



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 6: Life in Fraternity

5. The Fraternity Council



Describe the duties of each of these offices:

1. MINISTER
2. VICE MINISTER
3. SECRETARY
4. TREASURER
5. FORMATION MINISTER

How many members are required to form a fraternity council?

Have you any constructive suggestions as to how things could be improved by your council?

With regard to the officers in your fraternity, which are being done well and which not so well? How could things be improved? Which role would you like to take on/consider taking on in the future?

On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective councils. Rule 21

Council's Duty:

To see that in fraternity all members experience true Franciscan fellowship -

- bonds of brotherly and sisterly love are strengthened by the council which ensures ongoing formation & the reaching out to neighbouring fraternities.

The importance of the council is expressed succinctly by Benet Fonck: 'The vitality or stagnation of a Secular Franciscan community depends mainly and directly on the council which is led by the minister and advised, where there is one available, by the spiritual assistant. The quality of fraternity life is in direct proportion to the quality of the council's leadership. Hence the council must repeatedly question itself on its commitment, on its capacity to work together as a team and on the concern it shows toward each member.'



Called to Follow Christ (p 109)



Scripture—

John 21. 15-17

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ he said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’