



## **The Way of Life**

***The Rule and Life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.***

## **COME and SEE**

***Padre Pio Fraternity***

***Secular Franciscan Order***

***Sept. 25, 2022***

***The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi***

***11401 Leesville Road***

***Raleigh, North Carolina 27613***

***\*\*You also are invited to attend our future gatherings at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 23 and Nov. 20. You also are invited to our retreat from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. followed by a 4 p.m. Mass in the chapel on Saturday, Dec. 3. Register for the retreat by Oct. 30 by sending an email to [swinzeler@gmail.com](mailto:swinzeler@gmail.com)***

### **Contact Information:**

Padre Pio Fraternity: Sharon Winzeler email [swinzeler@gmail.com](mailto:swinzeler@gmail.com) or phone 919-426-5073

### **Websites:**

Padre Pio Fraternity: <https://ofscentralnc.org/>

Brothers and Sisters Region of SFO: <http://www.bssfsfo.org/>

National Secular Franciscan Order: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/>

**Padre Pio Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order  
“Come and See” Agenda  
Sept. 25, 2022**

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM, Spiritual Assistant
<b>Opening Song</b> (See last page of packet for lyrics and sing along)	Guitarists: Dave Abel, OFS, and Michael Hancock, OFS  Song leader: Char Witosky, OFS
<b>Welcome and Overview</b>	Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister Ellen Ferrone, OFS, Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Regional Minister
<b>Being a Spiritual Assistant to the OFS</b>	Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM, Spiritual Assistant
<b>Reflection on Becoming an OFS</b>	Fraternity Members: Ben and Gladys Whitehouse, OFS Zubair Simonson, OFS Rachel Bongiorno, OFS Chris Peffley, OFS
<b>Social and Light Refreshments</b> Please enjoy some food and drink and spend time talking with our fraternity members.	All
<b>Brief business announcements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostolates: Oak City and possibly L’Arche</li> <li>• Chris Peffley, is the new Councilor</li> <li>• Gladys Whitehouse, OFS, is new JPIC animator</li> <li>• Rachel Bongiorno, OFS, is new newsletter editor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment for next ongoing formation</li> <li>• Register for Oct. 22 Convocation at St. Francis of Assisi through Realm if you are a parishioner. If not, contact Ellen Ferrone, OFS.</li> </ul>
<b>Formation:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Franciscan Four Pillars</li> <li>2. Orientation Phase</li> <li>3. Inquiry and Candidacy Formation Phases</li> <li>4. Orientation Dates and Location</li> </ol>	Char Witosky, OFS, Formation Director Dave Shick, OFS, Vice-Minister
<b>Questions and Answers</b>	Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Deacon Phil Rzwenicki, OFS,

## **Secular Franciscan Order (OFS)**

### **Overview of Initial and Ongoing Formation Process**

The Secular Franciscan formation process is a continuum, that is, each stage flows into the next. Aspects that are essential in the first phase, Orientation, will be essential to the second phase, Inquiry, the third phase, Candidacy, and into lifelong Ongoing formation of professed members.

OFS formation is not a group class or course in which one “graduates” from one phase to another. Rather, it is a personal journey into Franciscan spirituality, Catholic teachings, and the OFS gospel way of life exemplified by St. Francis and St. Clare. The process focuses on being FORMED into the likeness of Christ. It is a time of communal discernment between those discerning a vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order, the Fraternity and the Holy Spirit.

#### **ORIENTATION. (6 months)**

The Orientation phase of formation is critical. Formation resources used during Orientation provide ample time for dialogue and sharing since this is the ideal time to discern a Secular Franciscan vocation. The time frame is six months. Content for the Orientation Phase includes:

1. An understanding of discernment and vocation
2. Brief review of Catholic doctrine and Christian morals
3. The *Rule of Life* and brief history of the Secular Franciscan Order
4. An explanation of Franciscan prayer life and apostolic activity
5. Phases of Secular Franciscan formation and expectations
6. Study of the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare
7. Branches of the Franciscan family
8. Understanding of Franciscan symbols
9. Franciscan prayer experience, including the Liturgy of the Hours and Franciscan Crown

#### **INQUIRY (12 months)**

The Inquiry phase, as the first formal period of initiation, is a time of discernment and choice of the Franciscan life. During this time, the Inquirer participates in the life of the Fraternity and comes to understand the OFS way of life. At the same time, the Fraternity comes to know the Inquirer better, so that it can discern how best to respond to the Inquirer’s request to become part of the Fraternity.

The Inquiry Phase begins with *The Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming*. This is ritual or service that promises the support of the Fraternity on the journey that the Inquirer is about to undertake. During this phase, which is twelve months, the Inquirer, assisted by the Formation Team, seeks to determine honest responses to these basic questions:

- What is a vocation, and how am I called?
- What is Gospel life, and how am I called to live it?
- What is a vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order, and am I called to live that way of life?

Content for the Inquiry phase includes:

1. A deeper understanding of discernment and vocation specifically to the OFS
2. In-depth study of the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare
3. First-hand exposure to the writings of St. Francis and St. Clare
4. In-depth study of OFS history, including the evolution of its Rules of Life
5. Overview of the organizational structure of the Secular Franciscan Order
6. Introduction to the *Rule of Life, General Constitutions, Statutes of the OFS, and the OFS Ritual*
7. Understanding of how Sacred Scripture impacts the life of the Secular Franciscan

8. The Catholic Church in light of the Second Vatican Council (especially the documents, *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes*)
9. An understanding of the spirituality which is both secular and (for most aspirants) lay: the family, the dignity of work, ecology, and social justice and political involvement

### **CANDIDACY** (12 months)

During Candidacy, considered the most important stage in the initial formation process, focus is on the *Secular Franciscan Rule* which supplies the path, the approach, and the guide. Therefore, considerable emphasis is placed on reading, understanding, digesting and incarnating the *Rule*. The living out of the *Rule* is crucial in preparing for Permanent Profession since it provides the structure for growing in the spirit of penance and ongoing conversion within the context of the Franciscan Fraternity.

Candidacy begins with the Rite of Admission into the OFS, the public acceptance by the Order of the Candidate's request and intention to live the gospel life in the manner of St. Francis as contained in the *OFS Rule* which has been approved by the Catholic Church.

During Candidacy, the entire Fraternity participates in and nurtures the growth and development of the Candidate's evangelical living of the *OFS Rule*. It is important that the Candidate be given opportunities to experience, interiorize, integrate and live out the gospel values presented in the *OFS Rule*. The time frame is an extended period lasting 18 to 24 months. The Candidacy phase concludes with the Rite of Profession (Permanent Commitment) into the Secular Franciscan Order.

Content for the Candidacy Phase includes:

1. In-depth study of the prologue to the *OFS Rule* (*Volterra Letter*)
2. Thorough study of the *OFS Rule* (revised in 1978)
3. Sacred Scripture and the opportunity to experience, interiorize and integrate gospel values
4. Franciscan spirituality and apostolic life
5. Detailed study of the *OFS Constitutions and SFO Statutes*
6. Lives of the Secular Franciscan saints and other Franciscans
7. Writings of Francis, Clare, Bonaventure and Franciscan scholars
8. Franciscan sources, including traditions, stories and the purpose for medieval legends
9. The *OFS Ritual*, especially the Rite of Profession
10. Continued Franciscan prayer experiences, prayer forms and a retreat

### **ONGOING FORMATION:**

The purpose of Ongoing Formation is to support the professed members' commitment and to strengthen their Franciscan vocation of lifelong daily conversion. Those who are engaged in Initial Formation (Inquiry and Candidacy) are expected to participate in monthly fraternity gatherings and ongoing formation.

As stated in the Secular Franciscan General Constitutions (Article 44.1): "*Begun by the preceding stages, the formation of the brothers and sisters takes place in a permanent and continuous way. It should be understood as an aid in the conversion of each and everyone and in the fulfillment of their proper mission in the Church and in society.*"

1. Ongoing Formation is a process of renewal for the entire fraternity by which we are encouraged and challenged to live our vocation in the actual situations and contingencies of daily living.
2. Ongoing Formation is the outgrowth of proper Initial Formation, realizing that we are in a continual process of conversion and growth all the days of our life.
3. Ongoing Formation necessarily includes additional information and updating in various areas of spirituality, apostolic life, and deepening of our commitment to the Gospel life. None of us ever completes formation. Rather, it is a lifelong process.
4. Other opportunities for Ongoing Formation include:
  - a. Retreats
  - b. Days of renewal and special observances
  - c. Community celebrations

- d. Interaction between OFS fraternities
- e. Interaction with the Friars, the Poor Clares and the Third Order Religious
- f. Attendance at Regional and National gatherings
- g. Workshops and other formation gatherings

Content for Ongoing Formation may include:

1. The Prologue to the Rule (Volterra Letter)
2. A detailed study of the OFS Rule of Life, General Constitutions, Statues, Ritual and Regional Guidelines
3. Writing of Francis, Clare, Bonaventure, Duns Scotus and other Franciscan scholars and theologians
4. Franciscan Spirituality and History
5. Articles from the TAU-USA and the COMMUNIO
6. Papal Encyclicals, Apostolic letters and statements
7. Pastoral Statements from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
8. Official documents and statements of the Franciscan Family (International, National, Regional, Local)
9. Other Franciscan prayer experiences (e.g., Transitus, Masses for Feast Days, Office of the Passion, Contemplative Prayer as practiced by St. Clare of Assisi)
10. Learning about and being involved in Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation group apostolates

*Secular Franciscan Order, National Formation Commission*

## OFS



It's our Order's abbreviation after our names or in other writing and refers to Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis, the official—Latin—name of our Order. In English, we're still the **Secular Franciscan Order**.

# Opening Song

## CANTICLE OF THE SUN

**CHORUS:** The heavens are telling the glory of God, and all creation is shouting for joy. Come dance in the forest, come play in the field, and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day. He carries the light of the Lord in his rays. The moon and the stars, who light up the way, unto your Throne.

### CHORUS

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze  
They blow where they will, they blow where they please, to please the Lord.

### CHORUS

Praise for the rain, that waters our fields, and blesses our crops, so all the earth yields.  
From death unto life, her mystery revealed, springs forth in joy.

### CHORUS

Praise for the fire, that gives us his light, the warmth of the sun to bright - en our night.  
He dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of You.

### CHORUS