



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 6: Life in Fraternity

9. Preparing for Elections

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 is 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

You may ask, ‘What sort of “skills” are we looking for in the people we elect’? Seldom will any one person have all or most of the following attributes—but possession of some of them is an indication of suitability as a leader in Franciscan life.

Discipline	[faithfulness to prayer; perseverance]
Vision	[insight; inspirer of vision in others]
Listening	[often and long—without prejudgment]
Courage	[meeting difficulty without discouragement]
Decision	[taking responsibility based on sound premises]
Humility	[sacrificial service; admitting frailty; only asking others to take on tasks we would be prepared to do]
Integrity	[transparent character; innocent of guile; loyal in service]
Humour	[not afraid of being laughed at; relaxing tension by seeing the funny side of things]
Inspirational	[light for others; helping others to see their talents, their value]
Wisdom	[discernment with the Holy Spirit]
Trust	[in others, coming from a trust in God]
Collaboration	[working with—always with others]

Q. What is the role of the “spiritual assistant” in the life of the Order? Who appoints, and from where?





Scripture—

Jer 45. 5

And you, do you seek great things for yourself?

Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the Lord; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go.

Mk 10. 42-44

So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘ You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.’