Franciscan Journey
Chapter 10
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CANDIDACY IN THE SFO
Candidacy – 18 to 36 months

- Candidacy is the end of initial formation, but not end of formation
- Leads to your final decision to make profession as a Secular Franciscan or not
- Time to consecrate gifts and skills to service of fraternity, Church and World
- Bring the spirit of Francis to the World
- Invitation to a new life
- Develop a loving response to the Gospels
Francis invites us to deepen our relationship with Jesus

Candidates should explore ways to achieve intimacy with Jesus

Good, often does not lead to change of life

Conversion - Life change

- Contemplative Prayer
- Formation that is livable and credible & must show in our behavior
- Called to be “Living Stones” build community of believers - Kingdom of God
- Holy Spirit will transform through prayer & action
Prologue to the 1978 Rule
written by St Francis of Assisi

Exhortation to Brothers & Sisters of Penance – Francis tells us what happens when we do Penance – and when we do not do Penance

“All those who refuse to do penance and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord JESUS CHRIST are blind…. They indulge their vices and sins and follow their evil longings and desires, without a thought for the promises they made.”

—Saint Francis of Assisi
Those who do Penance

- Love God
- Love Eucharist
- Love Self
- Love Neighbor
- Faith Shows in Actions
- Focus on Relationship with God
Relational - We are brothers, sisters of Jesus, when our lives reflect the model of Jesus

Children of Trinity

Father

Jesus

Holy Spirit

Neighbor

When we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, JOY becomes a stable quality
Holy Spirit prepares us to go out to bring others to Christ

Love  Peace  Kindness  Joy  Patience  Generosity  Faithfulness  Gentleness  Self Control
Prologue is integral part of the SFO Rule
It calls us to:

- Accept inner meaning of penance & conversion
- Complete conversion, turn from self centeredness
- Total change of heart & life – not just some opinions and ideas
- Follow the spirit of the Seraphic Lover, Francis of Assisi

Love becomes vital to us – as it is to the Trinity
Scriptures support Francis’ words in Prologue

- **Father**
  - Embrace His Way - models relationship

- **Jesus**
  - Imitate His compassion for poor and marginalized

- **Holy Spirit**
  - Prepares us to go do God’s Will

- **Neighbor**
  - Be respectful and attentive without complaining
Those who do not do Penance

- Seeks personal needs instead of neighbor - Leads to vices & sin
- Promises not kept
- Anxiety becomes normal state
- Negative influences dominate
- Ignores God
- Ignores Eucharist
- Ignores Gospels way of life of Jesus
- Ignores God's way of life of Jesus
- Ignores Eucharist
Francis’ Exhortations must be taken seriously

(He uses extremes to make his point)

St. Francis gives his blessing at the end of his prologue.