Sewardship: Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given

**Duties of the Local Fraternity Council as a Whole**

**General Constitutions Art. 50**

1. It is the duty of the Council of the local Fraternity: - to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining them in their witness and commitment in the world; - to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the Fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.

2. The duties of the Council are also:

a) to decide on the acceptance and admission to Profession of new brothers and sisters33;

b) to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt subsequent measures;

c) to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the Fraternity;

 d) to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the Statutes;

e) to decide on the use of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial management and economic affairs of the Fraternity;

f) to assign duties to the Councilors and to the other professed members;

g) to request from the competent Superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious as Assistants;

h) to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes.

**Offices:**

**General Constitutions: Art. 49**.**1.** The council of the local fraternity is composed of the following offices: minister, vice‑minister, secretary, treasurer, and teacher of formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each fraternity. The spiritual assistant of the fraternity forms part of the council by right.

**OFS-USA/National Statutes: Art. 18.3.** The Council of each Local Fraternity is composed according to the requirements of article #49.1 of the General Constitutions. With respect to the fraternity they assist, anyone who serves as a Spiritual Assistant is subject to the same rights and restrictions as are Franciscan religious Spiritual Assistants [cf. Statutes for Spiritual Assistance articles #12, #13, #15, #23 and #24]. Spiritual Assistants who are Secular Franciscans may not be elected to other positions on the Councils of fraternities they assist.