

MISSION STATEMENT
*of the National Work Commission of the
Secular Franciscan Order of the United States of America*
2003

The work Commission of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States of America has as its mission to remind the sisters and brothers of our commitment to embody our lives of prayer by bringing to the workplace an experience of participation in the work of God who creates, redeems and inspires. In our manner of working and in our hopes and aspirations for material success, Secular Franciscans should mirror the work of the Holy Trinity in the garden of this world, the laboratory of life and the classroom of human endeavor as mandated in our Rule:

*“Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the
creation, redemption, and service of the human community”
(The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Article 16)*

so they may be faithful servants.

*“Who is the faithful, farsighted servant whom the master has
put in charge of his household to dispense food at need? Happy
that servant whom his master discovers at work on his return!” (Mt. 24:45-46)*

This was the example of our poor little brother Francis, who blesses us for doing likewise:

*“I worked with my own hands and I am still determined to work and with all my
heart I want all the brothers to be busy with some kind of work that can be carried on
without scandal. Those who do not know how to work should learn. Not because they want
to get anything for these efforts, but to give good example and to avoid idleness...(Test. 20-
21). And whoever observes all this may be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most
high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the
Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints. And I Brother Francis, your poor
worthless servant add my share...to that most holy blessing, Amen” (Test. 40-41).*

Goal 1: Provide a focus for discussion and evoke comment at all levels of fraternity life on presenting a viewpoint that is authentically Franciscan on work, workers and the workplace.

Goal 2: Share information about programs developed at various levels of fraternity life to promote a Christian attitude toward work that brings the gospel to life and life to the gospel.

Goal 3: Identify resource people, whether they be other seculars, friars, religious men and women, and those not formally part of the Franciscan family, who can make a positive contribution to accomplishing these goals.

Goal 4: Compile and update a list of resource materials useful in accomplishing these goals.

Goal 5: Disseminate information about programs and projects developed within or outside the Franciscan family that stimulate, question, and propose opportunities to present a response to local, national, and international needs.

Goal 6: Provide information to, and advise the National Executive Council on ways to address work-related issues.

Goal 7: Develop and maintain correspondence with the Regional Ministers, Spiritual Assistants and Regional Work Commission chairs for the further use and dissemination of information. Fraternities or individual Secular Franciscans may contact the National Work Commission members if their needs have not been met within their region. E-mail is the preferred method of contact.

Goal 8: Provide mentorship and information to the Youth/Young Adult Commission.

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