

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

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

## Where?

Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_

## When?

Day of week: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why?

Because God won't stop calling  
until you answer!

*Feel free to come to a meeting  
and introduce yourself*

Come with a friend or family member.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Fraternity in*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *is one of* \_\_\_\_\_  
*fraternities in the* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Region in the state(s) of* \_\_\_\_\_  
*and one of over 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.*

*Lord,*

make me an instrument of your  
*Peace.*

Where there is hatred, let me sow  
*Love.*

Where there is injury,  
*Pardon.*

Where there is doubt,  
*Faith.*

Where there is despair,  
*Hope.*

Where there is darkness,  
*Light.*

And where there is sadness,  
*Joy.*

**O Divine Master,** Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

-- *Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi*

To speak with someone about the Secular Franciscan Order and to meet the family, stop by at one of our regularly scheduled meetings.

Call \_\_\_\_\_

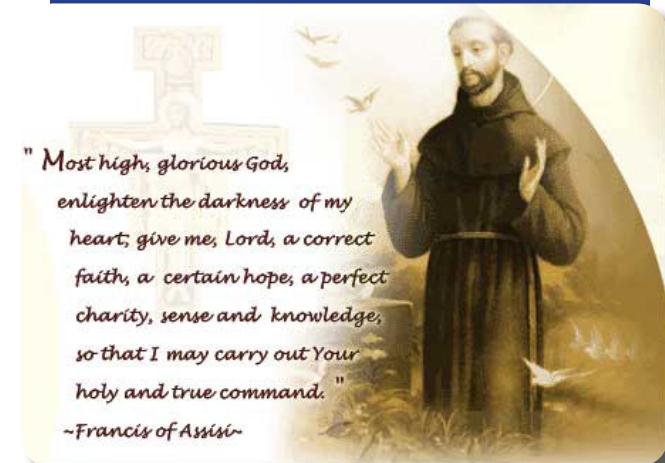
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to telling you all about our Fraternity and our dear St. Francis.



# Come & See

How  
*Secular Franciscans*  
Live Joyfully  
In the World  
&  
Celebrate  
God's Creation



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

The SFO is a secular movement, established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 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 SFO becomes our place of refuge and renewal where our brothers and sisters in Francis support and inspire us. You, too, can become a life-time 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 SFO 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.

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 SFO 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 SFO 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 commitment. The SFO requires three months of orientation and six months of inquiry. During that time, you'll come to our monthly gatherings and have a few informal classes

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