

SFO Affiliate Protocol

(Referenced authority: see General constitutions Article 53.5 & 103.1
and NAFRA Statutes Article 18.13)

Process for extending hospitality to others interested
in sharing in a fraternity's experiences and activities*

- Individuals who wish to affiliate with a local fraternity should read pages 13-25 in "Praying with Francis of Assisi", the section, "Is praying with Francis for you?" and the overview on Francis and Franciscan Spirituality.
- The interested individual is encouraged to attend gatherings for six months prior to requesting affiliate status to allow for proper discernment by both the individual and the community as to the benefit of the relationship.
- During this period of "getting to know each other" the individual is encouraged to familiarize himself/herself with the life of St. Francis and St. Clare, the traditions and spirituality of the Franciscan Order, a general overview of our history. The local fraternity formation director is the logical person to provide guidance during this time.
- Should the individual decide to request affiliate status, a written request is submitted to the local fraternity minister and considered by the local fraternity Council. It must be made clear to the individual that 1) as an affiliate he/she has no juridical bond, voice (right to vote or hold office), or official status within the SFO and, 2) should he/she later decide to pursue profession, all of the statutory requirements of the formal formation program apply.
- Upon approval by the fraternity council, the individual is simply welcomed into the community (No special rite- Cf. attached sample). He/she may be given a certificate of affiliation. The affiliation is for a two-year period. It must be renewed every two years. The affiliate will submit a written request at that time for Council consideration.

*Our Franciscan brothers and sisters in the TSSF and OEF, having already committed to the "Franciscan Way of Life," are exempted from the formation aspects of these protocols.

Affiliate Welcoming Ceremony
Exemplar

[This is not a liturgical rite. It is simply a welcoming into the community and is appropriate to the socializing period of a Gathering.]

Minister: It is with pleasure that we welcome N.N. _____ who has requested to “share in our fraternity’s experiences and activities” (GC 103) as an affiliate. You are “welcomed to love and to be loved ‘as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ’.”(NS 18:13, b) It is a joy to have you with us on our journey as we all strive to more faithfully live the Gospel life after the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

Community members show an appropriate gesture of welcoming.

Minister: N. _____, I present you this “Certificate of Affiliation” and pray that our time together may be “Spirit filled” and that we may, as did our Seraphic Father Francis, make Christ the inspiration and center of our lives with God and his people.