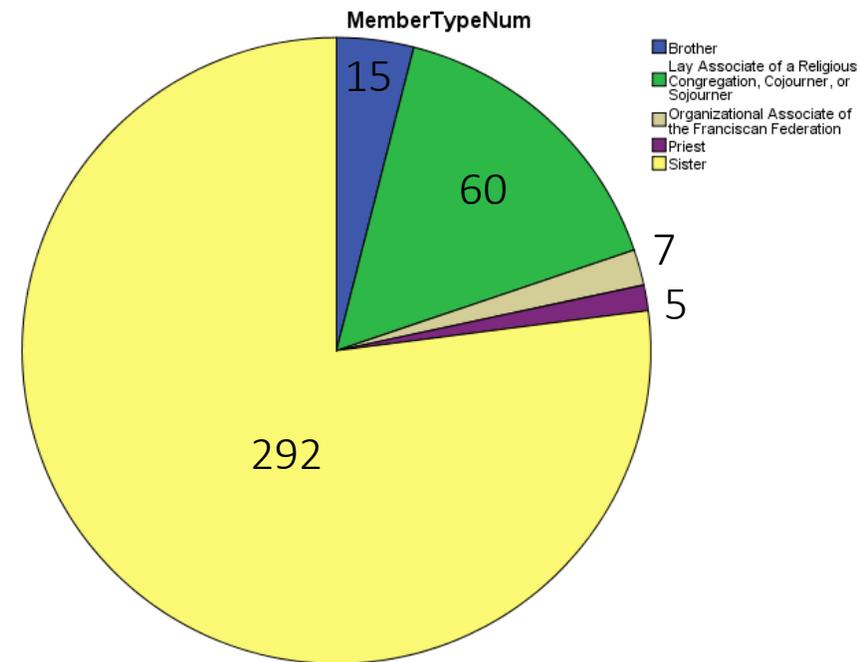
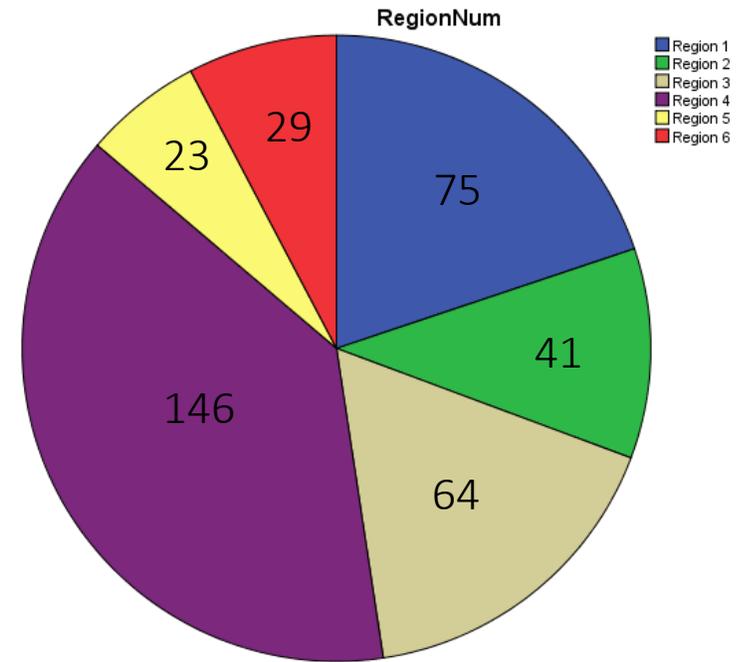
# Quantitative Results

# Demographics

380 participants (350 females, 28 males)

Average age of 76.9, ranging from 25-82

Average number of years in community was 45.3,  
with the highest being 74



# Elected Leadership

70 elected leaders took part in the survey

“What is your confidence level in the future of the Franciscan Federation?”

Answered on scale of 1-5, with 1 being “Not at all confident” and 5 being “Very confident”

Average was 2.87

# Vocation Formation

“Do you have new members seeking vowed life?”

Region 4: 57.4% said yes

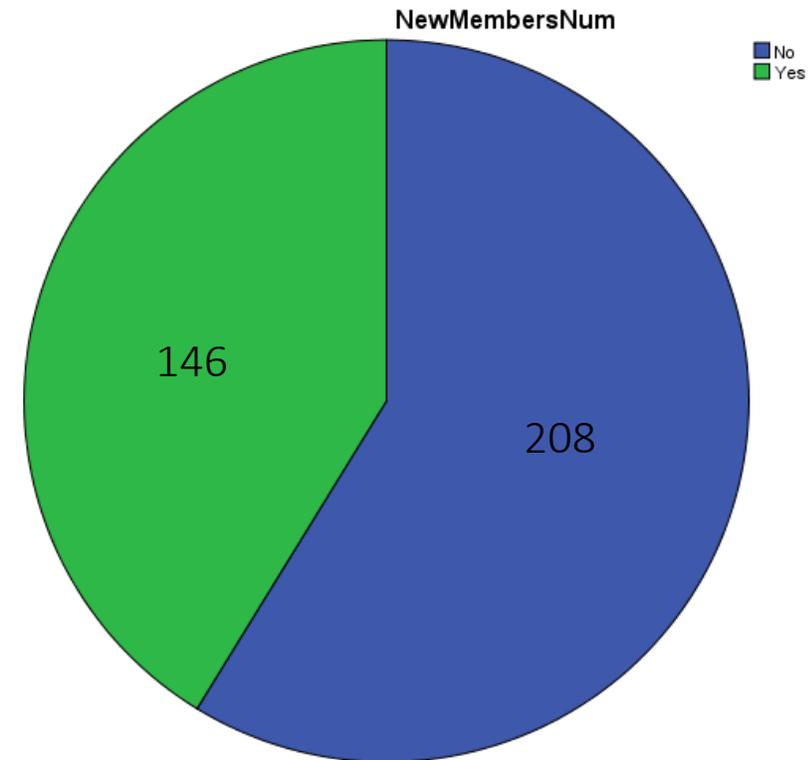
Region 2: 53.8% said yes

Region 1: 36.1% said yes

Region 3: 24.2% said yes

Region 6: 24.1% said yes

Region 5: 13.6% said yes



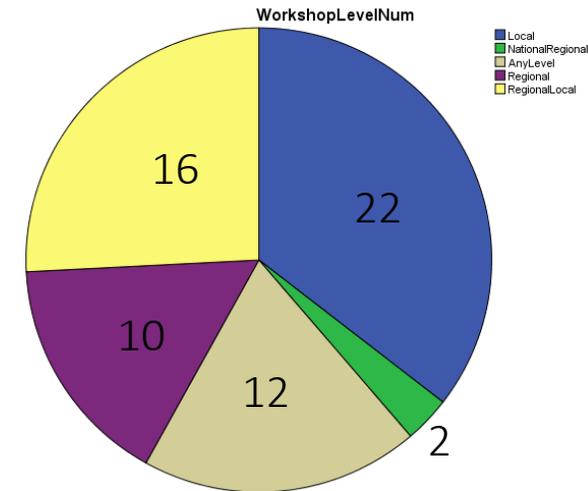
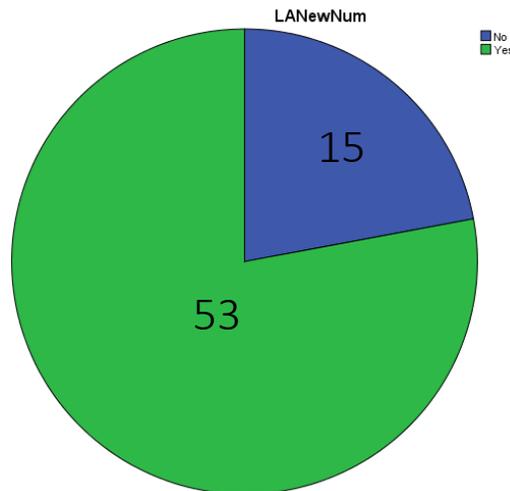
# Lay Associates

69 Lay Associates took part in survey

“Are you getting new people to join your lay groups?”

“Would you be interested in attending workshops/seminars on Franciscan spirituality/charism?”

“What level of workshop would you prefer?(check all that apply)”

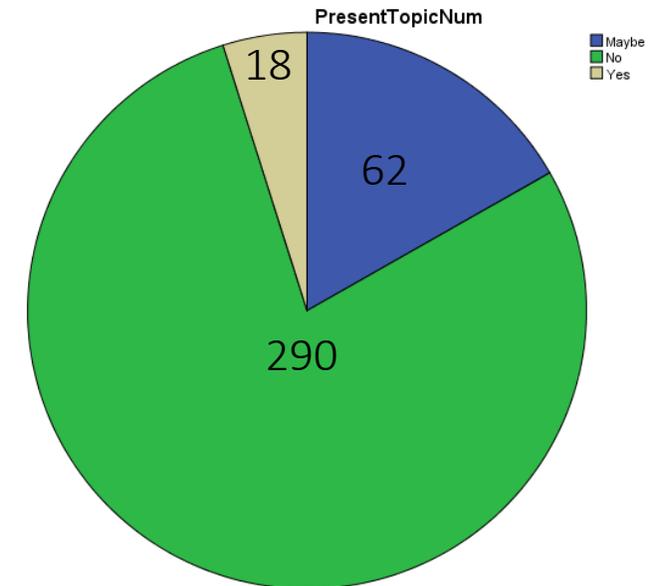
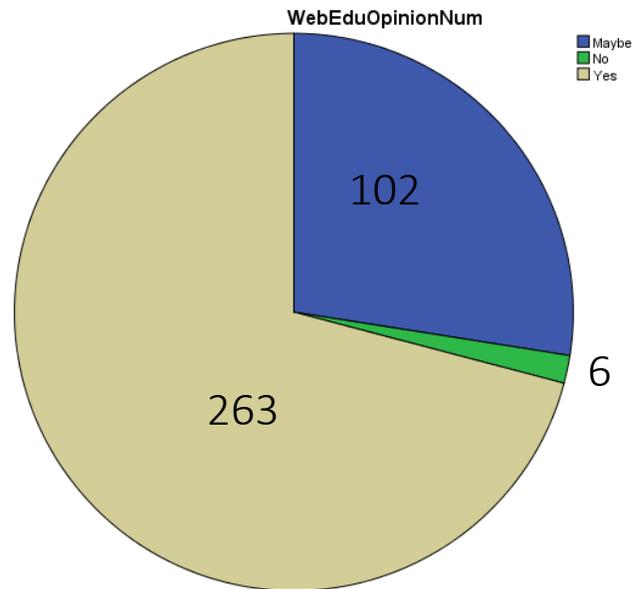
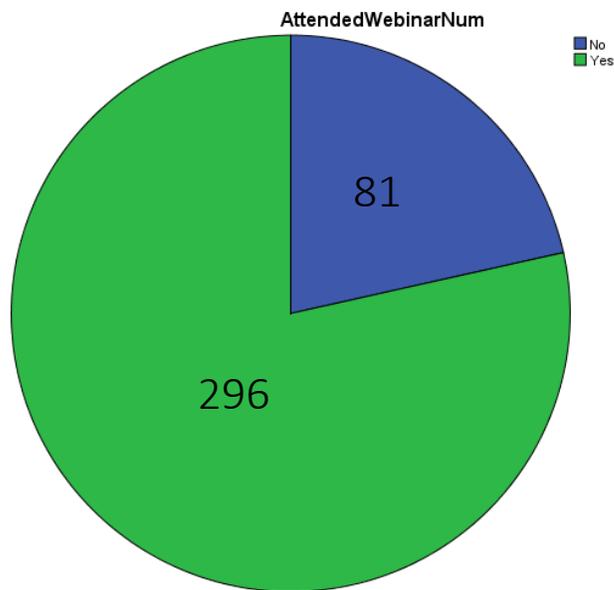


# Tech and Communication

“Have you ever attended a webinar?”

“Do you think webinars would be a productive means of education?”

“Would you be willing to present a topic for a webinar?”



# Musings and Website

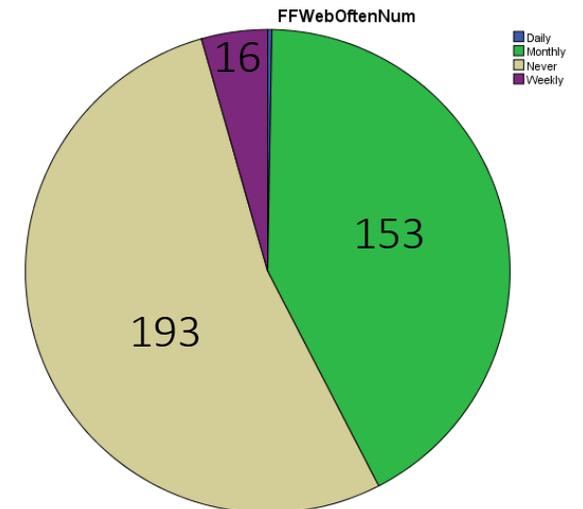
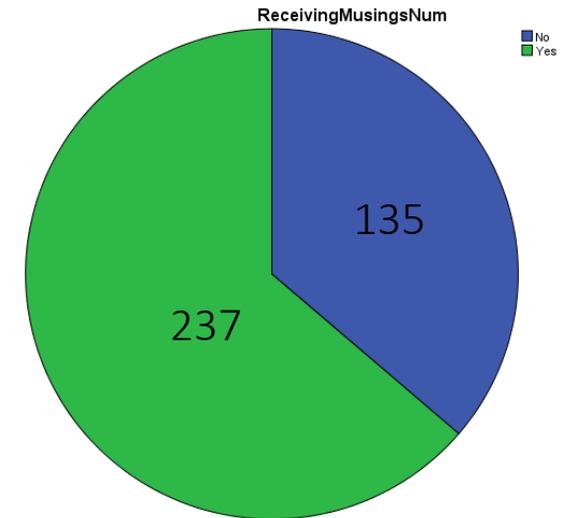
“Musings provides helpful insights into living the Franciscan charism. Are you receiving/reading the Musings?”

“Overall, how helpful is Musings?”

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being “Not helpful at all” and 5 being “Very helpful”

Average of 3.07

“How often do you visit the Franciscan Federation website?”



# AFC

<u>Question</u>	<u>Average score</u>
How would you rate your overall experience at the AFC?	3.9
How would you rate the format of the AFC?	3.6
How would you rate the content of the AFC in addressing Franciscan topics?	4.1
How effective have the resolutions adopted at the AFC been in guiding or focusing your personal actions during the year?	3.1
How effective have the resolutions adopted at the AFC been in guiding or focusing your community's actions during the year?	3.1

# Qualitative Results

What, for you,  
is the most  
significant  
aspect of your  
association  
with the  
religious  
community?

- 11 said Relationship, sisters, other Franciscans, associates
- 5 said Spirituality/theology
- 5 said Franciscan charism and values



What would be helpful in strengthening and deepening this Franciscan collaboration?

- 7 said Connection
- 5 said Interaction, communication, with community others
- 5 said Formation, resources, history



What type of outreach do you use to recruit new people?

- 22 said they use Invitation, personal, word of mouth, witness

# How might the Franciscan Federation support your ministry of leadership?

- Share enrichment resources, Franciscan Identity, and retreats
- Canonical Governance
- Meetings/workshops for leaders

How do you  
share  
information  
from AFC?

- E-mail and newsletters

What are some ideas for how the Federation can attain and maintain financial security?

- Grants and collaboration

As we look at the current realities and to the future, what do you hope the Franciscan Federation will contribute to the wider Church and society?

- Franciscan Values
- Consciousness building, Reconciliation, Peacemaking
- Social Justice, ecology, migration
- Collaboration

building  
peacemaking  
ability  
reconciliation  
denigrating  
issues  
value  
collaboration  
consciousness  
visibility  
Francis  
ec spirituality  
values  
speak  
years

There are many social justice issues that Franciscans advocate. What do you see as the top priority or priorities for the Federation?

- Most common response was Immigration/refugees-boarder-justice-merciful
- Also mentioned Poverty-homeless-hungry-women and Children-poor and marginalized
- Dignity and respect for all persons, womb to tomb
- Ecology-Care of the earth Climate change



What ministry  
would you be  
interested in  
collaborating  
on?

- Border immigration, refugees, children, daily care, justice, education, relocate refugees, legal service, Spanish asylum
- Social justice issues-advocacy -trafficking, women's issues, peace, racism, gun violence, care of poor, homeless, water, death penalty, JPIC, prison, restorative justice, domestic violence, fund-raising,
- Franciscan charism- mission, leadership, prayer ministry, Chaplain, vocations,
- Education Health care- justice education, digital discipleship, archives,

# How do Franciscans meet the needs of ongoing formation in the Franciscan traditions?

- Available resources-people-programs-media sources,
- Formation Program: -Franciscan traditions, formation director, with other communities, Chicago, Bonaventure, Graymore, educate in Franciscan tradition, charism, values, life of Francis and Clare, various workshops, international, process, Franciscan novitiate, personal contact, inclusive of others
- Spiritual Opportunities -retreats, prayer opportunities, direction, reflections, active spirituality committee, members receive cord,
- Local Community: -programs, prayer opportunities, retreats, collaborate other Franciscans, leadership has process, celebrate Franciscan feasts, remind members what Fran Federation has to offer, Franciscan values, international, history and visit heritage places,

# What is the best way to communicate with young adults?

- Technology-social Media- e.-mail-phone- text- video
- Personal contact -one-on-one listening- ask what they want- invitation-meaningful conversations -relationship
- Groups-youth-young adult-college campuses- nones

How do we encourage and live out the Franciscan value of relationship in our technological world?

- Effective use of Technology
- Importance of personal contact (These emphasized face-to-face encounters)
- Use both/Balance in-person and technology
- Sharing resources(Collaboration)/Connecting with others

# What do you find most helpful on the website?

- Rarely access it-nothing particular-some items
- Musings/Articles-community sends out Musings-commission info-
- Annual Conference
- Retreats and workshops offerings from various communities

# How can the website be a better vehicle for educating members on our Franciscan traditions?

- Federation: doing a good job, like improvements made to website-more articles on Franciscanism-Franciscan scholars-format and fonts difficult to read-give links to retreats and works to make briefer-let members know what is available-keep current-encourage members to write articles, reflections, personal stories, prayer services, programs, workshops, articles on Tradition
- Congregations: interaction with lay associates-help members to be aware of website and what Federation has to offer-need for Franciscan Sources to be in other languages-encourage members to contribute articles, stories, prayers, programs, etc.
- Individual federation members: -share PowerPoints, prayer services, programs, brief personal stories and reflections, ideas, workshops, articles on Franciscan Tradition
- On-Line: referrals for courses, websites for information, readings, webinars, podcasts, zoom, digital disciples, be interactive, keep current, links to connect with other information.

What is the best way for the Franciscan Federation Office to share pertinent information with you?

- E-mail-use Flocknotes for current info-general messages
- Community leadership-regional reps-reminders, communication-commissions seem irrelevant, JPIC office

As we look at the current realities and to the future, what is your vision for the Franciscan Federation in the future?

- Resource/Clearinghouse
- Reach out to more lay ministries and communities
- Uniting Voice/Collaboration/Connecting (not necessarily membership)
- Some specific concrete suggestions
  - Dress like sisters (Polish communities gaining members that way)
  - Program to assist Associates in the ageing process

What would you like to see change in the Franciscan Federation so that it may thrive as an organization?

- Programs/Activities/Focus
  - Focus: Quality not quantity of offerings; tend to the heart (not just mind), MISSION (ministry will flow); futuristic; less internal governance and more on content
- More inclusive (membership, participation, collaboration, outreach)
- Communication issues

# What has prevented you from attending the AFC?

- 11 said they didn't know about it
- 7 said they had other commitments
- Some said health and other issues prevented them from going

What has been  
the most  
beneficial  
thing for you  
about the  
AFC?

- Connection to Larger Franciscan Family
- Sharing/Interaction/Collaboration
- Content/Input Received

What suggestion do you have that would make AFC more appealing to younger members?

- Methods/Techniques
  - Local/regional gatherings, retreats, days of reflection
  - Technologies: webinars, social media, podcasts
  - Round table discussions
  - Engaging – not just lectures – engages heart as well as mind; discussions,
  - Contemplative dialogue
  - Orientation to Federation and AFC
  - Service opportunities, action for social justice/cause
  - Collaborating conference (with other entities)
  - Programs in schools (high school, universities)
  - Parish programs
  - Upbeat liturgies, speakers, shorter sessions
  - Younger cohort meet within the AFC

What suggestion do you have that would make AFC more appealing to younger members?

- Pertinent topics
- Involve them in the planning; invite to be presenters/leaders/committee members
- Collaboration
  - High Schools, Universities, parishes, SFO, Nuns & Nones, Giving Voice, etc.
- Accessibility/Affordability issues

# How can we bring more diversity to the AFC?

- Extend/Expand invitation to participate
- Start locally individually and congregationally
- Examine current diversity levels in Federation and individual congregations
- Accessibility, Affordability – to be able to include more

# What kinds of regional programs would you find helpful?

- Offerings
  - Retreats
  - Conferences
  - Days of Reflection
  - Prayer services
  - From ½ day to full day offerings
- Ways to deliver input
  - Webinar
  - Speakers
  - Tours
  - Newsletter

# How do you network with other Franciscans in your region?

- Informally through other programs, events
- Email, Social Media
- Lay Associates

# How do we increase awareness of Franciscan values among young people?

- Education
  - Service learning
  - Reflection
  - Programs
- 8 Collaboration (AFCU, parishes, FMS, etc.)
- Outreach (go TO them, to where they are)
- Technology-Media

As followers of  
Sts.  
Francis/Clare,  
how can we be  
witnesses  
promoting  
Franciscan  
values in a  
wounded world?

- Example, modeling, living values
- Presence, Availability
  - Present person-to-person/everyday encounters/locally
  - Being with/there for those in need/marginalized
  - Bring who we are
  - Be available each day
  - BE personal physical presence of Franciscan values