February 25, 2021

St. Joseph Fraternity

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

May the peace of Lord be with you all!

Thank you for accommodating the Fraternal and Pastoral visitation on Sunday, February 14, 2021. The Fraternity meet at St. Gregory the Great on the third Sunday of every month but since the pandemic they are meeting via telephone conference. This situation had to make accommodations and held the visitation at St. Jerome.

The fraternal visit is a moment of communion, an expression of the service and concrete interest of the secular leaders at the various levels, so that the fraternity may grow and be faithful to its vocation. It is an opportunity for each of us to grow as we share. The visit is to guarantee and to promote the observance of the OFS Rule and Constitutions, as well as fidelity to the Franciscan charism.

This report is submitted in two parts – one from the pastoral visitor and one from the fraternal visitor. Some general suggestions to strengthen your Franciscan life are included. Specific comments and observations of the Visitations are also included.

Please convey our thanks to the entire fraternity for a warm welcome and joyful hospitality. We were particularly impressed with the love and spirituality that you share with each other. Please share this report with all your members, dialogue about its contents with particular emphasis on the four pillars. Do not hesitate to contact either visitor should you have questions or need clarification.

In the Love of Christ with the spirit of Francis and Clare,

Hilda Aguilera, OFS

Minister of St. Francis of Assisi- Espejo de Cristo

Family Councilor of St. Margaret of Cortona Family

Copy to:

Jeane Swaynos, OFS, Regional Minister

Br. Lombardo D’Aurias, OFM, Cap, Regional Spiritual Assistant

 Janice Novello, PhD, OFS, Regional Vice Minister

John Deaton OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant

**Five Franciscan Martyrs Region**

**Secular Franciscan Order**

South Georgia, Lower Alabama, and Southeast Florida

**Fraternal Observation**

**Visitation Part 1**

This report contains part 1 of the visitation due to the lack of the full council and formation director.

Visitors: Jeane Swaynos, OFS, Regional Minister, Br. Lombardo OFM, Cap. Regional Spiritual Assistance and Hilda Aguilera, OFS Regional Councilor. The visitation took place Sunday, February 14, 2021 at St. Jerome Catholic Church. Jeanne opened the gathering with the prayer for meetings from the Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order book.

**Preparatory Information**

The visitation questionnaire was completed and received by the Jeane Swaynos in advance.

**Records**

All the records were not check because of the present situation of lack of members of the council. Maryann Sullivan acting as the minister, treasurer, and counselor. The position of the vice-minister, formation director and two counselors have not been fulfilled by the fraternity.

**Participation in local, regional activities**

Few members of the fraternity shared zoom activity with the Espejo de Cristo fraternity and with the

St. Margaret of Cortona Family

**Gathering Observations**

My observations were that the visitation was to basically see how each member were doing. Even thou only about half of the fraternity show up. We had a good conversation and came to share that each member needs to be involve in the fraternity, each of them have a voice and need to be proactive. The REC stated that we are always here to guide and assist all the member of the fraternity. They are open and in good spirits, to look at the future to take on some of the responsibilities of the different positions for the upcoming visitation on April 11, 2021.

**Council**

The council currently is not meeting face to face because of the pandemic. They are meeting via phone conference.

**Recommendations**

Jeane Swaynos, Hilda Aguilera and Br. Lombardo; recommend that each member call one of the other members that were not present to attend our next visitation on April 11 at St. Jerome Parish. The council highly recommends that the attendances of all the 20 members be present, to be able to do an election of choosing a new council and a formational director.

The REC requested to the member present that the absent members must response the questionnaire to the region because only five members responded the request of the regional counselors.

The REC explained to the member if the fraternity must comply with the following requests of REC:

1. Response questionnaire and send it to Br. Lombardo
2. All active fraternal members must attend the next visitation on April 11 at St. Jerome
3. Members should respond positively to fulfill every roll of the fraternity councilor and formation director positions.

The member of the St. Joseph fraternity needs to fulfil with these requests. Otherwise, the REC finds itself in the position of de-activating the fraternity because the fraternity no longer has the viability and stability to maintain its OFS life, fraternity, and mission.

The REC is very hopefully that all the members of St. Joseph will take to heart their fraternity in fulfillment of what is been asked. Our prayers go out to each member of this fraternity, to become a very fruitful and a vibrant fraternity following the OFS rules and constitutions with the guidance of Holy Spirit and following the footsteps our Seraphic father St. Francis, with the spirit of peace, love, joy and of service.

Peace and all good

 Hilda Aguilera, OFS

Minister of St. Francis of Assisi- Espejo de Cristo

Family Councilor of St. Margaret of Cortona Family

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