

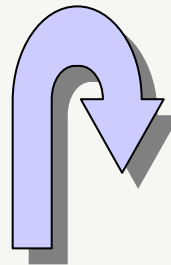


- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 6: Life in Fraternity

7. Formation

Requests for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order must be presented to the local fraternity, whose council decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters. Admission to the Order is gradually attained through a time of initiation, a period of formation of at least one year and profession of the Rule. The entire community is engaged in this process of growth by its own manner of living. The age for profession and the distinctive Franciscan sign are regulated by the statutes. Profession by its very nature is a permanent commitment. Members who find themselves in particular difficulties should discuss their problems with the council in fraternal dialogue. Withdrawal or permanent dismissal from the Order, if necessary, is an act of the fraternity council according to the norm of the constitutions. Rule 23



Answer T (true) or F (false)
in the box:

Formation is only necessary if you are not well educated or have only just become a Catholic.

The OFS is not a 'proper Order' of the Church because the professed do not profess the *evangelical councils*.

The OFS is like the Legion of Mary, or a charismatic prayer group. One is free to come and go and there is no commitment like in religious life

The OFS has its own Rule approved by the Holy See



1. What was the last Franciscan book that you read or referred to?
2. What makes a 'good' fraternity, and what makes a 'great' one?
3. What for you has been the best thing about the formation you have received so far?
4. What would you like to say to St Francis when you meet him?



Scripture—

Isa 42. 1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

John 10. 27-30

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.