**PROFESSION**

Frances, your profession in the Secular Franciscan Order marks your full admission into this local Fraternity as a lifelong member.

You are entering into a privileged place. According to your Rule, in Article 22, the local Fraternity should be the privileged place for developing the Franciscan vocation.

The purpose of your initial formation up till now was for you to discern whether God has called you to be a Secular Franciscan. Your Spiritual Assistant and Formator were to foster your Franciscan vocation. Your lifelong ongoing formation will continue to develop your Franciscan vocation and to help you to use your gift for building up the Church.

Your vocation, your personal call by God, is unique. No one else can accomplish the mission that God has chosen for you as an individual. To the extent that you answer your call, your God-given mission will be accomplished.

Your profession is vitally important to you and also to your Fraternity. It involves

your individual act of entering the Order through a local Fraternity. It also involves the

whole Fraternity in accepting you as a new member.

Your profession opens the entire Fraternity to the working of the Holy Spirit. Each

profession is a new Pentecost released in the Fraternity.

Your profession is an act of commitment. It is a renewal of your baptismal promises. You dedicate your life to God in full freedom. You give yourself over to serving God and to living out the mission that God has chosen for you. God responds to your dedication. God enables you to exercise your particular gift to build up the Church.

When God gives the Fraternity a new member, God builds up the local Fraternity.

It is no longer the Fraternity that it was before your profession. It is gifted from now on by your being a member of it.

Adaptation will be required, but it is not only you who will need to adapt to the ways

of the Fraternity. The Fraternity members must be willing to adjust the ways of the Fraternity

in order to incorporate you. The Fraternity is richer for having you. Not only is your vocation

to be developed, but all the members' vocations will develop, because of the dedication of

each individual member to the expanded Fraternity.

This combined response to the action of the Holy Spirit makes the local Fraternity the

privileged place for your Franciscan vocation to develop. May you and all the Fraternity be open to the new Pentecost that has come upon you all this evening.