

## Leave of Absence

The term “leave of absence” means that an active member, who has made at least the First Promise and who has become unable to attend meetings regularly, may receive permission from her/his Council not to attend meetings for a year or less. However, she/he must maintain contact with the community by personal contact, phone, email, letter etcetera.

Re-integration of definitively professed members returning from a leave of absence would require about a year of formation. According to Fr. Aloysius Deeney, OCD, General Delegate of the OCDS, “If you have been away from the Order, you have missed ongoing formation. Such a member has a need to be re-integrated. The community’s Council will need someone in charge of re-formation of these members.” (OCDS National Council meeting, Bellevue, Washington, June 14, 2007)

A member not definitively professed would resume formation at the stage when she/he took the leave of absence. If the leave was in the middle of a formation year, she/he would begin the formation year again.