



Prayer in preparation of our fraternity's Visitation

We praise and thank you, O Lord our God,
for through your love and wisdom
you have called us to holiness through the Franciscan way of life.
Through your grace and inspiration, you have provided for us
the means to promote fidelity to the Franciscan charism,
to observe the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order,
and to receive greater support in the life of the fraternity.

By the power of your Holy Spirit
we will come together soon for the fraternal
and pastoral visitation of our Fraternity,
in order to evaluate our efforts and to renew our dedication
to live the holy Gospel of your Son in the footsteps of St. Francis.

We ask for your blessing and guidance so that this occasion
may 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.

Give us the fullness of your Spirit.

Take full possession of our hearts;

Root out of them attitudes of selfishness and false fear.

Give us the will to persevere,

as followers of St. Francis in the contemporary world,
in rebuilding the Church and in proclaiming the Good News of salvation.
Where we have faltered or even failed, give us the strength to begin anew,
the light to discover our true meaning and purpose,
and the courage to move forward with conviction and humility.

*"May the power of your love, O Lord, fiery and sweet as honey,
wean our hearts from all that is under heaven,
that we may die for love of Jesus' love,
who was so good as to die for love of our love."*

This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.