

giving union with the whole Franciscan family.

cf. SFO Rule #1  
cf. SFO Constitutions (2000) - Article 85.2

Ideas from the:

**Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO** (2009)

*The Ministers General exercise collegially the altius moderamen and the pastoral assistance in regard to the SFO as a whole.*  
SA Statutes - Article 8.1

The Ministers General and Provincial of the First Order/TOR, by authority of the altius moderamen, have these responsibilities:

1. The provincial Ministers and the other major superiors assure spiritual assistance to the local fraternities entrusted to their own jurisdiction.

2. It is their specific competence in the name of their jurisdiction:

- a) to canonically establish new local fraternities and to guarantee them spiritual assistance;
- b) to appoint spiritual assistants;
- c) to animate spiritually, to visit, and to meet the local fraternities assisted by their own Order;
- d) to keep themselves informed about the spiritual assistance given to the SFO & the Franciscan Youth.

SA Statutes - Article 11.1, .2  
(cf. SFO Constitutions - article 88.2)

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**Authority to appoint**

*The provincial ministers and the other major superiors, in the area of their own jurisdiction, guarantee the spiritual assistance to the local fraternities entrusted to their jurisdiction. They see to it that their own religious are*

*interested in the SFO and that capable and well-prepared persons are appointed for the service of spiritual assistance.*

SFO Constitutions - article 88.1

*The Franciscan major superiors remain responsible for the quality of spiritual assistance and pastoral care, ...*

SA Statutes - article 5.3

\* The Ministers Provincial can exercise their service personally or through delegated Provincial spiritual assistants.  
cf. SFO Constitutions - article 86.1

*The major superiors are responsible for the spiritual assistance to the local fraternities which they have established.*

SFO Constitutions - article 88.3

1. The assistant is appointed by the competent major superior, after consultation with the council of the fraternity concerned.

3. The appointment of the Assistant is made in writing and for a limited time, which accumulated cannot be more than twelve years.

SA Statutes - Article 15.1, .3

*The local Assistant is appointed by the competent major superior, according to the law of his own Order, having heard the council of the fraternity concerned.*

SA Statutes - article 23.1

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**Who can be appointed?**

*The purpose of spiritual assistance is to foster communion with the Church and with the Franciscan Family through witness and sharing of Franciscan spirituality, to cooperate in initial and*

*on-going formation of the religious towards the SFO.*

SA Statutes - article 2.3

A friar of the 1st Order or TOR, who is **competent and available**, can be appointed by the major superior to fraternities bonded to his province. The friar needs knowledge and awareness of Franciscan spirituality and how to apply it in daily life. He should be acquainted with the documents that govern the SFO and to take the course - *Franciscan Family Connections*- Revised 2011.

4. When it is not possible to give the fraternity a Spiritual Assistant who is a member of the First Order or 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 (male or female), cleric or lay, **specially prepared for such service;**
- c) other diocesan clerics or non-Franciscan religious.

SA Statutes - Article 15.4

Persons chosen to be a SA need knowledge of Franciscan spirituality and understand the application of the SFO Rule in the daily life of the Church and the world. A SA collaborates with and does not dominate the fraternity council nor fraternity members. **Dialogue** is a key process in promoting Franciscan life within the fraternities at all levels. SA's likewise support good leadership development.

Secular Franciscans, appointed as a SA, should be perpetually professed for five years. They are expected to take the training course: *Franciscan Family Connections* - revised 2011. (FFC)