



Duties of an Inquirer/Candidate Sponsor

A **sponsor** is an active professed member of the fraternity serving as a companion who journeys with the Inquirer/Candidate.

From the earliest days of the Order, Francis sent the brothers out two by two to preach the Good News of repentance to any and all they met. As with other things in life, Francis' choice of two by two was Gospel-based. In his wisdom, he would probably have paired up an older member of the fraternity with a newer member. In time, the pairs would all return and share the bounty and/or the sorrows of their missionary adventures.

An active professed member of the Fraternity will be assigned to each Inquirer/Candidate during the process of Initial Formation. This should not normally be a member of the Fraternity Council. The purpose is for the Fraternity to provide both a secular and spiritual friend during the formation process. The duties are simple but important to the long-term development of the Franciscan charism.

* First and foremost, be a friend. There will be many members of the Fraternity watching and evaluating the progress of the Inquirer/Candidate during the formation process. You should not add to that process but, instead, practice being a good listener and a supportive friend.

* Maintain contact with the Inquirer/Candidate at the regular Fraternity Gatherings and any special events. Try to see the Inquirer/Candidate at Mass if it fits your mutual schedules.

* Try to talk with the Inquirer/Candidate at least once a month outside of the regular Fraternity functions. Determine how the Inquirer/Candidate is doing with her/his assignments each month and if the Inquirer/Candidate has any questions.

* Do not attempt to encourage the Inquirer/Candidate to adopt any of your personal Franciscan or Catholic practices. Let the Inquirer/Candidate develop spiritually in his/her own personal manner and pace.

* If in the course of your interactions with the Inquirer/Candidate you find there may be a problem with the person's vocation, notify the Formation Director immediately. Do not attempt to work through the problem with the Inquirer/Candidate. At that point, your listening friendship may be the most important part of assisting the Inquirer/Candidate through the difficulty.

The Council appreciates you accepting the invitation to journey as the Sponsor with this Inquirer/Candidate, following our Lord Jesus Christ in the example set forth by St. Francis himself.

Signature of Inquirer _____ Date _____

Signature of Sponsor _____ Date _____