**PROFESSION IN AN OFS FRATERNITY**

(Includename ornames), your profession marks your full admission as lifelong members into the Secular Franciscan Order through your local Fraternity.

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, on your part, was to help you discern what is

the gift that God has given to you and whether or not it is the gift of a Franciscan vocation.

On the part of your Spiritual Assistant and Formator, their purpose in forming you was to foster your special charism and to discern 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, God's mission is 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

communal act of the Fraternity in accepting you as new members.

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 and in full awareness of the change that is being effected in your life. 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 the Church.

When God gives the Fraternity a new member, God reconstitutes the local Fraternity.

It is no longer the Fraternity that it was before your profession. It is gifted from now on by your being integrated into 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 all be open to the new

Pentecost that has come upon you this day.