

## Do You Feel Called?

- Called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world
- Called to share your journey in Christ
- Called to embrace Gospel Poverty by a simple lifestyle
- Called to live the Gospel as your guide
- Called to promote justice and peace
- Called to promote respect for human life from conception to natural death
- Called to uphold the dignity of each human individual.



*"After the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel."*

**--St. Francis, The Testament**

## Peace Prayer

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 **PARDONING**  
that we are pardoned; and it is in **DYING**  
that we are **BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.**  
--inspired by St. Francis of Assisi

## The Tau Cross



This ancient biblical sign of faithfulness and renewal is found in Rev. 7:3 and Ezekiel 9:4. St. Francis adopted the TAU as his signature sign of conforming his life to Christ.

**For the Secular Franciscan**, the TAU is our sign as a follower of Francis of Assisi to help us build a more fraternal and evangelical world!

## Secular Franciscan Order



*Feel free to come to our gathering and meet us. We meet the second Wednesday evening at 6:30PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Belchertown, MA. We come from the area towns of: Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Ludlow, Springfield, Ware, and Wilbraham.*

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**St. Pio Fraternity**

Belchertown, MA

## **Who are the Secular Franciscans?**

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family. Seculars are Catholic Christians "single and married." We work, worship and gather in fraternity in the community where we live.

The OFS is a secular movement founded 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 the same.

In today's world we are committed to making a difference as a fraternity in the life of the Church and of the world. The Fraternity Life as a Secular becomes our place of renewal, where our sisters and brothers in St. Francis support and inspire us. You, too, can become a member of the St. Pio Fraternity – if God is calling you in the way of St. Francis!



## **Francis' Vision**

Over 800 years ago, in the Italian town of Assisi, a young man named Francis fell totally in love with God and decided to take God at his word by living out completely the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Francis was not intending anyone to notice him; he did not intend to attract followers; and it was surely not his intention to start a movement. All he wanted was to give himself completely to God, and to love people, and to help them to love God.

## **God has Other Plans**

God had other plans, however, and pretty soon people began to notice Francis and how he was living. Then they too, began to want to live the Gospel completely. Finding guidance through the Holy Spirit and the Church, Francis' Rule or Way of Life essentially is to live the Gospel in fraternity. He called his brothers, the "lesser brothers," or "Friars Minor".

## **Women Also Joined**

Women also wanted to join this way of life as Nuns. St. Clare of Assisi, Francis' first woman follower was the first woman to write a Rule of Life for women. Today, they are known as the Poor Clares. They too are Gospelbased and have chosen the privilege of poverty.

## **Lay People Men...Women**

Women and men of the Church, married and single, young and old, rich and poor also came to Francis to learn how they could live the Gospel in their own circumstances. Francis formed a rule of life for secular women and men, that is based on the Gospel. We are the Secular Franciscans of Saint Pio Fraternity. See if the sandal fits? Pay us a visit