

## What is a Secular Franciscan?

The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God - laity, religious and priests - who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of St. Francis in the life and mission of the Church...

...Secular Franciscans like all other members of the Franciscan family, have the vocation to follow Christ by living in poverty, fraternity and minority according to their state and profession in life. Through poverty (a spirit of detachment) they witness to the things that are above rather than the things below; through fraternity they grow in acceptance of each other as brothers and sisters in

## What do Secular Franciscans do?

Being a Secular Franciscan is a vocation, a way of life. As stated in the SFO rule, we are to engage in gospel Living, "going from gospel to life and life to the gospel." Although we belong to a fraternal community from which we derive strength and encouragement, we live in the larger world and strive to give witness to the world around us through our lifestyle and, if necessary, using words. We are called to daily prayer, scripture reading and living out God's plan in the Franciscan way of life.

We embrace a spirit of **Poverty** by living a simple lifestyle and detaching from material goods.

We embrace a spirit of **Humility** through daily conversion, recognizing that we are sinners in need of God's grace.

## What is required to be a Secular Franciscan?

To enter formation as a Secular Franciscan, a person must be 21 years of age by the time of profession and a Roman Catholic in good standing having been baptized, confirmed and in a valid marriage if married.

Formation begins with at least a three month time of Orientation to introduce seekers to the basics of the Franciscan way.

For those who continue to have interest, they enter at least a six month time of Inquiry to learn more and discern whether they wish to go on to the next step.

Candidacy is the most serious phase of formation and lasts at least 18 months. Through much prayer, soul-searching and learning, each candidate seeks to discover if they have a true Franciscan vocation and

## More about the Little Portion Fraternity

Our fraternity could be described as a seriously mixed group. We have more than 20 members, both men and women, all ages, married and single, hailing from three dioceses and ten parishes.

We were canonically established in 2009 and are part of the Queen of Peace Region.

Our name of Little Portion is the English translation of Portiuncula, a village and parish less than a mile from Assisi, Italy. In the small church, St. Francis recognized his vocation in 1208 and died outside its walls in 1226. Today the little church of Portiuncula is housed within a huge basilica in Assisi.

## The Franciscan Tau



We, with all the Franciscans, wear the "Tau" which is the

## Little Portion Fraternity's Mission Statement

We, the Secular Franciscans of the Little Portion Fraternity of Marshall, Minnesota, proclaim to live daily the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Like Francis and Clare, we are called to rebuild the Church, to keep Christ as the inspiration and center of our lives, and to be alive and active in our way of life.



The Little Portion Fraternity meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at the Campus Religious Center located at: 1418 State Street, Marshall, MN



Our regular schedule is  
1:00 Formation  
2:00 Franciscan Crown Rosary  
2:30 Gospel Sharing, Ongoing Formation, business items, Liturgy of the Hours and social time.

# The Secular Franciscan Order



## What is a Secular Franciscan?

## What do they do?