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## STATUTES OF THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

***“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”***

***Saint Francis of Assisi***

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Second Vatican Council’s teaching and the 1983 Code of Canon Law, Christ’s faithful as part of the People of God have the right to establish and direct associations for the purpose of promoting their spiritual growth, serve charitable or pious purposes, and foster the Christian vocation in the world. [*Apostolicam Actuositatem*, n.15, and cc. 215, 298, § 1*CIC*’83].” Pope Francis argues that unless lay Catholics are willing to courageously live and proclaim their faith, the church risks turning into a “babysitter” for sleeping children. The Knights of Saint Francis answer this clarion call to promote, serve and foster the Christian vocation to proclaim the Gospel in the world.

This Archconfraternity has its roots in the establishment of *The Confraternity of Saint Mary of the Angels* on January 23, 1875 by Pope Pius IX. In August, 1876, Pope Pius IX raised it to the status of an Archconfraternity, allowing it to aggregate to itself other Marian Confraternities. This Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis was united with the Archconfraternity of Santa Maria degli Angeli in June of 2008, whose aim is to spread devotion to Our Lady of the Angels/Porziuncola and to Saint Francis of Assisi.

In modern times, this Archconfraternity known as the “Knights of Saint Francis” is a universal and International Private Association subject to the canons concerning Private Associations of the Faithful (cc. 321-326*CIC*’83). While these canons guarantee autonomy in accordance with canon 321, The “Knights of Saint Francis,” are cognizant they are subject to the supervision of ecclesiastical authority, in accordance with c. 305, and also to the governance of the same authority. Since the Knights of Saint Francis are universal and international it seeks approval from the Holy See as its competent Church authority. (Canon 312, §§1-3).

The “Knights of Saints Francis” consists of married and single lay persons, ordained clergy and men and women religious who share in a common spirituality and mission inspired by the life and mission of Saint Francis of Assisi based on the Gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ and formulated in the following statutes:

## SPIRIT

*“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.”*

*Saint Francis of Assisi*

The “Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi,” as a universal Private International Association, witness to a strong and authentic filial communion with the Holy Father, the Magisterium of the Church, and all levels of competent ecclesiastical authority(cc 321-326CIC’83).

The spiritual cornerstone of the “Knights of Saint Francis” is the imitation of the unrelenting love of Jesus as imparted by Saint Francis and begun at the Porziuncola in Santa Maria Degli Angeli, Assisi, Italia. It is particularly expressed in the following ways:

1. Bearing witness to the life and works of Saint Francis of Assisi, as exemplified first and foremost in his writings, which, with the aid of instructions offered at this association’s meetings, will help us unpack them, discern together what facets to prioritize and how to put them into practice;
2. Observing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the example given by Saint Francis, whose life, firmly rooted in the living Word of God, continues to attract many; this drives a prime directive to care for the sick and the poor of spirit, mind and body
3. Reverencing and guarding most particularly, the Porziuncola Nuova, which serves as a visible reminder of the commitment to God made by Saint Francis and where, as Knights of Saint Francis, we unceasingly deepen our own;
4. Striving to grow daily in the holy poverty, simplicity and humility of heart that characterized Saint Francis;
5. Respecting the dignity of each person from conception to natural death;
6. Respecting diversity of cultures and ethnic identities, races, creeds, ages and abilities;
7. Being attentive and consoling servants of those in need;
8. Caring with tender compassion for the poor, especially the homeless, the jobless and the hungry, as well as for the sick, especially those who lack the health care they need and those suffering from disabling illnesses be they spiritual, mental or physical, and the dying, in particular the most abandoned among them;
9. Accompanying, as appropriate, those among the poor, who are victims of injustices and abuse;
10. Being heralds of peace by using only non-violent means to accomplish all works;
11. Opposing violence and advocating restorative justice in order to overcome conflicts;
12. Promoting mediation and forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, in both private and public venues as the need arises;
13. Engaging in interfaith, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue specifically directed at promoting peace and justice;

14. Recognizing our responsibilities to act as respectful custodians and stewards of all creatures together with the environment in accordance with the design of our Creator.

## MISSION AND NATURE

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

### *Saint Francis of Assisi*

The Archconfraternity of The “Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi” is a universal and International Private Association of laypersons both married and single, widowed, ordained clergy, as well as men and women religious who, following the example of Saint Francis in imitating Christ, and in the recognition of the universal call to holiness, do the following:

1. Embrace the Gospel of Love and allow ourselves to be continually energized and inspired by each other’s faithful living of this mandate;
2. Imitate Christ who gives Himself to us in the forms of bread and wine by offering ourselves through our acts of charity and service to others;
3. Imitate Saint Francis who, in the gift of the Stigmata, became what he saw; we will, in the gift of the Sacraments and in the Word of God, become what we see; Pope Francis instructs us to let the crucified Christ gaze upon us, to let ourselves be forgiven, and recreated by his love. It is this gaze of merciful love, which makes possible and generates the gaze of merciful love of the Knights of Saint Francis on the poor, the sick and the dying.
4. Offer witness to the life of Saint Francis through our ministry of private and public works throughout the world, in the recognition that we are always preaching the Gospel by our deeds as well as by our words;
5. Act as prophetic champions of Christ to defend the Gospel using the Porziuncola Nuova as a cornerstone to build a community of communities;
6. Know that the poorest of the poor among us mirror the Christ Crucified; thus, the first moment of a fruitful spiritual life for each person is in an encounter with human suffering;
7. Dedicate ourselves to the use of our God-given talents, both personally and as a community, to remedy ills we deem are liable to damage the children of God, without neglecting to safeguard animals and plants from the consequences of these ills He has placed upon the earth;
8. Aim to communicate to the international community of men and women, that all are Children of God to be accorded dignity and care;
9. Bear witness to the efficacy of adoring, praising and receiving the Most Holy Body and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ;
10. Vivify, as Saint Francis did, the grace of a penitential path by turning away from personal and communal sins in order to demonstrate the Gospel values in our encounters with others; and
11. Entrust ourselves to Mary, whom Saint Francis praised as having been chosen by God to be the tabernacle and Mother of Jesus, and whom he also instructed can help us be made faithful servants in the ministry of the Church.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

*“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart,  
and to bring home those who have lost their way”.*

### *Saint Francis of Assisi*

As a private Association of Christ’s faithful, the “Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi” is governed in accordance with these statutes (cc. 309, 321, *CIC*’83).

The “Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi” as a private Association of Christ’s faithful enjoys its own autonomy (c. 321 *CIC*’83). However, it is subject to the supervision and governance of the competent authority (cc. 305, 323 *CIC*’83). The government structure of the Private Association of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi consists in the following:

### THE MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY

The Membership Assembly is the highest governing body within the Private Association of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi. Members only possess one vote when deciding on matters and are to abide by the statutes of the Association when executing their duties.

The Leadership Council (Moderator, Vice-Moderator/Secretary, Treasurer) is to set an appropriate date each year for the annual Membership Assembly (MA) and is to inform all members of this date, giving them at least three months notice.

At this meeting:

- a. The Moderator presents the annual report for approval;
- b. The Treasurer presents the annual financial report and budget for approval;
- c. The main activities to achieve the Association’s purpose are decided upon for the next year;
- d. Officers are elected;
- e. Additional issues are brought to the assembly for consideration; and
- f. Modifications to the statutes or any other official documents are voted on.

The Moderator with the consent of the Leadership Council can also call extraordinary meetings of the Membership Assembly for just reasons which are to be communicated to the members, giving them at least seven days notice.

An Emergency meeting of the membership assembly can be called by the Moderator with the consent of the (MA), giving members at least two days notice in the case of grave matters affecting the entire Association or its future.

The Association is governed by Leadership Council consisting of the following:

## MODERATOR

The person elected to be Moderator must be a permanent member of the Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis for a period of three full years.

The individual chosen as Moderator is to fulfill his or her function and exercise authority according to the norm of the statutes (c. 324.1 *CIC*'83).

*[The Moderator is to be chosen by a process established by the membership. (This can be done either by election or some other method. Since this is not an ecclesiastical office, the guidelines set in church law (cc. 164-179 *CIC*'83) are not required. However, an association may use these canons as a model in establishing a process of election].*

This Moderator indicates his acceptance of the office in writing to the Vice-Moderator/Secretary.

The Moderator holds this office for three years renewable once. The Moderator is to fulfill his function and exercise his or her authority according to the norm of the statutes (c. 324.1 *CIC*'83 )

The Moderator is responsible for:

1. Representing the Association;
2. Implementing the decisions of the membership assembly with the help of his or her council;
3. Chairing the meetings of the membership assembly and of any other governing bodies of the Association of which he is a member;and
4. Calling meetings, creating the agenda of meetings, and bringing such meetings to an end.

The Moderator is to ensure that the association cooperates with other associations of Christ's faithful, where this is expedient. He or she is to ensure that the Association gives its help to various Christian works, especially those in the same territory. (c. 328 *CIC*'83 )

If the Moderator over a period of months acts contrary to the teachings of the church or the statutes of the Association, the Moderator is to be corrected or removed using the following process:

- a. The membership assembly is to meet with the Moderator to discuss the misconduct.
- b. If the behavior persists the Vice-Moderator/Secretary is to issue a warning letter to the Moderator outlining the misconduct, and guidelines for reform.
- c. If these actions do not bear the desired solution, the Moderator is to be brought before the local competent authority by the membership assembly. If, after the intervention by the competent authority the erring Moderator does not correct his or her conduct, the membership assembly is to issue a dismissal letter, releasing the Moderator from his or her duties and, if necessary, remove him or her from the Association.
- d. In this case the Vice-Moderator/Secretary will act as Moderator until the next MA.

At the death or termination of office of the Moderator, an emergency assembly is to be called by the Vice-Moderator/Secretary to elect the next Moderator.

## **VICE-MODERATOR/SECRETARY**

The office of Vice-Moderator/Secretary is to be held by a permanent member the Association who has the capacity to carry out the duties of this office.

The appointment is for three years and is renewable once. Only members of the Association of the Knights of Saint Francis are to vote for this office.

The individual chosen as Vice-Moderator/Secretary is to fulfill his or her function and exercise authority according to the norm of the statutes (c. 324.1 *CIC*'83).

*[The Vice-Moderator/Secretary is to be chosen by a process established by the membership. (This can be done either by election or some other method. Since this is not an ecclesiastical office, the guidelines set in church law (c. 164-179 CIC'83) are not required. However, an association may use these canons as a model in establishing a process of election].*

- ✘ This Vice-Moderator/Secretary indicates acceptance of the office in writing to the Moderator.
- ✘ The Vice-Moderator/Secretary substitutes for the Moderator in his/her absence.
- ✘ The Vice-Moderator/Secretary is responsible for:
  - a. Sending the notifications and invitations to meetings;
  - b. Taking the minutes of the meetings in which all agreements are always to be recorded;
  - c. Issuing and receiving off all correspondence;
  - d. Keeping of the register of admissions and dismissals; and
  - e. Taking care of the archives.

Upon the death or termination of office of the Vice-Moderator/Secretary, the Moderator will appoint a member of the Knights of Saint Francis to complete the term.

## **TREASURER**

The Private Association of the Knights of Saint Francis is free to administer its own goods according to the terms of its statutes in respect to c. 325 *CIC*'83.

The office of Treasurer is to be held by a permanent member of the Association who possesses the necessary skills to fulfill the duties of this office. The appointment is for three years renewable once.

The Treasurer is responsible for:

- a. Administration of the assets of the Association;
- b. Gathering of members' contributions; and
- c. Preparing the annual balance sheet and budget.

The members of the Association present at the Membership Assembly are to nominate two candidates for this office to the Moderator. The Moderator then appoints one of the candidates to the office of Treasurer.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The requirements set out below must be met by every person who applies for membership in the Private Association of the Knights of Saint Francis.

1. Any member of the Faithful may be considered for membership in the Knights of Saint Francis.
2. Every person who seeks to become a member is to have completed his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday unless a written exemption has been made by the Moderator and given to the person that seeks membership.
3. Every member in order to reach a full grateful knowledge of our charism is to assume personal responsibility for making a meditative study of the lives of both Saint Francis and Saint Clare together with their writings, using, as appropriate, and to have a working knowledge of materials about them that are recommended by the Moderator, as well as to actively participate in the discernment process regarding the incarnation of our charism here and now, in this particular human and ecclesial context.
4. Every member is to attend meetings on the first Friday of the month at a time voted on by members.
5. A record of attendance is to be noted in the log regularly used for the minutes and other business of the meetings and which is retained by the Moderator.
6. Absences of three consecutive meetings should be explained by the member to the Moderator who should, with great charity, strongly encourage the member to try to more regularly attend.
7. Every member is strongly encouraged to attend daily Mass.
8. Every member is cordially invited to daily recite three Hail Mary's for the intentions of the Holy Father, the Knights of Saint Francis and all those who are served by our Association.
9. Every member is to keep an image of Our Lady in their home.
10. Every member is to daily make an Act of Consecration to Saint Francis every day recalling their day of investiture, knighting and consecration into the Knighthood of Saint Francis.
11. Every member is to offer the minimum of 4 hours a month in service to the poor or guarding the Porziuncola Nuova.

## **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

If at any time a member of the Association decides that his/her place is no longer with the Association, the individual is to submit a letter outlining his/her decision.

Any lawfully enrolled member of the Knights of Saint Francis who fails to fulfill his/her obligations to the association is to be charitably admonished by the Moderator. If this does not

result in a correction of the situation, the Moderator in consultation with two thirds of the members may dismiss the individual.

### **ASSETS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

As a private Association of Christ's faithful with juridical personality, the Association has the right to acquire and administer its own temporal goods in accordance to c. 310 and c. 325 *CIC* '83.

For the sake of transparency, accountability and in the spirit of cooperation, the Association will undertake a yearly financial report to the Financial Administrator of the proper ecclesiastical authority governing International Private Associations.

### **MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

Any modification to the Statutes is to be approved at a meeting of the members of the Association and requires a two-thirds majority of the vote.

### **DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Any dissolution of the Statutes is to be approved at a meeting of the members of the Association and requires a two-thirds majority of the vote (c. 326 *CIC* "83).

The decision to dissolve the Association is to be made by a special meeting called by the Moderator.

### **SUPPRESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Before suppressing the Association the competent ecclesiastical authority governing International Private Associations is to meet with the Moderator to present the case against the Association and issue a verbal warning

If the ecclesiastical authority's verbal warning is not adhered to, the ecclesiastical authority after three warning letters have been issued and ignored by the membership Assembly of the Association, can suppress the Association via a formal decree (c. 326 *CIC* "83).

The allocation of the goods of the Association of the Knights of Saint Francis is to follow the norms found in c. 326.2 of the Code of Canon Law.

### **CONCLUSION**

In the words of Our Holy Father, Francis I, we affirm the following:

***“Just like John Paul II and Benedict XVI said, today's world needs many witnesses. Not so much teachers, as witnesses. It's not about just talk. It's about talking through your actions. Living a coherent life. It's precisely about a coherent life.”***

***Pope Francis***

**Submission prepared for the Pontifical Council for the Laity for the  
The Directory of International Associations of the Faithful (Libreria Editrice Vaticana)**

<b>OFFICIAL NAME</b>	<b>Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi</b>
<b>ALSO KNOWN AS</b>	<b>KOSF</b>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	June 2008
<b>HISTORY</b>	<p>IN 1998 Angela Alioto, Archbishop William Joseph Levada and Father Allen Ramirez, OFM Conv. led an effort to reopen the closed Church of Saint Francis and to make it the National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi.</p> <p>In 2005, once again, to keep the church open, Archbishop Levada and Angela Alioto created the Renaissance Project, a plan in four phases: build the Porziuncola Nuova; build Piazza Saint Francis: renovate the upper church build a Franciscan University of Political Thought in the vacant rectory. Phase I is completed and the others are underway.</p> <p>In June 2008, Angela Alioto, founded the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi in active collaboration with the Friars in Assisi, to guard and protect the Porziuncola, which opened to the world on Sept. 27, 2008. Today the Knights number more than 200. There are 18 knights of Saint Francis of Assisi in Umbria Italy who now have obtained custody of and guard the prison of Saint Francis of Assisi in Perugia, Italia. The Knights serve the poor and sick, the elderly, lonely and dying, but a primary mission directive is the custody of the Porziuncola Nuova and the National Shrine. The KOSF welcome more than 1,000 people a month, including schoolchildren who seek to experience the love and compassion of Saint Francis.</p> <p>Led by Saint Francis’s example of Imitating Christ the Knights embrace the “Gospel of Love” and accept the responsibility of continually calling one another to ongoing formation and commitment to mission.</p> <p>The threefold mission of the Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi to offer a unique opportunity to members to:</p> <p>I. Act as prophetic champions of Christ to defend the Gospels using the Porziuncola Nuova as a birthplace and cornerstone to build a community of communities. (like the knights in the middle ages, the Cavilieri Di Francesco have acted as protectors and guardians of God’s little temple)</p> <p>II. Offer witness to the life of Saint Francis and create an international awareness of this spiritual oasis in Assisi by the Bay, San Francisco. We bind ourselves to this ministry both in public and private life, by the single and permanent obligation to remedy, according to our</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>III. Provide sanctuary and safe harbor to souls on their journey to the Heavenly Kingdom.</p>
<p><b>IDENTITY</b></p>	<p>The Knights of Saint Francis are deeply rooted in their statement of core values to achieve their Vision Statement which reads:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STATEMENT OF FRANCISCAN VALUES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Let them pursue what they must desire above all things: to have a Spirit of the Lord and His holy manner of working.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Saint Francis</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>II. We follow the footsteps of Saint 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

VIII. In the Stigmata Francis becomes what he sees...and we the Knights of Saint 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 Porziuncola and the environment we the Knights of Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint Francis of Assisi entrust ourselves to Mary who is —the Virgin made Church, the first 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 Saint Francis of Assisi commend ourselves to Saint 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 poor and naked on the cross.

XIV. We the Knights of Saint 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 Saint Francis of Assisi declare the Archconfraternity of the Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi and its Porziuncola Nuova as Assisi by the Bay where the word of God is heard and the presence of the Word is lived.

### **Vision Statement**

	<p>We envision building the Kingdom of God on Earth by pursuing Saint Francis and Saint Clare’s principles of peace through love in action for God and for our brothers and sisters by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ care of the sick and the poor in Spirit, Mind and Body including the differently abled</li> <li>✘ care takers of nonviolence be becoming instruments of peace</li> <li>✘ care for all creation especially the environment and</li> <li>✘ care for all of God’s creatures in the animal world.</li> </ul> <p>The spiritual cornerstone of the Porziuncola NUOVA is Francis’ unrelenting love of Jesus our beloved Lord through his Holy Mother Mary, Our Lady of the Angels. On August 2nd of 2008, Pope Benedict XVI's Papal Decree gave to the Nuova Porziuncola its own “Pardon of San Francisco,” an expanded version of the Pardon of Assisi that Saint Francis received from Pope Honorius III in 1216. This Papal Decree also makes the Porziuncola Nuova the fifth Holiest Place in the world and the first Papal Decreed Holy Place in the United States.</p>
<p><b>ORGANIZATION</b></p>	<p>The Knights of Saint Francis has been governed by the International Director, assisted by a <i>Board of Trustees</i>. The new proposed organizational structure will be composed of The Leadership Council (Moderator, Vice-Moderator/Secretary, Treasurer)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"My brothers and sisters, I want to send all of you to Paradise."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>- St. Francis of Assisi</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Information</b></p> <p>La Porziuncola Nuova is a replica of the little church that Saint Francis himself rebuilt in Assisi, Italy in 1209. It was built on the grounds of Saint Francis Church that was closed and destined to be sold until Angela Alioto led an effort to save the church and convert it into the National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi with then Archbishop William Joseph Levada. The Knights of Saint Francis were created to guard the Porziuncola Nuova, feed and house the poor, create peace and follow in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Francis named his little church the "Porziuncola", meaning "little corner of the world", that is, his "portion". The Porziuncola Nuova is the “new little corner of the world” and a center for pilgrimages and for peace initiatives for the whole United States and for the whole world.</p> <p>The Porziuncola is one of 5 places in the world where one can receive the indulgence granted to Saint Francis from the Pope Honorius III.</p>

	<a href="http://www.porziuncola.org/en/porziuncola_indulgenza.html#porziuncola">http://www.porziuncola.org/en/porziuncola_indulgenza.html#porziuncola</a>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	The Knights of Saint Francis of Assisi comprises an emerging network of small international fraternal communities in the world including the United States, Italy and France.
<b>WORKS</b>	<p>Modeled after and in liaison with the Archconfraternity of Saint Mary of the Angels, which guards the original Porziuncola in Assisi, Italy, the Knights of Saint Francis are responsible for helping pilgrims, tourists and lovers of Saint Francis experience the Franciscan serenity of the Porziuncola Nuova.</p> <p>The Knights' responsibilities include crowd control at the Porziuncola Nuova, as this sacred space cannot accommodate a large number of visitors at one time. Knights also must enforce a dress code, prevent unauthorized photography and insist on silent prayer with few exceptions.</p> <p>Knights are required to devote at least four hours a month to volunteer work at the chapel, the nearby Francesco Rocks gift shop or at the National Shrine. The Knights have staffed the Porziuncola Nuova without interruption for five years since it's founding.</p> <p>The Knights reflect service to others as the highest form of humanitarian pursuit in the imitation of Saint Francis. The Knights of Saint Francis are in solidarity with the poor and reflect that by not wearing special uniforms. In addition to their work at the Porziuncola Nuova, Knights live out Franciscan spirituality by "caring for the sick and poor, caring for all creation and promoting peace in the world. This is done by donating time to charitable organizations like the Gubbio Project which houses and feeds the homeless in San Francisco or by raising financial support for them.</p> <p>The Knights of Saint Francis are first and foremost a community of prayer, which generates prayers in action in acts of social justice, in acts of mercy, and in acts of service to those most in need in the city that bears the name of Saint Francis.</p> <p>Some of the unexpected spiritual joys of being part of the Knights of Saint Francis are the occasions for personal meditation and prayer in this jewel of the city and the world. The Porziuncola Nuova is a pilgrimage destination for the spiritual nourishment for those who might never be afforded the blessing to sojourn to Assisi.</p>
<b>WEB SITE</b>	<a href="http://www.knightsofsaintfrancis.com">www.knightsofsaintfrancis.com</a>
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LOGO	



