

Are you interested in learning more about the Franciscan family?

Francis attracted men and women, single and married, to his way of life. In his lifetime, Francis founded three Orders in the Church – all which exist today. In Francis's words, 'God gave him brothers' and sisters! His way of living the Gospel was so attractive that he is responsible for establishing three Religious Orders: The Order of Lesser Brothers or Friars, The Poor Sisters or Poor Clares under the leadership of St. Clare of Assisi, and The Third Order, consisting first of lay men and women, and later, members who chose to live in community with the traditional three religious vows. Today we know these Orders as the Third Order Secular Franciscans and Third Order Regular Franciscans.

Order of Friars Minor are priests and brothers living the Franciscan life in community. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Province is a coast-to-coast Catholic brotherhood devoted to living the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. They serve the poor, the forgotten and the marginalized alongside people of goodwill located across the United States, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. You are invited to learn more about their way of life:

- [Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- Interested in becoming a Franciscan Friar? [Click here](#).

Poor Clares are women living the Franciscan life in a cloistered community. The Poor Clare Federation of Mary Immaculate (link is below) is one of a number of Poor Clare Federation in the U.S., which includes the Poor Clares of Santa Barbara and 11 other monasteries. You can learn more:

- <https://cloisteredcontemplativepoorclares.org/>

Third Order Secular Franciscans are part of the global Franciscan movement. Secular Franciscans live regular lives in the world, seeking to pattern their lives after Christ in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. You can learn more here:

- [National Secular Franciscan Order](#)
- [San Luis Rey Fraternity in Oceanside, CA](#)
- [Immaculate Conception Fraternity in San Diego, CA](#)

Third Order Regular Franciscans (T.O.R.). Inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, the members of the Third Order Regular set forth to follow Jesus Christ by living in fraternal communion, by professing the observance of the evangelical counsels of obedience, poverty and chastity in public vows, and by giving themselves to innumerable expressions of apostolic activity. To actualize in the best way possible their

chosen way of life, they dedicate themselves unreservedly to prayer, strive to grow in fraternal love, live true penance and cultivate Christian self-denial. An overview of Third Order Regular life can be found on the first website below, The Franciscan Federation. That site reveals many other Franciscan groups as identified on the second and third links. Two specific Third Order Congregations are found in the last two links.

- [Franciscan Federation](#) (based in the Third Order Charism)
- [Franciscan National & International Organizations](#) (Third Order & First Order Based)
- [Franciscan Retreat Centers](#)
- [T.O.R. Friars of the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, LaCrosse, WI](#)

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