

B11. THE *CANONICAL* ESTABLISHMENT

1. Upon completion of the pastoral and fraternal visitation, the Regional Executive Council acts on the request of the emerging community to be canonically established. If approval is given, the following steps are taken:
 - a) The Regional Executive Council informs in writing the friar Provincial Minister (or his delegate) that the emerging community is ready to be established. The friar Provincial Minister (or his delegate), in turn, requests the bishop's permission in writing to establish the new fraternity in his diocese.
 - b) The Regional Executive Council provides the necessary information and requests and obtains from the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants the formal document of establishment, printed in quadruplicate. The Regional Minister signs and dates the four copies in the appropriate place, and passes them on to the friar Provincial Minister (or delegate).
 - c) The friar Provincial Minister (or delegate) signs and dates the four copies of the document and obtains the signature of the bishop.
 - d) The emerging community arranges for the ceremony of canonical establishment in conjunction with the Regional Executive Council, the friar Provincial Minister (or delegate), and, where customary, the bishop.
 - e) The Regional Executive Council confirms for one year the existing council of the emerging community as the first local council of the new fraternity in accord with 49.1 of the SFO General Constitutions.
2. The ceremony of canonical establishment is celebrated with due solemnity according to the Ritual. During the ceremony the document is signed and dated by the delegate of the friar Minister Provincial and by the witnesses. After the ceremony:
 - a) One copy of the official document is sent to the Regional council to be kept in its archives, one copy is sent to the archives of the friar province, a third is sent to the diocesan chancery for filing, and a fourth copy is preserved in the newly established fraternity's records.
 - b) The Regional Minister informs the National Executive Council of the canonical establishment of the new fraternity.
3. One year after the canonical establishment the new fraternity holds its first chapter of elections for its council. The Regional Minister (or delegate) presides at the elections and a member of the Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants witnesses the election.