

**Come
join our
Franciscan
family**

For further information
on the
Secular Franciscan Order

CONTACT:

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.

Franciscan Peace Prayer

**Is Christ calling
YOU?**

**to walk in the footsteps of
St. Francis of Assisi**

Jesus spoke to Francis from the crucifix in
the little church of San Damiano in Assisi.

Is Christ calling you

The Call

As practising Catholics we sometimes feel the need, or an inner urging, to do a little more than just attend Mass and be a good parishioner. If our faith is to be truly meaningful, we want it to shape our whole life — who we are and what we do.

If you feel this way, God could be calling you to deepen your spirituality and add a new dimension to your life. He could be calling you to walk in the footsteps of one of the most outstanding saints of the Church, St. Francis of Assisi. This is best done by becoming a member of the Franciscan family.

What is the Secular Franciscan Order?

The Secular Franciscan Order is the lay branch of the worldwide Franciscan family — a spiritual family that was raised up in the Church through St. Francis of Assisi nearly eight hundred years ago.

The Order is comprised of local fraternities and works through them. There is probably one near you. That is where you begin your Franciscan journey. Check the reverse side of this leaflet for the contact details of a local fraternity.

to walk in the footsteps of

Where does the journey take us?

As Secular Franciscans, we try to journey through life guided by the Rule of the Order, which states:

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people.

We live and work in society according to our calling. No matter what that calling is, we try, as St. Francis did, to live all aspects of our life in accord with the spirit of the gospel. In this way, by our example, we proclaim the primacy of Christ to the world.

How do fraternities work?

Local fraternity members meet monthly to pray and to develop their Franciscan vocation together. They read Scripture, study the life and writings of St. Francis, and discuss their apostolic works.

Visitors to a fraternity are very welcome. If they decide after a few meetings that they would like to proceed to membership, they embark on a guided program, which leads ultimately to profession in the Order.

Saint Francis?

Who was St. Francis?

St. Francis of Assisi was a thirteenth century saint who, hearing the words of the gospel, turned from a comfortable and individualistic life to one of absolute simplicity and service.

He gathered many men around him and had the Rule of his First Order of friars ("little brothers") approved by the pope.

St. Clare of Assisi wished to follow Francis' way of life and founded the Franciscan Second Order, the Poor Clare nuns.

St. Francis also gave a Way of Life to lay people who wished to follow him; thus inspiring his Third Order, now called the Secular Franciscan Order — the SFO.