



## WHAT WE DO

We **PRAY**, alone and together.

We **LEARN** about Christ through the Gospels, the writings of Francis and Clare, and each other.

We **SHARE** our faith journeys and ourselves.

We **LIVE WITH THE GOSPELS** as our guide – reaching out to those who have been marginalized and others in need.

## HOW WE DO IT

We **GATHER** on a regular basis to share our lives and efforts to live the Gospels.

**WE RETREAT** together, to gather our thoughts and redirect our lives away from distractions.

**WE WORK TOGETHER** to build relationships, change our lives and our world.

## COME AND SEE

You are welcome to “come and see” what we’re all about at our monthly gatherings and to join in fellowship, prayer and formation.

Why? Because God won’t stop calling until you answer! So journey with us. Come, alone or with a friend or family member.

Our fraternity meets 2:30-4:30 PM on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December). Check for schedule changes and other information at the website below.

Formation usually lasts three years, including orientation, inquiry and candidacy phases, culminating in the Rite of Profession, a permanent commitment to the Gospel Life as written in our OFS Rule.

Founders Room

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, NC 27613

Contact us:

Email: [ofscentralnc@gmail.com](mailto:ofscentralnc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.ofscentralnc.org](http://www.ofscentralnc.org)

## ORDER OF SECULAR FRANCISCANS

**Padre Pio Fraternity**  
Secular Franciscan Order of  
Central North Carolina



## ORDER OF SECULAR FRANCISCANS Padre Pio Fraternity

Come and See  
2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022

Founders Room  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
11401 Leesville Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27613

## WHO WE ARE

Secular Franciscans are a community of Catholic men and women in the world who seek to pattern their lives after Christ, in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

We believe that as human beings and Christians, we have such a sublime vocation that we cannot fulfill it alone. In our common response to the Gospel, we work together in community toward communion with all people. Building relationships is our way of life.

We are **NOT** a club or society. We are united in the international Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS), the third order founded by St. Francis of Assisi in the early 13th century. Today, there are almost 1200 Secular Franciscan fraternities in the United States alone. We are the Padre Pio Fraternity, one of 12 fraternities in the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region which includes North Carolina and surrounding states.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- You must be a Catholic and at least 18 years of age.
- You must be actively living your faith.
- If married, yours must be a valid marriage within the church.
- You cannot belong to another order.
- You understand that membership in an order is a serious undertaking. It is a vocation, a lifetime commitment.
- You understand that our order is suitable for any Roman Catholic – single, married, young or old, laity or clergy.
- You must be willing to live by the rule, go through a “novitiate”, a formal profession, and attend monthly meetings which substitute for communal living.

## FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Eight hundred years ago, in Assisi, Italy, a man named Francis was called by God to “rebuild My church.” The times were difficult, with war and greed being rampant. Francis chose the Life of Christ (the Gospels) as his guide.

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*People began to follow him,  
embracing his values of poverty,  
joy, simplicity, gratitude and  
love of all God’s creation*

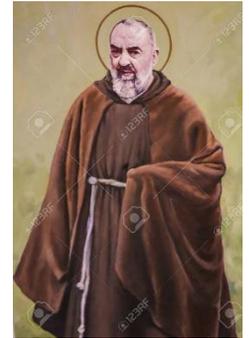
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This Franciscan family grew to include vowed religious and secular men and women. Worldwide, there now are more than four million members of our Order of Secular Franciscan family (*Latin: Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis, abbreviated as OFS and known as the Third Order*). Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and work, and to try to help others to do the same.

## PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

“Joy, with peace,  
is the sister of  
charity. Serve  
the Lord with  
laughter.”

– *Quote attributed to  
Padre Pio*



*St. Padre Pio fresco, church of  
St. Nicholas, in Valencia, Spain*

## OSF RULE: Article 14

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world, so that the Kingdom of God might be brought about more effectively. We feel CALLED by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in the Franciscan spirit, with the support and encouragement of others who are committed to a Gospel lifestyle.

## SECULAR FRANCISCANS HAVE INCLUDED

Christopher Columbus and  
Vasco da Gama, explorers  
Dante Alighieri, philosopher  
Ferdinand and Queen Isabella  
Franz Liszt, musician  
Michaelangelo, artist  
Louis Pasteur, scientist  
Parents of Thérèse of Lisieux  
St. Maximilian Kolbe and his parents  
Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God