

Preparing for a Fraternity's Elective Chapter

- *by Doug Clorey ofc*

Franciscans have been gathering to celebrate Chapters since the time of Francis ... for over 800 years

We gather as people called to follow Christ in footsteps of St. Francis to share our experience of living the Franciscan life, especially during the past three years, to assess what has worked well and what needs improvement, to develop priorities for the next three years and to elect those whom we wish to lead us in addressing these priorities.

A chapter marks a milestone in the life of the local fraternity and another step on our journey together. It is an opportunity to recognize how the Holy Spirit has moved within the fraternity during the past three years and to celebrate this gift / grace. It is also an opportunity to recommit ourselves to working together during the next three years and to recognize the giftedness of the fraternity with grateful hearts and to thank those willing to serve (past and present).

To celebrate a chapter, fraternity members must demonstrate ...

- a prayerful disposition and openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit;
- a willingness to affirm the gifts of the fraternity; and
- a discerning attitude in developing and implementing the fraternity's priorities for the next three years and in choosing its new leaders.

When choosing leaders of the fraternity, the following factors should be considered:

- Competence of the individual to do the work;
- Availability of the individual in terms of time;
- Spiritual disposition of the individual; and
- Ability of individual to work collaboratively.

Let us pray for those who will take up their service for the fraternity that, through their service of animating and guiding the fraternity, we may all live our faith more deeply, witness to Christ more bravely, and work to prepare the kingdom of God.