

IFSB FORUM GUIDELINES

TENTATIVE DATE OF PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION, MONDAY, JULY 21st, 2003

The following guidelines are intended to help assure that the forum will be a venue in which fellowship, information, and fruitful discussion are shared in a positive atmosphere that reflects a fraternal love among all that participate.

A team of moderators is on hand to implement the guidelines. This team consists of IFSB members who have volunteered their time to help ensure that focus, civility, and proper decorum is maintained in the forum.

All messages will be screened by moderators prior their publication to the forum. Therefore, please allow a reasonable length for your message to be posted to the forum; it may take several hours.

Please read following statement, which is actually, number nine of eleven suggestions made by the Reverend Father of the Carthusian Order for the benefit of the IFSB. Forum guidelines have been based upon his recommendations.

9. The Internet Forum is not an end in itself, but a means. Its aim is to help certain persons to develop their spiritual life along the lines set by Saint Bruno and with His help. The forum is therefore to be cleaned up:
 - a. Avoid useless chatter and discussions remotely connected to the purpose of the Forum;
 - b. An oecumenical openness is to be practised but according to the norms fixed by the Church. Religious syncretist tendencies are to be excluded;
 - c. Sobriety and modesty are important features of the spiritual path established by Saint Bruno. Therefore members should stay away of polemics and not compromise with groups holding integrist or avant-gardist ideas and positions;
 - d. All members, including the management board, shall progress together in the respect of the Magisterium of the Church;
 - e. The role of the moderators is very important: their work and their interventions have to follow clear and well defined rules.

The IFSB Forum guidelines are

1. Focus should be centered on subjects related to the Carthusian Order, its spirituality, history, etc. Relative subjects that address the formation of souls through the practice of elements of Carthusian spirituality are also part of maintaining the focus of the forum, such as Desert Father spirituality, Lectio Divina (sacred reading) and solitude. Let common sense prevail. If one is not sure if a subject is proper for the forum, please consult with a moderator before attempting to publish a message.
2. References to Church and secular politics, as well as sexuality are prohibited (the subjects of chastity and celibacy in certain instances will be allowed).
3. "Chatter" is to be kept to a minimum. Chatter is defined as: posting jokes, news clips, (except in very rare instances such as references to the Carthusian Order) etc. Brief affirmations may be submitted in a subject line with the notation (nm) (no message) E.g. "Great insight, Marc!"(nm)
4. Files uploaded to the forum archives must be approved by a moderator. The moderator must examine the file

content and screen for viruses before granting approval.

5. Open solicitation of web sites, products, or organizations are generally not permitted on the forum. However, such items may be approved for links to be placed on the IFSB web site, and in some cases permitted after consideration by the moderators.

6. Moderators reserve the right to issue a desist order to the entire forum, or certain members, from engaging in discussions that appear to be degrading into an argument. Members reserve the right to appeal such orders.

7. Personal insults and offensive comments aimed at other members, or other religions or Christian bodies are prohibited.

8. Misrepresentation of one's identity will be cause for the immediate banning of the email address used to publish such misrepresentations from the forum. However, if one does not wish to use his or her name, and would rather use their online 'handle', this is permissible. (*See note below)

9. Persons of all faiths are welcome on the IFSB Forum. However, the viewpoint of the Forum is that of fidelity to the living Magisterium (teaching authority) of the Roman Catholic Church. The membership is predominately Catholic. Therefore, please be respectful of this fact.

10. Debates arising from differences between Catholic theology and that of other faiths are not in harmony with the intent of the forum, and thus will not be allowed.

*Note: It is not possible in all cases for the management of the IFSB to be able to discern the identity of forum members. However, much stricter requirements will be imposed in this regard for St. Bruno Lay Contemplatives members (SBLC).

- The moderators reserve the right to reject any messages sent to the forum email address (IFSB@yahogroups.com).
- The moderators will always state a specific reason and cite one of the published guidelines in their rejection message.
- IFSB members have the right to appeal such actions to either Karen Sadock or Kevin Kane.