

Rite of Admission Ceremony (*Ritual p. 11*)

Reader 1: _____

The Lord has called us to live the gospel way of life in fraternity, as he showed it to St. Francis of Assisi. He brings us together today to receive _____ (& _____) who, moved by the Holy Spirit, has (have) asked to be admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order and wants (want) to begin her (their) time of formation which will culminate in her (their) profession or permanent commitment to the gospel life. We will now renew our faith in the Holy Spirit and call on him: May he give us the grace to encourage and sustain her (their) proper formation and to walk with _____ (& _____) to attain her (their) goal.

Opening Rite

Hymn: *In Perfect Charity* (Randall DeBruyn)

Spiritual Assistant: Sign of the cross ✠ and Greeting

Let us acknowledge the presence of God and turn to him in prayer. (Pause)

Lord our God,

you have sent your son, Jesus Christ,

to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Grant that _____ (& _____)

who is (are) asking to be admitted

into the Secular Franciscan Order,

and all of us,

may hear the words of the Gospel fully

and may observe them attentively.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *All: Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

Reader 2: _____

Let us hear the Word of God in the spirit of our blessed father Francis who encourages us:

In that love which is God, I beg and implore you to hear these fragrant words of our Lord Jesus Christ with humility and love, putting them into practice with all gentleness and observing them perfectly.

Reader 3: _____

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

You have been taught that when we were baptized in Christ Jesus we were baptized in his death; in other words, when we were baptized we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. *All:* Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: *For You Are My God* (*John Foley*)

Gospel Alleluia

Verse: I count all things worthless but this:
 to gain Jesus Christ and to be found in him.

Spiritual Assistant:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark:

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. “The time has come,” he said, “and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily***Rite of Admission******Director of Formation:***

Would the one(s) who is (are) asking to be admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order please come forward, namely, _____
(& _____) [Candidate(s) full name(s)].

Candidate(s): Present

Minister: [after Candidate(s) comes forward]

_____, (& _____), what is your request?

Candidate:

I ask to enter this fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, so that I may live more intensely and faithfully the grace and dedication of my Baptism by following Jesus Christ according to the teachings and example of St. Francis of Assisi. In this way, I intend to be of service to all through my secular state of life for the glory of God and to fulfill his plan of love in behalf of all people.

Candidates:

We ask to enter this fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, so that we may live more intensely and faithfully the grace and dedication of our Baptism by following Jesus Christ according to the teachings and example of St. Francis of Assisi. In this way, we intend to be of service to all through our secular state of life for the glory of God and to fulfill his plan of love in behalf of all people.

Minister:

This fraternity is pleased to accept your request. I, therefore, receive you into the Secular Franciscan Order so that you may begin your time of formation and experience our Franciscan life in preparation for your permanent commitment.

Spiritual Assistant:

The Church and the Franciscan Family accept and confirm your sincere intention. May the Lord allow you to persevere in this desire and to be a leaven of gospel life within the world.

The Whole Community: (p. 15 in the Ritual)

Thanks be to God! Blessed are those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole soul and mind, with all their strength, and love their neighbors as themselves. Blessed are those who despise the ways of the flesh with their vices and sins, and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed are those who produce worthy fruits of penance. Oh, how happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things and persevere in doing them, because “the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them” and he will make “his home and dwelling among them.” And they are children of the heavenly Father, whose work they do, and they are spouses, brothers, and mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Applause****Presentation of the Rule of Life and the TAU Cross***

Director of Formation presents Candidate(s) with the Rule and says: The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and with people. May this too be your way of life.

O.F.S. Member(s):

_____ presents Candidate with a Tau cross and says: As you turn toward Christ in the spirit of St. Francis, receive this sign of the Secular Franciscan Order and become one with us.

(_____ presents Candidate with a Tau cross and says: As you turn toward Christ in the spirit of St. Francis, receive this sign of the Secular Franciscan Order and become one with us.)

Spiritual Assistant:

Introduces the Universal Intercessions: *using his own wording*

Reader 4: _____

Our response is – Lord, hear our prayer.

1) O God, you have given us the mission of sharing the Good News of your Kingdom with all people; continue to raise up in the Franciscan family more of our brothers and sisters to spread the Gospel. We pray:

2) Help us to see the uniqueness of our own share in the Franciscan Charism; reminding us that we, too, have a message, a mission, and a motive by which to show all people that God truly lives. We pray:

3) We thank You, Lord, for our vocation to live the Gospel as Franciscans; help us to call others to this life of penance by sharing with them the task of rebuilding the Church. We pray:

4) The Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist all had a special message for Francis; may they now speak just as eloquently to us, leading us to servant leadership. We pray:

5) Holy Father, you made your servant Francis a perfect follower of your Son; grant that we too may follow his example and faithfully observe the Gospel of Christ. We pray:

6) Holy Father, you marked your servant Francis with the stigmata of the sufferings of your Son; teach us always to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray:

7) (one woman) For our sister _____, as she begins her time of Candidacy, that the Spirit of the Lord and the prayers of her Franciscan sisters and brothers may sustain her in her journey of discovering God's will for her.
We pray:

Or

7) (two women) For our sisters _____ and _____, as they begin their time of Candidacy, that the Spirit of the Lord and the prayers of their Franciscan sisters and brothers may sustain them in their journey of discovering God's will for them.
We pray:

Spiritual Assistant:

Concludes the Petitions and leads the Lord's Prayer.

Concluding prayer:

Let us pray. All-powerful, most holy, most high and supreme God, all good, supreme good, total good, you who alone are good: we give you all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing and every good. So be it. So be it.

All: Amen

Minister:

_____ (& _____), the Secular Franciscan Fraternity of _____ very gladly promises to help you in your journey with friendship, prayer, and the witness of its life. You, on the other hand, strengthen our fraternity in numbers, by virtue of your presence and participation, and through the sharing of your special gifts. We welcome you with open arms!

Conclusion***Spiritual Assistant:***

The Lord bless you and keep you. *All: Amen.*

May his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. *All: Amen.*

May he look upon you with kindness, and give you his peace. *All: Amen.*

May the Lord bless you, † the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *All: Amen.*

Hymn: *Peace Prayer* (*John Foley*)

Sign of Peace

*Ask **Candidate(s)** to go to the brothers and sisters and exchange a sign of peace with them.*