

St. Pope John Paul II said of St. Francis: "...no other Saint of the Church has sung the praises of peace and of the universal brotherhood of all God's children as has Saint Francis of Assisi. They called you the "Poverello of Assisi", and you were and have remained one of the men who has most generously given to others. You therefore have an enormous wealth, a great treasure. And the secret of your wealth is hidden in the Cross of Christ" ✚

Pope Benedict has said: "Francis of Assisi is a great teacher of our faith and our praise. When he fell in love with Jesus Christ, he found the face of God-Love; he became his passionate singer and an authentic "minstrel of God." In light of the beatitudes, we understand the meekness and humility with which he related to others, becoming a witness and agent of peace."

Pope Francis took St. Francis' name because his friend asked him not to forget the poor:

"That word, the **poor**, lodged in me here," Pope Francis said, tapping his head. "It was then that I thought of St. Francis. And then I thought of wars and about peace and that's how the name came to me — a man of peace, a poor man."

St. Francis' Prayer before the San Damiano Cross:

**Most High and Glorious God,
Enlighten the darkness of my
heart!
Give me right Faith,
certain Hope,
and perfect Charity.
Lord, give me insight and Wisdom,
That I might always discern
Your Holy and True Will.
Amen.**

For more information about the Secular Franciscan Order in Belleville, Ontario, please contact:

Mary Olsen @ 613-969-6606

or

Silvana Loughheed @ 613-968-7309

Monthly meetings at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 169 N Park St.

**LOOKING FOR MORE?
WANT TO GO DEEPER?**



**FRANCIS LISTENED.
GOD SAID,
"FRANCIS, GO REBUILD
MY CHURCH. IT IS
FALLING INTO RUINS!"**

**IS GOD CALLING
YOU?**

COME & SEE

The Secular Franciscan Order (Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis: OFS)

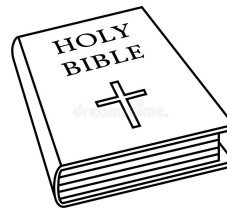
Secular Franciscans, make up the third branch of the Franciscan Family formed by lay Catholic men and women who seek to observe the Gospel of Jesus by following the example of Francis of Assisi.

When we get together we...

- **We seek to mature in our Catholic Christian spirituality through prayer and study**
- **We explore the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare**
- **We study our faith in light of the Gospel, so as to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. This is the heart of the OFS Rule, our way of life.**
- **Have small group discussions**
- **Encourage peace by living the Beatitudes**
- **We pursue Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), which flows naturally from the life of St. Francis.**



Gospel Living
Joy
Peace
Humility
Simplicity
Poverty of Spirit
Prayer
Fraternity



Who are St. Francis and St. Clare?

St. Francis and St. Clare were both raised in Assisi, Italy, surrounded by wealth and privilege, in the 13th Century. Our Holy Mother Church was going through many trials. The Crusades were in high swing and the faithful had become lukewarm at best. Sadly, corruption and indifference seemed to plague all of Christendom. (Sound familiar?) Francis and Clare rejected this social climate in a radical way. They renounced materialism, shallow social relations and the mistreatment of creation so as to seek deeper intimacy and a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father. Through voluntary poverty, charitable service to all those in need, and prayer and penance, they both glorified God with their lives and essentially put “Christ” back in Christian. St. Francis is the first known person to have received the wounds of Christ (the stigmata). St. Clare is the first woman in the Church to have a Rule for religious women approved by our One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.