

Topics for Orientation and Initial Formation With Resources

Orientation (Pre-Initial Formation)

Topics

- ❖ What is Formation [C]
- ❖ Formation Phases and Expectations

Resources:

- Journey, Chapter 1, “**Orientation** in the OFS” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, “Pathways to Profession,” from Ch. 2, “For the Formator,” p. 13
 - “Thoughts on Formation”
-

Topic(s)

- ❖ Creed
- ❖ Basic Catholic Doctrine [C]

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 4, “Basic Catholic Doctrine”
-

Topics:

- ❖ Overview of the Franciscan movement
- ❖ Introduction to the Franciscan Family [C]
- ❖ Secular Franciscan Order

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 2, “Three Orders ... Structures ... Discernment” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 6, “The Franciscan Family: A Brief Introduction”
-

Topic

- ❖ Life of St. Francis

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 3, “Francis ... Clare ... Catholic Doctrine” & Supplemental Readings
- Biography, such as *St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography* by Omer Englebert

N.B.: Better to read after the biography: Murray Bodo’s *Francis: The Journey and the Dream* is a mediation on Francis. *Saint Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty & the Man Who Transformed the Church* by Bret Thoman, OFS, combines facts with incidents that Bret thinks might have happened.

Orientation continued on page 2

Orientation (Continued)

Topic

- ❖ Ecclesiology of the Laity [C]

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 5, “Elements of Ecclesiology and Theology of the Laity”

Initial Formation — Inquiry

Topic

- ❖ Overview of Inquiry

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 4, “**Inquiry** in the OFS & Supplemental Readings
-

Topic:

- ❖ Vocation and Discernment [C]

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 7, “Vocation: God’s Call”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Charism and Mission [C]

Resources

- FUN, Ch. 10, “The Vocation, Charism, and Mission of Secular Franciscans”
-

Topic:

- ❖ History of the OFS

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 7, “OFS History — Development of the OFS Rule” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, “A Brief History of the Secular Franciscan Order and its Rules”
 - Journey, Ch. 9, “Vatican II — OFS Rule & Constitutions” & Supplemental Readings
-

Initial Formation — Inquiry (Continued)

Topic:

- ❖ Franciscan Identity [C]

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 8, “Our Identity as a Secular Franciscan”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order [C]

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 9, “The Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Franciscan Movement I — Life of St. Francis

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 11, “Part 1 — The Journey of Francis”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Franciscan Movement — Your Own Journey

Resources:

- FUN, Ch. 11, “Part 2 — Your Own Journey”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Rule & Constitutions

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 7, “OFS History – Development of the OFS Rule” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 9, “Vatican II – OFS Rule & Constitutions” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 12, “The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order”
This chapter is divided into three sections. Suggest three sessions, with one section covered in each section.
-

Initial Formation — Inquiry (Continued)

Topic:

- ❖ Franciscan spirituality, Scripture

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 5, “Lay Secular Spirituality” & Supplemental Readings& Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 8, “Scripture in OFS Life” & Supplemental Readings& Supplemental Readings
-

Topic:

- ❖ Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 6, “Writings and Stories of St. Francis/St. Clare” & Supplemental Readings
 - BSSF Regional Formators’ Guidelines: “The Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi” (The 12 Elements)
-

Topic:

- ❖ The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Resources:

- BSSF Regional Formators’ Guidelines for Orientation and Initial Formation
-

Topic:

- ❖ Biography of St. Francis

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 7, “Writings and stories of St. Francis/St. Clare” & Supplemental Readings
 - Biography of St. Francis (see bibliography in Regional Formators’ Guidelines for suggestions)
-

Initial Formation — Candidacy

Topic:

- ❖ The Volterra Letter (Prologue to the Rule)

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 10 (Prologue), “**Candidacy** in the OFS” & Supplemental Readings
-

Topics:

- ❖ The Rule
- ❖ History of the OFS and its Rules [C]

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 11 (1, 2, 3) “The OFS Rule” & Supplemental Readings
Note: Journey, Chapters 11–33 cover the entire Rule
 - FUN, Ch. 21, “A Brief History of the Secular Franciscan Order and its Rules”
-

Topics:

- ❖ Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi
- ❖ Francis and his approach to divinity [C] (2 sessions)

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 12 (4), “A Focus on Jesus” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 13 (5), “Encounters with Christ” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 14, “St. Francis and His Approach to Divinity”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Constitutions, NAFRA Statutes

Resources:

- *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order*
-

Topic:

- ❖ Penance & the penitential movement [C]

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 15 (7), “Gospel, Conversion, & Reconciliation” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 17, “Penitence and Conversion”
-

Initial Formation — Candidacy (Continued)

Topic:

- Profession [C]

Resources:

- FUN: Ch. 16, “Profession and the Secular Franciscan: Theological and Liturgical Foundations”
(midway through candidacy); NAFRA wants all candidates to:
 - read Fr. Felice Cangelosi’s talk, “Profession: Gift and Commitment”
 - view Fr. Richard Trezza’s YouTube 2 YouTube presentations:
“Significance & Power of Profession”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Fraternity [C]

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 28 (20), “Fraternities: Gathering as One” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 29 (21), “Servant Leadership” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 30 (22), “Fraternity Life” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 31 (23/25), “Membership in the OFS” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 33 (26), “Franciscan Family Connections” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 32 (24), “Enriching the Franciscan Spirit” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 18, “Fraternity and Francis” & Supplemental Readings
-

Topics:

- ❖ Scripture, Franciscan spirituality
- ❖ Franciscan Theology, Spirituality, and Tradition

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 16 (8), “When You Pray” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 18 (10), “Being Faithful” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 15, “Understanding Franciscan Theology, Tradition, and Spirituality”
-

Topic:

- ❖ Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 17 (9), “The Mother of God & our Mother” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 19, “Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary”
-

Initial Formation — Candidacy (Continued)

Topic:

- ❖ Clare of Assisi
 - FUN, Ch. 20, “St. Clare of Assisi”
-

Topic:

- ❖ “The Four Pillars”
 - BSSF Regional Formators’ Guidelines
-

Topic:

- ❖ *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*

Resources:

- *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*
-

Topic:

- JPIC & Catholic Social Teaching (2 sessions)

Resources:

- Journey, Ch. 14 (6), “A Rebuilding Task” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 19 (11), “A Simple Way to Live” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 20 (12), “Freedom to Love” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 21 (13), “How to Love People” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 22 (14), “Foundations of the Kingdom” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 24 (16), “The Gift of Work” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 25 (17), “In their Family” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 26 (18), “Universal Kinship” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 27 (19), “Bearers of Peace” & Supplemental Readings
 - Journey, Ch. 23 (15), “Justice in Franciscan Life” & Supplemental Readings
 - FUN, Ch. 13, “Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation” & Supplemental Readings
-

Topic:

- ❖ Additional reading:

Resources:

- Franciscan Saints of all three Orders
-