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Pastoral Visitation Report

Divine Mercy Fraternity, Vero Beach, FL

St. Helen Catholic Church, August 14, 2022

General state of the fraternity’s growth:

The members kept the fraternity in a maintenance mode. The REC has not visited and

supported the fraternity in years and the members kept to themselves from the local

communities. As a result, there is no growth but there is the penitential fire to change.

Quality of the fraternity’s spiritual growth and incorporation of the Franciscan

charism:

The fraternity upholds the Franciscan charism by helping the poor through monetary

donations, NAFRA, and other projects. They have also talked about Franciscan

spirituality from the perspective of the FUN manual. They do not have a specific

Fraternity apostolate that could present them as members of the Order of Franciscan

Secular. However, they have the penitential fire within them. They requested the help

of the REC so that they can make changes to increase numbers, establish apostolates as

a fraternity, and grow in Franciscan spirituality.

Relationship of the fraternity with the host parish or friary and with the wider

Church:

I did not find a close relationship with the parish community. Fr. Nicholas Zrallack,

Parochial Vicar, was not able to express a comment regarding the fraternity. It seems to

me that the fraternity is disconnected from the Parish. It is a good thing to be

disconnected from the Parish. At the same time, the fraternity requires to be more

involved with the Youth, Young Adults, the Parish school, and the Parish community as

“servants to all.”

Appraisal of the fraternity’s spiritual assistance:

No Spiritual Assistance was assigned.

General Comments:

I highly recommend the following changes:

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Formation:

During the ongoing formation, every member should take turns discussing a topic from

the FUN manual or The Franciscan Journey Book. The Council should select a series of

topics to discuss throughout the year and assigned randomly a member to lead the

discussion. The Council should provide the list of the topics and the selected member in

advance so everyone will be prepared to participate. Every member must be included

in the conversation.

Suggested: Reading for Initial Formation and Ongoing Formation:

https://www.franciscantradition.org/early-sources - Updated writings of St. Francis

and St. Clare – Free access and available for downloading and printing.

St. Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty & the Man Who Transformed the Catholic Church

By Bret Thoman, OFS, Publisher: TAN Books

God is Love by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The Franciscan Journey – updated version

A Knight and a Lady: A Journey into the Spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare

by Bret Thoman (Author), Murray Bodo (Foreword) – Publisher: Independently

Published – via Amazon Smile

JPIC

The DNA of the Secular Franciscan consists of promoting JPIC through the Catholic

Social Teaching of the Church. Our Lady of the Angels Region created this mini-series

on YouTube:

Video 1: https://youtu.be/Blq0MNk5dzk?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 2:https://youtu.be/nZXoYLoLNfg?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 3: https://youtu.be/tShbbvZu0tQ?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 4:https://youtu.be/YEbG3uyYUp0?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe

Video 5: https://youtu.be/RTM9C\_Sb\_Bg?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aR

Video 6: https://youtu.be/\_\_FBIZHq9js?list=PLj4XpVsbb1rymCtMQ\_Fx76xufL\_z\_3aRe