

### **TITLE 3: PROVISION FOR LIFE IN FRATERNITY (From National Statutes approved September 2012)**

#### **Article 7**

##### **The time of initiation<sup>14</sup>**

1. A person who is interested in the Secular Franciscan way of life shall attend at least six monthly meetings as a VISITOR before requesting, in writing, to enter Initiation as an ENQUIRER. The period as Visitor will enable the Council and the Visitor to discern whether or not he/she has both the interest and disposition to proceed towards Profession in the OFS. The fraternity will also have made sure that the member is eligible to enter the Order (GC Art 37.3). If the Local Fraternity Council agrees that the Visitor may have a vocation to the OFS, the period of enquiry will begin with the Ceremony of Introduction.

2. The period of Enquiry shall last at least one year, during which time, under the guidance of the formation minister, the Enquirer shall complete the course of initiation approved by the National Council of the OFS of Great Britain. The Council must be satisfied that the Enquirer shows a clear sign of vocation to the way of life of a Secular Franciscan.

3. A person who has recently been received into the Catholic Church must normally spend a minimum of two years in full communion with the Church before proceeding to Initiation. The time as Visitor may run concurrently. At the discretion of the Local Fraternity, this time may be reduced by a year for former members of the Anglican Franciscan family.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Admission to the Order<sup>15</sup>**

to the Order as a CANDIDATE, shall spend a minimum of two years in Initial Formation, under the guidance of the formation minister, completing the course of formation approved by the National Council of the OFS of Great Britain, before Profession takes place.

2. The minimum age for admission into the OFS of Great Britain shall be eighteen years

#### **Article 9**

##### **Non-attendance**

1. A Fraternity member who is unable to attend the meetings because of age, sickness or distance remains part of the Fraternity, cared for and kept in touch with and encouraged to contribute to the funds and in any other ways possible
2. If a member is otherwise absent from the meetings, for no valid reason, for several months, article 56 of the OFS General Constitutions will be applied, in the spirit of the

CIOFS Presidency instruction contained in the circular letter n. 18 - 2002-2008, entitled "Treatment of non active members", dated October 4, 2004.