

Documentation Concerning Council Formation

General Constitutions

Continuing Formation

Article 44 [underline added as a reference point]

1. Begun by the preceding stages, the formation of the brothers and sisters takes place in a permanent and continuous way. It should be understood as an aid in the conversion of each and everyone and in the fulfillment of their proper mission in the Church and in society.
3. Ongoing formation – accomplished by means of courses, gatherings, and the sharing of experience – aims to assist the brothers and sisters:
 - Rule 4 in listening to and meditating on the Word of God, “going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel;”
 - in reflecting on events in the Church and in society in the light of faith, and with the help of the documents of the teaching Church, consequently taking consistent positions;
 - in discerning and deepening the Franciscan vocation by studying the writings of Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Franciscan authors.

Article 50

1. It is the duty of the council of the local fraternity:
 - to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world.

Guidelines for Initial Formation in the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States, Chapter III, The Phases of Formation, F. On-going Formation, #2, pages 28 – 29.

“Special Needs: While On-Going Formation is for all Secular Franciscans, there are certain groups which might be the object of special attention: - Newly Professed; - Councillors – Formation Personnel.”

“ b) Councillors – Persons already serving on the Fraternity Council as well as those persons the Fraternity discerns could be potential leaders should be adequately prepared for serving in the various capacities. Special learning and experience could be provided covering such topics as what it takes to be a successful Christian leader, the study of Franciscan leadership as ministry and service, and the development of good communication skills.

c) Formation Personnel – A very special subject of fundamental importance is the formation of those who form; they, more than all others have the serious duty of renewing and up-dating themselves – in other words, of constantly deepening and improving the living of their own gospel life.



Along with choosing suitable persons for this ministry, the local fraternity also has the obligation to provide training and preparation for this important ministry.”

