



***Rite of Admission
to the Secular Franciscan Order***

“What you hold, may you hold,
What you do, may you do and not stop.
But with swift pace, light step,
unswerving feet,
so that even your steps stir up no dust,
may you go forward
securely, joyfully, and swiftly,
on the path of prudent happiness...”

The Second Letter to Agnes of Prague

Clare of Assisi (1235)

Clare of Assisi: Early Documents, The Lady, 48.

Rite of Admission



❖ Admonition Before the Rite of Admission

Before the celebration is about to begin, a member of the fraternity may give a short admonition on the meaning of the event. The text may be composed for the occasion or the following may be used:

Member of the fraternity:

The Lord has called us to live the gospel way of life in fraternity, as he showed it to Saint Francis of Assisi. He brings us together today to receive those who, moved by the Holy Spirit, are asking to be admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order and want to begin their time of formation which will culminate in their profession or permanent commitment to the gospel life.

We will now renew our faith in the Holy Spirit and call on him: May he give us the grace to encourage and sustain their proper formation and to walk with them to attain their goal.

❖ Opening Rite

Opening Hymn:

Presider:

Let us pray. (Pause)

Lord our God,
 You have sent your Son Jesus Christ
 to be for us the way, the truth and the life.
 Grant that these your people
 who are asking to be admitted
 into the Secular Franciscan Order,
 and all of us, may hear the words of the gospel fully and
 may observe them attentively.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟: Amen.

❖ Liturgy of the Word

Before the first reading these words of exhortation of Saint Francis may be read:

Let us hear the Word of God in the spirit of our blessed father Saint Francis who encourages us:

“In that love which is God, we beg all those whom these words reach to receive those fragrant words of our Lord Jesus Christ with divine love and kindness. Because they are spirit and life, they should preserve them together with a holy activity to the end.”⁴

⁴ Saint Francis of Assisi, “Earlier Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance” (First Version of the Letter to the Faithful) in *FA:ED* 1:44, #19-21.

First Reading:

(Romans 6:3-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

**Are you unaware that we who were baptized
into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?**

**We were indeed buried with him through
baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.**

**For if we have grown into union with him
through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We
know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.
As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his
life, he lives for God.
Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as
(being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.**

The Word of the Lord.

℟: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

(Psalm 24:1-10)

℟: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. ℟

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things,
who has not sworn deceitful words. ℟

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ℟

Gospel Acclamation:

(Philippians 3:8-9)

I count all things worthless but this:
to gain Jesus Christ and to be found in him.

Gospel:

Deacon or Priest: (If not present, omit)

The Lord be with you.

℟: And with your spirit.

Deacon or Priest (or a member of the fraternity):

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Mark *(Mark 1:12-15)*

℟: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit drove (Jesus) out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The Gospel of the Lord.

℟: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily or Reflection

 **Rite of Admission**

One of those seeking admission to the Order in the name of all (or all together) expresses their desire to enter the Secular Franciscan Order. The minister receives their request in the name of the fraternity. This can be done in the form of a dialogue, in these or similar words:

Minister:

Let those who are asking to be admitted into this fraternity and the Secular Franciscan Order please come forward, namely:

Minister:

My friends, what is your request?

Those Seeking Admission to the Order:

We here present ask to enter this fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, so that we may live more intensely and faithfully the grace and dedication of our baptism by following Jesus Christ according to the teachings and example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In this way we intend to be of service to all through our secular state of life for the glory of God and to fulfill his plan of love on behalf of all people.

Minister:

This fraternity is pleased to accept your request. I therefore, receive you into the Secular Franciscan Order so that you may begin your time of formation and experience our Franciscan life in preparation for your permanent commitment.

Presider:

The Church and the Franciscan Family accept and confirm your sincere intention. May the Lord allow you to persevere in this desire and to be a leaven of gospel life in the midst of the world.

Whole Community: Amen! Thanks be to God!

If it is the custom of the fraternity, the formation director, or another person, may read the following:

**Blessed are all those who love the Lord
with their whole heart,
with their whole soul and mind,
with their whole strength
and love their neighbors as themselves.**

**Blessed are those who hate their bodies
with their vices and sins,
who receive the Body and Blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Blessed are those who produce worthy fruits of penance.
O how happy and blessed are these men and women
while they do such things
and persevere in doing them,
because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them
and make Its home and dwelling place among them,
and they are children of the heavenly Father
Whose works they do,
and they are spouses, brothers, and mothers
of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵**

The community acknowledges its assent in the customary fashion.

⁵ "Earlier Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance" in *FA:ED* 1:41.



Presentation of the *Rule* and the Distinctive OFS Sign

While the minister presents a copy of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* to each of the newly admitted members, the minister or another member of the fraternity says in these or similar words:

Minister (or another member of the fraternity):

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this:

To observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and with people.⁶

May this also be your way of life.

While a member of the fraternity presents to each of the new admitted members the distinctive sign of the Secular Franciscan Order, the presenter says in these or similar words:

Presenter of OFS Sign:

As you turn toward Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis, receive this sign of the Secular Franciscan Order and become one with us.

The General Intercessions and the *Lord's Prayer* follow.

Then the minister addresses the new members of the fraternity in these or similar words:

⁶ *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS Rule), art. 4.*

Minister:

the Secular Franciscan Fraternity of:

very gladly promises to help you in your journey with friendship, prayer and the witness of its life. You, on the other hand, strengthen our fraternity in numbers, by virtue of your presence and participation, and through the sharing of your special gifts. You are most welcome!



Concluding Rite

If the presider is a priest or deacon, he concludes the Rite by conferring the traditional blessing of Saint Francis. If the presider is not ordained, any priest or deacon present should be invited to confer the blessing.

Priest or Deacon:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

R: Amen.

**May his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.**

R: Amen.

**May he look upon you with kindness,
and give you his peace.**

R: Amen.

**May the Lord bless you,
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

R: Amen.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, the presider concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross.

Presider:

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

**May his face shine upon us,
and be gracious to us.**

**May the Lord bless us,
and give us his peace.**

℟: Amen.

Closing Hymn:



Saint Francis of Assisi (detail),
Cimabue