



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Florida, South Georgia, Lower Alabama

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 Fraternity.

Gathering Place, Address, Phone: St. Mark Church (St. Anthony Room or Madonna Room), 643 St. Mark Place, Boynton Beach, FL 22435 / Church: 561-734-9330

Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place: 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:00pm at St. Mark Church (St. Anthony Room)

Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time:

- Were there any changes in your Fraternity Council in 2024 **{NO}** 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.

Name: Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv.

Address: St. Mark Church, 643 St. Mark Place, Boynton Beach, FL 22435

Phone: 561-734-9330

Email: Richard_Florek@msn.com

- In what year did this assignment begin? August 2, 2016.
- Was he/she formally assigned by your Provincial? **{YES}** If so, list the name of the Provincial who made the assignment and the obedience to which you are bonded. Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.; Franciscan Friars Conventual, Our Lady of the Angels Province.
- How many of your local fraternity gatherings has your Spiritual Assistant attended this past year? All.

FORMATION INFORMATION

- List all the books and other materials used for initial and ongoing formation:
- INITIAL: “The Franciscan Journey” (Updated Version).
- ONGOING: “The Franciscan Journey” (Updated Version) / supplemental readings contained in “The Franciscan Journey” chapters; “God is Love” by Pope Benedict XVI.
- What topics in the *FUN Manual* or *Franciscan Journey* have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation? Observances of the 800th Anniversary; circulation of encyclical.
- How often has your fraternity discussed the status of *Instrumentum Laboris*? Annually.
- What initial goals has your fraternity set as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*?
 1. Our actions continue to focus on training fraternity and council members to be able to take a place on the council.
 2. We continue our apostolate to seminarians for the local diocese and men in formation to become Conventual Franciscans by writing individual letters to them each month. We started in the spring of 2022, and we stop over the summer because the seminarians went home or to other temporary assignments. The purpose is to familiarize the seminarians with who we are, and, if they are secular, expose them to the Franciscan Order. Also, it will hopefully be a positive influence for potential future spiritual assistants.
 3. With permission from their pastors, fraternity members from different parishes place the fraternity trifold brochures in their parish churches with other handouts.
 4. We collected Christmas cards/envelopes for inmates at a local prison to send to families through the Diocese of Palm Beach’s Prison Ministry.
 5. Several of our members initiated a rosary making apostolate at St. Mark Church and several of our members have made rosaries for this group. The rosaries were for the sick, home-bound, RCIA and hospitals and were donated to four local Palm Beach County hospitals.
- What goals has your fraternity reached as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*? See above.
- Do you have a local fraternity Newsletter? **{YES}**
 - If so, how often is it published? Bimonthly.
 - How is it distributed? Via email and mailed to members without email accounts.
- With whom do you share your newsletter (Bishop, Regional Executive Council, your Family Councilor, etc.)? We share our newsletter with the Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach’s Assistant and the SE Area Councilor.
- What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity? What percentages of the fraternity participate?
 1. **Letters to Seminarians:** One of the fraternity apostolates is creating a camaraderie with our local

seminary, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, to spread the word about our Franciscan community and life. We do this by writing individual letters to the seminarians and by sending them our bimonthly fraternity newsletter. We also hope to encourage the seminarians to inquire about the OFS. All members participate in this apostolate. In addition to communicating with the diocesan seminarians, we also have members who communicate monthly with men in Franciscan formation, so they will learn about our order and perhaps when they are professed and/or ordained, they will be familiar with our order, in the event they become spiritual assistants or promote the Third Order within parishes.

100% participate.

2. Food Pantry Donations: Another apostolate is helping the needy in our area by bringing nonperishable food donations to St. Mark Church each month before our group Mass. 100% participate.

3. Prayers for the Deceased: Our fraternity is dedicated to praying for deceased fraternity and family members. 100% participate. We arrange for a Sunday Mass intention for all deceased parishioners and Franciscans. In addition, many members of our fraternity, attend funerals in their parishes to pray for the deceased, even if they do not know them. We also have some who go to the interment.

4. Donations to Birthline/Lifeline: This apostolate collects items for Birthline/Lifeline, a pregnancy care center in Boynton Beach. 100% participate.

5. Christmas Cards for Use by Inmates: Our fraternity collected Christmas cards to be distributed to inmates in a local prison via the Diocese of Palm Beach's Prison Ministry Program. 100% participate.

6. Rosary Making Group: Started by fraternity members, this group is now part of the parish's ministries. 50% participate.

Describe the activities (Mass, prayer services, etc.) your fraternity attends outside the regular gathering times. Several of our fraternity members attend daily Mass together at St. Mark Church, and others attend daily Mass together at local churches. We have gathered for Mass on both the Feasts of St. Anthony and the Portiuncula, followed by a meal. We organize a Transitus service for the parish followed by refreshments. We attend funerals. We also have mini retreats once or twice a year if we have an available friar.

JPIC, YOUFRA, ECUMENCIAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS

- Describe the personal contact you have had with the youth in your area this past year. None.
- Who is the current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity?
We do not have the capability at the present time.
- How many in your fraternity, including the Minister or Youth Animator, attended any National or Regional Youth/YouFra Zoom or in-person workshops/meetings? Three persons attended.
- List your Fraternity "JPIC" projects and activities for 2024. None.
- Describe your participation in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2024.
 - Birthline/Lifeline donations sponsored by Catholic Charities.

- Food pantry donations collected at St. Mark Church.
 - Christmas cards for inmates at a local prison sponsored by the Diocese's Catholic Charities Prison Ministry.
 - Volunteering at the South Florida Fair Divine Mercy booth.
 - Several of our members initiated a rosary making apostolate at St. Mark Church and several of our members have made rosaries for this group.
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- Describe the activities you have done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity.
 1. We have created Fraternity trifold brochures that are distributed to local parishes with contact phone numbers for more information.
 2. We write letters to the local seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary to enlighten them about the OFS.
 3. We have a fraternity website (www.stanthonyofs.com) to promote vocations and raise the profile of our fraternity and Franciscan life.
 4. We have a presence on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyofpaduafraternityflorida>).
 5. Our fraternity presence and celebration of the Feasts of St. Anthony of Padua, the Portiuncula and Transitus are shared via live stream on Facebook, along with our fraternity's hospitality.
 6. Our fraternity commemorates Transitus with a prayer service with the friars and St. Mark parish. Afterwards, our fraternity provided refreshments for all who attended. This resulted in several individuals inquiring about our order.
 7. We have a presence at the South Florida Fair at the Divine Mercy booth.
 8. We created an X (formerly Twitter) account - @StAnthonyOFS.
 9. We have created a publicity campaign, creating flyers for bulletin inserts, small and medium-sized bulletin ads, and content for bulletin blurbs. This was sent to all parishes in the diocese.
 10. We held a parish Christmas fundraiser with OFS brochures and members at a booth after Masses.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2024 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)?
 1. We celebrated the Feast of St. Anthony with Mass and a social.
 2. We celebrated the Feast of the Portiuncula with Mass and a social.
 3. Our fraternity was responsible for the Transitus Prayer Service followed by a social for the parish community.
 4. We celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with a Solemn Mass.
 5. In November, the fraternity requested the intentions for the 10:30am Sunday Mass on our fraternity day to be for all deceased parishioners and Franciscans. Most of our gathering centered around a prayer service commemorating each deceased member of our fraternity, the friars who died in the last 12 months, and everyone who was gathered mentioned spouses or other family/friends who died in the past 12 months.
 6. A March 17th Franciscan Lenten Retreat with Fr. Carl Zdancewicz, OFM Conv.
- What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2025?
 1. Mass for our fraternity followed by a light meal on the Feast of St. Anthony.

2. Mass for our fraternity followed by a light meal on the Feast of the Portiuncula.
3. Our fraternity will plan the Transitus Prayer Service followed by refreshments for the parish community.
4. Our fraternity will have a presence at the 2025 South Florida Fair and will be handing out fraternity brochures and volunteering at the Divine Mercy booth.
5. Our fraternity is working on plans to provide a mini retreat during Lent and Advent.

- 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. Most helpful.
- What has been your fraternity's greatest challenge this past year? Our main challenge has been with illness affecting several fraternity members and the death of two of our members.

- What are your fraternity's strongest asset(s)?

We have received feedback over and over on how our members have a strong sense of family. Visitors have commented how they feel so welcomed. Other assets include how our members support one another along with our spiritual assistant. Also, one of our former members who moved out of the area came to visit and emphasized to the fraternity how fortunate we are because of the many opportunities we make for spirituality, and she also appreciated our adherence to OFS documents and Regional guidelines.

- How many in person gatherings have you had this past year? All gatherings are in-person.
 - About how many members attend in person? About 20 each gathering.
 - How many attend through some electronic means? N/A.
- 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)? Have not contacted.
- How often have you or your delegate attended your family gatherings this past year? There were no meetings in 2024.
- How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members? By phone, email, letters, visits and mailing newsletters.
- How are you keeping in touch with your Active-Excused, Lapsed, or Temporary Withdrawn members? By phone, email, letters, visits and mailing newsletters.
- When was your last profession? 8/22/24 How many were professed? One.
- 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? All.
- How many members received and read the 3 electronic copies of the TAU-USA? All.
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)? Electronic. Unfortunately, we also have a few members who do not have access to digital copies of the Tau-USA newsletter.

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

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

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 | | 1st choice | |
| 5-11 | Sunday (Mother's Day) | | 2 nd choice | |
| 5-12 | Monday | | | |
| 5-13 | Tuesday | | | |

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|------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 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 | | | |
| 5-25 | Sunday | | | |

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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