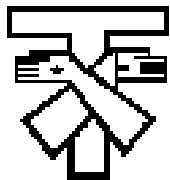


## ***You are invited to meet the Secular Franciscans***

**As** lay Franciscans, we are a secular religious community of men and women who seek to pattern our lives after Christ in the spirit of Francis.

**We** believe we have a vocation response to the Gospel, to work together in community towards a deeper evangelical life and towards communion with all people. This is the Franciscan Way of Life.



***Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity*** of the Secular Franciscan Order, located in Williamsburg, Virginia, St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and draws from Parishes throughout the Richmond Diocese.

**Our** mission statement is:

*We are people of faith standing in awe before God and all of His creation. We follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi bearing faithful witness through a life filled with prayer, simplicity, love, joy, compassion and service to those in need.*

### ***The stages of Formation are:***

- ♣ Orientation, three months of exploring the SFO through discernment;
- ♣ Inquiry, six months of looking at the process of becoming a member of the SFO;
- ♣ Candidacy, eighteen months of journeying with the fraternity to find out if God is calling you to live the Franciscan way of life
- ♣ Profession to the Gospel Life.

***The*** Secular Franciscan Rule, based on the Gospel along with teachings of the Church, prepares us to seek solutions for the problems of society, while at the same time building our own faith life. This faith life will sustain each of us in our mission to the world, a mission that is lived out in our ***APOSTOLATE.***

### ***Our Apostolates:***

- ♣ Peace & Justice
- ♣ Ecology
- ♣ Family
- ♣ Work
- ♣ Youth & Young Adults



### ***Our Pillars of Spirituality:***

- ♣ Compassion
- ♣ Conflict resolution
- ♣ Care for creation
- ♣ Community

## ***Come follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis***



**We** meet the third Sunday of every month from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. at Saint Bede Catholic Church 3686 Ironbound Road Williamsburg, VA. The agenda includes our program, formation, discussion of secular and spiritual material, and scripture; liturgical prayer; business meeting; and fellowship.

### ***Special Dates:***

<i>October</i>	<i>Transitus and Feast of St. Francis</i>
<i>Advent</i>	<i>Morning of Spirituality</i>
<i>Lent</i>	<i>Morning of Spirituality</i>

***Interested*** in joining us or have any questions? Please contact:

**Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS Minister**  
**757-604-3803**

**olrsfo@gmail.com**

**Rick Churray, OFS Vice Minister**  
**804-725-8140**

**curajlofts@gmail.com**

**Visit our website: [olrsfo.weebly.com](http://olrsfo.weebly.com)**

## **The Third Order Secular Franciscans**

**St. Francis** established the Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance, now the Secular Franciscan Order (*SFO*), for those men and women who were unable to leave their families and occupations, but still wanted to be affiliated with St. Francis and a religious life.

**The SFO** is a religious order within the Catholic Church, not a club or organization. The SFO are members of local fraternities who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis. Brothers and Sisters of these fraternities, led by the spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state.

**By** their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis in accordance with the rules approved by the Church.

**The** rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.



### *Prayer of Saint 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.*

*Oh Lord, 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*

# *The Secular Franciscan Order*

*SFO*



***Come follow the Gospel of Jesus  
Christ in the footsteps of Saint  
Francis of Assisi***