As our Constitutions state in Articles 94 and 95,

The fraternal visit is a moment of communion, an expression of the service and concrete interest of the secular leaders at the various levels, so that the fraternity may grow and be faithful to its vocation.

The pastoral visit is a privileged moment of communion with the First Order and the TOR. It is carried out also in the name of the Church and serves to guarantee and promote the observance of the Rule and the Constitutions and fidelity to the Franciscan charism….

Purpose & Goals:

1. To deepen fraternal bonds among members & with leadership of the higher level of fraternity
2. To lovingly evaluate current leadership skills & encourage a greater commitment to fulfilling our responsibilities while developing new leadership skills
3. To encourage all members to live a deeper commitment to our profession promises/covenant with God, the Franciscan Family & the Church

The Visit takes place in 3 stages: Preparation, the Visit & the Report.

**Preparation**: As individuals, Council members prayerfully read Deacon Tom Bello’s article, “Leadership & Fraternity Vitality” before working on their Questionnaire. All Council members individually complete the “Pre-visit Questionnaire” .

Minister completes “Minister’s Checklist”;

**The Visit**:

1. Review with Fraternity Council usually takes place first, separately from fraternity gathering spot, or in advance of usual gathering time.
2. Does each officer keep fairly accurate & complete records for her/his office? (these should be reviewed sparingly & signed as reviewed at the end of most current data.)
3. Are important documents marked as …..”Fraternity Property” with Name & phone # of fraternity contact & stored safely? Especially Fraternity Document of Establishment, Spiritual Assistant appointment letters, Transfer Records, Fraternity Register, etc.
4. Visitors should allow time to respond to Council Members questions about their roles and concerns about fraternity members in general
5. Gather with whole fraternity (use Ritual Prayers for Visitation) – open sharing about how they live their vocation outside of fraternity & within it. What are their concerns? What do they consider their strong points – their weak points? Do they feel information from the regional fraternity, national, etc. is filtering down to them? Are they being encouraged, but not forced, to attend these gatherings?

**The Report**: The Visitor(s) prepare a report on their findings & recommendations. This report is sent to the Minister of the Fraternity, to the Provincial Spiritual Assistant & a copy maintained in Regional files. **This report should be kept with the local fraternity’s permanent files.**

* Thank you for your cooperation and may God continue to bless your fraternity. *SKD REC*