

# Topics for Orientation and Initial Formation

Compiled from:

- *Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Regional Formators' Guidelines for Orientation and Initial Formation* (BSSFR) — “BSSF Regional Orientation & Initial Formation Process Schedule” (pp. 9–12)
- *For Up to Now: Foundational Topics for Initial Formation* (FUN) — Chapter 2, “For the Formator” (pp. 3–4).

Note: The symbol [C] denotes a section adapted from the original CIOFS' materials.

## Orientation (Pre-Initial Formation)

Topics	Where Listed
Phases of Formation and Expectations	BSSFR
What is Formation [C]	FUN
Creed	BSSFR
Basic Catholic Doctrine [C]	FUN
Ecclesiology of the Laity [C]	BSSFR & FUN
Overview of the Franciscan movement	BSSFR
Life of St. Francis	BSSFR
Introduction to the Franciscan Family [C]	BSSFR & FUN
Secular Franciscan Order	BSSFR

## Initial Formation — Inquiry

Topics	Where Listed
Vocation and Discernment [C]	BSSFR & FUN
History of the OFS	BSSFR
Franciscan Identity [C]	BSSFR & FUN
Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order [C]	BSSFR & FUN
Charism and Mission [C]	FUN
Franciscan Movement I — Life of St. Francis	FUN
Franciscan Movement — Your Own Journey	FUN
Rule & Constitutions	BSSFR
Franciscan spirituality, Scripture	BSSFR
Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi	BSSFR
The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life	BSSFR
Biography of St. Francis	BSSFR & FUN

## Initial Formation — Candidacy

### Topics

### Where Listed

The Volterra Letter (Prologue to the Rule)	BSSFR
The Rule	BSSFR & FUN
JPIC & Catholic Social Teaching	FUN (2 sessions)
Francis and his approach to divinity [C]	FUN (2 sessions)
Constitutions, NAFRA Statutes	BSSFR & FUN
Scripture, Franciscan spirituality	BSSFR
Penance & the penitential movement [C]	BSSFR & FUN
Profession [C]	BSSFR & FUN
FUN: (2 sessions, midway through candidacy); NAFRA wants all candidates to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read Fr. Felice Cangelosi’s talk, “Profession: Gift and Commitment”</li> <li>• view Fr. Richard Trezza’s YouTube 2 YouTube presentations:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Significance &amp; Power of Profession”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Fraternity [C]	FUN
Franciscan Theology, Spirituality, and Tradition	FUN
Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary	FUN
Clare of Assisi	FUN
History of the OFS and its Rules [C]	FUN
Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi”	BSSFR
The Four Pillars”	BSSFR
<i>Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order</i>	BSSFR & FUN
Additional reading:	
Franciscan Saints of all three Orders	FUN