



**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:** Little Flock

**Gathering Place, Address, Phone:** St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Family Center, Library, 370 S. Section St., Fairhope, AL. 36532

**Council Meeting Day(s), Time, Place:** First Sunday of every other month, 2:00 PM by Zoom

**Monthly Gathering Day(s), Time:** Second Sunday of every month, 2:00 PM, St. Lawrence Catholic Church

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

**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT INFORMATION**

- Does your fraternity have a Spiritual Assistant? If so, please provide name, address, phone, and email if not already provided with Council contact information.
- Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM, Provincial Spiritual
- Assistant, Most Holy Name of Jesus Province, St. Anthony Shrine, 100 Arch Street, Boston, MA. 02110
- No phone or email address given by Fr. Gene....this was October 3, 2014
- In what year did this assignment begin? 2014
- Was he/she formally assigned by your Provincial? {NO} {YES}; X If so, list the name of the Provincial who made the assignment and the obedience to which you are bonded.
- How many of your local fraternity gatherings has your Spiritual Assistant attended this past year? 8
- How many local Council meetings has your Spiritual Assistant attended this past year? 3

### FORMATION INFORMATION

- List all the books and other materials used for initial and ongoing formation:
  - INITIAL     The Franciscan Journey
  
  - ONGOING     Live Like Francis
  
- What topics in the *FUN Manual* or *Franciscan Journey* have been used and are useful for Ongoing Formation?     None
  
- How often has your fraternity discussed the status of *Instrumentum Laboris*?     Every month we are updated on the formation of our members and updates on the Peace Awards.
  
- What initial goals has your fraternity set as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*?

We established the Peace Awards in eleven parishes or schools to reach out to the youth and make them aware of St. Francis and our Secular Franciscans. Also, we have the St. Francis Project in one elementary school fifth grade.

We have wonderful participation from our members in Formation. Each member teaches a lesson once or twice a year every member gets to know and help our inquirers and candidates. Each member also has a chance in our rotating schedule to lead our on-going formation.

We generally pray the Liturgy of the Hours at each meeting, have a Gospel reading and reflection and a report from a member on a Franciscan Saint or Blessed.

We meet the third Saturday of each month by Zoom to pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

Every October we have a Transitus Ceremony to begin our October meeting and we move the meeting to by as close as possible to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

One of our members forwards emails of various novenas every month for the particular month.

Another member emails the Blessed Mother's monthly message from Medjugorje to every member.

Our Infirmarian emails all regional prayer requests from Fred Schaeffer to all of us and she contacts our lapsed/elderly members every month and reports back to the membership.

Every member has a navy blue shirt with our Fraternity Logo and a name badge to identify each of us as belonging to Little Flock Secular Franciscan Fraternitiy.

Each member takes part in our meeting by participating in a published "Contributors Cycle" in various Designated roles in the regular meeting.

Members contribute to the common fund which supports our apostolates (McGill-Toolen High School and St. Michael's High School) and the Peace Awards and St. Francis Project.

- What goals has your fraternity reached as a result of *Instrumentum Laboris*? We now provide
- Eleven Peace Awards and one St. Francis Project and contribute to both High Schools in the two
- Counties (Mobile and Baldwin) in which our members live.
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- Do you have a local fraternity Newsletter? {NO} X {YES}
  - If so, how often is it published?
  - How is it distributed?
- With whom do you share your newsletter (bishop, Regional Executive Council, your Family Councilor, etc.)?
- What Apostolic work does your fraternity do as a whole fraternity? What percentages of the fraternity participate? A monthly Mass is said at St. Lawrence for all deceased members of our Fraternity. We participate in the St. Lawrence Christmas Bazaar which provides the most part of the funds donated to the two High Schools we support. And, of course, the eleven Peace Award and the one St. Francis Project Award. We have 100% participation from our fraternity members!
- Describe the activities (Mass, prayer services, etc.) your fraternity attends outside the regular gathering times. We had two Profession Masses in 2024 (in February, two were professed and one was professed in August). As many as possible attend any Franciscan funerals that occur during the year and most all attend Mass at our Day of Community each year.

#### **JPIC, YOUFRA, ECUMENCIAL OUTREACH, VOCATIONS**

- Describe the personal contact you have had with the youth in your area this past year. One of our members presented the Peace Award at St. Patrick's Elementary School.
- Who is the current contact for your Youth/Young Adults/YouFra Animator for your fraternity?
- We do not have an animator.
- How many in your fraternity, including the Minister or Youth Animator, attended any National or Regional Youth/YouFra Zoom or in-person workshops/meetings? No one.

- List your Fraternity "JPIC" projects and activities for 2024. The Peace Awards, St. Francis Project and The St. Lawrence Christmas Bazaar.
- Describe your participation in any Ecumenical outreach activities in 2024. None
- Describe the activities you have done to increase vocations to the Secular Franciscans in your fraternity. We have place brochures at eleven parishes throughout our two counties.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

- What programs has your Fraternity participated in during 2024 (Retreats, Days of Recollections, special celebrations)? Two Professions and a Day of Community at the Visitation Monastery in Mobile on Jul 13, 2024.
- What programs/events has your Fraternity Council planned for 2025? We will have our Day of Community on June 21, 2025 at the Carmelite Monastery in Mobile and will join the Secular Carmelites for their morning office and Mass before we begin our own Day of Community talks.
- Is there anything you wish to share with the Regional Executive Council? Not at this time.
- Describe any difficulties you have had connecting with the Region when scheduling elections, visitations or when having problems within your fraternity. Due to the great distance we are from the Region, it was a challenge setting a time for our elections but they work with us to the very best of their abilities.
- What has been your fraternity's greatest challenge this past year? Preparing two professions, an Election and attending a couple members funerals.
- What are your fraternity's strongest asset(s)? Complete co-operation from all our members in formation and just about everything we arrange.
- How many in person gatherings have you had this past year? 12

- About how many members attend in person? Between 10 and 15, usually most every member is present.
- How many attend through some electronic means? None
- 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)? Several times with our replacement Family Councilor b phone.
- How often have you or your delegate attended your family gatherings this past year? None
- How are you keeping in touch with your shut-in members? We are now down to only one and our Infirmarian calls her every month
- How are you keeping in touch with your Active-Excused, Lapsed, or Temporary Withdrawn members?
- We only have the one left.
- When was your last profession? August 10, 2024                      How many were professed? 1
- Is your *Come and See* brochure available in another language? No, not yet. We may look into a Spanish version.  
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 professed members
- How many members received and read the 3 electronic copies of the TAU-USA? All professed members  
Do you provide a printed copy for those members without email? Every member has email.
- 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)? Printed copy.

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.**