

Isolate Formation

Article 56 of the Constitutions, states that members of the Secular Order, who for reasons of distance, age, or illness cannot participate in the regular meetings of a community, remain members of the Secular Order are to be associated to a particular community. The President of the community is responsible in establishing contact and also the responsibility of isolate to maintain contact. How does the community and isolate maintain this contact? Section II of the Statutes on isolates states very clearly how to go about this contact.

There are problems the community faces when names of isolates are sent to them. We will discuss “what to do with isolates assigned to us”.

First, when community receives notice from Provincial Council of an isolate assigned, the community should have information about the status of the isolate. Are they definitively professed or still on formation? If definitively professed how many years, are they keeping up with changes evolving with the Order and are they committed to their promises? If they have not been in touched with changes, they should be given the Rule of St Albert, the Constitutions and Oklahoma Province Statutes. They should at least attend one meeting to meet members of the community and the Local Council should evaluate if catch up formation is needed. Formation guidelines will be followed in all cases of catch up. Isolate should give the community record of promises. We know as stated on the Statutes that the President could delegate the monthly contact to any member of the community who is willing to assume that responsibility. Discussion of Spiritual Conferences and discussions during on-going formation on tape or written as a summary of activities should be sent by the contact person to the isolate. As stated in the Statutes could be done either via snail mail, telephone or e-mail. It is encouraged to meet with community at least once a year.

Isolates requiring formations should be handled the same as if they are coming to meetings regularly. First it should be established where they are in formation. The steps done during aspirants with form of application and clothing should apply. Local Council of the community should seriously be involved in discernment of the isolate with the isolate with the contact

person as a resource. Section XXI Formation Guidelines is to be followed. They have to attend once a year meeting preferably at annual retreat.

Sometimes Provincial Council will send to community an isolate transferring from another Province. If definitively professed, there should be records of transfer from former community of isolate or maybe a member transferring to places where distance to nearest community is a problem. Isolate should be with on going formation of the new community. Those on formation should be required to submit formation program taken from former community and formation continues following formation guidelines.

I hope this will clarify some questions about isolates.

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