

SAINT MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Regional Guidelines

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL GUIDELINES

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ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL GUIDELINES

Mission Statement

We, Secular Franciscans of St. Margaret of Cortona Region, are penitents seeking to live the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi by daily conversion and a change of heart. Our rule of life impels us to take courageous initiatives to bring about the kingdom of God in the secular world through prayer and apostolic works. We believe that Jesu Christ is present to us more fully in the poor, the broken, the disenfranchised, and the lonely when we reach out and serve them. We believe that we are truly Franciscan when guided by the Holy Spirit we deepen our sense of community in a fraternal bond and acknowledge that all creatures are our sisters and brothers, gifts from God the Father through his son Jesus Christ.

“Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.”

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the region shall be St. Margaret of Cortona, designated as number 57 in the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States of America.

Article II Definition

As set forth in Article 61 of the General Constitutions, the Regional Fraternity is the organic union of all local fraternities grouped by geographic proximity. It assures the link between the local fraternities and the Franciscan religious orders to provide spiritual assistance within the area.

ARTICLE III Composition and Membership

The Region is composed of the District of Columbia, all of Virginia, all of Maryland except far west around Cumberland, central Pennsylvania around the Harrisburg/Lancaster/York area, the southeastern portion of Delaware around the Lewes/Bethany Beach/Milford area, and eastern West Virginia around Martinsburg/Charles Town area.

Loss of membership for local fraternities shall be in accordance with the National Statutes and guideline approved by the National Fraternity.

The Regional Fraternity may recommend the establishment of new fraternities according to the provisions of the National Statutes and guidelines approved by the National Fraternity.

ARTICLE IV Organizational Structure

Regional Fraternity Council

The Regional Fraternity Council is defined by Article 62 in the General Constitutions, Article 22 of the National Statutes, and Article 12 of the Statutes for Spiritual Assistance and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO constitutes the local fraternity ministers, the elected officers serving on the Regional Executive Council, and the Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants.

The Regional Fraternity Council shall convene at least once a year to promote the SFO in its geographic area and approve policies to be implemented by the Regional Executive Council.

No official business may be conducted at a Regional Fraternity Council meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum is defined as the presence of more than half of the number of those having the right to vote.

Regional Executive Council

The Regional Executive Council's purpose, composition, and duties are set forth in Article 62-65 of the General Constitutions and Articles 23 and 24 of the National Statutes.

ARTICLE V ELECTION PROCEDURES AND TERMINATION OF OFFICES

Election Procedures

Elections shall take place according to the norms of Article 76-79 of the General Constitutions and relevant articles in the National Statutes. In the case of the positions of Area Councilor, those being considered for nomination and election must reside conveniently near those geographic designations.

Provisions for Vacancies, Resignations and Removal

The provisions of Articles 81-83 of the General Constitutions shall govern the procedures to be followed.

ARTICLE VI Spiritual Assistance

The provisions of Article 85-91 in the General Constitutions and Articles 21-22 of the Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO shall govern the region's relations with Spiritual Assistance.

St. Margaret of Cortona Region has links with the Franciscan First Order – OFM, OFM Capuchin, and OFM Conventual – and the Third Order Regular by virtue of the fact that local fraternities within the region were founded by the four obedience's.

Article VII Financial Support

The local fraternities are responsible for contributing to the Regional Fraternity on a fair share basis from their common fund. A fair share contribution is based on the number of active and excused members but not those deemed lapsed. Definitions of active, excused, and lapsed are given in Article 18 of the National Statutes.

In the case of excused members, fair share will constitute only the fair share amount payable to the National Fraternity.

Article VIII Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations

The provisions set forth in Article 92-95 of the General Constitutions, Article 26 of the National Statutes, and Article 14 of the Statutes for the Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO will govern regional visitation practices.

Article IX Affiliation with a Local Fraternity

The provisions set forth in the General Constitutions, Article 103, paragraph 1 and the National Statutes, Article 18, paragraph 13 a, b, c and d will govern affiliation with a local fraternity.

Article X Newsletter

The Regional newsletter entitled Up to Now shall be issued on a quarterly basis and distributed to local fraternities. The newsletter editor shall be appointed by the Regional Executive Council.

Article XI Amendments

Any revisions or amendments to the Regional Guidelines shall be approved by the Regional Fraternity Council. Interpretation of the Guidelines shall be governed by the General Constitutions, National Statutes and the Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO and any subsequent changes to these documents.

These Regional Guidelines were amended and approved on November 8, 2008 by the Regional Fraternity Council. Additional amendments were approved by the Regional Fraternity Council on

December 3, 2011.----- = “-----“/s/ Minister

Mary Thuman, SFO

----- = “-----“/s/ Secretary

Theresa Joan Egan, SFO

VISION STATEMENT

September 1993

We, the members of the Secular Franciscan Order in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region, are committed to following the example and teachings of Christ in the manner of St. Francis of Assisi.

In a continually renewed journey of conversion, we study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture and seek to give witness to it by our lives.

As seculars, we are in the world. We accept the challenge of bringing Christian-Franciscan values to bear in all aspects of our daily lives – in our families, in our work, as stewards of creation, and as instruments of peace and justice in today's world.

As a Region, we strive to:

Foster cooperation and communion among the local fraternities.

Animate and nurture apostolic endeavors as defined by the National Fraternity.

Promote knowledge of the Franciscan way of life and commitment.

Foster contact with other branches of the Franciscan family within the Region.

Make the charism of our Seraphic Father present in the life and mission of the Church within the Region.

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