

Let us serve like Jesus - Let us Journey together

**Leave of Absence**

1. A **Leave of Absence** (GC 56.1) is initiated by one who is an Aspirant, Inquirer, or Affiliate, and who cannot, at this time, participate in the life of the fraternity for some reason acceptable to the Council. (A Leave of Absence cannot be requested by one who is a Candidate or is professed; such a one should consider a Temporary Withdrawal.) Council should have an open communication with the person to determine the reasons for the request.
2. The person submits a written request for Leave of Absence to the Council, along with reason(s), which Council then evaluates and acts upon.
3. Use of this status is discouraged if the person’s behavior or personality is the reason to seek a separation; rather, Council should pursue an “Asked to leave” action.
4. If granted, the Leave is considered to be temporary, so the fraternity needs to continue to maintain communication with the person.
5. If the leave is to become permanent, the person should make a request for Voluntary Withdrawal or may change this request to Voluntary Withdrawal.
6. Council may permit such an individual to attend gatherings and take part in activities on a limited basis if s/he applies to be a Visitor or an Affiliate.
7. To do so the person must make a written request to continue to attend gatherings in one of these roles and include the reasons for doing so, which Council must act upon for it to be allowed.
8. One whose status is Leave of Absence may make a written request to return as an active member of the fraternity and include reasons for the request (GC 57.1).
9. After Council and Spiritual Assistant meet with the person and examine the reasons offered, Council evaluates whether the causes which led to the leave can be considered as overcome (GC 57.2) and assesses if there are any other reasons which may have arisen since the Leave was granted that would impede the person’s return. If none, it may readmit him/her and the decision is recorded in the proceedings of the fraternity.

10.If the person was an Aspirant or Inquirer, s/he returns to the beginning of that phase of Initial Formation in which s/he was prior to withdrawing.