**Pastoral Visit – Saint Michael the Archangel Fraternity – FFMR**

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

The members expressed that their prayer life consists of attending the Holy Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours. As a result, their prayer life produced fruits with some vocations. In their process of initial formation, these vocations moved to other states because they found better job opportunities. However, they requested to continue with their OFS formation at their new locations. Some of them expressed that they might return to the Tampa area in a near future.

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

In 2021, the fraternity moved to a new location, Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The transfer to the new location affected the fraternity because they were not able to have ministries to the poor and to establish new outreach ministries to the vulnerable population. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic stopped the activities of the fraternity. They expressed their great desire to serve the homeless, abandoned, and vulnerable population.

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

The fraternity has recently moved to Sacred Heart Church, which is administered by the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province. It seems that the fraternity is growing a close relationship with the friars and the local community.

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

Fr. Henry Fulmer, OFM, stated that the fraternity has been faithful to keep good communication among the members during the pandemic. He’s working with the members to establish new ministries to the poor such as to assist with Hands of Hope, promote awareness of human traffic in the city of Tampa, and promote the OFS among the people of the parish and surrounding areas. Br. Henry considers that they need to put more emphasis on promoting OFS vocations and to be more organized. He has not been able to participate in the formation meetings. Also, he expressed that the council did not inform him about their decision to take three months' vacation when I mentioned it to him. He would discuss this topic with them in their next meeting. Overall, the fraternity strives to live the Rule and the Constitutions of the OFS.

**General Comments:**

I recommend that the council must notify in writing all their decisions to the SA, Br. Henry Fulmer, OFM. However, any document of the OFS does not mention that the local fraternities can take time off. If a council member needs time to rest, he/she must present the request to the council at large. Then, the remaining council members must continue keeping the life of the fraternity. The local fraternity is the heart of the Order of Franciscan Seculars. If the heart stops, the OFS dies.

On-going formation: It’s recommended that the Formation director looks for new biographies of St. Francis, St. Clare, and the lives of the Secular Franciscan saints. The council should establish a Formation team that would look for new Franciscan formation programs in Franciscan institutes such as the Franciscan Institute (St. Bonaventure University), School of Franciscan Theology (University of San Diego), Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies, and Now You Know Media (Formation programs by Br. Bill Short, OFM).

Also, I recommend that each member takes a turn to provide a Franciscan topic as an ongoing formation class.

New Ministries: It would be beneficial to establish ministries that the fraternity has a presence among the young married couples, Faith Formation kids, and the youth of the parish.