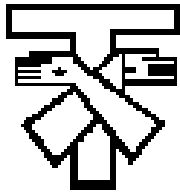


You are invited to meet the Secular Franciscans

As lay Franciscans, we are a community of men and women who seek to pattern our lives after Christ in the spirit of Francis.

We believe we have a vocation response to the Gospel, to work together in community towards a deeper evangelical life and towards communion with all people. This is the Franciscan Way of Life.



The TAU Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, St. Margaret of Cortona Region, established at St. Joseph Parish in

Herndon, Virginia, in 1981, draws from Parishes throughout the Arlington Diocese.

Our mission statement is:

We are people of faith standing in awe before God and all of His creation. We follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi bearing faithful witness through a life filled with prayer, simplicity, love, joy, compassion and service to those in need.

The stages of Formation are:

- Orientation, three months of exploring the SFO through discernment;
- Inquiry, six months of looking at the process of becoming a member of the SFO;
- Candidacy, eighteen months of journeying with the fraternity to find out if God is calling you to live the Franciscan way of life
- Profession to the Gospel Life.

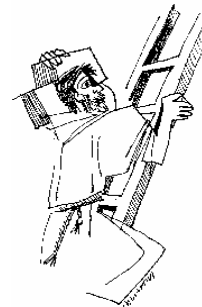
The Secular Franciscan Rule, based on the Gospel along with teachings of the Church, prepares us to seek solutions for the problems of society, while at the same time building our own faith life. This faith life will sustain each of us in our mission to the world, a mission that is lived out in our **APOSTOLATE**.

Our Apostolates are:

- Peace & Justice
- Ecology
- Family
- Work
- Youth & Young Adults

Our Brothers and Sisters have included:

- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
- Pope John XXIII
- St. Thomas Moore
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Mother Frances Xavier



Come follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis



We meet the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 4:30 P.M. The agenda includes our Program, Formation, discussion of secular and spiritual material, and scripture; Liturgical Prayer; Business Meeting; and Family Time.

Special Dates to Remember are:

September – Open House

October – Transitus of St. Francis

December - Profession to SFO

Interested in joining us or have any questions? Please contact:

Bill Bouffard, Minister

(703) 437-6465

bilbouf@cesmail.net

or

Richard Clarke, Formation Director

(703) 444-6837

PaxBonum74@aol.com

The Third Order Secular Franciscans

St. Francis established the Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance, now the Secular Franciscan Order (*SFO*), for those men and women who were unable to leave their families and occupations, but still wanted to be affiliated with St. Francis and a religious life.

The SFO is an order within the Catholic Church, not a club or organization. The SFO are members of local fraternities who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis. Brothers and Sisters of these fraternities, led by the spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state.

By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis in accordance with the rules approved by the Church.

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.



Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*Oh Lord, grant that I may not
so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life*

The Secular Franciscan Order

SFO



***Come follow the Gospel of Jesus
Christ in the footsteps of Saint
Francis of Assisi***