



The local fraternity of Secular Franciscans in your area is the:

They meet at:

They meet on:

They meet from:

*Come and See!*

# THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

*Over 800 years ago in Assisi, Italy, a man named Francis prayed in front of the San Damiano Icon in the small San Damiano Church. He was told by God to "Rebuild My Church". Francis chose the life of Christ as his guide, and people began following him embracing the Gospel values of poverty, joy, simplicity, gratitude, peace and LOVE.*

*Are you being called to rebuild the Church of today?*



*Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi?*

There are approximately 15,000 members of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States. At present the Secular Franciscan Order is governed by its own *Rule of Life* as well as general Church Law.

Franciscan spirituality is going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

The Secular Franciscan Order enables the Franciscan charism to be lived out by married and single members of the laity, and by diocesan clergy--bishops, priests and deacons.

The Secular Franciscan Order is just that, an Order within the Catholic Church and not an organization or club.

Secular Franciscans strive to live the Gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by spreading the Gospel by word and example in their homes, at work and in their parishes.

Secular Franciscans are members of a local fraternity, a living and active Christian community. The fraternity is the privileged place for developing their sense of Church, their Franciscan vocation and ministry.

Monthly fraternity meetings with their common prayer, formation, and fellowship provide the spiritual

nourishment needed to live as a Christian in the world.

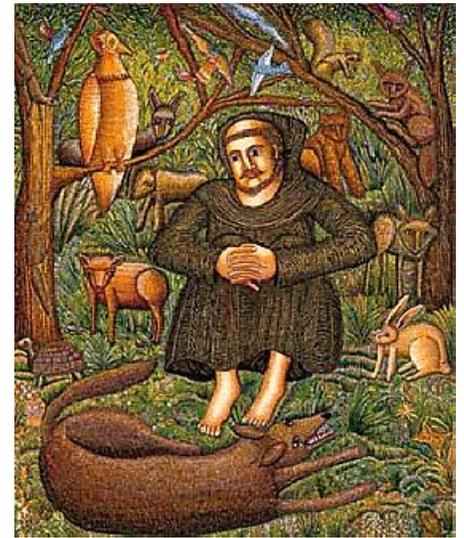
If you are interested, you must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, be willing to accept that belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order means a life-long commitment to the Franciscan way of life, and be at least 17 years of age.

There are 3 stages of Initial Formation: a) Orientation, 3-6 months (exploring the Secular Franciscan Order through discernment); b) Inquiry, 6-9 months (looking at the process of becoming a member of the Order); and c) Candidacy, 18 months to 3 years (journeying with the fraternity to find out if God is calling you to live the Franciscan way of life). [Times may be extended, but not shortened.]

Formation does not end with Initial Formation, but continues as On-Going Formation for the rest of your life.

If you are searching for a way to renew your Baptismal commitment, to deepen your relationship with the Lord, and give witness to the Kingdom of God, the Lord may be inviting you to consider a vocation as a Secular Franciscan.

*May the Lord give you Peace!  
Pax et bonum!*



**Please feel free to contact the person listed below. Your local fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be happy to provide you with more information, or you can call us at 1-800-FRANCIS, or access [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)**

**We are members of the Queen of Peace Region and can be accessed at [www.queenofpeaceregion.org](http://www.queenofpeaceregion.org)**