**Pastoral Visitation – Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity**

**Tallahassee, FL – September 17, 2022**

**General state of the fraternity’s growth:**

I believe that the fraternity has the potential to grow spiritually in its Franciscan charism and membership. However, the fraternity has been affected by factors beyond the control of its members such as a death in the family, the Covid-19 pandemic, and other situations. The fraternity needs to rebuild itself in the areas of its apostolate, ongoing formation, vocations, and activities with the local, parish, and diocesan communities.

**Quality of the fraternity’s spiritual growth and incorporation of the Franciscan charism:**

The members need to start using a more Fraternal vocabulary when it comes to the Fraternity’s apostolates and the Franciscan way of life. At the meeting, some members expressed themselves as “I did this…” as an example of the fraternity’s apostolate. It’s highly recommended that the fraternity starts to do service to the poor as a *Fraternity*. So, the fraternity should begin to express themselves as "We do this..." at all times. The members should wear their habits (Tau cross) and clothing that identified them as a part of the Order Franciscan Secular when they do ministry as a *Fraternity*. This is a great opportunity for renewal.

I would encourage each professed member to be more willing to assist in strengthening the Franciscan charism of the fraternity, thru their willingness to take a responsibility for the life of the Order. It is also recommended that the council should assign tasks to the members throughout the year. In this case, each member will be aware in advance of his tasks and commitments to the fraternity and the Order.

**Relationship of the fraternity with the host parish or friary and with the wider Church:**

Fr. Dustin Feddon, Parochial Vicar, was not able to respond that the fraternity has a relationship with the parish community. The fraternity has the opportunity to provide Franciscan formation to the children, youth, young adults, young married couples, and the community at large.

**Appraisal of the fraternity’s spiritual assistance:**

No Spiritual Assistant assigned yet. The CNSA, NEC, and REC have concerns about the lack of qualified Spiritual Assistants. If the Council needs to contact me for any spiritual assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**General Comments:**

I propose the following activities to engage the members deeply in the penitential process of renewal of life in the fraternity:

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

It is recommended that the Council promote the following USCCB web pages among the members by following the requests of the USCCB and responding to the social and political needs expressed by the USCCB. (Please check Rule of the OFS – Chap.II, Art. 6)

Below are the links to the JPIC of the USCCB. Take Action!

https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development

https://www.usccb.org/take-action

In conclusion, I highly recommend another Pastoral/Fraternal Visitations within six months to a year after September 2022. If you have any questions regarding Pastoral Report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

In Christ,

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