



May the Lord give you Peace!

Our local Franciscan fraternity gatherings provide the spiritual nourishment we need to live as Christians in the world. We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at St. Lawrence Church, Fairhope, Alabama.

Information on the worldwide Secular Franciscan Order is available at:
www.nafra-sfo.org.

To become a Secular Franciscan you must be 17 years of age or older, be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, and complete a 2 year period of formation.

Contact Persons

Jo Godfrey, SFO, Minister 251-424-3670

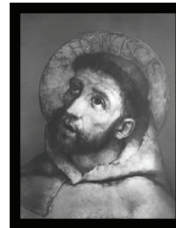
Anne Hinrichs, SFO Formation 251-928-0808



The secular Franciscan Order was founded by St. Francis of Assisi. There are about 18,000 **professed** Secular Franciscans worldwide today. Through the SFO, married and single lay people as well as diocesan clergy can live the Franciscan chiasm. We do not give up family, job, or responsibilities, rather we give up self interest where it conflicts with, or limits spiritual growth.

Saint Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi, someone for whom the Gospel meant life. For Francis reality meant life. For Francis reality meant:



- ***Living the Gospel***
- ***Proclaiming the Gospel in word and life***
- ***Jesus is the center of life***
- ***The Gospel is the reality Francis chose to follow...***



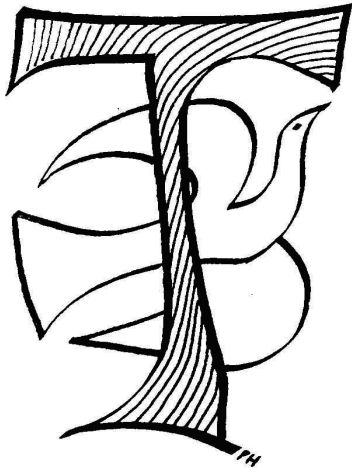
***PRAYER, JOY,
SIMPLICITY IN
THE SPIRIT OF
SAINT FRANCIS***

LITTLE FLOCK FRATERNITY

***of the
SECULAR
FRANCISCAN
ORDER***



The vision of Little Flock Fraternity is to illuminate a deeper presence of Christ and the Catholic Church within the community by following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.



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.**

**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 giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.**



***“Not to hurt the creatures brethren is
our first duty to them,
but to stop there is not enough. We
have a higher mission -
to be of service to them wherever they
require it.”***

Saint Francis Of Assisi



***St. Francis and his followers were traveling
when the trees surrounding them were sud-
denly filled with birds. St. Francis took the oc-
casion to actually preach to the birds. Not one
bird flew away, they all stayed and listened.***

***Saint Francis's love of animals is reflected
and carried out today in the Animal Blessings
that are held throughout much of the world.
Though Animal Blessings pre-date St. Fran-
cis, most modern day Animal Blessing cele-
brations are connected with him and are com-
monly held on or around his feast **day in
early October*****

***THOU
HAST
PUT
Gladness
IN MY
HEART...***
Psalm 4:7

Secular Franciscan Order Process of Admission

***There is a gradual initiation into the Secular
Franciscan Order. Several months of “take a
look” time begins the process. If you choose
to continue, the Council of the local frater-
nity invites you to begin a period of formation
for six months as Inquirers and eighteen (18)
months as Candidates.***

***After this formative period, you are in a better
position to know if the Secular Franciscan
Order is your calling. Once again, after dia-
log with the local fraternity Council, you will
be invited to make your commitment to this
way of life. It is called “Profession of the
Secular Franciscan Way of Life.”***

***This gradual introduction gives you time to
reflect on whether the Secular Franciscan
Order is your calling. It is a time for prayerful
consideration, honest reflection, solid learn-
ing and health dialog. It offers time for shar-
ing with Franciscans of various ages and
experiences.***