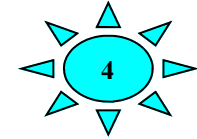


So, what is expected of a dedicated Franciscan?

1. Faithful to liturgical & personal prayer
2. Read Gospel daily—letting it influence their lives
3. A healthy loyalty to the Church; treating others with respect
4. A love for the Blessed Virgin Mary which brings them closer to Jesus himself
5. Willingness to fulfil daily their vocational duties
6. A life lived simply, wishing to serve rather than dominate
7. Acceptance of every person with respect & love
8. To stand up for justice, defending it by word & action
9. Working for peace in one's family & the world
10. A respect for all creation & having an ecological awareness
11. To 'be still & still moving', growing in faith & love, welcoming Sister Death when she comes

And, ways Secular Franciscans might fail?

1. Partial adherence to the Rule of the OFS
2. Irregular, casual attendance at fraternity meetings
3. Using gatherings to promote oneself and one's own interests rather than those of the fraternity
4. Loudly & publicly criticising the private lives of others
5. Failing in respectful listening & dialogue thereby promoting dissention & disharmony
6. A desire to be right, rather than Christ-like, in matters of disagreement
7. Not really willing to be conformed to the crucified Christ after the example of St Francis



Pointers when discerning whether someone has a vocation to the OFS





Signs that a person MAY have a call to the OFS

- Individual is good, practicing Catholic
- Has desire to follow Jesus & his Gospel
- Has personal relationship with Jesus—not just an intellectual knowledge about him
- Is hope-filled not pessimistic about things, having a reverence & respect for all creation
- Has some knowledge of St Francis & St Clare
- Has a willingness to commit to the Rule of OFS & live as part of a fraternity
- Is not prejudiced, arrogant or closed-minded



Signs that person MAY NOT have a call to the OFS

- Someone already belonging to another Order/Third Order
- Who is not a Catholic
- Someone with interpersonal problems or problems in relationships; a person seeking to escape from problems
- One who is self-centred or too individualistic
- Someone who wishes to force personal devotions & ideas on others; a bigot
- Someone whose lifestyle runs counter to that of the Gospel
- A gossip or critic; one who is irresponsible in family and work situations
- Someone inflexible, who is unwilling to change or be changed
- A person using power, violence or prestige to control life and other people