

HISTORY

St. Francis of Assisi's order of friars and St. Clare's nuns were huge successes. A lot of lay people wanted to follow Christ in the same way. Their desire and calling led

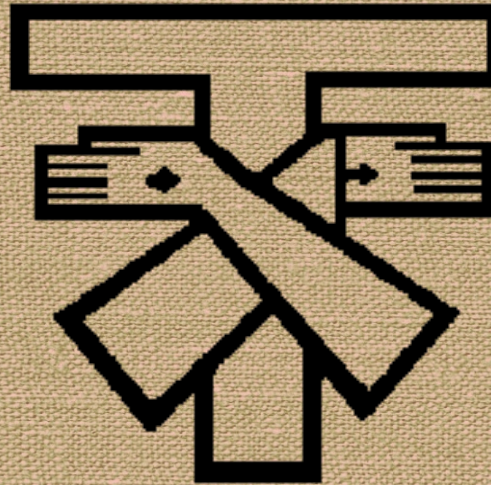
Francis to modify the Rule for secular lives. So began the Secular Franciscan Order, now almost 800 years old. The order was originally called the Brothers and Sisters of

Penance. It attracted men and women who could not leave their families or occupations to join an order of friars or sisters. Its first rule was approved by Pope Honorius III

in 1221. The rule was revised by Pope Leo XIII in 1883 and by Pope Paul VI in 1978. St. Mary's Fraternity was founded by Msgr. Anderson in 1925 and grew rapidly after Bishop Carroll invited the Friars Minor to the diocese in 1948. It moved to St.

Francis Church downtown, to St. Luke's in the northwest in 1990, in the mid-teens to Canadian Martyrs and is currently back to St. Luke's Church.

COME & SEE



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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Are you looking for a pathway to living a more Christian lifestyle? Are you looking for other Christians who have the same ideas? Are you looking? Sunday Mass and a daily prayer time are a good start, but after a while, there's got to be more. Secular Franciscans have been looking for the same things, every day for eight centuries. Secular Franciscans strive in our day to follow Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.



WHO WE ARE

The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan family. It is an order, established 800 years ago by St. Francis of Assisi, not a club or a movement. It has a Rule given by the Church and a two-year study program for Christian formation before new members are professed. Secular Franciscans are men and women, married and single, laity or diocesan clergy. They are at least 18 years old, or legally adult wherever they live, and not members of any other religious or secular order. They are Catholics in good standing, practising the faith, faithful to the teachings of the Church and faithful to the Holy See. What do we do? We follow Jesus Christ, in the manner modelled by Francis. Why Francis? Francesco Bernardone was a party animal living the affluent lifestyle of the son of a prominent businessman. The 13th-century version of a yuppie.

In the early 1200s, he had a conversion experience. He decided to follow Christ's teachings. And since Francis was Francis, there was no way to do that half-heartedly. It was no way or all the way. Francis has been called the Apostolic Man, the person who followed Jesus Christ most closely, and whose life most closely resembled that of the Master. Secular Franciscans strive in our day to follow Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. The current Rule was approved by Pope Paul VI in 1978. Article 4 of the Rule tells us to go "from gospel to life and life to the gospel."

If that's the path you're looking for, God might be calling you to the Secular Franciscan Order.

ST. LUKE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
(1566 Northmount Dr NW Calgary),
USUALLY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH AT 2 P.M. Please call us or visit
our website at www.ofscalgary.com