



Secular Franciscan Order

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

Welcome to the web site of the Regional Fraternity of Our Lady of the Angels of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO). The Secular Franciscan Order, which was formerly known as the Third Order of St. Francis, is an Order of laity and secular clergy within the Catholic Church, and was established by St. Francis of Assisi early in the thirteenth century. While not living in community, members gather together in fraternity on a regular basis for prayer, mutual support and formation and shared apostolic activity. By profession, they promise to follow a Rule of Life approved and confirmed by the Church. The most recent version of the Rule was approved by Pope Paul VI in June of 1978.

Our Regional Fraternity is composed of nearly 40 local fraternities of about 1,100 Secular Franciscans in Northern New Jersey, Manhattan, Staten Island and lower Westchester in New York. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel as disciples of Jesus Christ and strive to make present the charism of St. Francis of Assisi. Each fraternity has a Spiritual Assistant, who is usually a Franciscan Friar or a Franciscan Religious Sister or Brother.

The process of becoming a professed Secular Franciscan involves a commitment of about 2 to 2 1/2 years of formation. The initial formation process leads to profession or permanent commitment which is, by its nature, a lifetime commitment.

The Rule calls Secular Franciscans to work with all people of good will to bring about the Kingdom of God more effectively especially through four particular areas of apostolic witness and activity: Ecology, Family, Peace and Justice and Work.

Please continue to explore our website and, If you are interested in the Secular Franciscan Order, and, especially, if you feel that you have a vocation to join with us, please contact a fraternity near you or contact someone listed here in this website from our Regional Fraternity who will be happy to assist you with further inquiry.

Peace and everything good!

Ron Pihokker, SFO

Regional Minister

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity