

## Sample Letter To Reach Out to Members Not Attending Fraternity Meetings

The following is a sample letter to a member who is not attending and the council wishes to reach out. We do not know the author of the letter, so we cannot give them credit. We thank whoever wrote it and acknowledge it is a great starting point for composing your own letter to a member who isn't attending fraternity meetings.

*Date*

Dear Franciscan Brother (or Sister),

In our spiritual life, there are periods of jubilation and joy as well as times of trial such as a “dark nights of the soul” when we do not feel the “touch of God” in our life. Sometimes it is just a sense of priority where “life” intervenes in spite of our good intentions and the next thing we know, it has been some time since we gathered with our spiritual brothers and sisters. This journey is not unusual and is often expected in our spiritual life but it is also how we cope and meet these challenges that makes the difference.

These trials occur in our Franciscan journey as well and we are wondering if you are experiencing one of these trials. We have been noticing that you have *not* been attending the fraternity meetings, which are an indispensable assist on your journey. After reaching out to you, we have not consistently heard from you, or seen you at our meetings, nor have we received any contributions to the common fund. We can only assume that you do not want to be active in your Franciscan spiritual journey at this time. Perhaps, Secular Franciscan participation is not right for you at this time of your life.

Your absence from fraternity life saddens us since you add to our fraternity life and you are missed. The absence of one of our brothers (or sisters) leaves a hole in the fabric of our fraternity- your unique contribution. Your commitment to life in fraternity was made at the time of your profession. It is what we sign up for when we say, “yes” to God and the Council is saddened by your absence.

So, we ask that you contact the Council as soon as possible and let us know your feelings about your Franciscan spiritual journey. If we do not hear from you, in all justice to the rest of the faithful members, we must lapse your name from the active fraternity roster. Of course, you will still remain a Secular Franciscan for life and can return to active participation at any time by contacting the fraternity minister. Our prayers are with you in this spiritual journey. Peace and all good.

Your brother and sister in St. Francis,

Minister

(on behalf of the Council,)

*Fraternity Name*

Secular Franciscan Order

Contact: (phone) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_