



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Florida, South Georgia, Lower Alabama

www.ffmr-ofs.org

Annual Local Fraternity Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023
Complete *and* approve at a Fraternity Council Meeting *and* submit before ***February 14, 2024.***

Send to: Jeane Swaynos, OFS, Regional Minister
216 East Sweetwater Creek Drive
Longwood, Florida 32779
or email to swaynos@cfl.rr.com.

Please send a copy to your area Family Councilor, as well.
(Use additional pages and attach if there is not enough space.)

Name of Fraternity: St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

Meeting Place, Address, Phone: St. Mark Church (St. Anthony Room or Madonna Room), 643 St. Mark Place, Boynton Beach, FL 22435 / Church: 561-734-9330

Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place: 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:00pm at St. Mark Church (St. Anthony Room)

Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time: 3rd Sunday of each month; we attend the 10:30am Mass together at St. Mark Church and the fraternity meeting follows.

Any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2023? {NO} If not due to an official election, give reason for change:

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT INFORMATION

Does your fraternity have a SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT YES

- **Name:** Rev. Richard Florek, OFM Conv.
- **Address:** St. Mark Church, 643 St. Mark Place, Boynton Beach, FL 22435
- **Phone:** 561-734-9330
- **Email:** Richard_Florek@msn.com

In what year did this assignment begin? August 2, 2016

Was he/she formally assigned by your provincial? Yes

How many of your local fraternity meetings has your spiritual assistant attended this past year? All

How many local council meetings has your spiritual assistant attended this past year? All

List all the Books used for initial and ongoing formation:

- **INITIAL:** “The Franciscan Journey” (Updated Version)
- **ONGOING:** “The Franciscan Journey” (Updated Version) / supplemental readings contained in “The Franciscan Journey” chapters; “God is Love” by Pope Benedict XVI.
- **What topics in the FUN Manual have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation?**
None are being used as Brother Lombardo gave us specific instructions to use the revised Franciscan Journey book.
- **How often has your fraternity discussed the Status of Instrumentum Laboris?** Annually.
- **What initial goals has your fraternity made as a result of Instrumentum Laboris?**
 1. Our actions continue to focus on training fraternity and council members to be able to take a place on the council.
 2. We continue our apostolate to seminarians for the local diocese and men in formation to become Conventual Franciscans by writing individual letters to them each month. We started in the spring of 2022, and we stop over the summer because the seminarians went home or to other temporary assignments. The purpose is to familiarize the seminarians with who we are, and, if they are secular, expose them to the Franciscan Order. Also, it will hopefully be a positive influence for potential future spiritual assistants.
 3. With permission from their pastors, fraternity members from different parishes place the fraternity trifold brochures in their parish churches with other handouts.
- **Do you have a local fraternity Newsletter and how often is it published?** Yes. Bimonthly
- **How is it distributed?** Via email and mailed to members without email accounts.
- **Have you thought of sharing your newsletter with the bishop, regional executive council, etc.?**
We do share our newsletter with the Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach’s Assistant and the SE Area Councillor.
- **What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity? What percentages of the fraternity participate?**
 1. **Letters to Seminarians:** One of the fraternity apostolates is creating a camaraderie with our local seminary, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, to spread the word about our Franciscan community and life. We do this by writing individual letters to the seminarians and by sending them a bimonthly newsletter specifically created for each mailing. We also hope to encourage the seminarians to inquire about the OFS. All members participate in this apostolate. In addition to communicating with the diocesan seminarians, we also have members who communicate monthly with men in Franciscan formation, so they will learn about our order and perhaps when they are professed and/or ordained, they will be familiar with our Order, in the event they become spiritual assistants or promote the Third Order within parishes. All participate.
 2. **Food Pantry Donations:** Another apostolate is helping the needy in our area by bringing nonperishable food donations to St. Mark Church each month before our group Mass. All participate.

3. Prayers for the Deceased: Our fraternity is dedicated to praying for deceased fraternity and family members. All participate. We arrange for a Sunday Mass intention for all deceased, parishioners and Franciscans. In addition, many members of our fraternity, attend funerals in their parishes to pray for the deceased, even if they do not know them. We also have some who go to the interment.

4. Donations to Birthline/Lifeline: This apostolate collects items for Birthline/Lifeline, a pregnancy care center in Boynton Beach. All participate.

• **Does your fraternity attend Mass or prayer services outside the regular meeting times?**

Several of our fraternity members attend daily Mass together at St. Mark Church, and others attend daily Mass together at local churches. We have gathered for Mass on both the Feasts of St. Anthony and the Portiuncula, followed by a meal.

JPIC, YOUNG ADULTS, ECUMENICAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS

• **Have you had personal contact with the youth in your area this past year? Explain:** No.

• **Who is your current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity? We do not have the capability at the present time.**

• **Has anyone in your Fraternity, including the Minister or Youth Animator, attended any National or Regional Youth/YouFra Zoom or in-person workshops/meetings? Yes.**

• **List your Fraternity "JPIC" projects and activities for 2023.**

Presentation at St. Mark Church on social justice by Father Paul Lindinger, OFM Conv., Director of JPIC and board member of FAN.

• **Have you taken part in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2022? Explain:**

- Birthline/Lifeline donations sponsored by Catholic Charities
- Food pantry donations collected at St. Mark Church

• **What activities have you done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity? Explain:**

1. We have created Fraternity trifold brochures that are distributed to local parishes with contact phone numbers for more information.
2. We write letters to the local seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary to enlighten them about the SFO.
3. We have a fraternity website (www.stanthonyofs.com) to promote vocations and raise the profile of our fraternity and Franciscan life.
4. We have a presence on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyofpaduafraternityflorida>)
5. Our fraternity presence and celebration of the Feasts of St. Anthony of Padua and the Portiuncula are shared via live stream on Facebook, along with our fraternity's hospitality.
6. Our fraternity commemorates Transitus with a prayer service with the friars and St. Mark parish. Afterwards, our fraternity provided refreshments for all who attended. This resulted in several individuals inquiring about our Order.
7. We have a presence at the South Florida Fair (Divine Mercy Booth).

8. We created an X (formerly Twitter) account - @StAnthonyOFS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

• What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2023 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)?

1. We celebrated the Feast of St. Anthony with Mass and a social.
2. Our fraternity was responsible for the Transitus prayer service followed by a social for the parish community.
3. We celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with a Solemn Mass.
4. In November, the fraternity requested the intentions for the 10:30am Sunday Mass on our fraternity day to be for all deceased, parishioners and Franciscans. Most of our gathering centered around a prayer service commemorating each deceased member of our fraternity, the Friars who died in the last 12 months, and everyone who was gathered mentioned spouses or other family/friends who died in the past 12 months.
5. A mini retreat with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and a presentation focused on the Eucharist and St. Padre Pio's Prayer after Holy Communion by Father Joe Dorniak, OFM Conv.
6. In December, in observation of the 800th Anniversary of Greccio, the fraternity:
 - a. Responded to Pope Francis' granting of a special plenary indulgence linked to the anniversary of Greccio. Several members gathered before the Nativity creche in our Franciscan parish and were led in prayer by our spiritual assistant.
 - b. Our Christmas card highlighted the story of the first living Nativity and depicted the scene at Greccio. The original artwork was illustrated by one of our Franciscan Friars.
 - c. On December 25, 2023, Florida Catholic online ran an article on the 800th Anniversary of the Nativity Creche at Greccio and the Plenary Indulgence — "Visit a Franciscan church with a Nativity this Christmas season for a special gift" — with photos of fraternity members and mention of our fraternity and other Florida Franciscan churches.

• What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2024?

1. Mass for our fraternity followed by a light meal on the Feast of St. Anthony
2. Mass for our fraternity followed by a light meal on the Feast of the Portiuncula
3. Our fraternity will plan the Transitus Prayer Service followed by refreshments for the parish community.
4. Our fraternity will have a presence at the 2024 South Florida Fair and will be handing out fraternity brochures and volunteering at the Divine Mercy Booth.
5. Our fraternity is working on plans to provide a mini retreat during Lent and Advent.

• Is there anything you wish to share with the Regional Executive Council? No.

• Have you found it easy to connect with the Region when scheduling elections, visitations or when having problems within your fraternity? Yes.

- **What has been your fraternity's greatest challenge this past year?** Our main challenge has been with illness affecting several fraternity members and a number of deaths.
- **What is your fraternity's strongest asset(s)?**
We have received feedback over and over on how our members have a strong sense of family. Visitors have commented how they feel so welcomed. Other assets include how our members support one another along with our spiritual assistant.
- **If you are meeting electronically, how many members take part only in these electronic sessions?** N/A
- **Do you see your ZOOM meetings decreasing over this past year or have they become meetings in addition to your person to person meetings?** Explain. We meet in person each month.
- **During the past year, how often have you been in touch with your family councilor? Was this connecting to your family councilor through personal contact, zoom, or phone conversations?** We are in touch with our family counselor with any questions either via email or by phone.
- **How often have you or your delegate attended your family meetings this past year?** There were no meetings in 2023.
- **How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members?** By phone, letters and mailing newsletters.
- **When was your last profession? How many were professed?** Our last profession was 11/07/21 and two members were professed.

We may have to increase dues this next year 2025. NAFRA has increased the dues for each member this year to take effect 2025.

- **Are you opposed to the increase in dues for our region?** No.
- **We have not increase dues for over 10 years. What do you see as a fair amount for the increase?** \$5.00 increase.

Keep copies of this Annual Report and your Annual Treasurer's Report in the Fraternity's records

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OR NEED HELP, CONTACT US! WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

****Please mail your Fraternity's 2022 Treasurer's Report and your Fair Share Contribution in the amount of \$55 times the TOTAL NUMBER of Professed and Candidates to:**

**Karen Rooney, OFS
Regional Treasurer
1315 Mirror Terrace NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
Cell (863) 224-5919
karenrooneyofs@outlook.com**

****PLEASE MAIL YOUR ANNUAL REPORT TO:**

Jeane Swaynos, OFS

FFMR Regional Minister

216 East Sweetwater Creek Drive

Longwood, Florida 32779

Cell 407-462-0808

swaynos@cfl.rr.com