

Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order -

Vocation Toolkit and Discernment

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Vocation - God's Call

**I have called you by name,
You are mine because you are precious in
my eyes, you are honored and I love you
(Isaiah 43:1)**

Franciscan Vocation

- **Willingness to bind oneself permanently to a consecrated lay form of life**
- **Inspired by the examples of Francis and Clare**
- **Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel**

Obligations

- **Discernment**
- **Personal presence at gatherings**
- **Witness to the Gospel**
- **Daily Prayer, especially the Mass and Divine Office**
- **Collaboration**



Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

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JPIC

YouFra

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The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Chapter II: The Way of Life

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Rule

➡ [Video: History of the Rule](#)

➡ [Letter regarding the Rule from our Minister General PDF](#)

➡ [Letter from our National Minister](#)

➡ [Pray the Liturgy of the Hours](#)

➡ [Who are the Secular Franciscans?](#)

Letters From Our Minister

➡ **Chapter of Ministers 2019
Visitation by National Fraternity
Convocation Letter and Registration Packet
PDF**

**VOCATIONS BROCHURE PROVIDED BY OUR NATIONAL
FRATERNITY PDF**
You may type in your fraternity's information and print copies!
[Vocations Tool Kit provided by
our National Fraternity](#)

 Find us on
Facebook

View our videos on


Click Here!

<http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>



Promoting Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) “Tool Kit”

All Secular Franciscans are all responsible for promoting vocations. You may be wondering – how do I do it or where do I begin? Here are some tools that may help:

1. Pray for vocations.
 - a. Pray the National Prayer for Vocations each day! Cards with the prayer in [English](#), [Korean](#), [Spanish](#), or [Vietnamese](#) are available.
 - b. Add petitions for vocations to your morning and evening prayer routine. Distribute to your fraternity members. Petitions are available in [English](#), [Korean](#) and [Spanish](#).
2. Promotional brochures – *Click here for a template for a promotional brochure in [English](#), [Korean](#) or [Spanish](#).* Fill it out with your fraternity specifics (gathering location/date/time). With permission from the pastor, leave in the back of the church. Share it with other Catholics (including family and coworkers). Post a copy on your fraternity website.
3. Business Cards – develop professional looking cards with your fraternity name and contact information.
4. Spread the word using social media. Like us on Facebook (Secular Franciscans – NAFRA, USA], follow us on Twitter (@SecFranNAFRA) and watch and share Testimonials on YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SecularFranciscans>)
5. Hold a Come & See event. Plan an event for people in your area to learn about the Order. This takes planning, preparation, advertising, but can be a wonderful way to spread the word. *Click here for a suggested outline in [English](#), [Korean](#), and [Spanish](#), with [talking points](#) for the event and an example [PowerPoint Presentation](#) with [handouts](#).* If you had some success, consider holding it annually. If you didn't have success, consider revamping the structure and trying it again. Share some of the testimonials from the YouTube Channel. Please share the outcome with us at 1.800.Francis@mail.com.
6. Practice your “elevator speech” about your vocation. (what does it mean to you? Why are you a Secular Franciscan? What does that “T” around your neck mean?) Example: “I am a follower of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Another man followed him in the 13th Century – Francis Of Assisi. Have you heard of him? Francis fell in love with Jesus’ teaching of peace, love and forgiveness – the Gospel. This is a way of life for all. I found it, rather it found me a few years ago. It is so rewarding to live by example, to help others according to the Scriptures... As we say...Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel. There is more to learn – would you like to get together to talk about it further?” *Click [here](#) for example questions to inspire your testimonial.*
7. Record your own testimony and send it to 1.800.Francis@mail.com for posting to the Secular Franciscans YouTube Channel.

Let us know what has worked well for you. Remember the best way to spread the word about vocations is personal witness and invitation. So, while you are living the Rule by spreading Christ's peace and joy to others, it may be a good time to share about the vocation too!

Thanks to God for the gift of our vocations. It is a gift, so share it!

Don't Say "No" Before You Say "Yes"

*Visit the Secular Franciscans,
Get to Know Us and
Ask Yourself "Is God calling me?"*

Where?

Place: _____

Location: _____

City: _____

When?

Day _____

Date: _____

Additional Information: _____

Why?

Because God won't stop calling
until you answer!

Come with a friend or family member.

Journey with us.

_____ *Fraternity in*
_____ *is one of _____ fraternities in*
the _____ Region in
the state/s of _____
and one of almost 1200 in the United States.
When you become a Secular Franciscan,
you can visit any of our fraternities as a
brother or sister in Christ and in Francis.

10/2019

Selection from...

The Exposition of the Our Father

by St. Francis of Assisi

...Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven:

so that we may love Thee

with our whole heart (cf. Lk 10:27)

thinking of Thee always,

with our whole soul

desiring Thee always,

with our whole mind

directing unto Thee all our intentions,

seeking Thy honor in all things

and with all our strength

expending our every strength

and sense of soul and body

in submission to Thy love

and nothing else;

and may we love our neighbors as ourselves

drawing all to Thy love

to the extent of our abilities,

rejoicing over the good things of others

just as over our own

and compassionating them in evils

and giving offense to no one (cf. 2 Cor 6:3)...

...But deliver us from evil:

past, present, and future.

To speak with someone about the Secular
Franciscan Order and how you can meet the
family, call or e-mail us:

Fraternity _____

Contact: _____

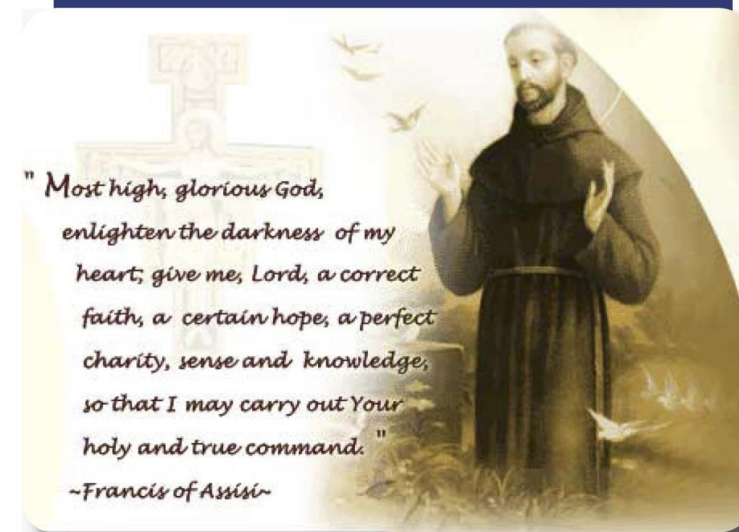
Phone: _____

E-mail _____



Come & See

Who are the Secular Franciscans?



" Most high, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my
heart; give me, Lord, a correct
faith, a certain hope, a perfect
charity, sense and knowledge,
so that I may carry out Your
holy and true command. "
~Francis of Assisi~



Who are Secular Franciscans?

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family. We are single and married. We work, worship and play in the community where we live.

An official Order within the Roman Catholic Church, the OFS was founded by St. Francis of Assisi almost 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for practical ways to embrace the gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.

In today's world we are plagued by time schedules, projects and activities that leave us tense and stressed. The OFS becomes our place of refuge and renewal where our brothers and sisters offer Francis to support and inspire us. You, too, can become a lifetime member of our family -- if God is calling you.

***Enhance your spiritual life,
serve through apostolic
ministries, continue your
education in your faith and the
Franciscan Movement!***

What do Secular Franciscans Do?

Secular Franciscans follow the OFS rule that requires us to spend time in community with our Franciscan brothers and sisters.

We gather at least monthly. We support each other through the ups and downs of daily life. We pray together. We take opportunities to learn about our Church, our community and our world.

Our rule mandates us to be involved in apostolic ministries and with youth. When we are called to action, we embrace the call joyfully. Some of us are religious education teachers, some have a special ministry to animals, some have made a commitment to Perpetual Adoration. Some work with the poor and homeless. Some work in Soup Kitchens or visit the elderly and sick; some have youth ministries.

As a fraternity, we take action on issues that affect the lives of others. We do letter-writing campaigns in response to social justice issues; we support the efforts of our brothers and sisters who are serving the poor and lepers half-way around the world.



Is the OFS for you?

If you have a Franciscan vocation, you probably have a desire to do something more. Perhaps you feel a need for support in growing spiritually. Or, deep down, you sense a need to serve God in a special way. Or, for years, you have felt an affinity with St. Francis. He seems to pop up all around and you just don't know why. Perhaps, God is calling you!

Getting to know the OFS better may be a way to determine if you have a vocation.

You'll have plenty of time to get to know us before you make any formal commitment (profession). The OFS requires at least nine months for orientation and inquiry. During that time, you'll attend our monthly gatherings and have a few informal classes. Then if you feel the call to continue, you will enter Candidacy and have another 18 to 36 months of formal discussion, education and fraternal involvement before you make a permanent commitment at the time of Profession.

If you feel that God is calling you to do something more, please call us.

***Is God calling you to walk
in the footsteps of St.
Francis of Assisi?***

“Come & See” Event Suggested Logistics, Outline and Talking Points March 2018



Your fraternity is interested in spreading the word about the OFS and the members would like to host a “Come & See” event. Many formats can be successful. This document contains one example format with some **suggestions** for planning and organizing the event. These are just suggestions – an example for you to use to plan such an event. These are not required to any extent. Create an event that meets the characteristics of your fraternity.

Pre-event Planning:

Start planning the event at least six months ahead of time.

- Set a date,
- Arrange for a location,
- Develop the agenda (suggested outline and talking points are provided below) include times for each portion of the agenda. Set a time limit for the event. This is an introduction. Don't expect to cover the entire three years of formation in one afternoon or evening. Suggest that talks be no longer than 15 minutes each. The prayer and information segments should be no more than 60 minutes with time for social afterwards.
- Assign speakers topics and have them prepare and practice talks, and
- Advertise for the event (e.g. bulletins, pulpit announcements at your parishes, diocesan papers, leave business cards in the back of parishes with information about the date).
- Assign people to set up, prepare a sign-in sheet, bring handouts, bring refreshments, clean-up.
- Arrange for audio-video equipment if necessary.
- Ask each member to invite people to the event.

Day of Event:

- Get there early to set up.
- Put up signs to direct people to the room.
- Set up a sign-in table with sign-in sheet with members to greet visitors
- Set up refreshments and any audio-visual equipment.
- Go over with presenters the flow of the event.

After the Event:

- Contact the persons who attended.
- Invite them to a regular gathering.
- Let them know about the next steps.

Suggested Agenda

Prayer Service

Welcoming

- You are drawn to the way St. Francis followed Christ.
- We gather together in a tradition that has been around for more than 800 years
- An Order established by St. Francis, approved by the Pope and the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church
- Focus is bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to life in the world.
- Many aspects to learn about – so we won't be able to cover it today.
- To give you an introduction, we will have a few brief sessions.
- Discussion about “vocation” for people like us – living our faith more deeply.
- An overview of the Franciscan family along with a brief overview of the Franciscan Charism.

Topics for large group or breakout sessions:

- A. Vocation
- B. Franciscan Family
- C. Franciscan Charism

(see pages 2-4 for talking points)

Social Time – one on one. Make sure your members are ready to share their testimonies one-on-one. Ask the visitors about their journeys and what moved them to come to the session.

Consider holding an event annually.

We want to hear from you so we can learn from your experiences. Please, share your experiences at 1.800.Francis@mail.com.

These tools may be revised based on your feedback.

Come and See Event

- **Pre-Event Planning**

- Set date and Location
- Advertise
- Invite
- Develop Agenda
- Assign Speakers
- Prepare! Prepare! Prepare!

- **Day of Event**

- Arrive Early
- Greet Visitors
- Presentations and Testimonials
- Social Time

- **After the Event**

- Contact Visitors
- Invite to next gathering

Key Points for Come and See Event

- **We are drawn to the way St. Francis followed Christ**
- **We gather together in a tradition that has been around for more than 800 years**
- **We are an Order established by St. Francis, approved by the Pope and the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church**
- **Our focus is bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to life in the world**

Vocational Testimonials

- 1. Describe the most important moment of your Secular Franciscan vocation.**
- 2. How would you describe the OFS to someone who knows nothing about it?**
- 3. During your Secular Franciscan life, who/what has inspired you most? Why? How?**
- 4. If you had it to do over, would you become a Secular Franciscan? Why?**
- 5. How did you learn about the OFS?**
- 6. How do you respond when someone asks: "What's that 'T' around your neck?"?**
- 7. What does being a Secular Franciscan mean to you?**

Small Group Sharing

- **What does being a Franciscan mean to you?**
- **How was your vocation made clear to you?**

National Prayer for Vocations to the OFS

O good and gracious God,

**God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love,
as we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis,**

choosing daily to live the Gospel life,

help us to help others hear your call.

**Help us to help others recognize their vocation as a Secular
Franciscan**

that You have already planted in their heart.

Help us, so that together

we all may work to bring the Gospel to life. Amen!