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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.**

***Annual Report Year Ending 12/31/23 St Joseph Fraternity approved Fraternity Council Meeting 1/30/24**

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: OFS FFMR St Joseph Fraternity- Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Meeting Place, Address, Phone: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church(OLQM)-Meet Media/Library Rm

Address OLQM Church: 2731 SW 11 Court Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Best Phone: Jessie Chiccone, OFS Minister 754-900-3320

Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place: Last Tuesday of Month; Start Time 12:30 PM; Location OLQM Rectory.

Phone to Confirm

Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time: Second Sunday of Month; start time 2 PM; Location OLQM Media/Library Room; Phone to Confirm

Any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2023? YES

If not due to an official election, give reason for change:

Irene Fitzgerald, current CAL, deceased Nov 13, 2023, Miguel Cruz, OFS appointed CAL Dec 11, 2023.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT INFORMATION

Does your fraternity have a SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT YES ☒ NO

- Name Father Nicholas Mormando, OFM., Cap.
- Address St Padre Pio Friary 2411 NW 3 Street Miami, Florida 33125-5272
- Phone 954.515.8618
- Email capnick824@gmail.com

In what year did this assignment begin? 2019

Was he/she formally assigned by your provincial? Yes

How many of your local fraternity meetings has your spiritual assistant attended this past year? 7

How many local council meetings has your spiritual assistant attended this past year? 7

- **List all the Books used for Initial and Ongoing Formation:**

Answer: INITIAL FORMATION BOOKS

In January 2023 we initiated our Initial Formation Program with 5 Aspirants. We developed a very comprehensive Study Program where we incorporated different aspects very necessary about the “meaning of who we are”. To that effect, we elaborated the study plan based in the “Guidelines for Initial Formation Program.”

The Initial Formation Students meet two times per month, for about 2 Hours, and study each of the materials necessary for the comprehensive formation. During the year 2023, the Initial Formation Students, dedicated a total of 44 Hours of instructions.

(The following is a brief list of all topics imparted and Books)

The Journey Book: Chapter I. Life in Christ; In the Church and in Francis”

Theme 1: Christ, The Center of Our Lives.

Theme 2: Francis, The Center of Our Mission; His Life; Vision and His Approach to Divinity,

The TAU Cross and the Secular Franciscan Habit.

Pathway to Profession. (A full explanation of each step to follow).

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4: Inquiry in the SFO”

Theme 3: “The Church, Our Partner on the Franciscan Journey.”

(Listen and discuss content of the Podcast, “Our Walk Together” by Francine Gikow, OFS

-Orientation on OFS

-Three Orders; Structures; Discernment

- Francis, Claire and Catholic Doctrine.

-Introduction to the application of the Natural Philosophy and the Basics of “Dogmatic Theology, for the better understanding of the Franciscan Ways/Writings/Teachings.

Chapter 5: Lay Secular Spirituality

Chapter 7: “History of the SFO & Development of the Rule.”

(Deep study and discussion about the Rule of 1978).

Chapter 8: “Scripture in SFO Live”

Chapter 9: “Vatican II & SFO Rule; and Constitution”

(Full explanation about the 17 points submitted to be included in the Rule. (review) during the Assisi Congress in 1969.)

Exhortation and Admonitions. (Explanation and open discussion about the understanding and the dynamic of the entire document)

Analysis and discussion about the “10 Shorts Admonitions of St. Francis.”

Deep study about the “Profession or Promise Gospel Life. Constitutions Articles 41; 42; 43; 44 and 45.

(Special Activity: In consideration of the Celebration of Saint Francis Transitus, we celebrated a ceremony following the procedure established by the Secular Order. All students, in Initial Formation, participated actively after the explanation of all aspects of the ceremony.

• **Answer: ONGOING FORMATION BOOKS**

A- The following are the Books & other documents for Continuing/Ongoing Formation.

B- We performed 11 meetings during the year 2023, where we imparted to all Professed, these instructions.

C- The Fun Book

- Identity of Secular Franciscan.
- Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order.
- Franciscan Theology, Tradition and Spirituality
- Penitence and Conversion.
- History of the Secular Franciscan Order.

D.- The Journey Book.

Chapter 11 “The SFO Rule”

Chapter 12 “A Focus on Christ”

Chapter 13 “Encounter with Jesus”

Chapter 14 “A Rebuilding Task”

E.- General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Chapter I. Secular Franciscan Order

Article 1; Article 2; Article 3; Article 4; Article 5; Article 6,

Article 7.

Chapter II. Forms of Life and Apostolic Activity

Article 8; Article 9; Article 10; Article 11; Article 12; Article 13,

Article 14.

Title II. Active presence in the Church and in the World.

Article 17; Article 18; Article 19; Article 20; Article 21; Article 22

F: Words_of Admonitions of Our Father St. Francis.

G: Exhortation & Admonitions.

H: OFS Franciscan Servant Leadership Handbook

I: OFS Franciscan Spirituality; Identity; Rules; Constitutions; OFS Franciscan Servant Leadership: Teachings by Fr Nicholas Mormando & Jose Chaviano.

- **What topics in the FUN Manual have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation?**

- Answer: Topics in “The Fun Book” Useful for Ongoing Formation

1. Identity of Secular Franciscan.
2. Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order.
3. Franciscan Theology, Tradition and Spirituality
4. Penitence and Conversion.
5. History of the Secular Franciscan Order

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- **How often has your fraternity discussed the Status of Instrumentum Laboris?**

Answer: The Fraternity has been concentrating much of this year on two of the main goals of Instrumentum Laboris: OFS Formation and Franciscan Servant Leadership.

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- **What initial goals has your fraternity made as a result of Instrumentum Laboris (IL)?**

Answer:

1. *First Initial OFS IL Goal – provide to members true and authentic Catholic Franciscan Initial /Ongoing Formation, from teachers educated in Catholic and Franciscan studies.*
 - a. *Our Formation Director, Jose Chaviano, OFS is very knowledgeable in Catholic Franciscan Formation and has advanced Theology degrees, with emphasis on Franciscan studies. (Please reference the answer previously regarding Initial and Ongoing Formation Books used by St Joseph Fraternity). Our Fraternity is very blessed to have such a good teacher, with extensive background in Catholic and Franciscan studies, which he continues to study to this day. The Fraternity is very blessed to have Jose rightly and lovingly lead both our Initial and Ongoing Formation, despite having great difficulty with his eyesight.*
2. *Second Initial OFS IL Goal – Understanding and implementing more rightly, fully, and justly, the OFS Franciscan Servant Leadership Handbook.*

Father Nicholas Mormando OFM., Cap. is the Spiritual Assistant for St Joseph Fraternity. In 2023 Father Nick started a committee, consisting of Fr Nick, Jose Chaviano, Formation Director and Toni Coffey, OFS member to assist on this project to more deeply comprehend and implement, in holiness, some of the rich material in the Fr Servant Leadership Handbook. The committee is in

the process of compiling an “Addendum” using the Instrument Laboris as a reference to enhance the understanding and comprehension of the entire study, of “The Franciscan Servant Leadership Handbook,” which should help to enlighten the minds and hearts of the members as how to process the individual implementation of the original “OFS Franciscan Servant Leadership Handbook more rightly and effective to growth in the application and acknowledge of each member in our Fraternity.

The Fraternity will be having a few Workshops in 2024 led by the committee of Fr Nick, Jose, and Toni to discuss the topic of Franciscan Servant Leadership. Exact date in 2024 to be determined. The goal is to increase the Fraternity’s understanding and holy implementation of the existing “Franciscan Servant Leadership Handbook” knowledge and skills throughout the use of the new “Franciscan Servant Leadership Addendum” designed by the St Joseph Fraternity Committee consisting of Fr Nick, Jose, and Toni. As a complement necessary to the original document and the Instrument Laboris. We strongly believe that the work performed for our committee in the design of the documents included in the Addendum will serve as a necessary step for the entire study.

• **Do you have a local fraternity Newsletter and how often is it published?**

Answer: The St Joseph Fraternity Newsletter, named “The Instrument” is published about 10 times a year; rest of year, basic information sent to members by email.

• **How is it distributed?**

Answer: The St Joseph Fraternity Newsletter, named “The Instrument” is distributed by email. If members are ill and do not read their emails or do not have email, sometimes a fellow member will phone to check up on them and tell them of any pertinent Fraternity news.

• **Have you thought of sharing your newsletter with the bishop, regional executive council, etc.?**

Answer: We usually share our newsletter with Hilda, our Family Councilor, and Brother Lombardo, our Regional Spiritual Assistant.

- **What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity?**
- **What percentages of the fraternity participate?**

A) The 2023 Apostolic work that the whole St Joseph Fraternity works on are:

1. Apostolic Work Name = Seafarers – outreach to men/women who work aboard ships –
Apostolic Action: Fraternity donates items needed by Seafarers', such as, toiletries, clothes, writing items.
2. Apostolic Work Name = Assistance to foster young adults who will be living in their first own living spaces.
Apostolic Action: Fraternity donated goods for these foster young adults, to fill their new living spaces, such as kitchen or bath goods.
3. Apostolic Work Name = San Pedro Annual Convention 2023 Outreach to Homeless in San Pedro area.
Apostolic Action: Fraternity donated various goods, such as, clothes, socks, toiletries for homeless in San Pedro area; these goods were brought by St Joseph Fraternity representative to the Annual 2023 OFS FFMR San Pedro Convention for distribution to homeless in San Pedro area.
4. Our fraternity donates bags to carry food that is prepared for homeless in Miami.
5. Donations of school supplies, which were destroyed by flood, to St Jerome Catholic School Teachers
6. 2023 Planning Centenary: Jose Chaviano and Miguel/Nanette invited & attended Spanish National ZOOM Talk on OFS Centenary Events scheduled 2023 on Greccio/Later Rule- then whole Fraternity participated in their Centenary production of O Antiphons to celebrate Greccio Dec 2023 in person or by ZOOM.

B) About 80% of Fraternity participates in donating goods/money for our Apostolic work.

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

1. Weekly Phone Conference Rosary - all Fraternity invited.
2. Many members attended Funeral Mass for two deceased members in 2023 –
3. May they rest in God's eternal love and peace, Anita Grant OFS and Irene Fitzgerald OFS
4. Many members attended OFS Profession Mass of Mrs. Nanette Cruz, OFS in 2023
5. Many members attended our 2023 St Joseph Fraternity December Christmas Party at home of members, Miguel Cruz, OFS and Nanette Cruz, OFS and we prayed together at this time, including intercessory prayer.
6. Some members celebrated Feast of St Francis together by phone, liturgy, Transitus
7. Many members meet other members or singularly: pray together; attend Mass,

pray Lectio Divina on phone, teach catechism, attend Bible study, volunteer Respect Life, active Catholic music ministry, member Knights of Columbus, Women of Grace, Eucharistic Minister, Prison Ministry, help homeless ministry, Good Samaritan, Emmaus Retreat men & women servant.

JPIC, YOUFRA, ECUMENCIAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS

- **Have you had personal contact with the youth in your area this past year?**

Explain

Answer: Two of the members of St Joseph Fraternity work with youth at their home parish. They also bring their son, to some of the regular meetings. Their son has given a beautiful report to St Joseph Fraternity on a child Franciscan Saint.

- **Who is your current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity?**

Contact is Miguel @ Nanette Cruz. They are currently working with the youth group at St. Boniface, Pembroke Pines. With the blessing of the new pastor, they will begin the process to introduce the YOUFRA movement to those youth at St. Boniface.

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

Answer: A delegate of St Joseph Fraternity attended 2023 San Pedro Annual Convention and at the convention there was some discussion concerning YouFra. St Joseph Fraternity does not have a Youth Animator currently, but as we mentioned before, we are on that process.

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

Answer: St Joseph Fraternity JPIC Projects/Activities in 2023 are:

1. Seafarers' – Fraternity donates goods/\$ to men/women who work on ships at sea.
2. Foster Your Adult Assistance- Fraternity donates home goods to help foster young adults furnish their first own living space or apartment.
3. Our fraternity gathers bags to carry food that will be donated to the homeless.
4. Fraternity donated goods to homeless in San Pedro area & brought donations to San Pedro Annual Convention 2023 to distribute to homeless near San Pedro area.
5. December 2023 Celebrated Centenary Greccio of St Francis of Assisi: Readings, music & "O Antiphons" at home members Miguel/Nanette Cruz, OFS, in person also ZOOM.
6. Donation school Supplies to St Jerome teachers -Reason: items destroyed by flood.

• **Have you taken part in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2023? Explain:**

Answer: 2023 St Joseph Fraternity Ecumenical Outreach

1. Mass OFS Profession of Nanette Cruz in 2023 – Many people attended the Mass and OFS Profession and Parish Gathering in Parish Hall afterwards who were family or Church members but not Franciscans or maybe not Catholic.
2. Ecumenical prayer during intercessory prayer at meetings.
3. Some of our JPIC work and apostolates benefit non-Catholics.
4. At Lesters Diner had social gathering celebrating St Joseph Feast Day March 19 and some members witnessed to waitresses about what Secular Franciscans are

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

Answer:

Prayer, word of mouth and OFS vocation pamphlets printed pamphlets to be distributed.

Note: We currently have 5 Candidates, and many introduced to fraternity by fellow members.

Note: Miguel/Nannette talked with Abraham/Sarah Ministry at St. Gregory church about Secular Franciscans

GENERAL QUESTIONS

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

Answer: 2023 St Joseph Fraternity Retreats, Days of Recollections, Special Celebrations

1. 2023 OFS FFMR St Joseph Fraternity Profession = 1
2. 2023 OFS FFMR St Joseph Fraternity Admission = 5
3. 2023 Attend Funeral Mass =2 members deceased St Joseph Fraternity: Deceased Anita Grant OFS & Irene Fitzgerald, OFS.
4. 2023 December OFS St Joseph Fraternity Christmas Party.
5. Social Gathering after closing of regular General Meetings – all the Fraternity is invited to attend a social gathering at a nearby local restaurant after the closing of General Meeting.
6. Welcoming at 2023 Council Meeting of Fr. Carlos Gines, TOR (Cap) from Rome introduced by Father Nicholas Mormando, OFM., Cap – presented with bouquet in thanksgiving for his visit to our fraternity.
7. Transitus of St Francis of Assisi- several members attended.
8. Several members participate in online OFS Seminars i.e., Spiritual Assistant information/NAFRA/Franciscan Family Forum Gathering Place-forwarded by Region/National

9. *Fraternity Celebrated Centenary: Greccio of St Francis of Assisi with "O Antiphons" at home of members Miguel and Nanette Cruz, OFS, in person and event was by ZOOM in 10. December 2023; Hilda, Family Councilor invited and other fraternities by ZOOM.*
11. Franciscan Mass Cards offered by Fraternity for ill members or those in need.
12. Social Gathering, Prayers and Food shared by Fraternity at Lesters Diner to celebrate St Joseph Solemnity Day March 19, 2023.
13. Donation by Fraternity for Franciscan Gregorian Mass for deceased member, Irene Fitzgerald.
14. Donation to Fr Ivan Pastor of Our Lady Queen Martyrs (OLQM) Church for allowing St Joseph Fraternity to hold meetings on the premises of OLQM.
15. June 2-4, 2023, OFS San Pedro Annual Regional Retreat and Election- delegate K Minnet, Secretary attended since Minister ill.

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

ANSWER: St Joseph Fraternity has the following programs/events planned for 2024.

NOTE: exact month/day in 2024 of events not known at this time

1. José Chaviano our Director of Formation, Toni Coffey, Professed Member and Fr. Nick Mormando, OFM. Cap., Spiritual Assistant are creating an "Annex" to the F.S.L.H. which is almost finished. The purpose of the Annex is to highlight the instructions presented in the Handbook and Instrumentum Laboris. The objective of this annex is to help professed members of the fraternity to live and understand their profession as secular Franciscans. The fraternity be having several workshops to present this matter in 2024. Dates and location to be determine.
2. Healing Mass and Day of Recollection; guided by Spiritual Assistant.
3. OFS FFMR St Joseph Fraternity Mass Profession of current Candidates
4. OFS FFMR St Joseph Fraternity Election of new Officers
5. 1224-2024 Centenary Events - Celebrating the Gift of the Stigmata
6. Christmas in July with the St. Boniface youth group at Shott Center, Flamingo Road, Cooper City, Florida
7. Love on the street, feed homeless

Is there anything you wish to share with Regional Executive Council?

Answer: NO

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

Answer: YES

- **What has been your fraternity's greatest challenges this past year?**

Answer: Greatest challenges in 2023:

Overall: Assisting the Professed members to stay focused on doing the things that need to be done to re-strengthen their Franciscan charism.

Specifically:

1.) To become more imbued with the Rule and Constitutions to revitalize the Franciscan spirit among/within the members.

2.) To recognize that "On Going Formation" is as necessary a part of the monthly fraternity meeting as gathering with one another to share strengthen fraternal bonds among the members.

3.) Reminding the professed members that they made profession in a Secular Religious Order as opposed to any other kind of religious groups /gathering that are found within the Catholic Church (i.e., prayer groups, Bible studies, Charismatic and Marian movements, etc.) and that living the Gospel Life given to us through St. Francis, is their predominant spirituality.

- **What is your fraternity's strongest asset(s)?**

1. The willingness of those professed members, who bear the weight of leadership, that is seeing us through a time of transition to greater life and vitality. They are making a tremendous personal sacrifice so as to benefit the life of the fraternity.
2. We have new candidates who are solid individuals and who have a strong commitment to their formation process. They are hungry for Franciscan spirituality and are willing to commit themselves to the Gospel life.
3. We have a Formation Director who is very capable of providing both initial and ongoing formation. He is a true teacher who is able to teach the Franciscan way of life.
4. The professed members of the fraternity who are willing to do their part in taking on responsibilities as needed for revitalizing the fraternity.
5. We are trying to be a better fraternity. We are not where we were three years ago, but growth needs to happen.

- **If you are meeting electronically, how many members take part only in these electronic sessions?**

Answer: 1-4 persons

- **Do you see your ZOOM meetings decreasing over this past year or have they become meetings in addition to your person-to-person meetings?**

Answer: In 2023, ZOOM Meetings have become meetings, in addition to, person to person meetings- NOTE: ZOOM Meetings are helpful especially if member would like to attend meeting but cannot attend in person due to illness, or is out of town, etc.

- **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?**

Answer 1 and 2: Our Minister, Jessie Chiccone, has been in touch with Hilda, our Family Councilor, a few times by phone. Also, Hilda attended the St Joseph Fraternity Mass Profession of Nanette Cruz in person and our Greccio Centenary Celebration. Secretary, K Minnet, has been in touch with Hilda, Family Councilor, several times, by email tree. Secretary, K Minnet, who was the delegate for St Joseph Fraternity at 2023 San Pedro Annual Convention, met in person with Hilda, Family Councilor, for a family meeting with other Ministers or Representatives of Minister's at San Pedro Annual Convention.

- **How often have you or your delegate attended your family meetings this past year?**

Answer:

Due to illness, J Chiccone OFS Minister could not attend 2023 San Pedro Annual Convention or other family meetings. K Minnet was delegate for J Chiccone Minister at San Pedro. K Minnet, on behalf of Jessie, attended the Family Meeting at San Pedro, led by Hilda, our Family Councilor, in person.

- **How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members?**

Answer:

- 1) by phone, by ZOOM General Meetings, some group phone line Council Meetings
- 2) Members who can drive, offer to pick up nursing home members or ill members who cannot drive, to attend General Meetings in person.
- 3) Some members who can drive also stop by to visit in person with shut in members at their residences to pray, to take to Church, to take out for dinner, or go shopping etc.

- **When was your last profession? How many were professed?**

Answer: One person professed in June 2023 – Nanette Cruz, OFS

NOTE: God willing, St Joseph Fraternity will celebrate the Mass Profession of 5 current candidates in 2024, exact date in 2024 to be determined.

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?**

Answer: No

- **We have not increase dues for over 10 years. What do you see as a fair amount for the increase?**

Answer: \$ 5.00

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**