

ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSISTANTS—Spring 2021

Spiritual Assistant Job Description:

- In the SA Handbook there are 9 points to consider.
- The following are 2 that are essential:
 - The SA must be knowledgeable about Franciscan spirituality as well as understanding the Secular Franciscan way of life; and
 - The SA needs skills in communicating Franciscan spirituality.

Ongoing Formation: GC 44.3

- “Ongoing formation is accomplished by means of courses, gatherings, and the sharing of experience—aims to assist the brothers and sisters:
 - Rule 4 in listening to and meditating on the Word of God, going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.”
- in reflecting on events in the Church and in society in the light of faith, and with the help of the documents of the teaching Church, consequently taking consistent positions;
- in discerning and deepening the Franciscan vocation by studying the writings of St Francis and St Clare and Franciscan authors.”

Resources on hand:

- ❖ Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order, 2014
- ❖ Handbook for Spiritual Assistants to the Secular Franciscan Order, 2012
- ❖ Franciscan Family Connections, 2011

Resources in general:

1] should convey clear information on the nature of the Secular Franciscan vocation and clarity about the permanent and secular aspects of this vocation. Learning and applying the OFS Rule is required.

2] refer to the essential elements of formation: the Gospel; the Rule; Franciscan writings; Church documents on the role of the laity in the Church; resources that apply to daily life.

3] clear examples of Franciscan spirituality and apostolic involvement, especially social and Church issues in modern times.

4] accentuate how, in daily life, we follow Francis and Clare through a process of: ongoing conversion; in communicating with our sisters and brothers; as secular persons; in life giving union with all Franciscans.

Assistance is characterized by:

- Theological and spiritual qualities rooted in truth
- Witness of fidelity to the Franciscan vocation
- Stimulus to create peace, justice, truth, and love
- Help in reading the “signs of the times”
- Presentation of the spiritual dimension of the OFS

Altius moderamen: GS Title V, 85.2:

- To guarantee the fidelity of the OFS to the Franciscan charism;
- Foster communion with the Church; and
- Maintain union (life-giving union) with the Franciscan family, all values which represent a vital reciprocity for the Secular Franciscan.

Appointments:

- The spiritual assistant is appointed by the Provincial or the PSA;
- The spiritual assistant exercises his/her service to the fraternity in the name of the bonded Province.