**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

**Five Franciscan Martyrs Region**

*Florida, South Georgia, Lower Alabama*

[www.ffmr-ofs.org](http://www.ffmr-ofs.org/)

**Annual Local Fraternity Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024**

**Complete *and* approve at a Fraternity Council Meeting *and* submit before *February 14, 2025.***

*(Attach additional pages if there is not enough space.)*

*This may be completed by editing the file and sending the completed, saved report to the Regional Minister.*

**Name of Fraternity: St. Anthony of Padua, Gulfport**

**Gathering Place, Address, Phone: Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, 5800 15th Ave. S., Gulfport, FL 33707**

**Phone Number of Jim Gillis, Minister (727) 564-1733**

**Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place: 12pm Third Saturday of the month at Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time: Third Saturday of the month after the 9am Mass at Most Holy Name of Jesus, 10am – 12pm.**

* Were there any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2024? **{NO} X** {YES}; If not due to an official election, give reason for change:

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT INFORMATION

* Does your fraternity have a Spiritual Assistant? **YES.** If so, please provide name, address, phone, and email if not already provided with Council contact information. **Randall Roberts, OFM St. Anthony Friary, 357 Second St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2931 (806) 674-9008 robertsr\_18@yahoo.com**
* In what year did this assignment begin? **2024 - Fr. Randy received a Letter of Acceptance dated 12/18/2024 from Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, officially appointing Fr. Randy as Spiritual Assistant to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Gulfport, FL.**
* Was he/she formally assigned by your Provincial? {NO} **{YES}✓**; If so, list the name of the Provincial who made the assignment and the obedience to which you are bonded. **Jerome Wolbert, OFM, OFS Animator in the name of Lawrence Hayes, OFM, Provincial Minister, OFM Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**
* How many of your local fraternity gatherings has your Spiritual Assistant attended this past year? **4**
* How many local Council meetings has your Spiritual Assistant attended this past year? **0**

**FORMATION INFORMATION**

* List all the books and other materials used for initial and ongoing formation:
* INITIAL ***Franciscan Journey,* by Lester Bach, OFM CAP; FUN Manual, Papal Encyclicals, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*; *The Bible*; *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*; *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order 2000*; *The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*; *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order*; *Secular Franciscan Companion; Divine Office, Formation Friday articles; To Set Themselves Free, by Teresa V. Baker, OFS.***
* ONGOING **This year we purchased copies of *From Gospel to Life, the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with Commentary* for all our fraternity members.** **We also use the *Divine Office and Formation Friday articles in Ongoing Formation.* We used the *Gospel of Matthew Scripture Study: The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi* for one of our gatherings, and may use it again in 2025. We also used as resource various books on saints, such as *Blessed Carlo Acutis: 5 Steps to Being a Saint.* We provided information on the novena *“O Jesus, I Surrender Myself to you” and on the Portiuncula plenary indulgence***. **In January we do The Rite of Extraction of the Saints and distribute prayer scrolls. Prayer scrolls are mailed to our homebound and excused members. During the summer Tom Heid, OFS presents and leads discussions on Franciscan videos. In December we celebrate the Stations of the Crib.**
* What topics in the *FUN Manual* or *Franciscan Journey* have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation? **We used the Fun Manual Chapters on The Secular Franciscan Rule, Vocation God’s Call, and Identity as a Secular Franciscan for Ongoing Formation.**
* How often has your fraternity discussed the status of *Instrumentum Laboris*?

**The Council has discussed *Instrumentum Laboris* but it has not been discussed during our fraternity gatherings**.

* What initial goals has your fraternity set as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*?

**Our goal is to increase fraternity participation in Apostolic Works. Members contribute items to be including in Blessing Bags to distribute to the homeless. Members then take several bags and distribute them throughout the month.**

* What goals has your fraternity reached as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*?

**Fraternity members are more aware of the needs of the homeless and how they can help them.**

* Do you have a local fraternity Newsletter? { {**YES}**
* If so, how often is it published? **Weekly, every Monday**
* How is it distributed? **By email; print copies of the Weekly Update are mailed to members who do not have access to email.**
* With whom do you share your newsletter (bishop, Regional Executive Council, your Family Councilor, etc.)? **We share our newsletter with other fraternities, with our Family Councilors, and people who have expressed an interest in our fraternity.**
* What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity? What percentages of the fraternity participate? **We collect items to be included in Blessing Bags for the homeless and assemble the bags. About 75% of our fraternity participates.**
* Describe the activities (Mass, prayer services, etc.) your fraternity attends outside the regular gathering times. **Our fraternity often gathers during the month to pray the Crown Rosary together. Many of our fraternity members attend Mass together before our monthly gatherings. Our fraternity joined with Fatima of Asia to organize Rosary Prayer Services in different parishes (Holy Family, St. John Vianney and Blessed Trinity). As a group our fraternity attended Divine Liturgy at Epiphany Ukrainian Catholic Church after which the pastor gave our group a one-hour talk with a question-and-answer session, followed with the parishioners providing us brunch in their Parish Hall. Our members also had dinner outings to get together with a homebound member and with an active but excused professed member. Our fraternity also engages in daily contacts with one other through our fraternity group of text messages. On December 31st a fraternity member organized a gathering in Holy Family that included Holy Mass at 11 a.m. followed by Stations of the Crib. Maria Sisco, OFS, our JPIC Representative organized a beach cleanup and plans an electronics recycling event in 2025.**

## JPIC, YOUFRA, ECUMENCIAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS

* Describe the personal contact you have had with the youth in your area this past year.

**Our fraternity donated money for the youth from Most Holy Name of Jesus to attend national meetings, and we purchased rosaries and Bibles for the parish Faith Formation program. In past years their Confirmation Students met with us annually to discuss their Confirmation Saints and St. Francis of Assisi.**

* Who is the current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity?

**Lori Hebert, OFS**

* How many in your fraternity, including the Minister or Youth Animator, attended any National or Regional Youth/YouFra Zoom or in-person workshops/meetings?

**Lori Hebert, OFS and Maria Elena Sisco, OFS have attended Zoom meetings.**

* List your Fraternity “JPIC” projects and activities for 2024.

**We appointed Maria Elena Sisco, OFS as our JPIC Representative in October 2024. She is currently researching projects and activities for 2025.**

* Describe your participation in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2024.

**One of our members, Elena Starr, OFS attended the National Eucharistic Congress and volunteered during the event. She shared her experiences with us.**

* Describe the activities you have done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity. **We distribute information cards about our Fraternity in several of our Parishes. The Crown Rosary is attended by many people not familiar with Secular Franciscans. Some people who prayed the rosary with us now attend our gatherings and have begun formation. Wearing our**

**Taus and answering questions about the Tau and Secular Franciscans.**

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

* What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2024 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)? **Fr. Randy Roberts, OFM presented a retreat for our Fraternity in September, “*Month of Sundays Spiritual Direction for the Postmodern World*.” Eight of our fraternity members attended the May 2024 Annual Regional Meeting at the San Pedro Retreat Center. Our fraternity joined the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Clearwater for the Transitus. We invited a guest speaker during Lent, Fr. Bill McConville, who gave a talk on Franciscan Spirituality and Charism.**
* What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2025?

**Rite of Installation for a Spiritual Assistant**

**Rite of Extraction Prayer Service and prayer scrolls.**

**We are helping to plan an outdoor Mass at the site of the First Mass celebrated in Florida at Narvaez Park in St. Petersburg.**

**We are planning a retreat during Lent.**

**Our Regional Visitation is scheduled for February 2025.**

**Fraternity Elections in June 2025.**

**Monthly Crown Rosaries**

**Our Lady of Nations / Fatima of Asia Prayer Services**

**Increased contact with our homebound and active-excused members**

**Member Tom Heid, OFS, presenting inspirational videos in July and August**

* Is there anything you wish to share with the Regional Executive Council?  **NO**
* Describe any difficulties you have had connecting with the Region when scheduling elections, visitations or when having problems within your fraternity.

**No difficulties, our Family Councilors are very responsive by phone and email.**

* What has been your fraternity’s greatest challenge this past year?

**Searching for a Spiritual Assistant. By December 2024 Fr. Randy accepted our invitation to become**

**our Spiritual Assistant and the Provincial Minister officially assigned Fr. Randy to us.**

* What are your fraternity’s strongest asset(s)?

**Our strongest asset is our dedicated, caring members, as well as a strong formation program that**

**focuses on each individual person, striving to accommodate their varied learning styles and**

**schedules. Four people serve on our Initial Formation Team, and an additional Formation Team**

**member has provided essential teaching assistance to our Ongoing Formation Program.**

* How many in person gatherings have you had this past year? **11 Our fraternity did not meet in May 2024 because our meeting fell on the same Saturday as the Regional meeting. In order to encourage more members to attend the Regional meeting, the Council decided the fraternity not to meet for that month.**
* About how many members attend in person? **15**
* How many attend through some electronic means? **That option is not available.**
* During the past year, how often have you been in touch with your Family Councilor? How was this done (personal contact, zoom, email, or phone conversations)?

**We have been in contact with our Family Councilors at least a dozen times, by both email and phone, and at times in person when they visit the fraternity.**

* How often have you or your delegate attended your family gatherings this past year?

**We hosted the family gathering Fall 2024 and about 12 of our members attended.**

* How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members?

How are you keeping in touch with your Active-Excused, Lapsed, or Temporary Withdrawn members?

**During December we make gift bags for our shut-in members, Active-Excused, Lapsed, and Temporary Withdrawn members. The bags include a book, cookies, candy, and religious item, and we visit them before Christmas. Before Advent and Lent we mail Franciscan devotional booklets with a letter to our shut-in members, Active-Excused, Lapsed, and Temporary Withdrawn members. We also dined out with homebound and active-excused members. Our fraternity also engages in group text messaging that includes conversations with homebound and active-excused members.**

* When was your last profession? **Nov 2024** How many were professed? **3**
* Is your *Come and See* brochure available in another language? **No**

Do you need the *Essential Documents* in another language? **No**

* How many members received and read the one printed copy of the TAU-USA, the National Fraternity’s newsletter? **18 received the TAU-USA.**
* How many members received and read the 3 electronic copies of the TAU-USA? **16**

Do you provide a printed copy for those members without email? **No**

* Do you prefer the electronic or printed copy of the TAU-USA (the cost for each printed edition in Spanish and English is $30,000)? **Prefer the printed, at least once a year.**

Keep copies of this Annual Report and your Annual Treasurer's Report in the Fraternity's records

IF YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OR NEED HELP, CONTACT US! WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

***Note***: You will shortly receive your Fair Share Contribution assessment. Please mail a check along with your Fraternity’s 2024 Treasurer’s Report to the address below.

**MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR ANNUAL REPORT TO:**

Jeane Swaynos, OFS (FFMR Regional Minister)

216 East Sweetwater Creek Drive

Longwood, Florida 32779

Cell 407-462-0808

[**swaynos@cfl.rr.com**](mailto:swaynos@cfl.rr.com)

**Also send a copy to your Family Councilor.**

**MAIL YOUR TREASURER’S REPORT AND FAIR SHARE CHECK TO:**

Karen Rooney, OFS (Regional Treasurer)

1315 Mirror Terrace NW

Winter Haven, FL 33881

Cell 863-224-5919

[**karenrooneyofs@outlook.com**](mailto:karenrooneyofs@outlook.com)

## LOCAL FRATERNITY VISITS

Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM, is one of our National Spiritual Assistants and the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, which encompasses almost the entire USA. He will be coming to visit our region for a Regional Pastoral Visitation on May 16-18, the dates of our Annual Meeting. He will extend his trip to permit him to personally visit as many local fraternities as possible. During these visits he will meet with the council and, if possible, the local fraternity. He will be arriving on May 9th and flying back May 27th.

Below is a list of dates when he could visit your local fraternity. Please designate three dates that would work for you in ranking order. He will be visiting throughout the week. You will need to schedule your meeting at that time and may need to provide housing for one night for him. You may want to meet at someone’s home if the church where you meet is not available.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with your Provincial Spiritual Assistant, and we will try to accommodate as many fraternities as possible. Please List your first three choices and return it with your completed annual report. Times are flexible, please be specific.

**Availability to Meet with Fr. Jerome**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Morning 9-12** | **Afternoon 1-4** | **Evening 5-9** |
| 5-10 | Saturday (Fraternity) | 1st |  |  |
| 5-11 | Sunday (Mother’s Day) |  |  |  |
| 5-12 | Monday |  |  |  |
| 5-13 | Tuesday |  |  |  |
| 5-14 | Wednesday |  |  |  |
| 5-15 | Thursday |  |  |  |
| 5-16 | Friday Annual Chapter Meeting | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| 5-17 | Saturday Annual Chapter Meeting | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| 5-18 | Sunday Annual Chapter Meeting | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| 5-19 | Monday |  |  |  |
| 5-20 | Tuesday |  |  |  |
| 5-21 | Wednesday |  |  |  |
| 5-22 | Thursday |  |  |  |
| 5-23 | Friday |  |  |  |
| 5-24 | Saturday (Fraternity) | 2nd |  |  |
| 5-25 | Sunday (Council) |  | 3rd |  |

If you need additional copies of the treasurer report, follow this link

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Local_Fraternity_Treasurers_Forms-Fraternity_Treasurers_Annual_Report.xls>

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