



ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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**"Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."
St. Francis of Assisi**



“Every feature of the Porziuncola lifts the heart and mind to God”
PADRE PIO

Background

The Confraternity of St. Mary of the Angels (smda) was established on the 23rd of January, 1875, and many Indulgences and privileges were bestowed on it by Pope Pius IX. On 11th August of the following year, the same Pope raised it to the status of an Archconfraternity, allowing it to aggregate to itself other Marian Confraternities.

We are an Archconfraternity because we are in liaison with the Archconfraternity of Santa Maria degli Angeli whose aim is to spread devotion to Our Lady of the Angels/Porziuncola and to St. Francis of Assisi, placing its members under their effective patronage. The Archconfraternity has also instituted the *Pious Work of Perpetual Holy Masses*, celebrating these for all members who have been enrolled, both living and deceased.

This document was approved by the Bishop of Assisi and the Provincial General Bruno Ottavi of the Frairs Minor in July 2008 in Santa Maria degli Angeli, Porziuncola, Assisi. Cardinal William Levada in Rome, and Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, were sent courtesy copies in August of 2008 and received their approval.

On July 17th, 2008, Rector of the National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi, Robert Cipriano, approved and signed the “Rules and Regulations of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi in re total management of the Porziuncola” to “protect, secure and financially sustain via the candles and private fundraising by the Knights of Saint Francis. Said Rules and Regs are hereby incorporated by reference and were amended in October 2008 to ensure that all services by knights, done within Luogo di Santa Chiara or the Porziuncola Nuova are to be voluntary. No monetary payment can be requested to sing, dance, recite, pray, story tell or any other activity, in Luogo Santa Chiara or La Porziuncola Nuova. All Knights are volunteers. As of December 2008, there are 125 Knights of Saint Francis, who meet on the First Friday of every month.

On August 2nd, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named our Porziuncola the “Porziuncola Nuova” and gave the “Porziuncola Nuova” the “Pardon of San Francisco” Indulgence. San Francisco’s Archbishop George Niederauer and Cardinal William Levada opened and blessed the “San Francisco Porziuncola Nuova” on September 27th, 2008. The First Mass at the Porziuncola Nuova was said by Archbishop Niederauer on December 2nd, 2008 for the Knights of Saint Francis with the blessing and anointing of oil of the altar. The second mass will be said by Archbishop Niederauer for the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi on December 8th, 2008.

END PURPOSE:

- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will render special love and gratitude to the Most Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Holy Masses at the National Shrine of Saint Francis through Our Lady of the Angels.
- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will offer prayers of supplication to the Most High for our Holy Father (Pope Benedict XVI), William Joseph Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Archbishop Emeritus of San Francisco, and for Archbishop George H. Niederauer, Archbishop of San Francisco.
- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will share in good works of service to all citizens of heaven imitating the virtues and practices of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of our city and our Archdiocese.

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS:

- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will be entitled to all the indulgences, favors, graces, and privileges of enrollment; and upon death will receive the benefit of prayers and blessings offered for living and deceased members of their household at Perpetual Holy Masses.
- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will share in the graces of special prayers and devotions said daily at the National Shrine and at the special Mass celebrated for their holy intentions every Monday. This will include the spiritual fruits of the Days of Prayer on the 25th of March, and again on the second Sunday of November.
- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi will obtain the Porziuncola Indulgence for the forgiveness of sins for themselves and the deceased of their choice under the necessary conditions for all indulgences.

PRACTICES RECOMMENDED:

- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi are requested to offer morning and evening prayer through the intercession of St. Francis.
- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi are requested to recite the Prayer of Consecration to St. Francis daily and to entrust themselves to Our Lady Queen of Angels as they perform their daily duties of service for their brothers and sisters, and in guarding, protecting and sustaining the “Porziuncola Nuova.”
- ★ The **Catholic** Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi are requested to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as Holy Eucharist on a regular basis and offer service as custodians of the Porziuncola at the National Shrine of Saint Francis.
- ★ Every Knight of Saint Francis has a minimum of four (4) hours of service to the Porziuncola Nuova, Francesco Rocks!, or Knights of Saint Francis specifically delegated work.
- ★ All Knights of Saint Francis have to read and know about the lives of Saint Francis and Santa Chiara. It is, of course, desirable that all Knights know of all of the great Franciscan Saints, including but not exclusive to Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Sant’Antonio di Padova, John Duns Scotus, Angela di Foligno, and Maximilian Kolbe.
- ★ Some Knights of Saint Francis are also members of Francesco’s Third Order. Their goal is to create a Third Order Fraternity at the Porziuncola Nuova.
- ★ Apart from the Archconfraternity of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Auxiliary of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi is made up of other non-Catholic members who are recognized as part of the order of knighthood.

PLENARY INDULGENCES: THE PARDON OF SAN FRANCISCO

Members can gain - under the usual conditions listed below - a Plenary Indulgence (which may be applied also for the souls of the departed) on each of the following days:

- ★ On the day of Admission to the Archconfraternity;
- ★ On the Day of Prayer (25th of March);
- ★ On the Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady (15th of August);
- ★ On The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady (8th of September);
- ★ On The Feast of St. Francis (4th of October); and
- ★ On The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8th of December).

CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN THE PLENARY INDULGENCE OF THE FORGIVENESS OF ASSISI /SAN FRANCISCO

(for oneself or for a departed soul)

- ★ Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (during the eight days before or after);
- ★ Participation in the Holy Mass and reverently receive Holy Communion.
- ★ Visit to a Catholic Church (the Shrine in particular), followed by PROFESSION OF FAITH, in order to reaffirm one's own Christian identity;
- ★ Say the OUR FATHER, in order to reaffirm the dignity as child of God that one received in Baptism;
- ★ Prayers for the Pope's intention, in order to reaffirm one's membership in the Church, of which the Roman Pontiff is the foundation and sign of visible unity.

★ SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

- ★ The Knights of Saint Francis will have a Spiritual Director appointed by the Knights of Saint Francis Board of Trustees with the permission of the Archbishop of San Francisco.
- ★ Cardinal William Joseph Levada Archbishop Emeritus of San Francisco and Prefect for the Congregation of the Faith will provide guidance to the Catholic Knights in remaining faithful to the Magisterium of the Church.
- ★ The National Shrine of Saint Francis and the Porziuncola Nuova enjoy the privilege of offering faithful service under the spiritual direction of the local ordinary, the Archbishop of San Francisco.
- ★ Angela Alioto, SFO, Esq., Founder of the Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi and the National Director for this community will provide lay leadership in building up the kingdom for this community of believers.

PAX ET BONUM
Peace and All Good



Franciscan Relic of a Rock used by Saint Francis himself to rebuild the Porziuncola in Assisi. It symbolizes global peace, love for the environment, love for the sick and the poor, and, of course, love for all animals. It was given to the San Francisco Porziuncola as it's cornerstone in April, 2008, by the Friars in Assisi.



"Francis, rebuild my Church which you see, is falling down".



INTERFAITH AUXILIARY—A CALL TO ONENESS

Apart from the Archconfraternity of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Auxiliary of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi is made up of other non-Catholic members who are recognized as part of the order of knighthood. While the Interfaith Auxiliary members are not held bound by Roman Catholic Sacred Tradition they are nevertheless distinguished and honored as full members in the Order of Knighthood for sharing Franciscan values in their lives. We affirm that systems and laws of the Earth are partially expressed in spiritual wisdom and truth of the ages which can be found in world wisdom traditions. This is especially true in the expression of the Golden Rule which is rooted in the Human Spirit and expressed in the diversity of world wisdom traditions. It provides the basis for One Light but Many Reflections in the Archconfraternity of Saint Francis of Assisi.
















“The coming together of so many religious leaders to pray is in itself an invitation today to the world to become aware that there exists another dimension of peace and another way of promoting it which is not a result of negotiations, political compromises or economic bargainings. It is the result of prayer, which, in the diversity of religions expresses a relationship with a supreme power that surpasses our human capacities alone. We come from afar, not only, for many of us, by reason or geographical distance, but above all because of our respective historical and spiritual origins.”

His Holiness John Paul II

World Day of Prayer for Peace, Assisi, October 27, 1986

The Golden Rule According to the Major World Wisdom Traditions

BAHA'I FAITH:		"He should not wish for others that which he does not wish for himself, nor promise that which he does not fulfill." (Gleanings of Baha'u'llah)
BUDDHISM:		"Hurt no others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." (Udana-Varga, 5,18)
CHRISTIANITY:		"Treat others the way you want them to treat you. This is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)
CONFUCIANISM:		"Is there one maxim which ought to be acted upon throughout one's life? Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: do not do to others what you would not have them do to you." (Analects: Sayings of Confucius, 15,23)
HINDUISM:		"Whatever you consider injurious to yourself, never do to others. This is the essence of dharma." (Mahabharata, Udyoga Parvan 39,71)
ISLAM:		"No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brothers and sisters that which he desires for himself." (Hadith of Muhammad)
JAINISM:		"In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you regard your own self." (Mahavira)
JUDAISM:		"What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow men and women. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary." (The Talmud, Shabbat 31d)
NATIVE AMERICAN:		"Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins."
SENECA:		"Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your supervisors" Epistle 47:11(Rome; 1st century CE)
SIKHISM:		"Be not estranged from another for God dwells in every heart." (Guru Granth Sahib)
SOCRATES:		"Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you." (Greece; 5th century BCE)
TAOISM:		"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." (Tai Shang Kan Ying P'ien)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

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"That nature alone is good, which refrains from doing to another whatever is not good for its own self." (Dadistan-I-Dinik, 94,5)



Assisi By the Bay in the Archdiocese of San Francisco



The **Porziuncola** at the National Shrine of Saint Francis in Assisi
home of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi.



MISSION STATEMENT



Led by St. Francis's example of Imitating Christ we embrace the "Gospel of Love" and accept the responsibility of continually calling one another to ongoing formation and commitment to mission.

The threefold mission of the Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi is to offer a unique opportunity to members to:

- I. act as prophetic champions of Christ to defend the Gospels using the Porziuncola Nuova as a cornerstone to build a community of communities. (like the knights in the middle ages, the Cavilieri Di Francesco acted as absolute protectors and guardians of God's little temple)
- II. offer witness to the life of Saint Francis and create an international awareness of this spiritual oasis in Assisi by the Bay. We bind ourselves to this ministry both in public and private life, by the single and permanent obligation to remedy, according to our responsibilities and to the extent of our gifts, to address all the privations of soul and body which are liable to destroy or damage the earthly life of any of God's Holy People or his creatures in the animal and plant world.
- III. provide sanctuary and safe harbor to souls on their journey to the Heavenly Kingdom.



VISION STATEMENT



**"BUILD ME A TEMPLE AND I WILL
HELP THOSE WHO HELP YOU"**

Mother Angelica, Founder of the Eternal Word Television Network

We envision building the Kingdom of God on Earth by pursuing St. Francis and St. Clare's principles of peace through love in action for God and for our brothers and sisters by the:

- ★ care of the sick and the poor in Spirit, Mind and Body including the differently abled
- ★ care for all creation especially the environment and
- ★ care for all of God's creatures in the animal world.
- ★ care takers of nonviolence be becoming instruments of peace

The spiritual cornerstone of the Porziuncola is Francis' unrelenting love of Jesus our beloved Lord through his Holy Mother Mary, Our Lady of the Angels.



STATEMENT OF FRANCISCAN VALUES

**“Let them pursue what they must desire above all things: to have a Spirit of the Lord and His holy manner of working.”
St. Francis**

- I. We acknowledge our first moment in our spiritual life as an encounter with human suffering among the poorest of the poor who mirror the Crucified Christ among us.
- II. We follow the footsteps of St. Francis walking with the outcasts among us-- the powerless, the poor, the beggars, the sick and the dying according to the form of the Holy Gospel.
- III. We the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi, “willing disrobe our earthly garments” and put on Christ who is the model, the way, the truth and the life.
- IV. We commit to a path which is expressed concretely in a life characterized by relationships of brotherhood and sisterhood in the imitation of Christ our Brother and modeled on the word of the Gospel.
- V. We the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi listen with humility to the Word with our “Human Heart” open to the Spirit who conforms each of us to Christ.
- VI. We the **Catholic** Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi adore, praise and receive the Most Holy Body and Precious Blood of the Risen Christ in the Eucharist which we declare is tantamount to the apostle’s own experience of the earthly and incarnate Jesus.
- VII. As Jesus gives himself in the form of bread and wine we Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi give ourselves in the form of love and service to God and others.
- VIII. In the Stigmata Francis becomes what he sees...and we the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi become what we receive in the Word and Sacrament.
- IX. In a Franciscan life of love in action we proclaim a pattern of salvation in Jesus who offered us the humility of the incarnation, the poverty of his earthly life and the charity of his Passion.
- X. As custodians of the environment we the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi give witness in word and deed by proclaiming respect for the created world which is a gift to all people from the hand of God.
- XI. We the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi follow a penitential path which turns us away from sin and toward God by our embrace and our encounter with each other through interfaith dialogue, intercultural discourse and intergenerational conversations on issues of peace and justice.
- XII. We the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi entrust ourselves to Mary who is “the Virgin made Church”, the tabernacle, the first disciple and Mother of Christ. She gives Jesus the flesh of our humanity with its frailty through her relationship with almighty God. She is the daughter of the Father, the mother of the Son and the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

- XIII.** We the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi commend ourselves to St. Clare, the footprint of the Mother of God who imitates the Holy Poverty of Jesus—"the God who was placed poor in the crib, lived poor in the world and remained naked on the cross."
- XIV.** We the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi submit ourselves to this Holy Poverty which creates brotherhood and sisterhood in our human family. Just as a mother nourishes her child, we siblings will nourish each other in the Spirit.
- XV.** We the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi declare the Archconfraternity of the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi and its Porziuncola as Assisi by the Bay where the word of God is heard and the presence of the Word is lived.

ORGANIZATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ARCHCONFRATERNITY

- 1) To become a Knight of St. Francis of Assisi the following requirements should be met:
 - a) 18 years of age unless otherwise exempted
 - b) To serve and not be served. Four hours a month minimum.
 - c) To protect the Porziuncola from all harm at all costs to oneself.
 - d) A knowledge of the life of St. Francis, St. Clare and the pardon of Assisi
 - e) All the faithful who request to be admitted as Members, either personally or through another, is eligible for Membership. There are no special obligations as such. Members can always be members of other religious associations.
 - f) Members, however, are exhorted to :
 - ★ To recite 3 Hail Marys daily, for the intentions of the Archconfraternity;
 - ★ To have an image of Our Lady in their home;
 - ★ To make a donation according to their means.
- 2) Members shall meet once a month on the first Friday of the month after the opening of the Porziuncola on September 27th, 2008
- 3) Subcommittees will be designed to meet at their discretion. These will include:
 - a) **Protection/safeguard Committee** of the Porziuncola. This will include entrance and exit security checkpoints through the gift shop and monitor spray painting and other environmental incursions.
 - b) **Preservation Committee** to insure sustainability of the Porziuncola.

c) **Calendar and Activities Advisory Committee** to the Rector of the National Shrine and Custodian of the Porziuncola.

d) **Membership admission committee.** (see www.olamshrine.com/knights/howtobecomeaknight.htm)

e) **Volunteer coordination committee.**

f) **Gift shop Committee.**

g) **Retreat and meeting planning committee**

h) **Curriculum and Class Committee** which determines subject matter/including movie night selection.

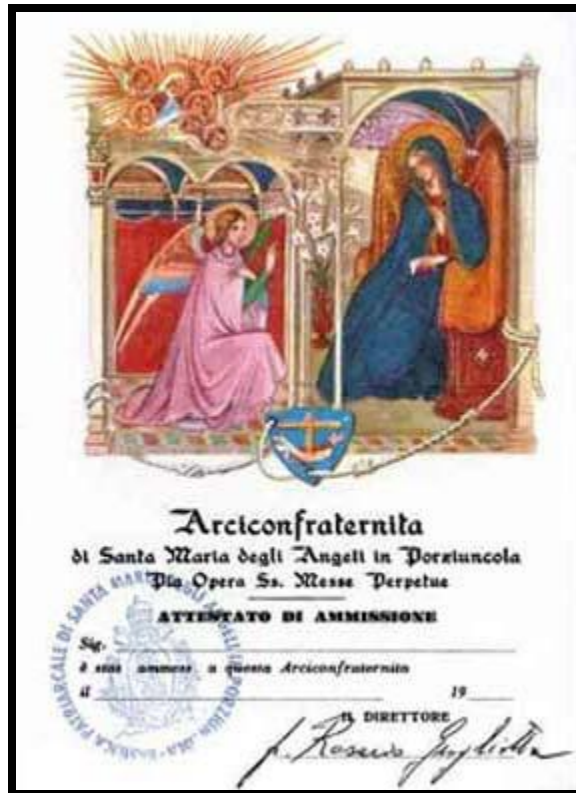
i) **Ad Hoc coat of arms committee.**

Membership shall conceptualize, design and establish a coat of arms: Inspiration may include incorporating same as smda's, to wit: the annunciation.

*Lord, make me an instrument of
Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow
love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*



*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life.
Amen.*



Document of membership in the Order of Knighthood in the Archconfraternity of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Porziuncola

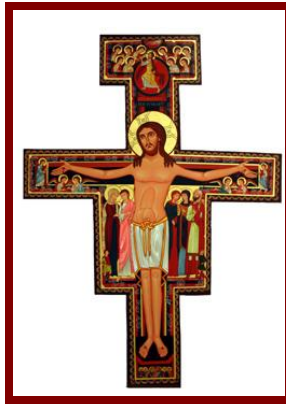
Act of Consecration to St. Francis

Consecrate yourselves daily to our Seraphic Father.

Seraphic Patriarch St. Francis. So like unto Jesus, even from thy birth, in thy being born in a stable, and like him, laid in a manger. So like unto Jesus during thy lifetime, in thy burning zeal for souls. So like unto Jesus at thy death, having thy hands and thy feet pierced with nails and thy side opened as with a lance.

O favorite of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! So inflamed with His sweet and gentle, yet burning spirit of Divine Love. I, N._____, consecrate myself to thee, praying thee to obtain from God for me – even as thou wert wont to pray – the most sweet and ardent gift of His Divine Love, that my heart's affections and my whole soul may be detached from every creature and thus be united to Him in time and eternity. Amen. My God and my All.





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