Aspects of the Discernment Process

A person must be in relationship with God to be able to discern God’s will.

A person discerns God’s will through:

➢ Prayer
➢ Listening
➢ Dialogue

Discernment is a process:

1. Inner Awareness:
   ✪ Who am I?
   ✪ Do I understand my baptismal call?
   ✪ Do I understand the call to be a Secular Franciscan?
   ✪ What are my gifts and talents?
   ✪ How can I best serve others?
   ✪ What is God asking of me?
   ✪ What am I willing to do to follow God’s will?

2. Dialogue With Others:
   ✪ Did I discuss this with my spouse?
   ✪ Did I discuss this with my family members?
   ✪ Did I discuss this with the fraternity?
   ✪ Did I discuss this with my spiritual guide?

3. Confirmation of a higher authority:
   ✪ Does someone in the family share the same insight as my own?
   ✪ Does someone in the fraternity share the same insight as my own?
   ✪ Does someone within the broader Church share the same insight?

If you decide to continue your discernment with us, you . . .

1. Will be asked to reflect upon your understanding of the Church and its teachings.
   [These teachings, which form our belief system, were fundamental and of importance to St. Francis of Assisi. Secular Franciscans are to mirror St. Francis by embracing the Church’s teachings.]

2. Will have opportunities to experience, interiorize, and integrate Gospel values.
   Secular Franciscans seek to go from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel (e.g. The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, article #4).

3. Will be introduced and expected to become familiar with our Franciscan history and spirituality – especially St. Francis, St. Clare, and other Franciscan saints.

4. Will study The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order the General Constitutions and the National Statutes.

5. Will experience different forms of Franciscan Prayer.

6. Will understand our call to Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation.