

Sponsor Ceremony

Minister

At this time, _____, a professed O.F.S. member will be commissioned as _____'s Sponsor.

Formation Director

I would like to invite our Inquirer _____ and our Sponsor _____ to please come forward.

Minister

Let us listen to a reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Reader

[Romans 12:4-8]

We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

Spiritual Assistant

Father, almighty God, source of love and unity, united and animated by the Holy Spirit, may all of us be ready to hear your Word and keep it. May all our members pray together with one mind and heart. May we find in the Fraternity the strength and inspiration to bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world and to carry the message of joy and peace to everyone. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *[Reflection may be offered.]*

Minister

From the earliest days of the Order, Francis sent the brothers out two by two to preach the Good News of repentance to any and all they met. As with other things in life, Francis' choice of two by two was Gospel-based. In his wisdom, he would probably have paired up an older member of the fraternity with a newer member. In time, the pairs would all return and share the bounty and/or the sorrows of their missionary adventures. *(continues on the back)*

Minister

First and foremost, be a companion on the journey, practice being a good listener and a supportive friend. Maintain contact and interact on a regular basis. The Council appreciates you accepting the invitation to journey as a Sponsor, following our Lord Jesus Christ in the example set forth by St. Francis himself.

Formation Director

I invite the Sponsor to pray the following prayer:

I am grateful and honored to join you on this journey
both in prayer and with my presence.

I promise to fulfill my duties as your Sponsor
and I will support you each step of the way
as you continue your discernment.

It is my desire to:

Strengthen you with prayer
Bless you with love
And encourage you with hope.

In the name of the Fraternity, I ask you Father
To look kindly on _____
as he/she listens to your voice.
Open his/her heart to your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment
the good work you have already begun. Amen.

[Formation Director Cyndy Garwood, O.F.S., St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington, August 2016, provided this Sponsor prayer]

Inquirer I am so blessed to continue my journey. I know that as you share your Franciscan life with me, I will be even more blessed. Thank you for promising to be my Sponsor on this journey.

Formation Director I invite the Inquirer and the Sponsor to sign three copies of the *Duties of an Inquirer/Candidate Sponsor* form. One copy will be for the Inquirer, one for the Sponsor and one for the Formation Director's files. Thank you!

Spiritual Assistant

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May he look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

If clergy is present: May almighty God bless you, + the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]