

Interview of Candidates

Pre-Profession Interview

At the end of the period of formation, and concluding a progressive journey towards temporary or permanent profession, the candidate officially asks to be professed. This request will be made at a meeting of the Minister, the Director of Formation, the sponsor and, if possible, the Spiritual Assistant.

The objectives of this interview are as follows:

- a) to allow the candidate to confirm his/her desire to be professed and to assess his/her spiritual journey;
- b) to allow those responsible to support the candidate on his/her way to profession (temporary or permanent) which ever is his/her wish;
- c) to allow the fraternity council to consider and officially reply to the candidate's request for Profession, by acceptance, postponement or rejection.

Throughout the formation journey, the inter-relation among those engaged in this journey should be constant; that is between the sponsor and the candidate, the candidate and the formation director, the formation director and the minister, the minister and the candidate and vice versa.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR INTERVIEW

1. Welcome and prayer by Minister
2. Introduction (Minister)
 - period of formation is a time of study and discernment;
 - profession is a time of decision and commitment.
3. Explanation to candidate of the purpose of the interview
 - to provide an opportunity for the candidate to ask questions concerning formation or commitment;

- to emphasize the importance of this step in the life of a Secular Franciscan.

4. Sharing

- ask the candidate to share a little of his/her personal life, background, etc;
- ask the candidate to explain what has drawn him/her to the Secular Franciscan Order (why s/he wishes to become a Secular Franciscan?)
- how has the period of formation contributed to the candidate living a more enriched Christian life?
- has the candidate had an opportunity to develop his/her prayer life?

5. Discussion of temporary or permanent Profession

- use the Rite of Commitment to explain the decision required of the candidate;
- discuss the permanent commitment to the Gospel Way of Life and to the Rule.

6. Other Questions.

7. Concluding Prayer for the candidate (Spiritual Assistant)

This prayer may be spontaneous or the following:

Heavenly Father, please be with as s/he embarks on this faith journey.

Yahweh, God of the journey, you went with the Israelites in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to give them light for their journey.

Please remind us often that we are to bring the Good News, that we are your servants, heralds of justice and peace.

Help us to be open to your Word and to follow your Way. Strengthen us and make us more aware of our call to live the Franciscan charism.

Please, Heavenly Father, make us instruments of your Peace.

We ask this, Father, through your son Jesus Christ and the intercession of St. Francis (St. Clare) of Assisi.

Amen.