

Presider:

+If possible, the Provincial Spiritual Assistant of the province to which the local fraternity is bonded -or-
+the Regional Spiritual Assistant -or-
+Someone delegated by the Provincial or Regional Spiritual Assistant.

+ The new Spiritual assistant stands before the community.

Presider: *In the Name of the Lord, Amen*

+ Words of welcome by presider.
Community & SA are seated.

1st reader:

The local Spiritual Assistant is: *To be a witness of Franciscan spirituality and of the fraternal affection of the religious towards the Secular Franciscans, and to be a bond of communion between the 1st Order/TOR and the OFS.*

OFS. Constitutions - Article 89.3

2nd reader:

The local assistant fosters communion within the fraternity and between the fraternity and the First Order or the TOR. In harmony with the local guardian or superior, the assistant sees to it that between the religious and the secular fraternities a real life-giving union with each other exists. He or she fosters the active presence of the fraternity in the Church and society.

Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the OFS - Article 23.2

3rd reader: - Scripture

A reading from the first letter of John.

Children, love must not be a matter of theory or talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action. ... My dear friends, let us love one another, because the source of love is God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God, but the unloving know nothing of God, for God is love.

... God has never been seen by anyone, but if we love one another, he himself dwells in us; his love is brought to perfection in us.

1 John 3:18, 4:7 8,4:12

The Word of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Presider: I now ask the local minister to read the letter of appointment.

Local Minister: reads the letter

Presider: In the name of the First Order (or TOR), I install you as the spiritual assistant of N.N. fraternity. I thank God for your willingness to serve your Franciscan brothers and sisters. Now listen to the words of the Gospel.

+ All stand and extend their hands over the SA during the reading of the gospel. The presider lays hands on the kneeling SA during the gospel reading:

4th reader - A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Thanks be to God

The spirit of the lord is upon me because he has anointed me; he has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to let the broken victims go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor . Luke 4:18 19

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated:
Presider - REFLECTION

Local Fraternity Minister:

+ Words of welcome to new SA.

+ Prayer for the new SA.

Presider: Let us pray for the new Spiritual Assistant: (Quiet moment)

Praise be yours, Oh Lord, for the love and concern you show the Franciscan Family. Look kindly on N.N. as he/she begins his/her service to this fraternity. May the gifts of wisdom and understanding, knowledge and counsel, inner strength and honest holiness be his/hers as he/she serves this fraternity as Spiritual Assistant. May he/she experience the wonder of your presence as he/she assists this community. May the Holy Spirit guide his/her life and ministry. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

+The community offers the new spiritual Assistant a sign of welcome and peace.

+Reception –gathering

In the case of the installation of a regional or national spiritual assistant the following texts are used at the proper places.

Regional Spiritual Assistant:

+ Substitute the following readings for reader # 1 & #2 on page 1.

1st reader: *The regional assistant(s) ... give their service to the regional council and see to spiritual assistance to the regional fraternity. If there are more than one, they form a conference and render their service collegially.*

Statutes for Spiritual & Pastoral Assistance to the OFS- Article 21.2

2nd reader: *It is the responsibility of the Conference of regional assistants, or to the regional assistant if there is only one. + To collaborate with the regional council in the task of spiritual and apostolic animation of the secular Franciscans in the life of the Church and of society in the region, and in a special way in the formation of the leaders. + to provide for the pastoral visits of the local councils of the OFS and to ensure a presence at the local elective chapters. + to coordinate, at the regional level, the service of spiritual assistance, the formation of the assistants and the fraternal union among them + to foster the interest of the friars in the OFS and in the Franciscan youth.*

Statutes for the Pastoral and Spiritual Assistance to the OFS - Article 21.3

3rd reader: *The regional assistant must keep the major superiors and his Order informed on the life and activities of the OFS and of the Franciscan youth in the region. He shall also deal with matters regarding the service of assistance given by his Order in the region and keep constant fraternal contacts with the local assistants of his own Order.*

IBID • Article 22.1, .2.

+ Continue with reader #3 on page 2.

National Spiritual Assistant(s):

+ Replace readers #1 & #2 on page 1 with the following reading.

1st reader: *It is the responsibility of the Conference of national assistants ... + to collaborate with the national council in the task of spiritual and apostolic animation of the secular Franciscans in the life of the Church and the society of the country, and in a special way in the formation of the leaders. + to provide for the pastoral visits of the regional councils of the OFS and to ensure presence at the regional elective chapters. + to coordinate on the national level, the service of spiritual assistance, the formation of assistants, and fraternal union among them. + to foster the interest of the friars in the OFS and in the Franciscan youth. IBID-Article 19.3*

+ Continue with reader #3 on page 2

Installation of a Spiritual Assistant



The principle task of the assistant is to communicate Franciscan spirituality and to cooperate in the initial and continuing formation of the brothers and sisters.

OFS General Constitutions
Article 90.1