



What OFS is all about



Secular Franciscans DO THE GOSPEL!



'Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospel, going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.' [OFS Rule, 4]

- This is at the root of our lives, for our life is a life conformed to Christ following in the footprints of St Francis of Assisi—our inspiration under God:

'Motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the Gospel itself calls "CONVERSION"...' [OFS Rule, 7]

- This Gospel-focus is the heart of our lives—for nothing in life is outside the reach of the Gospel & we work together as an Order, in our fraternities, to achieve this ideal
- We seek to develop a prayerful spirit
- We have a hopeful spirit
- Daily conversion is essential



- The Franciscan Family St Francis founded is like a plaited cord, three Orders woven together & committed to the task given by Christ—

1. Order of Friars Minor—brothers in friaries
 2. Order of St Clare—sisters in convents
 3. Order of Franciscan Secular—brothers & sisters but in the world
- And, as Scripture says, 'A threefold cord is not quickly broken.' [Eccles 4.12]

How do they do it?

Secular Franciscans [amongst other things] -

- Live in the world
- Share in the spirit of the Franciscan Family
- Seek to give flesh to the Gospel vision
- Serve others through social justice; ministries of charity & peacemaking
- Make a life-long commitment to a way of life set out in the their Rule
- Are members of a local fraternity where they together grow in the understanding of their calling with their brothers & sisters living the Rule
- Have a good sense of humour in that they are serious-minded but full of the joy of the Holy Spirit
- Are meditative & reflective, esp. on Scripture, seeking ever to be still & still moving

Of course, following the Gospel is never easy or simple. But our fraternal life helps us to find our way, supporting each other in our quest for holiness— conversion which of course is conformity to Christ, and which, of course, is daily.

