Relationship of Secular Franciscans Within the Church

Clarification of Christian life-style (how a person lives in the Church) and Christian ministry (how a person acts or works in the Church). (cf: Code of Canon Law #207; Benet A Fonck, Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ, 1995, pages 12-4 to 12-14.)

Every person fits into one of the four quadrants of the diagram below. A person can be:

Secular Lay – most Secular Franciscans
Secular Cleric – any Pope, Bishop, Priest or Deacon who is a Secular Franciscan
Lay Religious – lay person (non-ordained person) who belongs to a Religious Order (this includes all Brothers, all Sisters and Nuns)
Cleric Religious – any Pope, Bishop, Priest or Deacon who belongs to a Religious Order

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]