**Interview Guide for Inquiry / Candidacy**

Formation Director’s Guide

These questions can be used by the Formation Director or their delegate as guidelines when interviewing a prospective candidate prior to either Reception into the Order or Profession into the Order.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1) | ATTENDENCE |

Has applicant been present for all meetings during the initial period of Candidacy? Was the reason for absence excused prior to the meeting? Was the reason for absence valid? Were any study assignments missed?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2) | DOCUMENTS |

Have all required documents, letters of recommendation and Request for Profession been received?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3) | STUDY |

Does the candidate understand the commitment required for continual formation, even after profession?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4) | COMMITMENT |

Does the candidate understand that profession is a lifetime commitment to live as a Secular Franciscan in Fraternity? That regular attendance at meetings will be expected even if other activities conflict?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5) | OTHER INTERESTS |

What other activities, hobbies, and/or commitments does the candidate have? What degree of time and effort will the candidate need to give them? Will these detract from fullest participation in SFO or present a time conflict? Does candidate seem to be over-involved in activities?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 6) | FAMILY / OTHER RELATIONSHIPS |

If the candidate is married, is the spouse aware of the life-long commitment required of a professed Secular Franciscan? What is the spouse's attitude toward time and effort the candidate will need for the SFO? Is there any opposition? Would SFO involvement lead to any neglect of the family? (An interview with the candidate's spouse is recommended.)

UNMARRIED APPLICANTS:

Is the candidate romantically involved or have an active social like that may conflict with SFO participation and obligations?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 7) | PURPOSE IN BECOMING AN SFO |

1. What is the candidate's motive in professing in the SFO? Is there an "unhealthy" desire/need to join the Order? (Companionship? Change the Church? etc.) How does the present motivation compare to the candidate's initial reasons for entering formation?
2. Will this person be a positive influence in the fraternity? Or be disruptive because of psychological needs or distorted and/or extreme religious views? (Have there been any indications of extremes in lifestyle, dress or wanting to wear a "religious habit"; unusual mortifications or devotions; a desire for sacrifice or suffering?)
3. Who does the candidate admire among current or historical religious/secular persons? What other groups (religious, ideological, social activist, etc.) Does the candidate participate? (Review past and present interests.)
4. Has there been any recent emotional trauma ( e.g. death of a loved one, divorce/separation, etc.) that might indicate a need to resolve the issue before professing?
5. Invite the candidate to express any ideas, questions, or discuss any other information.

INTERVIEWER'S EVALUATION:

[ ] Recommend Profession

[ ] Recommend temporary Profession (one year)\*

[ ] Recommend delay of Profession\*

[ ] Recommend denial of Profession\*

\* REMARKS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Interviewer

**Interview Guide for Inquiry / Candidacy**

**Spiritual Assistant’s Guide**

These questions can be used by the Spiritual Assistant as guidelines when interviewing a prospective candidate prior to either Reception into the Order or Profession into the Order.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | VOCATION / COMMITMENT |

Does the candidate understand that profession in the Secular Franciscan Order is a vocation and a lifetime commitment?

Is the candidate willing to give the time and effort necessary for continual formation and participation in the life of the fraternity? Has the candidate demonstrated loyalty and unity with the Secular Franciscan Order?

Is the candidate fully aware that the Secular Franciscans are an Order within the Catholic Church, living according to a Rule approved by the Pope, and not just another Church organization?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | IN UNITY WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH |

The SFO Rule and Constitutions specify that membership requires “communion with the Church”.

Is the candidate an active Catholic, receiving the Sacraments regularly? What is the extent of his/her devotional and personal prayer life?

Is the candidate married? Did the marriage take place within the Catholic Church? (Being in an invalid/unlawful marriage is sufficient reason to deny profession in the SFO.)

Is the candidate presently involved in a romantic relationship, the nature of which may cause any problems with living profession in the Order?

Is there substantial acceptance of the beliefs of the Catholic faith? Is there a need for more education in the Catholic faith?

Is there a respect for the Church, it’s teaching authority and ministries? Does the candidate demonstrate loyalty and unity with the Church?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | PSYCHOLOGICAL / SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE |

Examine the candidate’s personal motivation for professing in the Secular Franciscan Order:

1. Is there an "unhealthy" desire/need to join the Order?
2. Will this person be a positive influence in the fraternity? Or be disruptive because of psychological needs or distorted and/or extreme religious views
3. What other groups (religious, ideological, social activist, etc.) does the candidate participate in?
4. Has there been any recent emotional trauma ( e.g. death of a loved one, divorce/separation, etc.) that might indicate a need to resolve the issue before making profession?

Invite the candidate to express any ideas, questions, or discuss any other information.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT’S EVALUATION:

[ ] Recommend Profession

[ ] Recommend temporary Profession (one year)\*

[ ] Recommend delay of Profession\*

[ ] Recommend denial of Profession\*

\* REMARKS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spiritual Assistant