



# Don't say "No" Before You say "Yes"

*Visit the Secular Franciscans,  
Get to Know Us and  
Ask yourself "Is God Calling Me?"*

## *Where?*

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Mission Branch  
207 Palmetto Ave.  
Green Cove Springs, Fl. 32043  
Activities Center

## *When?*

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month  
1:00 pm

(Please visit our website, [www.stbonaventureofs.org](http://www.stbonaventureofs.org) for updates)

## *Why?*

Because God won't stop calling  
until you answer!

Come with a friend or family member.  
Journey with us.

St. Bonaventure Fraternity is a part of The  
Five Martyrs Region in the state of Florida  
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.

## *Selection from....*

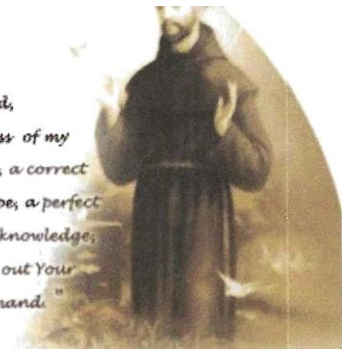
The Exposition of the Our Father  
By St. Francis of Assisi  
**Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven:**  
So that we may love Thee  
***With our whole heart*** (cf. Lk 10:27)  
Thinking of Thee always,  
***With our whole soul***  
Desiring Thee always,  
***With our whole mind***  
directing unto Thee all our Intentions,  
seeking Thy honor in all things  
***and with all our strength***  
expending our every strength  
and sense of soul and body  
in submission to Thy love  
and nothing else;  
and may we love our neighbors as ourselves  
drawing all to Thy Love  
***to the extent of our abilities,***  
rejoicing over the good things of others  
just as over our own  
and compassionating them in evils  
and giving offense to no one (cf. 2 Cor 6:3)  
**...But deliver us from evil:**  
past, present, and future.

To learn more about St. Bonaventure Fraternity  
and the Secular Franciscan Order,  
Please visit our website: [stbonaventureofs.org](http://stbonaventureofs.org)  
or email us: [contact@stbonaventureofs.org](mailto:contact@stbonaventureofs.org)  
You can also see us at: YouTube  
Come and See St. Bonaventure Fraternity



# Come & See

# Who are the Secular Franciscans?



"Most high, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my  
heart, give me, Lord, a correct  
faith, a certain hope, a perfect  
charity, sense and knowledge,  
so that I may carry out Your  
holy and true command."  
-Francis of Assisi-



## 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.

An official Order within the Roman Catholic Church, the OFS was founded by St. Francis of Assisi almost 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 offer Francis to 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 special ministry to animals, some have made a commitment to Perpetual Adoration. Some work with the poor and the homeless. Some work in Soup Kitchens or visit the elderly and sick; some have youth ministries.

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 halfway 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 formal commitment (profession). The OFS requires at least nine months for orientation and inquiry. During that time, you'll attend our monthly gatherings and have a few informal classes. Then if you feel the call to continue, you will enter Candidacy and have another 18 to 36 months formal discussion, education, and fraternal involvement before you make a permanent commitment at the time of Profession.

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

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