

EXPLANATION OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The Secular Franciscan Order (formally known as the “Third Order of St. Francis”) is a canonical order of the Catholic Church.

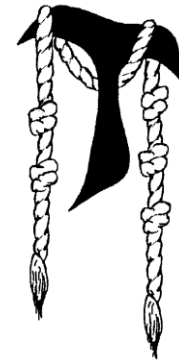
It is a world-wide Order, founded by St. Francis of Assisi and is organized on International, National, Regional and Local levels.

Any practicing Catholic, man or woman, married or single, can be a Secular Franciscan. They continue to live in the world, living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in their own state in life in the manner and style of St. Francis of Assisi.

For more information, please call 1-800-Francis



WAKE SERVICE FOR SECULAR FRANCISCANS



Queen of the Angels Fraternity

Leader: (+) In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God be praised for his mercy to us, and may we experience his consolation now in our sorrow and be filled with hope and His peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord, our God, the death of our brother/sister recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. But for those who believe in your love, death is not the end nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives. We share the faith of your Son's disciples and the hope of the children of God. Bring the light of Christ's resurrection to this time of testing and pain as we pray for our brother/sister and for those who love him/her, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Remember us Lord, when you come into your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Almighty God, your love never fails and you turn the shadow of death into a new dawn, may we receive your word with believing hearts. May the promises of Scripture

give us hope and lift us from darkness into the light and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Before we take leave of our brother/sister for the last time, let us bless him/her with the blessing so dear to our Father Francis... Raise your right hand toward the (photos/casket) and together let us pray.

All: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He show His face to you and be merciful to you. May He turn his countenance to you and give you peace. May the Lord bless you, (Brother(s) and or Sister(s) Name)

Leader: Our prayer for our brother/sister has ended. Let us go now, and until that time when the Lord shall gather us all into His Kingdom, let us live in His peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

PERIOD OF REFLECTION

A moment for silence, a short reflection given by the Leader or Spiritual Assistant or an opportunity for Fraternity members to approach the casket to speak briefly.



St. Francis' Salutation of the Blessed Virgin

Throughout his life, Francis maintained a deep and tender devotion to Mary. It was in the little Church of Mary of the Angels that he often prayed. Her faith strengthened his faith. Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of St. Francis, says that he was filled with inexpressible love of Mary because it was "she who made the Lord of Majesty our brother: Francis recognized a kindred spirit in Mary, as one who believed strongly and responded fully to the Father.

Leader: Salutation of St. Francis to the Blessed Virgin
Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen, Mother of God, ever Virgin. You were chosen by the Most High Father in heaven, consecrated by Him, with His Most Holy Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good. Hail His Palace. Hail His Tabernacle. Hail His Robe. Hail His Handmaid. Hail His Mother, and Hail all holy Virtues, who by grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state, they may be made faithful servants of God through you.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader:

A reading from the book of Wisdom (3:1-8)

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For, if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble. They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

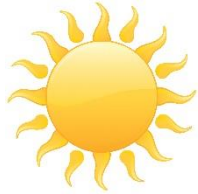
Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

All: My soul is longing for the Lord.

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness, for this we revere you.

All: My soul is longing for the Lord.

Leader: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on His word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.



Canticle of Brother Sun

As a result of the stigmata, Francis was continuously in pain until his death two years later. After receiving a revelation regarding his merits in suffering, however, he was so consoled with peace and joy that in a rapture of thanksgiving, he composed a hymn of praise to the Lord whose creatures he so revered, and who served God and man so faithfully.

RIGHT SIDE: Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of Weather through which You give sustenance to Your Creatures.

LEFT SIDE: Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful an

RIGHT SIDE: Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord through those who give pardon for Your love and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace, for by You Most High, they shall be crowned.

LEFT SIDE: Praised be You, my lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those She finds doing Your will! The second death can do no harm to them.
ALL: Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

