

SFO Telephone SCAM

To all my brothers and sisters: This is a warning of a scam artist who has decided to target the SFO. At least 8 people (so far all at national level, that is, our International Councilor, several regional ministers, and others working at national level) have received calls from someone calling himself either "Father" or "Bishop" Phillip. (I think I had the "honor" of getting the first call!) He says he's coming to your area, that he got your phone number from our international minister general (by name!) or others in national or international leadership positions, and has some sad tale that ultimately ends up asking you to wire money to him. He's placed collect calls to a couple of people saying the call is coming from "Secular Franciscan Order." One of the people, having already heard about this, got the call from the person saying he was a bishop flying to her town. She told him her town had no airport, that we were aware of his dishonest action and would pray that he discontinued this scam. He hung up!

So please warn your fraternity members to beware of any similar calls asking for money. If there's any question about any such caller, tell them you'll have to verify their identity first, and then let me know.