Who are Secular Franciscans?

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS – Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis) 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 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 apostolate ministries, and 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. We support each other as family.

Our rule mandates us to be involved in apostolic ministries and with youth. We are Brothers and Sisters of Penance. We live simply, and are called to be peacemakers.

Some of us are religious education teachers; some have a special ministry to life issues, some have a commitment to Perpetual Adoration. Some work with the poor and homeless.

As a fraternity we pray and make sacrifices for priests. We are committed to prayer and frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We try to live our lives like Jesus in our daily duty. We are committed to lovingly serve others.

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. Our fraternity suggests six months of orientation and six months of inquiry. During that time, you’ll come to our monthly gatherings and have a few formal classes.

Following that you will be admitted into the order and participate in a two year candidacy program leading to profession.

*Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi?*
Don’t Say “No” Before You Say “Yes”

Visit the Secular Franciscans, Get to Know Us and Ask Yourself “Is God calling me?”

Where?
Church of the Epiphany
1900 111th Avenue
Coon Rapids, Minnesota

When?
Last Sunday of the month,
2:00 PM
Charity Room

Why?
Because God won’t stop calling you until you answer!

Feel free to come to a meeting and introduce yourself

Come with a friend or a family member.

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 or call Teresa Walker, OFS at 763-553-1343 or email: twalkerofs@gmail.com or Jean McGinty, OFS at 763-494-8693 or e-mail: jeannmcginty@comcast.net.

We look forward to telling you about our Fraternity and our dear St. Francis.

Saint Alphonsa Fraternity in Coon Rapids, Minnesota is one of 24 Fraternities in the Queen of Peace Region in the states of MN, IA, ND, SD, NE and WI 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.