

Duties of an Inquirer / Candidate Sponsor

It is desirable to have a professed member of the fraternity to be assigned to each inquirer/candidate during their initial formation process. 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.

A sponsor should be:

- First and foremost be a friend. There will be many members of the fraternity watching and evaluating the inquirer/candidate progress during the formation process. You should not add to that process. Practice being a good listener and a supportive friend.
- Maintain contact with the inquirer/candidate at the regular fraternity meetings 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 they are doing with their assignments each month and if there are any questions where you may be of help.
- Do not attempt to encourage your inquirer/candidate to adopt any of your personal Franciscan or Catholic practices. Let your inquirer/candidate develop spiritually in their personal manner and pace.
- If in the course of your communications with your inquirer/candidate you find there may be a problem with the person's vocation notify your Formation Director immediately. Do not attempt to work the problem through with the inquirer/candidate. At that point your listening friendship may be the most important part of assisting the inquirer/candidate through the problem.
- Stand with your Candidate at the time of Profession.