Fraternal Visitation Report

Divine Mercy Fraternity

Date of Visitation: August 14, 2022

St. Helen’s Church

St. Patrick room

2085 Tallahassee Ave.

Vero Beach, FL

May the peace of the Lord be with you all!

Thank you for accommodating the Fraternal and Pastoral visitation on Sunday, August 14, 2022. 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. It is an opportunity for each of us to grow as we share.

The visit is to guarantee and to promote the observance of the OFS Rule and Constitutions, as well as fidelity to the

Franciscan charism.

This report is submitted in two parts – one from the pastoral visitor and one from the fraternal visitor. Some general

suggestions to strengthen your Franciscan life are included. Specific comments and observations of the Visitations are

also included.

Please convey our thanks to the entire fraternity for a warm welcome and joyful hospitality. Please share this report

with all your members, dialogue about its contents with particular emphasis on the four pillars. Do not hesitate to

contact either visitor should you have questions or need clarification.

The fraternal meeting consists of: Meeting started as usual with opening prayer (pg50), verbal attendance was taken.

Present at the meeting were members, also present at this visitation was Brother Lombardo D’Auria OFM Cap.,

Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Hilda Aguilera OFS, Regional Family Councilor

The Divine Mercy Fraternity consists of 7 professed members and 2 lapsed members and 1 inquire.

Documentation:

The fraternity establishment of document was prominently displayed and viewed. All the documents were signed and

reviewed, suggested that it will be better to have all the documents of each council member organize in their individual

three ring binders for better viewing and organization. Suggested the treasurer’s binder needed to be better organized

and document the funds in and outs better, the duties and responsibilities of each member should be in the front page

of each of their binders. We discussed that I will send the minister documents and hints on how to put their binders

together and in 6months we will return to re-visit. Over all their folders were well put together.

It was encouraged for the ongoing study and reading of the current translation of the Rule of the OFS and Constitutions

during the fraternal meetings. Please visit https://ciofs.info/library/official-documents/ for the updated translation of

the Official Documents. The fraternity can get the "Essential Documents of the OFS" from Smoky Mountain Press.

The "Essential Documents of the OFS" book will be revised by NAFRA in near future. The ongoing formation

sessions should include the study of the lives of contemporary Secular Franciscan saints. It is highly recommended that

all the members participate in the meeting by presenting a Franciscan topic and/or give a short presentation of a

contemporary Secular Franciscan saint to the fraternity. It is recommended to use "The Franciscan Journey" as a way

to refresh the basic principles of the Secular Franciscan way of life.

Since the election there has been some re-structure in the fraternity because of health reason the secretary cannot

continue her duties but she is attending the fraternal meetings. Therefore, the treasurer is also taking the duties of the

secretary because the councilor at larger personal work schedule situation and absence does not allow her to take on

any other duties.

Propose to the minister that her binder and the secretary needs to be pretty much the same and all the situations of

lapsed or issue within the fraternity needs to step by step and be well documented.

We talked about how to increase visibility of the fraternity within the community by the entire member attending mass

together on a monthly gathering and wearing their Tau. Also, a good way to be notice is to place in the church bulletin

an announcement when the fraternity meets.

The formation minister is a well knowledgeable person. We talked that it will be good to put together a well

constructive lesson plan for the initial and the ongoing formation. Like this the whole council can see how all it’s put

together and all of them together can help out with formation and grow together as one fraternity, one family. Creating

a well thought out lesson plan and to help and encourage the members to participate by answering questions to build

dialogue.

Apostolic Activity:

The council together with the fraternity members needs to define what apostolate the fraternity wants to do on regular

bases. One of the ideas was to contributed food to the parish pantry as their apostolate as a Secular Franciscan Order.

Prayer Life:

The prayer life of the fraternity is based on the Liturgy of the Hours. It is not recommended to pray for any other

Catholic devotional prayers during the fraternity meeting. The fraternity can create new spaces of prayer and invites

their local parish community to pray with them. It could be any Catholic devotional prayer approved by the Council

outside the time of the fraternity meeting.

It’s very important for the council together with the fraternity members to come together for their monthly fraternal

mass.

By praying and sharing they will grow to bond as a Franciscan family by learning to live the Gospel values through

their simplicity, humility, love, joy, and service to the poor. As well by studying and reviewing the daily lives of the

Franciscan spirituality of our Rules and Constitutions the fraternity will grow stronger.

As always is my pleasure to visit this fraternity. May God continue to guide and bless all the members of the fraternity.

In the Love of Christ with the spirit of Francis and Clare,

Hilda Aguilera, OFS

FFMR-Region Family Councilor of St. Margaret of Cortona Family (south)