



_____ Fraternity
St. Thomas More Region
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Dear _____,

The members of our fraternity Council believe we have, through many contacts, attempted to lovingly encourage you to return to fraternity life. Inasmuch as you have not responded to our efforts, we have decided to place you in lapsed status, thereby removing you from our Fraternity membership roster.

Due to your absence from the fraternity gatherings and since you have not contributed to the needs of the fraternity, we have to consider that your membership in our fraternity is no longer "active." You are now recorded as "lapsed."

Our National Statutes define "lapsed" as:

Those brothers and sisters who neither attend meetings, support the community financially, nor have valid reasons due to health, family, work or distance, and who, after personal invitations to return to fraternity, consciously and deliberately reject or ignore the invitation, will be termed "**lapsed**" and will not be carried on the fraternity membership roll nor be reported as a member to higher fraternity Councils (Art. 18.7.b).

Based on the above definition, you would be considered "inactive" in _____ Fraternity and would not be able to vote in any upcoming elections or be voted upon for a council position.

**You are still a member of the Secular Franciscan Order
and are expected to follow the Rule.**

You are only being removed from our roster and **not** from the Secular Franciscan Order. If at some future date, you decide to re-establish your relationship with our Fraternity, we will be agreeable to discuss the matter, as provided by Article 57 of our General Constitutions.

It is important that you understand that lapsed status means that you no longer choose to be active in your Fraternity. If you desire to reactivate your status in the fraternity, you will need to make a written request to the minister and council of _____ fraternity.

We hope that this may be a time of grace for you to prayerfully discern if the spirituality of our Secular Franciscan Order is where the Holy Spirit is calling you. The charism of the Order needs to be a benefit to you and your spiritual growth. Although you remain a member of the Franciscan Order through your profession, please know that it is our desire that you will return to active status in the fraternity. If you want to reactivate your status in the Order, we ask that you revisit our Franciscan way and allow this charism of St. Francis and the Gospel life to go deep into your heart, your spirit. The fraternity council will assist you in this endeavor.

Please know that we hold you in our hearts and our prayers as you discern your future with the Secular Franciscan Order.

With wishes for peace and all good,

Fraternity Minister's Signature:

Date:

**A copy of this letter will be emailed or USPS mailed to each of the following, whose names and addresses may be found in the Regional Directory:
Regional Minister, Regional Secretary and Regional Database Coordinator.**