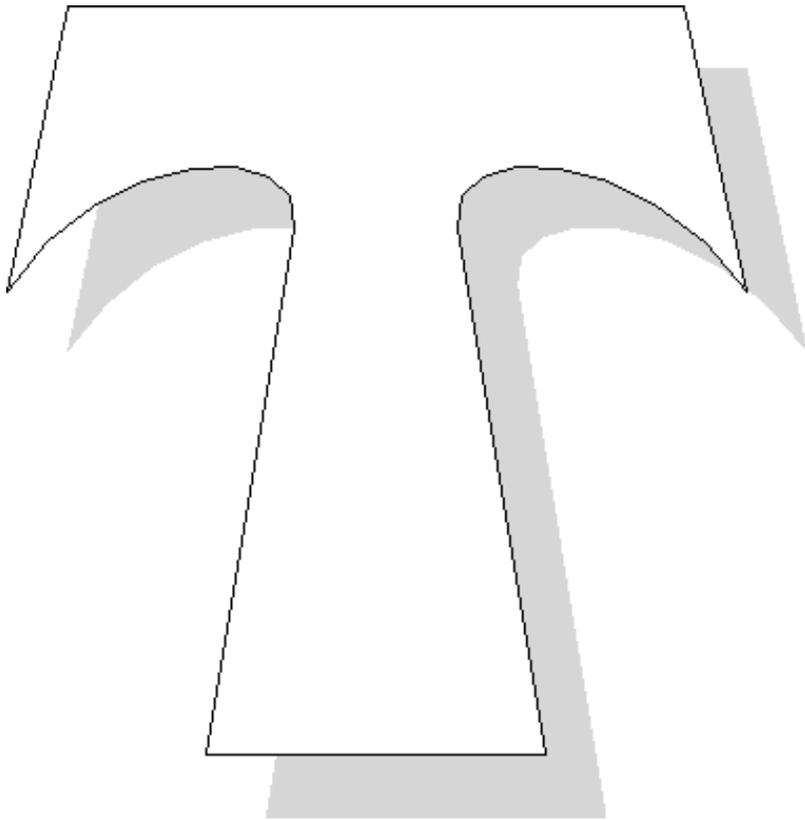


Renewal of Commitment to the Secular Franciscan Order



(adapted from the Prologue of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* and *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, permission given by Deacon Dave and Thérèse, O.F.S., 11/13, to reproduce)



From the Exhortation of Saint Francis to the Brothers and Sisters in Penance:

All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole soul and mind, with all their strength, and love their neighbors as themselves, and hate their bodies with their vices and sins, and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and produce worthy fruits of penance.

Oh, how happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things and persevere in doing them, because “the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them” and he will make “his home and dwelling among them” and they are the children of the heavenly Father whose works they do, and they are the spouses, brothers, sisters, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, how glorious it is to have such a great and holy Father in heaven! Oh, how glorious it is to have such a beautiful and admirable Spouse, the Holy Paraclete! Oh, how glorious it is to have such a Brother and such a Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!

Renewal of Franciscan Commitment

Leader: My brothers and sisters, as our response to the Lord’s call to us heard so clearly in the words of our Seraphic Father, let us together renew our commitment “to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi”:

All: “Let us bless our Lord and God, living and true; to Him we must attribute all praise, glory, honor, blessing, and every good forever.”

We thank you, Lord, for calling us to the Franciscan Way of Life. We ask Your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment to the Gospel Life and against the Holy Rule of our Order.

We pray that You will allow us to experience once again the fervor and readiness of that day when we responded to Your grace of ongoing conversion by entering the Order of Penance after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

With all of our hearts and the whole of our beings, we renew once again our Profession-Commitment to the Gospel Way of Life according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the end of our days.

Most high and glorious God, grant also that we may live in peace and harmony with all of creation, with all our brothers and sisters of the human family, and especially those with whom we share the gift of our Catholic Christian faith.

May we give an ever-more effective witness by our lives of simplicity, minority, humility, penance and service to the great gift we have received from You: our Franciscan calling to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church’s mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words.”

“All praise be Yours, O Lord, through all that You have made!” Amen.

Leader: My brothers and sisters, it is with great joy that we have renewed our Franciscan Profession-Commitment to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Rule of our Order. Our Seraphic Father himself encourages and blesses us in these words of his *Testament*:

“May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the Most High Father, and on earth with that of His Beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints.” **All: Amen!**