

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
(Prayer for Peace)*

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;
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.



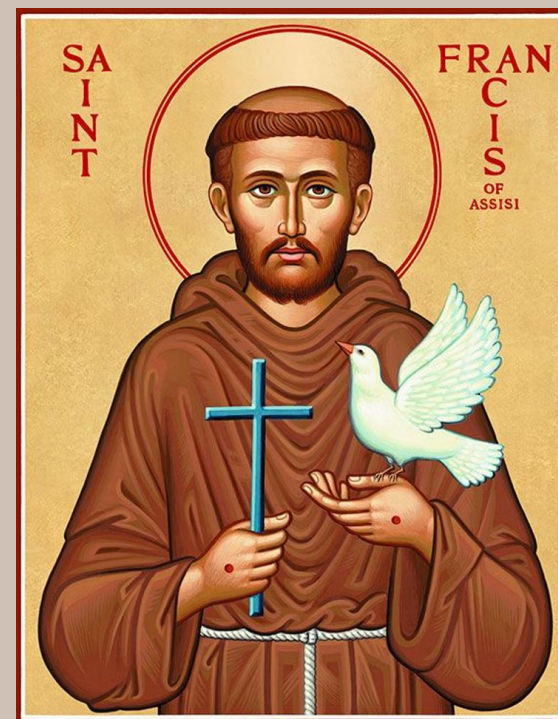
**Contact the Fraternity
near you.**

Fraternity of St. Benedict the Black
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ARE YOU BEING CALLED?



THE SECULAR
FRANCISCAN
VOCATION



Trillium Regional Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order

Who are the Secular Franciscans?

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a worldwide community of Catholic men and women, married and single. We live in the world in communion with the Church in Rome. We seek to pattern our lives after Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. OFSs are members of the Third Order of St. Francis as canonically established by Pope Honorius III in 1221.

Our purpose is to bring the gospel to life where we live, work, worship and play. We look for practical ways to embrace the gospel in our lives and try to help others grow in the faith.

In today's world we are plagued by time schedules, projects and activities that may leave us tense and stressed. The OFS becomes our place of spiritual refuge and renewal where others support and inspire us on our spiritual journey.

Secular Franciscans use the example of walking in St. Francis' footsteps as we endeavor to bring Christ more fully into our daily lives.

"St Francis of Assisi exemplified in an outstanding way all of the virtues that Jesus Christ taught and lived by."

-Father John Sullivan, OFM

What do Secular Franciscans do?

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

Secular Franciscans do not make religious vows of chastity or poverty.

Through profession, we make a permanent commitment to follow the rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The OFS members are involved in apostolic ministries and with youth. We are called to action; we embrace the call joyfully.

Examples of Franciscan service include: teaching religious education, leading the rosary before masses, committing to Perpetual Adoration, serving as stewards of the environment and working with the poor, sick and homeless.

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. Perhaps, deep down, you sense a need to serve God in a special way. Perhaps you have felt an affinity with St. Francis of Assisi, Padre Pio, St. Clare, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Louis IX, St. Joan of Arc or other Franciscan saints. Perhaps God is calling you to the Franciscan family.

Getting to know the OFS better may be a way to determine if you have a Franciscan vocation. You'll have plenty of time to get to know us before you make the commitment.

The three required phases of spiritual progression that encompass the two-year period prior to the formal lifetime commitment are: Orientation, Inquiry and Candidacy. Both during exploration of a potential vocation in the Fraternity and following the lifetime commitment, there are monthly gatherings, informal study sessions, retreats, volunteering opportunities and other programs.