

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

**Five Franciscan Martyrs Region**

*Florida, South Georgia, Lower Alabama*

www.[ffmr-ofs.org](http://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**](mailto: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: *San Damiano Fraternity***

**Meeting Place, Address, Phone: *St. Anne Catholic Church, 106 11th Ave. NE, Ruskin, FL 33570***

***813-645-1714***

**Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place: *3rd Friday of each month, 10:00 am***

***Kristine Littrell’s home: 1308 Crystal Greens Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573***

**Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time: *1st Saturday of each month 10:00-2:00 pm (including 10:00 am Mass &***

***Lunch) at St. Anne Catholic Church***

Any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2023? ***YES***  If not due to an official election, give reason for change: ***Pat Wolfert was appointed as Secretary, as Nancy Olivo was unable to continue, because of health reasons. Ken Wolfert was appointed as Formation Director, as Margaret Horan was unable to continue, because of personal family reasons.***

**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT INFORMATION**

Does your fraternity have a SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT YES\_\_\_\_\_NO**\_\_X\_\_\_**

* Name \_\_
* Address\_ \_\_\_
* Phone\_ \_
* Email\_ \_

In what year did this assignment begin? \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Was he/she formally assigned by your provincial? \_ \_\_\_\_

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

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

List all the Books used for initial and ongoing formation:

* INITIAL – *The Franciscan Journey by Lester Bach, OFM; From Gospel to Life;and The FUN Manual*
* ONGOING - *Reluctant Saint: the Life of Francis of Assisi by Donald Spoto and Light of Assisi: the Story of Saint Clare by Margaret Carney, OSF*
* What topics in the FUN Manual have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation?

*Many. Used as a resource.*

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

*A couple of times as information only.*

* What initial goals has your fraternity made as a result of Instrumentum Laboris?

*Our goals are consistent and aligned with Instrumentum Laboris in regards to working with our several apostolates, as well as efforts to increase vocations through many recruitment efforts.*

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

*We began printing “News & Notes,” a one-page news sheet each month. We share that with the pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church and our Regional Counselors.*

*(We also contribute regularly to the Regional Newsletter.)*

* How is it distributed?

*News & Notes is distributed to fraternity meetings at our Monthly Gatherings and by email to the pastor and our Regional Councilors.*

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

*See above.*

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

*We support a number of Apostolates with the goal of meeting the needs of the poor and disenfranchised.*

* *We have an ongoing relationship with a local assisted living facility, where we do Communion Services, Stations of the Cross, Holiday Entertainment, and personal correspondence with approximately 90 residents several times a year.*
* *We collect items for the homeless at monthly gatherings, and some members volunteer at the Food Pantry at St. Anne’s Parish where we meet.*
* *We support three families in India through the Franciscan Family Apostolate Program.*
* *Most of our members participate in one, two or all of the above.*
* Does your fraternity attend Mass or prayer services outside the regular meeting times?

*We attend Mass together as a fraternity before all of our Monthly Gatherings.*

**JPIC, YOUFRA, ECUMENCIAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS**

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

*We are currently not active with youth; however, we are in the process of establishing contact with the Faith Formation Coordinator. St. Anne will be breaking ground for a new Catholic Elementary School and we anticipate opportunities that will arise with the new school.*

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

*Pat Wolfert*

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

*Pat has attended Zoom meetings with Janice Novello.*

* List your Fraternity “JPIC” projects and activities for 2023.
  + *Visiting the sick and shut-in:* 
    - *Cypress Creek Nursing Home. In-person visit in December – prayer and entertainment. We usually do this several times a year, but were prohibited from visiting until December. Personal cards to all individuals were written by members of the fraternity several times throughout the year: Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Summer Thinking of You, Fall Friendly.*
  + *Caring for the poor and disadvantaged:* 
    - *St. Anne Parish Food Pantry – one member helped out in person, others bring in items each month to donate to the Pantry, items especially needed by the homeless.*
  + *Global Outreach to the desperate:* 
    - *we adopted three families in a remote, poverty stricken area in India. Through the Franciscan Apostolate Program we provide monthly monetary assistance, personal letters of encouragement, and prayers.*
* Have you taken part in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2023? Explain:
  + *Two of our members sang in the choir and others attended the Ecumenical Yom Hashoa Service of Remembrance of the Holocaust in Sun City Center.*
* What activities have you done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity? Explain:
  + *We submit notices of Monthly Gatherings and special events in the church bulletin at St. Anne’s.*
  + *We have a statue of St. Francis and a special prayer packet for Vocations – our “Traveling St. Francis.” Members take turns displaying the statue in their homes and praying for vocations daily throughout the month.*
  + *We put notices in the bulletin in our sponsoring parish, announcing our monthly meetings and inviting those interested to join us.*
  + *We advertised our Annual Day of Reflection in the bulletins of two parishes, inviting anyone interested in learning more about following in the footsteps of St. Francis to attend.*
  + *We attended Mass as a group on the Feast of St. Francis in October and distributed holy cards to everyone as they exited the church.*
  + *We invited the new pastor at St. Anne, Father Kevin Yarnell, to a house gathering to get to know us. He asked lots of questions and warmly affirmed our work and presence in the parish. He has really gotten to know us as individuals and as a group.*

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

* What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2023 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)?
  + *We held our 10th Annual Day of Reflection in Feb. 2023 with Father Nicholas Mormando, OFM Cap as our leader, at the Dayspring Conference Center in Ellenton. Some 50 attended, including members of several other fraternities, friends, family members, and interested parties.*
  + *We incorporated light lunches into our Monthly Gathering, a boon to personal support and fellowship.*
  + *Member Ken Wolfert continued to promote and facilitate Mid-month Ongoing Formation via Zoom.*
  + *We participated in a joint meeting with the St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity in February 2023. Friar Henry Fulmer, OFM presented a workshop for us on Servant Leadership.*
  + *We were well represented at two regional family meetings in January and June 2023.*
  + *We were invited by St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity at Sacred Heart Church in Tampa to attend a Transitus Celebration there. Several of our members participated in that.*
  + *One member (John O’Brien) attends the Immaculate Conception Fraternity in San Diego, CA six months of the year, attending Transitus and Grecchio and Monthly Gatherings – an opportunity for all of us to share best practices.*
  + *Two members (Pat & Ken Wolfert) attend St. Anthony Fraternity in the Our Lady of Indiana Region in Indiana several months a year, participating in preparing lunches for their Soup Kitchen, attending Monthly Gatherings, and sharing best practices.*
* What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2024?
  + *Celebrating the Profession of three candidates at Mass on January 6, 2024.*
  + *Our Annual Ephiphany Party on January 6, complete with a reenactment of the arrival of the Three Kings, potluck supper, carol singing, prayer, and lots of love and laughter.*
  + *Our 11th Annual Day of Reflection is scheduled for Feb. 17, with Father Nick Mormando, OFM Cap – at the Dayspring Conference Center.*
  + *Elections on June 1, 2024.*
  + *Our Annual Picnic – in August or September – date to be announced.*
* Is there anything you wish to share with the Regional Executive Council?
  + *Kudos on the Regional Newsletter*
  + *We enjoyed the opportunity to attend Family Meetings and include members of our fraternity, as well as our Council.*
  + *We are looking forward to the Annual Meeting at San Pedro in May 2024.*
* 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?
  + *We are increasingly an elderly group and many have struggled with major health issues and personal losses.*
  + *We are continuing efforts to identify face-to-face ministry opportunities within in our local community that all members can participate in.*
* What is your fraternity’s strongest asset(s)?
  + *We love one another. Fellowship among our members is a strength.*
  + *Attendance at Monthly Gatherings is outstanding.*
* If you are meeting electronically, how many members take part only in these electronic sessions.
  + *All of our meetings – Monthly Gatherings & Council Meetings have been in person. Zoom has been available for those who could not join us in person – up to 2 or 3 sometimes Zoom in, but not every meeting.*
  + *Initial Formation Meetings were frequently held on Zoom*. Because the group was small it worked very well.
  + *Mid-month Ongoing Formation is over Zoom, but many don’t have it and some prefer in-person discussions.*
* 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 (see above – Having the option is good.)
* 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?
  + *It is easy to reach our family councilors by email or phone.*
  + *They also set up two Family Meetings and several of our council and fraternity members attended, finding them occasions for sharing and learning from brothers and sisters in other fraternities.*
* How often have you or your delegate attended your family meetings this past year?
  + *Members attended the regional annual meeting and two family meetings. (See above.)*
* How has your local council conducted its business during this past year? Have you again had face to face meetings with your council? How often? Do you have ZOOM council meetings in addition to face to face meeting?
  + *All of our Council meetings were face to face with Zoom available on a limited basis.*
* How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members?
  + *During the last year we had one. Two of our members visited her regularly and helped her with home placement, shopping, etc.*
  + *We make sure that members of our fraternity who are unable to drive are included by riding with those who do drive.*
* When was your last profession? How many were professed?
  + *5/30/2020 – 4 were professed*
  + *3/18/2022 – 1 was professed*
  + *1/6/2024 – 3 will be professed*
* Has your fraternity been able to continue with Initial Formation for Inquirers and Candidates this past year? Explain:
  + *Yes, our Formation Team of 6 members has held Formation Classes for 4 candidates throughout 2022 – both in-person and on Zoom. One of the candidates had to take a break because of a catastrophic family illness situation.*

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 realize that expenses everywhere are going up.*
* We have not increased dues for over 10 years. What do you see as a fair amount for the increase?
  + *We would not be opposed to a $5 increase in 2025.*

*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 2023 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**](mailto: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**](mailto:swaynos@cfl.rr.com)