

Parish Chapter Governance Structure
of the Fraternity of St. Joseph's Men's Group
fsjjourneymen.com

Chartering Procedure:

A parish will form a group of Catholic men, known to the pastor to be in good standing with the Catholic Church, and petition the Fraternity Guiding Council to charter a chapter at their current parish by utilizing either of the two application documents located on the fsjjourneymen.com website.

- 1) FSJ Chapter Pastor Consent Form**
- 2) FSJ Chapter Registry Application**

Note: While in the process of assembling a chapter, a one-year charter period will be allocated to allow for the appointment and installation of all chapter officers.

Upon receiving the parish petition, the Fraternity Guiding Council will update the Fraternity registry to reflect that the parish has now become a chartered chapter of the Fraternity of St. Joseph and will formally notify the parish. The newly formed parish chapter shall create an official email address to be used by the Chapter Recorder for all communications.

Upon initial formation of the parish chapter, the chapter will begin a one-year charter period. This time is allotted for the officer positions of the parish chapter to be filled, and for the men of the parish to come together in the just model of St. Joseph as Journeymen of Joseph. Officer vacancies are expected in the start-up year. All new members are expected to read the FSJ code of conduct, vision and mission statements.

The Guiding Council encourages Fraternity growth through parish chapter interaction and communication, and welcomes suggestions or comments on how to improve the governance structure, placement of the officer positions, and other governance details.

Note: Hereafter, PC = Parish Chapter, and GC = Guiding Council

Parish Chapter Officer Positions: Minimum of 4 of the 6 positions should be laymen.

Chapter President - (Can be a parish pastor/priest/deacon) Chief officer of the PC, responsible for leadership of the chapter as well as other duties. Chapter President cannot hold more than one position (e.g., Chapter Chaplain).

Chapter Vice President - Aids the Chapter President in sharing fraternity objectives and facilitates the duties as assigned. This position is responsible for encouraging all parish ministries to interact, and will act as the liaison for the parish altar servers and ushers.

Chapter Recorder - Takes the minutes of the meetings, creates and maintains emails and records for the Chapter.

Media/Communications Coordinator - Handles all social media accounts and releases. Promotes events and works with and aids parish ministries to promote communal life.

Chapter Chaplain - A pastor/priest/deacon that provides spiritual guidance. Promotes the use of the "Tools of Reach" resources. This office cannot be filled by the Chapter President. The pastor can appoint a journeyman to this position if no clergy is available.

Vicenarian - A man 20 to 29 years of age, responsible for communicating the needs of his peers. Lends a voice to issues facing the parish/diocese. This position's input is required on all voting measures placed before the PC.

Note: Please see the expanded "Description of Parish Chapter Officer Positions" below for a detailed understanding of each role.

COVENANT FOR THE FRATERNITY OF ST. JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP

The principal venue of the Fraternity of St. Joseph Men's Group originated on November 2, 2019 in the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas in North Carolina.

The current mailing address of the group is St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28213.

Provision I: Ensure a registry is established providing information on the PC consecrated men, and men in good standing. These men must continue to be in good standing, not only as Catholic gentlemen, but to the brotherhood of Fraternal membership. The parish pastor can remove membership of those who fall outside of good standing with the Catholic Church.

Provision II: Ensure that each Confraternity has a Chaplain (deacon/priest or non-clergy journeymen appointed by the pastor) to enhance the awareness of the Fraternity's mission through commitment toward relational interaction with the younger men in the parish, and through placement of the "Tools of Reach" resources.

Provision III: Ensure that each Confraternity conducts a campaign to encourage consecration to Mary first, then to Joseph, leading the members to Jesus and consecration to the Holy Family.

Provision IV: Regular meetings of the group shall be held monthly at a minimum.

Provision V: Chaplain shall have a meeting with the Bishop/Archbishop of the diocese in which the group exists every other year to collaborate on the work of the Fraternity.

Provision VI: Consecration should be an intentional movement within the Fraternity. All members should be encouraged to begin the consecration process within one year of joining.

Provision VII: To perpetuate the Fraternity, the Chaplain shall ensure that seminary visits are held annually to ensure the "Tools of Reach" and consecration resources are offered to the seminarians, our future spiritual fathers, during their formation and discernment process.

Mission Statement:

The Fraternity of St. Joseph mission is to build up a band of brothers, journeymen of all ages, in the just model of St. Joseph, who strengthen each other through fellowship, prayer, the Holy Mass, and the sacraments (reference vision and mission statement).

Note: With the just model of St. Joseph as our example, the above covenants are placed as guidelines for our parish chapters. Any parish chapter that willingly departs from, or becomes disobedient to, the teachings of the Catholic Church will be removed from the Fraternity registry.

Description of Parish Chapter Officer Positions:

Chapter President - (Can be parish pastor/priest/deacon) The Chapter President's main responsibility is to lead the parish chapter in creating a relational environment that promotes involvement with the parish's younger men. To organize meeting speakers and current event topics that can help the younger men understand how to look at the physical world objectively. To intentionally remove the confusion of the worldly view by providing perspective to aid in understanding how to suffer well through worldly trials toward navigating the narrow path ahead. The individual in this office cannot hold more than one position (e.g., Chapter Chaplain).

Chapter Vice President - Support and relay the objectives/goals of the GC in creating the correspondence needed to be sent out to both the GC parish and the PC's. Assist the Chapter President in all related duties. This position is also responsible for encouraging all parish ministries to join together in parish events, and for supporting the needs of both the parish and faith communities. Will also proactively work toward understanding and fulfilling the needs of the parish altar servers and ushers.

Chapter Recorder - Create the parish chapter email address, maintain email correspondence within the parish and Guiding Council. The recorder shall complete and submit the **FSJ Annual Chapter Registry Update** form and maintain records, as well as gather and record suggestions and/or recommendations throughout the year for submission to the Guiding Council.

Social Media Coordinator - Establish parish chapter presence in the parish/diocese and on social media. Create a parish banner. Place bulletin and pulpit announcements. Prompte all parish ministry events.

Chapter Chaplain - (Can be parish pastor, priest, deacon or a non-clergy journeyman appointed by the pastor) Promote awareness of the fraternity tools of reach, and the place that the deposit of faith and the sacraments hold in placing order and discipline into young families, especially around St. Joseph feast days. Share awareness of the gathering stage of a man's life, and the effect it has had on the domestic church throughout salvation history ("St. Joseph and the Vocation of Fatherhood" pamphlet). It is the responsibility of the Chaplain to start and end FSJ meetings with the fraternity prayers.

Vicenarian - This position is to be held by a man between the ages of 20-29 (minimal age extension is permissible by the pastor). This office is not meant to limit the involvement of leadership among the younger men; it is meant to ensure it. Healthy balance of older and younger men's involvement assures growth of family and community. Vicenarian vote is required on all motions. (If absent from 3 meetings, the Vicenarian vote requirement is waived, and the vote is put to motion.)

Reporting Duty:

To maintain registry status, on June 30th of every year, the Chapter President (or agent acting under his authority) will renew the charter of the chapter by emailing the completed **FSJ Annual Chapter Registry Update** form to the Guiding Council, using the parish chapter email address with "(Parish Name) Renewal" in the subject line. Any concerns with the reporting process shall be noted to the Guiding Council in a timely manner.

Removal Process:

All officers of the parish chapter serve at the command of the pastor of the parish. The pastor has the right to remove any officer or member (not in good standing) from the Fraternity for the good of his parish community. The officers may petition the pastor for removal of an officer or member, but final judgment is reserved to the pastor's authority.