

Council Questionnaire: The entire council should discuss these questions and submit one set of answers to the pastoral and fraternal visitors. If you need more space, please attach additional pages.

1. “The Fraternity of the OFS finds its origin in the inspiration of Saint Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed that the Gospel is essential to life in fraternal communion” (GC 28.1)
 - a. How do you see the council promoting community life?
 - b. How do you help your brothers and sisters engage in open and respectful dialog?

2. Secular Franciscans are called to "discover the presence of the Father in their own hearts" (GC 12.3) and to "live in the spirit of continual conversion" (GC 113.1).
 - a. How does the council nurture the personal and communal prayer lives of their brothers and sisters?
 - b. How do you make Franciscan spirituality central to your fraternity?

3. The Fraternity council should “promote the initiatives necessary... for sustaining members in their witness and commitment in the world” and “make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the Fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate” (GC 50.1).
 - a. What are the goals of your fraternity apostolates?
 - b. How are your brothers and sisters involved in choosing and running them?
 - c. Are there other apostolates you could start?
 - d. How does your fraternity promote Catholic teaching on justice, peace and the integrity of creation?

4. Secular Franciscan formation should help the brothers and sisters in: “meditating on the Word of God,” “reflecting on events...in society in the light of faith and...taking consistent positions,” and “deepening their Franciscan vocation” (GC 44.3).
 - a. How are ongoing formation programs chosen, and how much time do you spend on ongoing formation? How much time do members spend preparing for ongoing formation?
 - b. How does formation help your brothers and sisters learn more about our Franciscan identity and to deal with the challenges they face in their lives?
 - c. How does the council discern whether your candidates and inquirers have a vocation to our order?

5. What goals do you have as a council? What is going well? What challenges do you face? How do you think the regional council could assist you better?