



The Ceremony of Welcoming

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Presenter of Newcomers:

May I present to all of you:

who has expressed an interest in our Franciscan way of life.

Then the professed member may want to tell the community something about the newcomer(s).

This process is repeated for each of the newcomers. When they have all been presented, one of their number states the purpose of their inquiry. It is fitting that one's own words are used, but the speaker may also say these or similar words.

We have come to see in your Franciscan life a way that appeals to us. We would like to inquire into that way and learn more about it. Perhaps in time we, by the grace of God, may be able to become part of the Secular Franciscan Order and thus come to serve the Lord and his people more faithfully.

In the name of the fraternity the minister responds in these or similar words.

Minister:

On behalf of this fraternity, I warmly welcome you, and I note your desire to inquire into the Secular Franciscan way of life. Be assured that in your discernment you will have the support and the encouragement of our prayer, our formation and our example.

Always keep in mind the words of Saint Francis of Assisi to Brother Leo: “In whatever way it seems better to you to please the Lord God and follow His footprint and poverty, do it with the blessing of the Lord God and my obedience.”³

The Formation Director presents the newcomers with a short life of Saint Francis of Assisi, saying in these or similar words.

Formation Director:

Take this life of Saint Francis and read it carefully in order to learn how to live the gospel life of our Lord Jesus Christ by following his example.

³ Saint Francis of Assisi, “A Letter to Brother Leo” in *FA:ED* 1:122.

The welcoming concludes with a prayer offered by the spiritual assistant or in his/her absence, a member of the fraternity. The prayer may be extemporaneous or may be taken from a liturgical text or from the prayers of Saint Francis. The following prayer may also be used:

Spiritual Assistant (or a member of the fraternity):

Let us pray. (Pause)

O Lord our God,

You have shown us your wisdom and love,

and you have called us to follow you.

May the person(s) here present

inquiring into the Secular Franciscan Order

be inspired and strengthened

by your grace and the support of this community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟: Amen.

The whole community expresses its sentiments in the customary fashion.