There is a special bond among the Secular Franciscan Order and the First Order and Third Order Regular Friars.

The bond is referred to by its Latin name: “Altius moderamen”

It is a Latin term used in Canon 303 to mean that the friars of the First Order and Third Order Regular are to guarantee the fidelity of the O.F.S. to the Franciscan charism, communion with the Church and union with the Franciscan Family, values which represent a vital commitment for the Secular Franciscans. (General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order, Article #85.2)

**First Order:**
- Order of Friars Minor
- Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
- Order of Friars Minor, Conventual

**Third Order Regular Friars:**
- T.O.R.

**The Secular Franciscan Order is also one of the branches of the Catholic Franciscan Family:**

**First Order:**
- Order of Friars Minor
- Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
- Order of Friars Minor, Conventual

**Second Order:**
- Poor Clares

**Third Order:**
- Secular Franciscan Order
- Third Order Regular Friars

[Created by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]
Relationship of Those Following the Third Order Regular Rule

There are several hundred Congregations of Religious Women and Men who also follow the Third Order Regular Rule. Many serve the O.F.S. as Spiritual Assistants, but do not exercise the “altius moderamen” of the First Order and Third Order Regular friars. These congregations use a variety of initials, such as the following:

A lot of different ones use: Order of St. Francis  
Like:  Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
       Hospital Sisters of St. Francis  
       Sister of St. Francis

Then there are other Congregations which use:  
Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis  
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix (Felician Sisters)  
Franciscan Brothers of Peace  
Sisters of St. Francis of Peace  
Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary  
Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child  
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus  
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
Franciscan Sisters of Mary  
Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph  
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph  
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
Little Brothers of St. Francis  
Society of the Atonement (Greymore Friars and Sisters)

Other faith traditions include the following:  
The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis (Anglican/Episcopalian)  
Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (Christian denominations)