

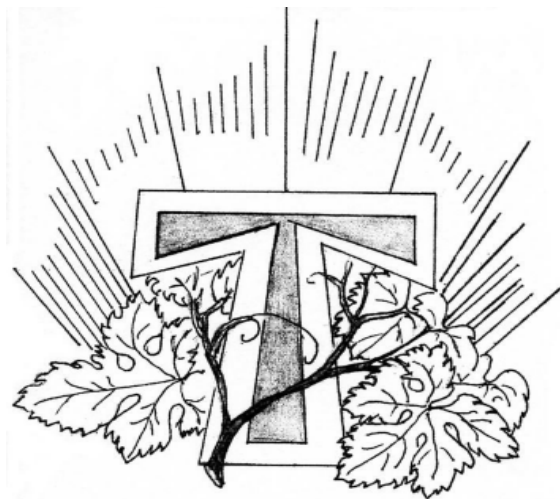
**Lady Poverty Region #68
Secular Franciscan Order**



***Strategic Plan
2015 - 2018***

*Lady Poverty was the symbol
of the paradoxes of the Gospel: richness in
poverty, life in death, strength in weakness,
beauty in the sordid and shabby,
peace in conflict and temptation,
fullness in emptiness and, above all,
love in detachment and deprivation.
She made everything hard soft, and everything
difficult easy.*

Francis: The Journey and the Dream – Murry Bodo



I am the vine, you are the branches

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lady Poverty Region
of the Secular Franciscan Order,
Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Rule,
Is called, as our Seraphic Father Francis was,
to rebuild the Church.
We seek to encounter the living
and active person of Christ
Through apostolic activity in fraternity
and in the world,
Going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel.

VISION STATEMENT

Our Little Portion: Rebuilding the World, One Person at a Time

Servant Leadership:

We demonstrate vibrant leadership through humble service at the regional and local fraternity levels.

Apostolic Service:

Our fraternities are engaged in evangelical and apostolic efforts for justice, peacemaking and care of creation.

Fraternal Life:

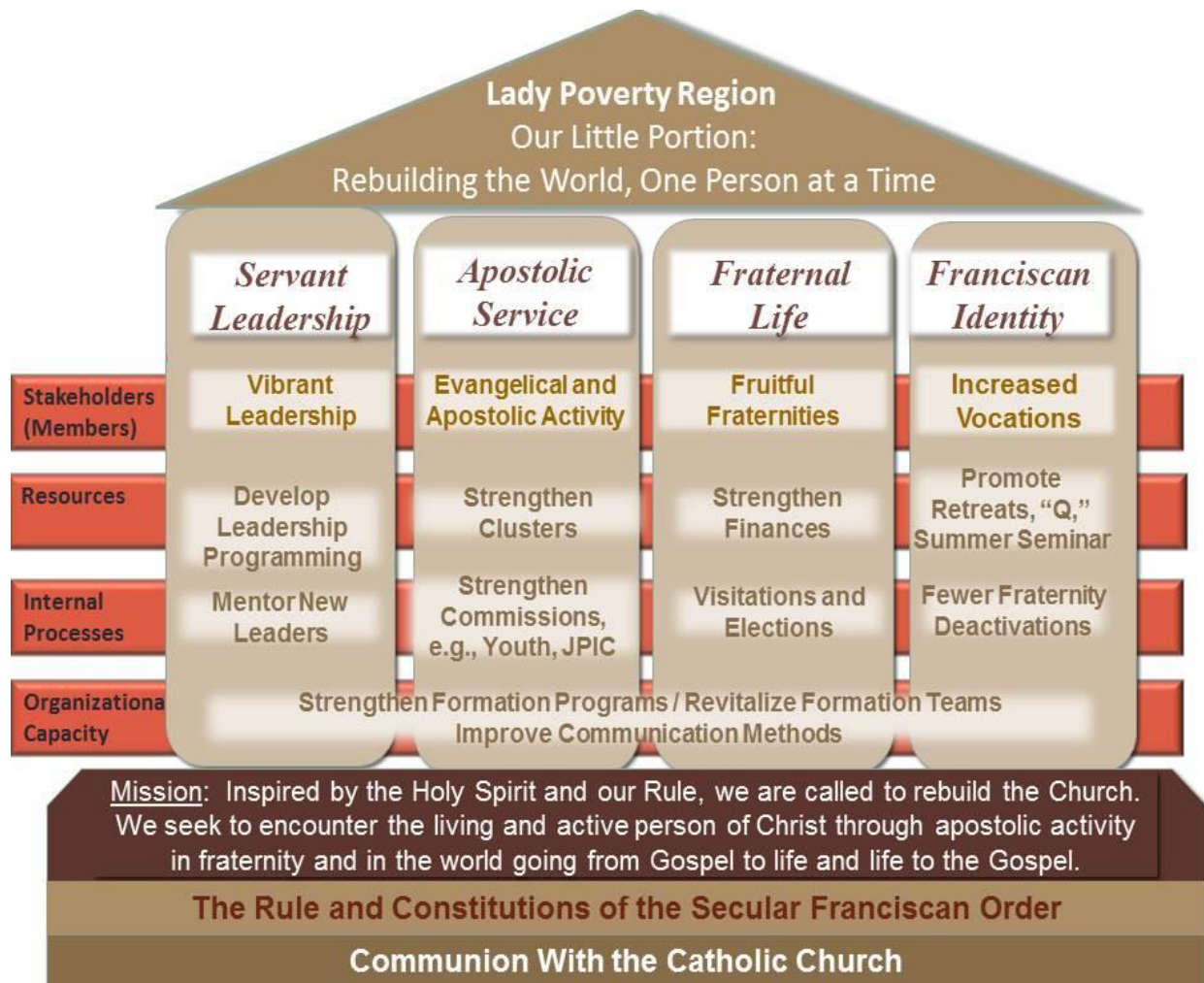
United by our profession, we are called to build a more Christ-centered world through prayer, ongoing formation, and commitment to the Gospel life.

Franciscan Identity:

We live a life of simplicity, charity, and reconciliation, conforming our thoughts and actions to those of Christ by means of daily conversion.

Strategic Plan Strategy Map

2015 - 2018



Servant Leadership: We demonstrate vibrant leadership through humble service at the regional and local fraternity levels. To increase *vibrant, servant leadership* within Lady Poverty Region, we:

- ❖ Develop leadership programming
 - ◆ At every annual chapter, explain the roles of officers at every level of fraternity
 - ◆ At every annual chapter, have each officer group meet separately to do some formation and discuss pertinent issues
 - ◆ Share excerpts from Greenleaf and/or other prominent servant leadership authors – through *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Send representatives from LPR to national workshops (Youth, JPIC)
- ❖ Mentor new leaders
 - ◆ Hold “mock” council meetings as ongoing formation at fraternity gatherings (local, regional) – in the year before an election; recommend *Care and Feeding of Fraternity Councils, Servant Leadership Handbook* as resources
 - ◆ Share council meeting topics with membership in *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Observe how people express themselves during meeting discussions – recognize their gifts & talents
 - ◆ Invite members to council meetings to discuss commission work and other projects and/or topics
- ❖ Strengthen formation programs
 - ◆ Choose a few resources from the FUN manual to highlight in each *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Recommend use of TAU-USA for formation
 - ◆ Send Regional Formation Director to National Formation Workshops
- ❖ Revitalize formation teams
 - ◆ Recruit 1-2 members from each cluster for regional formation team – meet at least once per year at annual chapter
 - ◆ Organize formation directors within clusters – meet 2-4 times per year
- ❖ Improve communications
 - ◆ Share topics for REC meetings and summaries of meetings in *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Share excerpts from and/or the Regional fraternal and pastoral visitation report with the members every 3 years
 - ◆ Share local fraternity newsletters within clusters or region – post on LPR website
 - ◆ Feature interviews with and/or contributions from REC members in *La Pobrecita*

Apostolic Service: Our fraternities are engaged in evangelical and apostolic efforts for justice, peacemaking and care of creation. To encourage *apostolic service* within our Region, we:

- ❖ Strengthen clusters
 - ◆ Regional councilors increase outreach efforts by visiting local fraternities at their regular gatherings – when feasible
 - ◆ Recruit cluster coordinators to facilitate cluster gatherings
- ❖ Strengthen Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) & Youth Commissions
 - ◆ Populate the Commissions with volunteers from local fraternities
 - ◆ Increase funding for JPIC, Youth Commission activities
 - ◆ Increase interaction between JPIC, Youth Commission Coordinators and local fraternities, REC and NAFRA counterparts
 - ◆ Create a Commissions tab on the LPR website to communicate commission work and events and to facilitate recruitment
 - ◆ Send JPIC, Youth Commission Coordinators to national workshops
- ❖ Mentor new leaders
 - ◆ Encourage local fraternities and clusters to appoint JPIC, Youth Coordinators – through visitations (revise pre-visitation questionnaire)
 - ◆ Encourage local fraternities and clusters to host regional or cluster JPIC, Youth activities - through visitations (revise pre-visitation questionnaire)
 - ◆ Consider “twinning” with an emerging National or Regional fraternity in an English-speaking country in Africa
- ❖ Strengthen formation programs
 - ◆ Emphasize connections between study, conversion and action (let us go out to “repair what is broken” in the world) – incorporate a retreat experience into the annual chapter when there is not a visitation or election
- ❖ Improve communications
 - ◆ Publicly recognize the evangelical and apostolic activities of our local fraternities and individual members at the annual Chapter and through *La Pobrecita* and the LPR website – invite fraternities to submit articles for *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Utilize diocesan publications and resources to promote fraternity, cluster, and regional apostolic efforts – add local and regional publication contacts to distribution lists for announcements and events

Fraternal Life: United by our profession, we are called to build a more Christ-centered world through prayer, ongoing formation, and commitment to the Gospel life. To build *fruitful fraternities* we:

- ❖ Strengthen finances
 - ◆ Provide education opportunities for treasurers at annual chapters
 - ◆ Develop annual plans for timely payment of Fair Share – Councilors will communicate with their cluster fraternities each January to assist in timely completion of the annual census report
 - ◆ Develop plans for charitable giving – choose a Franciscan charity every year
- ❖ Strengthen spiritual assistance
 - ◆ Explore options for secular spiritual assistant training programs and offer these programs to members within region – publicize in *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Provide speakers for S.A. groupings at annual chapters
 - ◆ Periodically recognize and celebrate our S.A.s – 2018 annual chapter
- ❖ Ensure up-to-date visitations and elections
 - ◆ REC councilors work with fraternities to ensure visitations and elections are scheduled in a timely manner
 - ◆ Discuss/emphasize the importance of regular visitations and elections with ministers at annual chapter
- ❖ Strengthen formation programs
 - ◆ Regional Formation Director meets annually with Regional S.A.s
 - ◆ Encourage regular review of the Rule and Constitutions during visitations
 - ◆ Provide Liturgy of the Hours instruction and workshops on Franciscan formation
- ❖ Revitalize formation teams
 - ◆ Encourage local S.A.s to participate in fraternity formation programs
 - ◆ Develop cluster formation teams – meet 2-4 times/year
 - ◆ Provide training and support for formation teams
- ❖ Improve communications
 - ◆ Encourage fraternities to contribute their events to LPR website and *La Pobrecita*
 - ◆ Encourage all members to visit website regularly
 - ◆ Encourage fraternities to report database and directory changes **as they occur**
 - ◆ Submit annual reports on time – local and regional
 - ◆ Share *La Pobrecita* with all fraternity members when it is distributed to ministers

Franciscan Identity: We live a life of simplicity, charity, and reconciliation, conforming our thoughts and actions to those of Christ by means of daily conversion. To *increase Franciscan identity and vocations* in Lady Poverty Region, we:

- ❖ Promote regional and national events such as retreats, “the Q,” and the Summer Seminar for OFS
 - ◆ Encourage celebration of Franciscan feast days together as family – publicize in local fraternity newsletters, *La Pobrecita*, LPR website
 - ◆ Include recommitment ceremony at elective chapter – “Yes, this is what I want!”
 - ◆ Integrate retreat experience into the annual chapter in the free year (not an election or visitation year)
 - ◆ Plan a Regional pilgrimage to Assisi in 2018
- ❖ Encourage and strengthen local fraternities to increase vocations, resulting in decreased deactivations
 - ◆ At all times, celebrate our Franciscan identity
 - ◆ Conduct regular visits to local fraternities by REC councilors to “take the pulse” of the fraternity
 - ◆ Encourage local fraternities to hold annual “Come and See” events and invite nonmembers to participate in fraternity events such as “days of recollection,” retreats, the Transitus, feast day celebrations
 - ◆ Ensure that spiritual assistance is available to all fraternities
- ❖ Strengthen formation programs
 - ◆ Study the Rule and Constitutions regularly
 - ◆ Encourage members to read a biography of St. Francis annually
 - ◆ Encourage use of the *Franciscan Supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours* to celebrate the feasts and memorials of the Franciscan family saints
 - ◆ Provide a checklist for measuring personal conversion through apostolic action - “How am I doing?” in my Franciscan vocation
- ❖ Improve communications
 - ◆ Encourage members to visit the LPR website and to read *La Pobrecita* and TAU-USA
 - ◆ Encourage members to wear their Tau crosses in public settings, especially when performing apostolic actions