

Formation 101: Presentation

Who?

Initial Formation:

First remember that the Holy Spirit is the true leader. Formation can be presented in various ways. Any professed member can be part of formation. Some fraternities use a “formation team”, which can be made up in different ways. The Spiritual Assistant or Minister may take up the lead occasionally, but it is primarily the responsibility of the Formation Director. Some sponsors decide to join the formation sessions and make a great addition to the class. Some may join if they feel that they are being led to become a future servant leader as a Formation Director. I always joined in the formation process because I loved reviewing and learning as much as I could about the “way of life” I had professed to.

Ongoing Formation:

On-going formation can also be done in a number of ways, and can be presented by anyone, even an outside guest speaker could present formation; however once again it is the overall responsibility of the Formation Director to plan formation. To keep the formation process fun and engaging, it is a good idea to use different types of presentation methods. When doing a book study, having a different member lead and facilitate the discussion is a good idea and works well to keep everyone participating.

What?

Initial Formation:

We are currently using the Franciscan Journey book and the Fun manuals. Any Franciscan material resource can be used as supplemental formation but ensure it is still in print.

Ongoing Formation:

Again, this is an area that creativity could play a part in. Just a few ways are book reviews, personal testimonies, videos encyclicals, admonitions and reviewing the rules. Formation can be fun, in the way of a game, like jeopardy or even a gallery walk has been done. Think out of the box, keep it interesting, fun and informative!

When:

Initial Formation:

The formation time is:

Orientation: shall consist of not less than three months

Inquiry: begins with a ceremony of introduction and welcoming and is not less than six months.

Candidacy: begins with the Rite of Admission and is not less than 18 months.

The meetings can be scheduled at the most convenient time for everyone. Keeping it to 90 minutes seems to be an adequate time for a meeting, adjusting to your own personal needs to what works best for your group is a high priority.

Ongoing Formation

Usually, ongoing formation is done sometime during the monthly Fraternity meeting. At times we have met at a different time if it needs more time to cover the material.

Where:

Initial Formation:

Well, in this time of Covid we have been blessed to use Zoom communication to continue with our candidate's formation. Previously, when meeting in person, a social hall, classroom, conference room are just a few ideas. When doing makeup sessions, I personally have met at a restaurant, social hall, even outdoors at a park! Whatever works for the people involved.

Ongoing Formation:

Because the ongoing formation usually takes place during the fraternity meeting, it is at the place of wherever the meeting takes place. Ideas again are, social halls, classrooms, or a conference room if available. Of course, Zoom is another option if the group is unable to meet in person, so kitchen tables, couches and home offices are being used as well!!