

13. Affiliation with a local fraternity

a. Those who, without belonging to the SFO, wish to participate in its life and activities (*see GC Art. 53.5 and 103.1*) according to Franciscan principles and teachings, may be welcomed by the local fraternity, so as to make their communion living and effective. Individuals wishing to become affiliates should make their desire known by a written request to the local fraternity council, which makes a decision regarding the request.

b. These affiliate brothers and sisters will have no juridical bond with the Secular Franciscan Order and are, therefore persons welcomed to love and be loved “as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ” (*SFO Rule Art. 13*). They may share the experiences and activities of the fraternity, without the right to vote.

c. In order that the identity of the fraternity not be altered, the number of affiliates may not exceed 40% of the number of active professed members of a fraternity.

d. Regional councils have the right to establish their own guidelines for the acceptance of affiliates.