

Lady Poverty Region Ongoing Formation
Live the Treasure! Celebrating 40 Years of Our Rule!

Article 2

The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church.

The Secular Franciscan Order is truly secular, for it has a specialized style of evangelization: to transform the world from within with the life and teachings of Jesus, and to do so by means of change of heart, worship, simple things, community, service, justice, peace, ecology, and Christian attitudes toward work. For Secular Franciscans the workaday world is the arena of salvation and the altar for the consecration of creation. ~ Benet A. Fonck, OFM, Called to Proclaim Christ

But by reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, that is, they are engaged in each and every work and business of the earth and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which, as it were, constitute their very existence. There they are called by God that, being led by the spirit to the Gospel, they may contribute to the sanctification of the world, as from within like leaven, by fulfilling their own particular duties. Thus, especially by the witness of their life, resplendent in faith, hope and charity they must manifest Christ to others. ~ Lumen Gentium, 31

Questions for meditation and discussion

1. Article 2 states: "In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state." What does "strive for perfect charity" mean to you personally?
2. What does it mean "From Gospel to life and Life to the Gospel"?

At the microphone: What are 3 ways our fraternity and our order as a whole help us to strive for perfect charity?