

# 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.



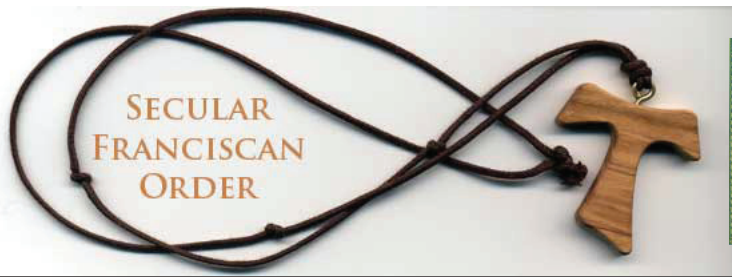
## Come & See

# 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 (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.

The OFS 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 OFS 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 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.

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 commitment. The OFS 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. Then, if you feel the call to continue, you'll have another 18 months of formal discussion, education and involvement as a candidate.

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?*