Interim visitation

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity - Gulfport

8/20/2022 11 AM Holy name of Jesus Parish

St. Thomas More Family

Regional Councilors:

Mark Banschbach, OFS

Rachel Ahern, OFS

Mark attended Mass at the parish prior to the meeting, of those I knew were present were 2 of the Fraternity Council, both of whom were parishioners. It appears that they do not meet to worship together at Mass

The parish dedicates the 3rd Sunday Mass to the Secular Franciscans. They should attend together and sit together so they can be recognized in the community as well as having the opportunity to pray together as a Franciscan family.

After Mass we were greeted by the fraternity members, this is a warm and welcoming community of joyful Franciscans.

The meeting began with opening prayers from the Ritual, and A noon-day prayers from Divine Office.org

Jim Gillis, Minister, opened the meeting by reminding us that "Good Morning " is the shortened version of the greeting "God be with you this Morning " From the Old English.

Same extends to Goodbye - God be with you. etc.

He also asked " what are you doing to build Gods Kingdom". and would ask for their answer after the meeting.

This community has an $85 Fair Share. They request, in order to cover their annual expenses and to have money to do the works of the community

Maria Halloran (mariahalloran@outlook.com) - is the Formation director for this community -

They have 3 people in initial formation 1 Aspirant and 2 inquirers. There is one candidate who is scheduled to be professed in October of this year. They were trying to get a retreat Set up this year.. they had discussed 3 different " At-Home" retreats that Judy Born, vice minister, would be doing with the candidate.

Options being discussed were :

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Options being discussed were :

Pilgrims in Assisi - Murray Bodo and Susan Saint Sing

Retreat with Saint Anthony - Finding our way - Carol Ann Morrow

A walk with Saint Francis - 18 Days of Readings and Reflections -From the Feast of the Stigmata to the Feast of St. Francis - -Cricket Aull

YouFra - they were off during the summer while they were trying to start again in September and make plans for that process.

On-Going Formation - Video from the Wild Goose Series - on Venerable Jerome Lejune - The Dr who discovered and isolated the gene responsible for Down Syndrome and fought for the rights of children who were conceived with Downs Syndrome. Also fought for the right to life for children conceived with Down Syndrome, that at the time comprised 90% of the abortions in France.

Later in the meeting Jim explained the reason for the question what were they doing to build Gods Kingdom. The issue was that the Fraternity is either being moved to another part of the parish, or moving to another Parish all together.

The issue appears to be they are closing down the parish school where several groups meet - further aggravating the space issues for the parishes numerous ministries. plus the Order.

The reason for the question was that the Minister wanted to move to the Cathedral of St Jude. but the pastor wanted them to move to another Parish , St Josephs , which is nearby but is failing. they only have 1 mass there a week and the pastor there wants the Fraternity to move there but apparently only if they will help to save that parish. The pastor asked the Minister what they were doing to build God's Kingdom AND by inference what they were going to do to help build up that parish.

The answers from the fraternity were responses that were centered around, what their prayer life was, or what they did personally. They seemed to not really understand the question.

This community has a TON of different apostolates they are doing individually but there is no cohesive active Fraternity Apostolate that was discussed.

There seemed to be a communication issue with the Pastor of this community. We suggested that they reach out to the pastor. This Pastor seems to want to communicate via phone messages. He also wants to control his own calendar. This needed to be resolved in order to build a fraternal relationship with the pastor in this parish. The Pastor only wanted to deal with the minister and not any of the other council members. One of the council members works in the parish office. Also, the business manager and music minister ( same person ) is a Secular Franciscan, from Tampa. ( not part of this fraternity) . So the OFS is well engrained in this parish.

One final recommendation would be to get away from printing out the Divine office prayers. In todays world all members likely have a cell phone if they MUST use the app. Otherwise to use the Christian prayer book ( one or four volume sets) I am sure that the fraternity can cover the cost of a book for those who are not able to afford one.

Prayerfully submitted,

Mark R. Banschbach, OFS and Rachel Ahearn, OFS

Regional Councilors, St. Thomas More Family.