Franciscan Journey Notes
Chapter 1

Orientation in the SFO
Orientation
Should be at least 3 months, minimum

- Time to get to know each other – you & the fraternity
- Determine whether you have a Franciscan vocation or not – this continues throughout inquiry

Your Situation with the Church – sacramental records, life style
Your Knowledge of the Creed
Your Attitudes & Perspectives

Reflection
Dialogue
Prayer
Rule 23

- Membership in the SFO requires:
  - 1. Time of Formation
  - 2. Invitation
  - 3. Profession of Rule

Holy Spirit is the Principal Agent
Formation develops throughout our lives
It begins with entrance into the fraternity.
Admission to the Order –
Aspirant presents by formal act a request to enter

- Aspirant
  - Presents a formal request in writing

- Council
  - Provides Formal Response & communicates this to fraternity

- Candidate
  - Reads Scriptures, writings of Francis, Franciscan spirituality

- Participates in Gatherings
Way of Life must take Priority

- Participation in gatherings of the local fraternity is an indispensable presupposition for initiation into community prayer and into fraternity life. (Constitutions – article 40.2, 40.3)
- When participation in other groups or SFO, SFO must take priority – however, family and other serious situation can take priority occasionally
- If one must be absent, courtesy requires one to notify the council or formation director.
Periods of Formation

To be admitted to the SFO in the United States, a person must be fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (having received the sacraments of **Baptism**, **Confirmation**, and **Holy Eucharist**, in addition to being an **actively practicing** Catholic.)

- **Orientation** – 3 months - minimum
- **Initial formation** – 6 months – minimum
- **Candidacy** – not less than 18 months - not more than 36 months
Conditions for Profession or promise of evangelical life are:

- Profession is the solemn ecclesial act by which the candidate, renews baptismal promises and publicly affirms his or her personal commitment to live the Gospel in the world according to the example of Francis, and following the Rule of the SFO.
- Profession incorporates the candidate into the Order and is by its nature a perpetual commitment.
- Permanent profession may be proceeded by a temporary profession, renewable annually. Temporary profession can be no longer than 3 years.

Be at least 21 years of age  
Active participation in formation  
The consent of the council