**Workshop from the Spiritual Chapter Nov. 2016**

This team work during the spiritual Chapter was presented by our National Director of formation, Jewel Jasmins. We were assembled in workshops in order to answer the question – How must a fraternal meeting be. So, you will in this document the work of the 5 teams..

**The meeting**

1 – Animating an engaging meeting

1. The preparation of the meeting includes the layout of the room, the choice of songs, the music, the choice of a special hymn on occasion, and even, the climate, the temperature of the room according to the seasons.
2. Start the meeting with a greeting, greet each member on their arrival, present the new arrivals.
3. The animator (who can vary from one meeting to another), gives the agenda, announces the happy moments, presents the content of the subject, the tools that will be used for the sharing, ex. Living Fraternity, a book of on Franciscan writings, etc.

The person who animates the meeting should make sure that all the members may speak and that one person does not do all or most of the talking.

1. The sharing or talking is done in a calm manner so that the members who wish to express themselves feel quite at ease to do so and that the others be open and attentive. The sharing of the gospel is an important part of the meeting because it recalls for us Article 4 of our Rule.
2. The members not only come to pray but to have an opportunity to share and be encouraged in their secular life. So, the time of prayer is important in the meeting and it should be well prepared. The intent of the meeting should facilitate an encounter with God.

2 – Stimulating ongoing formation

1. If the ongoing formation is on the agenda, it should be done at the beginning of the meeting, after the prayer and song, not at the end of the meeting. Have many persons involved in the ongoing formation in order to share this task.
2. Do a presentation on the Rule or the General Constitutions in order to better inform the members on these documents. Knowledge of these documents becomes an essential part of initial and ongoing formation for any member.
3. Do a presentation on what our commitment is in the Franciscan Family.
4. Encourage our members to research the Franciscan writings, in the Holy Scriptures, in the writings of our popes, and to share their research during the meeting.

3 – Cultivating fraternal life

1. Be of service together in the community, in activities together to create links between the fraternity and the parish or civil community.
2. Have set up, a system of telephone or email to notify the members of the date of the meeting. Also, this ensures that all members can be present for the meeting.
3. Sometimes it is hard for members to stay very late at the meeting if it is during the week and they are working the next day. Maybe we can think of having other gatherings to foster fraternal life. Have a picnic – go visit other fraternities –retreats – visit in between meetings.
4. Prepare a meal together during Christmas or Easter, or in summer, inviting the members of nearby fraternities and the priest or assistant friars.
5. Ask the members if they need of some service, listen with simplicity to the sharing of the daily life of the members, the joy, the sorrows. Develop a team that informs itself about the members who are sometimes absent from the meeting and share news of them with members present during the meeting.

4.- Living presence in the world

a) Some fraternity members are involved in other apostolates and the fraternity encourages and supports them. Some members are elderly and unable to participate. One of our apostolates may be caring for members in nursing homes unable to get to the meeting – bringing them the news of the fraternity.

b) When carrying out apostolates, the fraternity is built. Join with other entities in completing apostolic works or other service also works. Inform ourselves of the needs – go toward others and discover what the needs are.

c) Be part of a group that serves in a soup kitchen in our neighbourhood. Help groups that work in our parish or district.

d) Be active members in our parish, be part of the councils or committees whose mandate are similar to Franciscan spirituality where one can demonstrate their talents.