Chapter of Elections

Importance of Elections and your yes to the call

**National Statutes (NS)**

Art 18 Local Fraternity

6. No official business may be transacted at a Local Fraternity meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum consists of a majority of active members who are not excused from attendance.

General Constitutions (GC)

**The Fraternity Council**

## Article 49

**1. The council of the local fraternity is composed of the following offices: minister, vice‑minister, secretary, treasurer, and master of formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each fraternity. The spiritual assistant of the fraternity forms part of the council by right.[[1]](#footnote--1)**

Article 10. Local Fraternity Elections

10.1 Each local fraternity shall elect at least the following: Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer and Formation Director.

10.2 The Regional Minister and the Regional Spiritual Assistant (or their representatives) shall serve as Presider and Friar Witness, respectively.

10.3 All permanently professed members may vote and hold office.

10.4 Prior to the day of elections a slate of candidates should be prepared.  During the election further nominations may be made from the floor.

10.5 Neither absentee ballots nor proxy votes are permitted.

10.6 When all of the positions are filled the Presider will confirm the election and prepare an **Election Report**, which is kept in the Local Fraternity files, with a copy to the Regional Secretary.

Article 77

1. In the local fraternity, the perpetually professed of the same fraternity have active voice, that is can elect, and passive voice, that is can be elected. The temporarily professed have only active voice.
2. At the other levels, the following have active voice: the secular members of the outgoing council, the representatives of the immediately lower level and of the Franciscan Youth, if professed. It belongs to the particular statutes to establish more concrete norms in application of the preceding norm, taking care to assure the broadest elective base. The perpetually professed Secular Franciscans of the corresponding area have passive voice.
3. Both the national and the international statutes – each for its own area – can establish objective qualifications regarding who can be elected to the various offices.

4. The presence of more than half of the number of those having the right to vote is required for the valid celebration of an elective chapter. For the local level, the national Statutes can establish a different norm.

**Article 78**

1. An absolute majority of the votes of those present, cast in secret, is required for the election of the minister. After two inconclusive ballots, the voting continues between the two candidates who have obtained the largest number of votes or, in case there are more than two, between the two candidates who are oldest by profession. If there is still a tie after the third ballot, the older by profession will be considered elected.
2. The election of the vice-minister proceeds in the same manner.
3. For the election of the councilors, after a first ballot without an absolute majority, a relative majority of the votes of those present, cast in secret, is sufficient, unless the particular statutes require a greater majority.
4. The secretary announces the result of the elections; the president confirms the election according to the Ritual37 if all has been carried out properly and those elected have accepted their office.

Article 79

1. The minister and vice-minister may be elected for two consecutive terms of three years each. For a third and final successive election to the office of minister or vice-minister, a majority of two-thirds of the votes of those present, which must be obtained on the first ballot, will be necessary.
2. The out-going minister cannot be elected vice-minister.
3. The councilors may be elected for additional successive terms of three years. Beginning with the third successive election, a majority of two-thirds of the votes of those present, which must be obtained on the first ballot, will be necessary.
4. The general minister, vice-minister and presidency councilors can only be elected for two consecutive terms of six years.
5. The council of the higher level has the right and duty to invalidate the elections and to call them anew in all cases of inobservance of the preceding norms.

Article 80

The particular statutes may include further directives concerning elections, as long as they are not contrary to the Constitutions.

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**Presider**-

Invocation of the Holy Spirit pg 100 Most High Glorious God

Scripture Reading

Eph 1:3-10

Prayer on Page 41

Elections begin

secretary reads -Nominations slate

Presider asks for Nominations from the floor

Ask three times if there is any other nominations

Names placed for all those present

Counting of ballots

Voting begins

Reading of votes

Proceed to page 42

Secretary reads

Presider asks for the elected to come forward

Newly elected accepts

And continues until each position is filled

Hymn of thanksgiving

Concluding prayers Page 42

Newly recite Creed

Then continues to read bottom of page 42

Presider closing prayers page 43

Congratulations from fraternity

1. 90,2. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)