



Candidacy Phase - Preparations before Profession In the Secular Franciscan Order

To be given to each candidate during their first class, please discuss

Reflection Questions - Candidacy Phase	Given out <u>midway</u> through the Candidacy Candidacy Phase
Sessions	We recommend making up any missed session before the next session and written homework assignments.
Private Retreat	to reflect—using the “Reflection Questions - Candidacy Phase” document - upon your suitability and readiness for admission to profession. This is a time to draw aside for further serious introspection, <u>e.g.</u> , in a silent retreat, in Eucharistic Adoration, in the silence of your home, etc.
Post Retreat Conversation	to meet with your ongoing formator/delegate after your private retreat. This is an opportunity to dialogue with your ongoing formator/delegate about your responses to the reflection questions. Before this meeting, please give h/her a copy of your completed “Reflection Questions—Candidacy Phase”.
Letter to Council	to make a request to enter the SFO by a formal act, in writing—if possible. Please give your request to the minister of the fraternity.
Interview	Your On-going Formator will make arrangements for your interview. Copies of your <u>completed</u> “Reflection Questions - Candidacy Phase” should be given to each interviewer - before the interview.
Post Interview Recommendation	to know that the interviewers will discuss your responses during the interview and the formation director will complete the “Post Interview Recommendation” and give it to the fraternity council. The fraternity council will review the recommendation and make a collegial response to your request. The minister gives a formal response answer to you and communicates this to the fraternity. Rule 23 GC 39:1-4 (If it is decided that you are not ready, the spiritual assistant, minister, and formation director or delegates will schedule a time with you to privately dialogue with you about the council’s decision and make recommendations. A copy of the decision w/recommendations will be included in your formation records. <u>You will be the first to hear the decision</u> before the minister announces it to the members of the fraternity.
Rite of Profession	Upon approval of admission to profession by the fraternity council <i>Rule 23 GC 41:1, 2</i>



REFLECTION QUESTIONS - Candidacy Phase

Purpose—“Practice of knowledge more deeply roots the elements that transform.” Four Pillars Candidacy is a time to internalize and integrate the Four Pillars into ones life.

These questions give the Candidate and the council the opportunity to reflect upon h/her **readiness** to profess our Rule.

THE FOUR PILLARS **SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION, FRATERNITY, APOSTOLATE**

Spirituality Pillar

“The Spirituality Pillar must be anchored in prayer and contemplation. It is the means to being attentive and pursuing the application of our Franciscan Spirituality on a daily basis. It is the spirit of God that we wish to nourish and make strong within us. This internal quest is realized through the external stimulus of prayer.”

- 1.1 Tell us about your prayer life - its strengths and weaknesses.
- 1.2 How has my prayer life given my life direction?
- 1.3 Through my prayer life - How has the spirit of God been nourished and made strong within me?
- 1.4 How and what have I prayerfully discerned that makes me think that I am ready and suitable to profess and make a life-time commitment to the Secular Franciscan Order - at this time?

Formation Pillar

“Formation is our vehicle that informs, forms, and ultimately transforms us. During the formation process, information is imparted to give insight, to understand, and to practice an authentic Franciscan way of life. This gives way to an internalized and integrated facet of the Franciscan way of life. Ultimately, with time and application, there is a transformation.”

- 2.1 We are on a journey of allowing our Rule to transform us. Which articles of the Rule have transformed me and which ones continue to challenge me and how?
- 2.2 Tell us which stories about Sts. Francis and Clare have resonated the most deeply with you and how?

- 2.3 During my time in formation what gospel(s) reading has/have touched, inspired, and sustained me during my formation journey and how?
- 2.4 Now having been with the Fraternity for sometime how has my understanding of the Catholic faith and doctrine been enhanced, strengthened, integrated and internalized by virtue of the Franciscan influence of formation/ community/ apostolate and spirituality?

Fraternity Pillar

“The basic unit of the Order is the local fraternity. Fraternity is the privileged place to pray together, to learn, to serve, and to grow as members within a particular spirituality and lifestyle. Fraternity calls us to attend to the interpersonal aspects of our life together. We are called to speak the truth in love, i.e. in the love of Christ and the spirit of Francis and Clare”. We do this by following the example of Sts. Francis and Clare, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of life with God and people.”

- 3.1 Using the above, underlined criteria - how have I made Christ the inspiration and the center of my life with God and others?
- 3.2 As members of a fraternity, we strive “to promote the ‘good of the fraternity’, rather than promoting one’s individual agenda” (the Fraternity Pillar). Tell us about your strengths and weaknesses of being an active member of our fraternity. How has being a member of fraternity transformed me?

Apostolate Pillar

“The fraternity apostolate gives us the important opportunity to actually work together as a fraternity. When we meet together in our fraternity gatherings we get a chance to interact with each other, but the fraternity apostolate gives us the added opportunity to interact and work together at a different level. A cooperative spirit attentive to those involved and the objective of the task are the basis on which the apostolate is pursued. This pursuit is to communicate individuals working as a unit in peace and harmony—to feed, to clothe, to conform—to make Christ present in the name of Francis.”

- 4.1 As a candidate how have I participated in the fraternity apostolate? How has the fraternity apostolate transformed me?
- 4.2 Do I understand that my participation and cooperation with the fraternity while ministering is as important as the ministry we do? How have I been ministered to in a Christ like manner and received the benefit of the ministry?