

Let us serve like Jesus - Let us Journey together

**Dismissal**

1. **Dismissal** of a member may only be considered in case of serious causes,

provided that they are external, imputable, and juridically proven.

* 1. **Serious causes** include, but not limited to:
     + 1. The member who publicly rejects the faith, or defects from

ecclesiastical communion, or upon whom an excommunication is

imposed or declared, by the fact itself ceases to be a member of

the Order. This does not mean, however, that the council of the

fraternity should not discuss the matter with the person

concerned or offer fraternal help (GGCC art. 58.3).

* + - 1. A member is not following the teaching of the Catholic Church. The member who publicly rejects the faith or defects from ecclesiastical communion, or who upon whom an excommunication is imposed or declared, by the fact itself ceases to be a member of the Order (GGCC art. 58.3).
      2. Same Sex Civil Unions.

Entering into a same-sex civil union is a public statement which is opposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church and, therefore, not in keeping with the Rule of the OFS.

Those who have entered into a same-sex civil union cannot be admitted to, or continue in, the OFS (CNSA: Clarification on Same Sex Attraction and Sexual Identity Issues, 21 Jul 2020, p2).

Profession in the OFS is a solemn ecclesial act, a

public commitment within the Church (GGCC art. 42.1; Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, English Edition, 1985, preface 3.3).

* + - 1. Sexual Identity Issues.

The pursuit or effecting of gender reassignment poses a serious threat of scandal and distress in a fraternity.

The obvious and openly expressed intent to change one’s sexual identity is an impediment to seeking or continuing a vocation as a Secular Franciscan (Clarification, p3).

* + - 1. Serious crime. A member who has been convicted of a serious

Crime, such as a felony.

* 1. Procedure:
     + 1. The Minister and the Spiritual Assistant, with charity and

prudence, are to discuss the matter with the member concerned and keep Council informed.

* + - 1. The member is given time to reflect and to discern. Examples of

serious causes are given above.

* + - 1. If the time set aside for reflection passes without any result,

Council may, by secret vote, decide whether or not to initiate Dismissal of the member.

* + - 1. If the decision is to dismiss, Council informs the member in

writing, then requests the council of the higher level to dismiss the member from the Order.

* + - 1. The request must be accompanied by all the documentation relative to the case.
      2. The council of the higher level will issue the Decree of Dismissal

after having collegially examined the request with the relative documentation and having verified observance of the directives of the Law and of the Constitutions (GGCC art. 58.3).

* + - 1. In order to become effective the Decree of Dismissal must be confirmed by the National Executive Council, to whom all the documentation will be sent (GGCC art. 58.4).
      2. If confirmed, the person who has been dismissed ceases to be a member of the Order.
      3. Council communicates the decision in writing to the person concerned and records it in the proceedings of the fraternity.

10)The Dismissal is recorded in the register of the fraternity, and the

National Database is then updated to reflect the member as

Dismissed.