

**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.***

**Name of Fraternity:** St. Anthony of Padua, Gulfport

**Meeting Place, Address, Phone:** Most Holy Name of Jesus Church,5800 15th Ave S, Gulfport, FL 33707

Phone Number of Judy Born, OFS Fraternity Liaison with the Region: (727) 409-4576

**Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place:** Second Sunday of the Month at 3pm at the home of Council Member Lori Ann Hebert, OFS 5600 34th Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL 33710

**Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time:** Third Saturday of the Month after 9am mass at Most Holy Name of Jesus, from 10am – 12pm.

Any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2023? {NO} {YES}; X If not due to an official election, give reason for change: Councilor Sylvia Gonzales, OFS resigned and Fred Wheeler, OFS was appointed to fill this position on 9/16/23.

**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 CAP; *FUN Manual (For Up to Now); Catechism of the Catholic Church; the Bible; The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order; General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order 2000; The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order; Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order; Secular Franciscan Companion; Divine Office*
* **ONGOING** This year we utilized the FUN Manual and the Formation Friday emails for ongoing formation.
* **What topics in the FUN Manual have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation?** This year we used the Fun Manual chapters on The Secular Franciscan Rule, Vocation God’s Call, and Identify as a Secular Franciscan for Ongoing Formation.
* **How often has your fraternity discussed the Status of Instrumentum Laboris?**

The Council has discussed *Instrumentum Laboris* but it has not been discussed during our fraternity gatherings.

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

Our goal is to increase fraternity participation in Apostolic Works. We investigated several possibilities this year and began making Blessing Bags to distribute to the homeless. We are considering expanding the Blessing Bags and adding other Apostolic Works in 2024.

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

We do not have a formal newsletter, but we email OFS Weekly Updates every Monday. This includes email content we’ve received from the Region, JPIC, Monthly Meditations, Formation Friday, and other local, national and international Franciscan sources. Our Weekly Update also serves as a communication tool for our members to share prayer requests and to other information.

* **How is it distributed?** It is an email distribution list. Printed copies are mailed upon request to members with no email access.
* **Have you thought of sharing your newsletter with the bishop, regional executive council, etc.?**

 No, but we have added our Family Councilors to our distribution list.

**What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity? What percentages of the fraternity participate?**  We collect items to be included in Blessing Bags for the homeless and assemble the bags. About 75% of our fraternity participates. We plan to work with St. Vincent DePaul Society to expand the scope and delivery of the Blessing Bags in 2024.

We are also considering additional Apostolic Works through Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish visiting Palms of Pasadena Hospital and/or nursing homes and homebound parishioners.

* **Does your fraternity attend Mass or prayer services outside the regular meeting times?** Our fraternity gathers the first Sunday of every month at a member’s home to pray the Crown Rosary. We attend the 9am Saturday Mass at Most Holy Name of Jesus before our monthly gatherings.

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

* **Have you had personal contact with the youth in your area this past year?** **Explain:** The Confirmation Students from Most Holy Name of Jesus met with us at one of our gatherings to learn about St. Francis and to discuss their Confirmation Saints.
* **Who is your current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity?**

 Lori Ann Hebert, OFS

* **Has anyone in your Fraternity, including the Minister or Youth Animator, attended any National or Regional Youth/YouFra Zoom or in-person workshops/meetings?** Lori Ann Hebert, OFS and Maria Elena Vasconez regularly attend the regional YOUFRA Zoom meetings.
* **List your Fraternity “JPIC” projects and activities for 2022.** Our Blessing Bags for the Homeless is our primary JPIC project. Several of our members are involved with Prison Ministry.
* **Have you taken part in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2022? Explain:**

 Not as a fraternity.

**What activities have you done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity? Explain:** We distribute information cards about our Fraternity in several of our Parishes. Our monthly Crown Rosary is attended by many people not familiar with Secular Franciscans. Some people who prayed the rosary with us now attend our gatherings and have begun formation. Wearing our Taus and answering questions about the Tau and Secular Franciscans.

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

* **What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2023 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)?** Rite of Extraction Prayer Service and prayer scrolls at our January Gathering. In January our Fraternity rented a van and we visited Ave Maria, including the Mother Teresa Museum. Presentation about Fatima of Asia and evangelizing in the Philippines. In September we hosted a Book Discussion/Retreat for four weeks, using the audio and print book by Murray Bodo and Susan Saint Sing- *A Retreat with Francis and Clare.* In October we attended the Transitus Service at St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Clearwater. In December we participated in the Greccio Celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady the Queen of the Universe in Orlando.
* **What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2024?**

 Rite of Admission Ceremony for two Aspirants in January.

 Rite of Extraction and prayer scrolls.

 Outdoor Mass at the site of the First Mass Celebrated in Florida on April 20, 1528 at Navarez Park, 8398 Elbow Park/Part Street in St. Petersburg.

 Day of Recollection/Retreat during Lent

Profession for two Candidates

Book Discussion during Lent on *A Knight and a Lady*, by Bret Thoman, OFS at the Home of Kristen Noakes-Fry, OFS five Thursdays in Lent from 10am – Noon.

Regional Visitation.

* **Is there anything you wish to share with the Regional Executive Council?** Our Spiritual Assistant was reassigned out-of-state in July and we are still searching for a replacement.
* **Have you found it easy to connect with the Region when scheduling elections, visitations or when having problems within your fraternity?** Yes everyone is very responsive to our email/phone questions.
* **What has been your fraternity’s greatest challenge this past year?** 1) Most Holy Name of Jesus required that we change our meeting time from Sunday to Saturday, and some of our members are unable to meet on Saturday. We were unable to find another parish for Sunday Gatherings. 2) Searching for a Spiritual Assistant.
* **What is your fraternity’s strongest asset(s)?**

Our fraternity’s strongest assets include our hardworking, dedicated members, and a strong formation program that focuses on each individual person, striving to accommodate their varied learning styles and schedules.

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

 Two of our formation sessions are held electronically. Three people attend each session.

* **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**  Zoom Formation Sessions are in addition to in-person Formation Sessions. Meeting by Zoom is more convenient for many people; others prefer to meet in-person.

* **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?** Both our family councilors, Mark Banschbach, OFS and Rachel Ahern, OFS have attended our gatherings. Rachel Ahern, OFS invited our fraternity to join her fraternity, St. Francis of Assisi in Clearwater for the Transitus. This was a wonderful opportunity for both our fraternities to spend time together. We also communicate regularly by phone and email, and our councilors receive our weekly updates.
* **How often have you or your delegate attended your family meetings this past year?**

Someone from our fraternity has attended all the family meetings this past year. In January the Vice- Minister, our Formation Director, YOUFRA Contact and another member attended. This Fall our Minister attended in person and our Vice-Minister attended via Zoom.

* **How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members?** Our shut-in members receive our weekly email updates. Before Lent we mail them a letter with a Franciscan Lenten booklet and our roster. At Christmas time we make gift bags with a book, religious item, cookies and candy to give them during a home visit. We also keep in touch by phone, text and email.
* **When was your last profession?** October 2023 **How many were professed?** One

**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?** Yes, we are opposed to any increase in our regional fair share. The majority of our members are aged, living on fixed incomes, and it would be a burden to increase their fair share.
* **We have not increase dues for over 10 years. What do you see as a fair amount for the increase?**

We do not feel the fair share should be increased.