

CLOSING

VISITOR (Fraternal):

May God be praised for the grace he has given you! Look down, blessed father Francis, from the high court of heaven and pray for your people, the people whom you have chosen that in your presence they may at all time be faithful in the service of the Lord.

VISITOR (Pastoral):

CLOSING PRAYER: And now, as we recall the words with which our father Francis blessed Bro. Leo,we also ask God's blessing upon us.

'May the Lord bless us and keep us, may he turn his face to us and have mercy on us. May he turn his countenance to us and give us peace.' + May the Lord bless us the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN

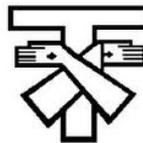


ALL TOGETHER:

PRAYER FOR FINAL PERSEVERANCE
Omnipotent, Eternal, just and merciful God, grant to us wretches that doing for Thy sake, what we know Thou wants, and always wanting, what pleases Thee, as ones interiorly cleansed, interiorly illumined and inflamed with the fire of the Holy Spirit, we might follow the footsteps of Thy Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and attain to Thee, Most High, by Thy grace alone, who in perfect Trinity and simple Unity lives and reigns and is glorified as the Omnipotent God, for all the ages of ages. Amen.

NATIONAL PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O, Good and Gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love, as we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life, help us to help others hear Your call. Help us to help others to recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that You have already planted in their heart. Help us, so that together we all may work to bring the gospel to life. Amen!
....Marian Crosby, OFS



PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.
...Francis of Assisi

Office of the Regional Minister
Jeane Swaynos, OFS



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National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order



FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION



Local Visitation Purpose & Prayers



FRANCISCANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

O.F.S. VISITATION

These prayers supplant the ordinary prayers for the regular fraternity meeting.

The purpose of both the pastoral and fraternal visits is to revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of the unity of the Order, and to promote its most effective insertion into the Franciscan family and the Church. OFS General Constitutions, Art 92.1

The fraternal visit is a moment of communion, an expression of the service and concrete interest of the secular leaders at the various levels, so that the fraternity may grow and be faithful to its vocation. OFS Constitutions, Art. 94.1

LOCAL MINISTER: Introduces Visitors...

VISITOR (Pastoral): + In the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN!

VISITOR (Pastoral): Let us begin with the words of our father St. Francis:
"God revealed a form of greeting to me, telling me that we should say: "GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!" (*Testament of St. Francis*).

ALL: GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

VISITOR (Pastoral): Let us call upon the Holy Spirit that our visitation gathering may be filled with his guidance and counsel:

TOGETHER:

- ◆ Creator spirit, come and visit the souls that are yours,
- ◆ Fill with your grace the hearts you created and
- ◆ Kindle a light in our minds, pour love into our hearts
- ◆ Because of the frailty of our human nature uphold us with your unfailing strength, so that we may faithfully live the gospel of your son in the spirit of your servant Francis
- ◆ We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who together with the father has sent you into our midst. Amen

VISITOR (Pastoral): We praise you and thank you O Lord our God, for through your inspiration we have come together today for this visitation to evaluate our efforts and renew our dedication to live the Holy Gospel of your Son, in the footsteps of St. Francis. We ask for your blessing and guidance so that this occasion may help us to appreciate our vocation more deeply, and to embrace it more enthusiastically, and to share it more fully with one another and all people. Where we have faltered or even failed, give us the strength to begin again and, the light to discover our true meaning and purpose and the courage to move forward with conviction and humility. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

ALL: AMEN.

VISITOR (Fraternal): A Reading

From St. Francis Letter to the Faithful

They are children of the heavenly Father (Mt. 5:45) whose works they do, and they are spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Mt. 12:50*). We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined to our Lord Jesus Christ by his Holy Spirit. We are brothers to Him when we do the will of the Father Who is in heaven. We are mothers, when we carry Him in our heart and body (1 Cor. 6:20) through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience and we give birth to Him through holy manner of working, which should shine before others as an example. (*Mt. 5:16*)

INTERCESSIONS:

Our response is: Lord hear our prayer.

1. Lord God of our salvation let our cry come to you and let our prayer enter into your sight...**R...**
2. Look upon our souls and free them; make our hearts joyful at this visitation...**R**
3. You are our most Holy Father, our King and our God; instill in us wisdom, humility and patience...**R.**
4. Community intercessions may be voiced at this time...**Pause ...R..**

NOW LET US PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT US: Our Father...

SOCIAL TIME



VISITATION CONTINUES

Some Visitation points are:

1. Review Minutes;
2. Examine and evaluate financial accounts of the fraternity's fiscal status,
3. Discuss style and quality of leadership –job descriptions, function harmoniously and strive to animate fraternity.
4. Appraise style and quality of socializing, the communication and community building. (*Go over the Minister's check-off sheet with the Minister and council.*)
5. Inspiration, Unity, Goal Setting, Ecclesial and Apostolic Awareness

Also see *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chapter Five, Pgs. 50-52*

