**Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular**

Province of the Immaculate Conception—USA

501 Walnut Street Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

31 January 2022

**The Appointment of Mark Banschbach, O.F.S.**

**as Spiritual Assistant to The Encounter (El Encuentro) Fraternity**

 With this letter as Delegate of the Provincial to the Secular Franciscan Order (PSA), Mark Banschbach, O.F.S. is appointed as Spiritual Assistant to The Encounter (El Encuentro) Fraternity, Winter Haven, Florida, in Five Franciscan Martyrs Region of the Secular Franciscan Order. On behalf of the Province of the Immaculate Conception—USA, and in the name of Father Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R., Minister Provincial, we offer you our prayers and thanks in spiritually assisting your sisters and brothers in Franciscan witness to the form of the Gospel.

In keeping with the norms established by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA), your term of appointment runs co-terminus with the term of the Provincial (2018-22)), with the possibility of re-appointment with a maximum of 12 years.

As spiritual assistant you fulfill an essential pastoral and formative role within the fraternity. I recommend that you: 1) continue deepening your own Franciscan vocation and your new responsibilities.; and 2) allow John Deaton, O.F.S. to mentor you on a regular basis. Resources you should have on hand and supplied by the fraternity:

*Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order , 2014*

*Revised Handbook for Spiritual Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order, 2012*

*Franciscan Family Connections, 2011*

May the blessing of the Most High come upon you and remain with you.

Father Christopher, T.O.R.

Father Christopher Panagoplos, T.O.R.

Provincial Spiritual Assistant

CC

Jeane Swaynos, O.F.S., Minister, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Dr John Deaton, O.F.S., RSA, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Br Lombardo D’Auria, O.F.M. Cap., RSA, Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Ruth Huddle, O.F.S., Family Counselor

Karen M Rooney, O.F.S., Minister, The Encounter Fraternity

Fr Cidouane Joseph, O.F.M., PSA, Holy Name Province