**FRATERNITY VISITATION REPORT**





Little Flowers of Saint Francis

St. Paul’s Basilica

317 Mullally St.

Daytona Beach, Florida

February 12, 2022

**Introduction**

Jeane Swaynos, OFS, FFMR Regional minister attended the monthly Fraternity Gathering of Little Flowers of Francis on February 12, 2022 at St. Paul’s Basilica in Daytona Beach. There are 11 members in the fraternity, 7 professed, 3 excused professed, and 1 candidate.

Preparatory Information

 The pre-visitation questionnaire was completed by the fraternity and received by the visitors prior to the date of the visitation. We thank everyone for the timely and thorough job you did in completing all the paperwork. The council was welcoming and glad to see us.

Demographics

There are now seven professed members, three candidates, some of which will soon be professed.

The fraternity consists of:

• Professed: 7

• Candidates: 3

• Inquirers: 1

• Orientation: 0

• Visitor: 0

 The inquirer is a retired priest from the parish and will be a great asset to the fraternity.

Documentation

* Minister's Binder – The visitor looked at the Minister's binder, and this was in order with council minutes and fraternity minutes quickly found.

• Secretary Binder – The secretary's binder had the minutes from council meetings and fraternity meetings. Accurate monthly attendances are kept on file.

• Checking Account: The visitor saw the bank statement and the checking account.

• The fraternity has been able to fill their fair share and is giving with their funds.

• The visitor has the fraternity's budget in the annual report and a budget was submitted to the treasurer with Fair Share funds of $550 paid. There is $1408 in the common fund. The visitor was happy to see they paid their Spiritual Assistant $300 a year. It does not matter if she cashes the check or not, this is a sign of respect that you show for the time and energy she continually gives to your fraternity.

• Charter- The Charter was framed and on display

• Registrar – The visitor signed the registrar that was kept in order and up to date.

The visitors reviewed and signed, where appropriate, Fraternity Register, and minister’s binder (containing agendas, formation information, the rule, and secretary’s minutes). The visitors also reviewed and signed the treasurer’s binder which contained bank statements and a year-end report.

This was signed and dated by the fraternal visitor

Leadership

There is a strong leadership at this fraternity and a good sense of working together and being friends for a long period of time. There is more to a strong fraternity then large membership but with only 7 it is difficult to continue to grow and thrive.

**Prayer and Spiritual Life**

The fraternity begins with Mass and at the meeting does Liturgy of the Hours. There is deep spiritual growth in this fraternity that happens through formation. The visitor would suggest that the council have a team for formation because it needs to expand and others need the opportunity to become leaders. There is a strong cohesiveness between these 7 active members. They often do activities that take place outside the monthly meeting of the fraternity. There is a lot of support from their spiritual assistant Karen. Some of the activities that take place during the monthly meetings are:

* Saint of the Month that is shared by each member
* Mass before the meetings
* Liturgy of the hours – Visitor suggests that this too be shared and led by the 7 members each taking a part of it.
* Letters shared from their apostolate family and mother Josephine from India. They were most grateful.

**Apostolate Activities**

* Bags for the homeless – Visitor suggest that these be blessed at the Mass and create cloth bags if possible.
* Collecting Money for the Apostolate family in India

These are wonderful activities but more could be done that would inspire others become Franciscans.

With only 7 active members finding a substantial apostate activity is challenging. Visitor suggests they connect better with the church and find something that involves action and “moving their feet”. Here are some suggestions:

* Creating Franciscan Crown Rosaries as a group
* Collecting long sleeve shirts for the migrant workers
* Finding ways to be more visible in the parish so others are more aware of what they do
* Research to see if there is a place where the parish feeds the homeless and take part in that on a consistent bases.

**Initial Formation**

For initial formation the fraternity uses

The Franciscan Journey

* The Constitution
* Catechism

Visitor suggests using some of the activities from the FUN manual.

**Ongoing Formation**

* To Set Themselves Free by Teresa Baker
* A Correlation Between the Catechism and the Catholic Church
* The Rule of the SFO
* The Constitution of the SFO

The resource that was put together by Karen : A Correlation between the Cathechism and the Catholic Church is what they are now actively using for ongoing formation. This is well presented and a valuable resource.

Evangelization Activities

The visitor is hoping there could be more evangelization throughout the area with other churches. There is not a strong relationship with the church and many parishioners are not aware of this fraternity. Perhaps reaching out to other churches in the area or homeless shelters where they could work together as a fraternity. This fraternity is like a diamond in the rough. There is potential here and they need some direction and energy to make this happen. There is a lot of individual talent among the members to do things beyond their monthly meeting.

Summation

This fraternity has had face to face meetings in all but one month last year. They have a good working relationship with their area councilor since she is their minister. The visitor would suggest they continue to work at the shelter for unwed mothers and make this a priority. There may be just a few members that could take part but it would be a start. The visitor also suggest that matching shirts be purchased so when they are at these activities others know who they are. They should expand their idea of supporting an elementary teacher at a low income school. This does not have to be only monetary, it can involve time to get classroom activities ready. There is so much time needed to prepare lessons and cut out material for elementary teachers. Utilize the strengths and gifts of the other members. Pass on the responsibilities to the other members so all can grow. Find a way to use their individual gifts.

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 charisma 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.” We are very excited to witness where this fraternity will “travel” in the next three years.

Respectfully submitted

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FFMR Regional Minister

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