

Spiritual Assistant

- ◇ Foster communion with the Church and with the Franciscan Family through witness and sharing of Franciscan spirituality; to be a bond of communion between the First Order and the SFO. 2.3
- ◇ By right is a voting member of the council and of the chapter of the fraternity to which he or she gives assistance and collaborates with it in all activities. Only in economic matters and in elections at any level does he or she not enjoy the right to vote. 12.3
- ◇ Is to foster a deeper insight into Franciscan spirituality and to cooperate in the initial and continuing formation of the Secular Franciscans. 13.1
- ◇ Participates actively and votes in the discussions and decisions taken by the Council or by the Chapter. He or she is specifically responsible for the animation of liturgical celebrations and spiritual reflections during the meetings of the Council or of the Chapter. 13.3
- ◇ Is appointed by the competent major Superior, after consultation with the council of the fraternity concerned. 15.1
- ◇ When it is not possible to give the fraternity a Spiritual Assistant who is a member of the First Order of the TOR, the competent major Superior can entrust the service of spiritual assistance to:
 - a) religious brothers or sisters of other Franciscan institutes;
 - b) secular Franciscans, clerics or lay, specially prepared for such service;
 - c) other diocesan cleric or non-Franciscan religious. 15.4
- ◇ Together with the Council of the fraternity, is responsible for the formation of the candidates and expresses his or her assessment of each of the candidates before profession. 24.1
- ◇ Together with the Minister, the Assistant discusses with the brothers or sisters in difficulty, who want to retire from the fraternity or who act in serious opposition to the Rule. 24.2

Taken from *Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order*.