



Why a Visitation?

The primary purpose of visitations is clear: to stimulate, encourage and animate the Franciscan evangelical spirit.

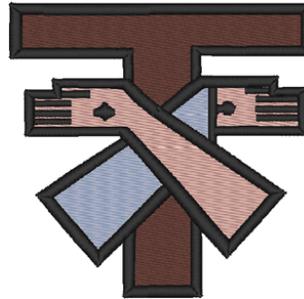
Visitations are held once every three years. They should serve as a guarantee and promote the observance of the Rule and Constitutions and fidelity to the Franciscan charism, the Church and society.

It is a privileged moment of communion with the 1st Order and the TOR, as well as member/s of the Regional Executive Council.

Visitations promote collaboration and a sense of co-responsibility among the fraternity leaders and members. Special attention is given to programs, methods and experiences of formation, to the liturgical and prayer life, and to the apostolic activities of the fraternity.

“...By the power of the Holy Spirit we come together in order to renew our dedication to the live the holy gospel of Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. Help us to appreciate our vocation more deeply, to embrace it more enthusiastically and to share it more fully with one another and with all people.”

(Ritual page 50)



“...Be at peace among yourselves....give courage to those who are apprehensive, care for the weak, and be patient with everyone...think of what is best for each other...be happy at all times...pray constantly. ...give thanks to God...”

(Ritual page 52)

Details for Day of Visitation

1. Preparation: Well before a visit the minister together with the council should thoughtfully and prayerfully conduct a self-evaluation. A pre-visit questionnaire was designed for this purpose. So that the visitors can make the best preparation the completed questionnaire should be sent to the visitors at least **one month** before the actual visitation.

2. The Visit: The fraternity must allow enough time for the visitors to go over the appropriate material. Time must be given to the gathering of the council with the visitors and of the assembled members with the visitors. The visitors will be present at your shortened gathering (Ritual p 50) to observe and evaluate.

3. Evaluation: The visitors will look at the following services and methods:
Spirituality: Spirituality, prayer, and liturgy
Service to the fraternity: How we react to each other
Communication: Between local and regional
Formation: Description of formation programs both initial and ongoing including text used
Vocation Promotion: Methods used
Financial Stewardship: Proper recording and accounting for the Fraternity's common funds.

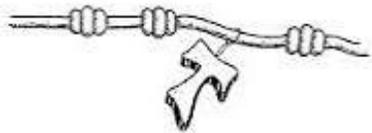
4. The Report: After the visitation, the fraternity will receive a written report from the visitor/s. Implementation of recommendations is a sign of true growth and cooperation.

What happens **before** and **after** the visits themselves are in many ways as important as the visit. The council **needs to review** the report and try to carry out the recommendations given. Examining the results of a visit a year or so after can be a great help.

~ Pax et bonum ~

Visitation Papers

- A copy of the Certificate of Establishment should be available.
- Permanent Register should be up-to-date and ready for the visitor's signature.
- Both the checkbook and the treasurer's reports must be available.
- Books of minutes from council meetings, along with the latest election results, should also be available.
- Other materials that should be ready for viewing include but are but limited to: formation documentation, history, albums, and any other material the fraternity would like to share that outlines fraternal activities.



To obtain the Pre-Visitation Forms, please visit the Queen of Peace Regional website at: <http://queenofpeaceregion.org>

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Secular Franciscan Order

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis



Local Visitations

Purpose and Procedures

“We are here to serve you!”