

If you have a Franciscan vocation, you probably have a desire to do something more. Perhaps you feel a need for support in growing spiritually. Or, deep down, you sense a need to serve God in a special way. Or, for years, you have felt an affinity with St. Francis of Assisi. He seems to pop up all around and you just do not know why. Perhaps God is calling you!

In today's world, we are plagued by time schedules, projects and activities that can leave us tense and stressed. The O.F.S. becomes our place of refuge and renewal where our brothers and sisters in Francis support and inspire us. You, too, may become a life-long member of the family – if God is calling you!

Are you curious about the Secular Franciscan Order? Are you maybe discerning a vocation to the Secular Franciscan way of life? Do you think God may be calling you to follow the Gospel after the manner of St. Francis of Assisi? If you answer “yes” to any one of these questions, please join us at one of our monthly Fraternity Gatherings!

**Where?** \_\_\_\_\_

**When?** We gather at \_\_\_\_\_

Formation Session begins at \_\_\_\_\_

We usually finish around \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Formation Director, \_\_\_\_\_, O.F.S.:  
\_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail)

Regional website: [www.prairiestfrancis.org](http://www.prairiestfrancis.org)

**May The Lord give you peace!**

*[Revised July 2017]*

## Secular Franciscans O.F.S.



An invitation . . . \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (put in the place) . . .

Share in the membership in the worldwide movement to put into practice in today's world the great example and humble message of St. Francis of Assisi – a man of peace, of poverty, and of justice following the example of Jesus Christ!

## Who are Secular Franciscans?

The Secular Franciscan Order (O.F.S.) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family. Secular Franciscans are men and women, single and married, as well as diocesan priests and deacons who work, worship and pray in the community where they live and desire to live out a Franciscan spirituality in their own milieu. They are people who have a deep concern for enriching their faith-lives. Secular Franciscans gather in Fraternity once a month to experience four elements: Social, Formation, Business and Prayer. They have a desire to grow in their personal spirituality and to allow the Franciscan spirit to become a vital part of their lives.



### Goal:

The goal for Secular Franciscans is to live the Christian call to holiness in their individual and Fraternity lives in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi according to its official Rule of Life in communion with the Catholic Church.

### Origins:

The Secular Franciscan Order, known in former times as the Third Order Secular of St. Francis, was established during the 1200's in Italy by St. Francis himself. The Secular Franciscan Order (O.F.S.) is a secular movement comprised of lay women and men and clerics. Its members live by a *Rule* of life, the latest being *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* promulgated by Blessed Pope Paul VI on June 24, 1978.

### Purposes:

- \* To bring the Gospel to life where Secular Franciscans live and where they work. They look for practical ways to embrace the Gospel in their lives and try to help others to do likewise.
- \* To form faith communities, called Fraternities, to strengthen their Franciscan vocations.
- \* To provide an opportunity for Catholic men and women to receive formation on Catholic topics and Franciscan spirituality.

### Membership Requirements:

- \* Be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church.
- \* Have sufficient maturity, as well as physical, mental and emotional health to participate fully in the life of a faith community.
- \* Desire to deepen one's spiritual life and to embrace the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi.
- \* Have the ability to attend monthly Franciscan Gatherings (meetings).
- \* Desire to discern the will of God in one's daily life.

### Formation:

You will have plenty of time to get to know us before you make any commitment. The O.F.S. requires at least three months of Orientation and six months of Inquiry. During that time, you will come to our monthly Gatherings and have some introductory formation sessions. Then, if you feel the call to continue, and that call is affirmed by the Council of the Fraternity, you will have another 18 – 36 months of formal discussion, education and involvement as a Candidate. After Profession, Secular Franciscans live *The Rule* daily and find ways to enrich their Catholic faith in the Secular Franciscan tradition and attend monthly Fraternity Gatherings.