

**FRATERNAL VISITATION REPORT**

**St. Francis of Assisi/Espejo de Cristo**

**April 22, 2022**

**Hialeah, Florida**

Jeane Swaynos OFS, Five Franciscan Martyrs Regional Minister, conducted the Fraternal Visitation. Father Nicholas Monando, OFM Conv., did the pastoral visitation on Friday April 22 at 7:30 pm for St. Franics of Assisi/ Espejo de Cristo

Fr. Nick Mormando OFM Cap

St. Padre Pio Friary

2411 NW 3rd Street

Miami, Fl. 33125

Jeane Swaynos, OFS

FFMR Regional Minister

216 E Sweetwater Creek Dr.

Longwood, Fl. 32779

**Preparatory Information**:

**Demographics**:

There are

Active Members 10

Inactive Members 0

Candidates 2

Inquiry 1

There were 9 members present at the visitation and the Spiritual Assistant Brother Lombardo. There were also 2 candidates and 1 Inquiry

**Documentation**:

The documentation presented was in exceptional order. It was well organized and easy to follow. The visitor commends the fraternity on this accomplishment. Coming from a primary language of Spanish, having the documentation is both languages was not an easy task. The books were readily displayed, everything marked and organized.

**Formation**

During the visitation there was a presentation about the Blessed Mother and how she was so much a part of the life of St. Francis. This was presented by Reny Aguilera, OFS the Treasurer of the Fraternity.

There were also questions and responses presented by Father Nick asking the fraternity about their relationship to St. Francis.

INITIAL:

For initial formation the fraternity uses these resources

* + - El Hermano de Asis,\_Brother of Assisi,
    - Bible
    - Catholic Catechism,
    - La Jornada de San Francisco-
    - The Journey of St Francis,
    - FUN manual.
    - The OFS Rules and Constitution
    - Escrito de San Francisco- Writings of St. Francis,
    - The Admonitions.
    - The Franciscan Journey(Spanish Edition),
    - Writings of St. Francis and Clare(Editorial Arantzazu),
    - The rule and Constitutions of the OFS.

• The formation is guided by the formation minister, Maria Vidal, with the aid of Br. Lombardo. The formation process is shared by the entire fraternity. At present there are two candidates in formation, and one in the inquiry stage.

From what I can see at the visitation, there will soon be three candidates in this process each at a different place. The fraternity will need to rely on each other, and share the responsibility to meet the needs of these upcoming candidates. These are young vibrant praying group of men that are eager to share and become Franciscans.

**OnGoing Formation**

This is guided by Bother Lombardo who is a valuable resource for the fraternity.

Resources used for On Going Formation include

* Life of the Franciscan Saints
* Liturgy of the Hours
* Bible Readings
* Journey of St. Francis

Each member chooses a chapter from the Journey of St. Francis and gives a summary to the fraternity. The members are involved as moderators. There is group discussion on these topics.

**Prayer Life:**

The group does liturgy of the hours at the meetings. There is also monthly Mass attendance as a group to the various parishes. The members belong to various parishes so each month they attend Mass at a different parish.

This is a fraternity that finds it easy to pray. The strength through the present challenges has come through their pray life which was evident at this visitation.

**Apostolic Activity:**

There is much this fraternity does involving Apostolic activities. They have been successful in raising funds to give to the poor and gathering items. One of the members suggested we have a common Regional activity that all the fraternities could take part in. I would suggest that this fraternity provide information about their various activities. If they list the particular items the various agencies are looking for it would be helpful for the region and other fraternities. These are some of the items I see thus far

* Long sleeve shirt (Migrant workers)
* Disposable colored rain pouches (Migrant workers)
* Diapers (Children and Adults)
* School supplies

If we knew what items they were in need of, we could gather them throughout the region and give them to various areas. I am not sure if there are any medical supplies needed. There are pockets of poor area throughout our state. There are areas in great need of particular items, as well as the migrant workers in Apopka, and various areas in the northeast part of the state. I am thankful that a member gave the suggestion to come up with a regional project we could all be a part of. Finding apostolic activities seems to be a challenge for other fraternities, and this particular fraternity seems to have implemented it well.

**Council Meeting and Monthly Gatherings:**

The fraternity has returned to face to face meetings. They are a vibrant fraternity that has great passion and a strong desire to spread the Franciscan spirit. They have had many health issues but are able to continue functioning as a council and their monthly gatherings. Hopefully, they all can consistently keep their monthly attendance at these fraternity meetings. It is important to the life of the fraternity that all are in attendance. It is through being with other Franciscans that live the life, and building stronger relationships with each other, is where they will find the strength they need.

**Summation:**

The fraternity enjoys a strong relationship with Immaculate Conception Parish and the brothers at St. Padre Pio Friary. Their openness to outreach to the wider church is displayed in their group attendance of Sunday Mass at nine different parishes once a month. They rotate which parish they will attend for each particular month.

Having a Friday night meeting time allows for those that are working to attend the meeting. There were 50% males and females in attendance. Many of the members were young and still working full time. They have once again begun person to person meetings.

**Recommendations:**

We sincerely hope we helped fulfill Article 92.1 of the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order, which states: "The purpose of both the pastoral and fraternal visits is to revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of the unity of the Order, and to promote its most effective insertion into the Franciscan family and the Church."

I would suggest that Hilda and Reny spread the responsibilities to as many others as possible so they do not burn out. As the members get professed encourage them to work with the fraternity as a group together. Until that is available, please ask the region for assistance. I would also suggest that the collaboration between the area fraternities continue. Queen of Peace, St. Padre Pio and St. Joseph’s Fraternity are in the area and activities can be done together. They have bridged the gap between Spanish and English and I would hope this could be shared with others in the area.

Start a newsletter in Spanish that could be shared with the region. Delegate this to one of the members that are not part of the council.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeane Swaynos, OFS**

Jeane Swaynos, OFS

Regional Minister, Fraternal Visitor

