

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
**Preparation for Profession
Interview and Assessment**

Instructions:

1. Set a time with the candidate at least a month prior to the profession date for an interview to certify the candidate's readiness to make the SFO their way of life.
2. The Spiritual Assistant and the Formation Director interview each candidate individually so they can validate their conclusions about the readiness of each candidate for profession.
3. The Spiritual Assistant and the Formation Director may use questions from the Interview Prior to Profession.
 - a. *IT IS ALSO HELPFUL FOR THEM TO REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL FORMATION IN THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES.*
4. After their interviews are completed, they discuss their findings.
5. At the council meeting prior to the profession, the spiritual assistant and the formation director share the information with the council. The fraternity council members consider the candidate's statements, responses to the interview questionnaire and the assessments of the formation director and spiritual assistant and ask for explanations and/or clarification as necessary to evaluate the candidate's readiness for profession.
6. After due and prayerful consideration, the council votes, by secret ballot*, on the candidate's readiness for profession. The vote may be:

YES - Candidate is ready for profession.

NO - Candidate is not ready for profession.

NEEDS MORE TIME - Candidate needs more time for discernment of their vocation.
7. The fraternity council notifies the candidate and the fraternity of its decision.

* See: [THE RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER, Rule #23](#) and [GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER, Article 41](#).

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Preparation for Profession
Interview Questionnaire

The fraternity may use as many of these questions as they choose or create its own list of questions. However, the answers to questions 1 and 2, are essential in evaluating a candidate's preparedness for profession.

1. Do you fully understand and are you deeply aware that by making your profession in the Secular Franciscan Order you will be making a lifelong commitment?
2. Do your present circumstances allow you to freely commit yourself to the Secular Franciscan Order and this fraternity (to live the Gospel life and fulfill your obligations to attend meetings and participate in fraternity activities and projects as you are able)?
3. How would being a member of the Secular Franciscan Order affect your everyday living?
4. Do you have any particular gifts (talents, skills, spiritual insights, etc.) that you can share with this fraternity?
5. Are you willing to take on responsibilities in the fraternity when needed, according to your abilities?
6. What can you bring to the Secular Franciscan Order and this fraternity?
7. What can the Secular Franciscan Order and this fraternity give you?
8. What areas of spiritual growth will you be better able to pursue as a member of the Secular Franciscan Order and this fraternity?
9. Please explain your view of Franciscan life.
10. Do you have any questions about the Secular Franciscan Order or this fraternity that you would like to bring up? You may use the back of this page to write your question(s).

Revised March 2006

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

in the United States of America



Certificate of Profession

Full Name

Has made Permanent Profession
And was received into the

Fraternity of _____

in _____
City State

on

the ___ day of the _____ month, in the Year of Our Lord ____.

Signature

Signature

Name (Print) _____
SFO Minister of Profession

Name (Print) _____
Friar (or other Clerical)
Witness (Spiritual Assistant- if
a priest is unavailable)