

Don't Say "No" Before You Say "Yes"

*Visit the Secular Franciscans,
Get to Know Us and
Ask Yourself "Is God calling me?"*

Where?

Facility: St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Address: 10 H.Putnam Ext.

City: Charlton, Ma 01507

When?

Day of week: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Time: 6:30PM to 8:00PM

Other: call for seasonal start times

Why?

Because God won't stop calling
until you answer!

*Feel free to come to a meeting
and introduce yourself*

Come with a friend or family member.

St. Joseph _____ *Fraternity in*
Charlton, MA _____ *is one of* ³⁶ _____
fraternities in the Solanus Casey _____
Region in the state(s) of MA, CT, RI and NY _____
and one of over 1200 in the United States. When
you become a Secular Franciscan, you can visit
any of our fraternities as a brother or sister in
Christ and in 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.

O Divine Master, 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.

-- Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi

To speak with someone about the Secular
Franciscan Order and to meet the family, stop
by at one of our regularly scheduled meetings.

Call 508-248-7862 St. Joseph's Church office

E-mail: st.joseph ofs@gmail.com

We look forward to telling you all about our
Fraternity and our dear St. Francis.



Come & See

How Secular Franciscans Live Joyfully In the World & Celebrate God's Creation





Who are Secular Franciscans?

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family. We are single and married. We work, worship and play in the community where we live.

The OFS is a secular movement, established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for practical ways to embrace the gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.

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

Enhance your spiritual life, serve through apostolic ministries, continue your education in your faith and the Franciscan Movement!

What do Secular Franciscans Do?

Secular Franciscans follow the OFS rule that requires us to spend time in community with our Franciscan brothers and sisters.

We gather at least monthly. We support each other through the ups and downs of daily life. We pray together. We take opportunities to learn about our Church, our community and our world.

Our rule mandates us to be involved in apostolic ministries and with youth. When we are called to action, we embrace the call joyfully. Some of us are religious education teachers, some have a special ministry to animals, some have made a commitment to Perpetual Adoration. Some work with the poor and homeless.

As a fraternity, we take action on issues that affect the lives of others. We do letter-writing campaigns in response to social justice issues; we support the efforts of our brothers and sisters who are serving the poor and lepers half-way around the world.



Is the OFS for you?

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. He seems to pop up all around and you just don't know why. Perhaps, God is calling you!

Getting to know the OFS better may be a way to determine if you have a vocation.

You'll have plenty of time to get to know us before you make any commitment. The OFS requires three months of orientation and six months of inquiry. During that time, you'll come to our monthly gatherings and have a few informal classes. Then, if you feel the call to continue, you'll have another 18 months of formal discussion, education and involvement as a candidate.

If you feel that God is calling you to do something more, please call us.

Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi?