

## **PROFESSED MEMBERS RETURNING**

If a Secular Franciscan has been absent from fraternal life for more than a year and wishes to be readmitted to the fraternity, they must spend some time in the candidacy program to re-discern their Franciscan vocation. The amount of time spent in candidacy is a local council decision and is dependent on the length of time away. For instance, if they have been gone a year or two, six months may be enough, but if they have been gone five or ten years or longer then they should go through the entire candidacy to relearn the rule and constitution. The time they must spend in candidacy formation classes and the decision that they are ready is dependent on council discussion and vote. They may also be admitted on probation for six months or more with stipulations from the council.

Spending time in candidacy formation allows the returning member to reacquaint themselves with what it means to be a SFO member, to explore our rule, our constitution, and our Franciscan spirituality. It also gives them time to understand what is expected of a SFO by their fraternity. Also, they get a better understanding of the fraternity that they are establishing or reestablishing a long term relationship with.