

**Rite Of Permanent Profession  
to the  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Padre Pio Fraternity**

Saturday, July 15, 2023

The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

David Abell, OFS	Rachel Bongiorno, OFS
Travis Bongiorno, OFS	Mary Cockrill, OFS
Mercedes Cooley, OFS	Valorie Davis, OFS
Brian Denison, OFS	Anne Evangelista, OFS
Alma Hammer, OFS	Richard Hammer, OFS
Marylou Holloway, OFS	Maureen McFadden, OFS
Nkem Okereke, OFS	Janette Perez, OFS
Henry Simms, OFS	

Reception immediately following Mass  
in Clare Fellowship Hall

**Minister:**

We are assembled as a community to take part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In this celebration, our Candidates will make their profession of the gospel life in the Secular Franciscan Order after three years of formation. In doing this, they make present again and renew promises of their Baptism and the commitment of their Confirmation.

While giving thanks to the Father through Christ for all the gifts we have received from him, we have a special reason for gratitude today. We are grateful for the gift of his grace which he has given to the Candidates about to be professed to live in the world according to the spirit of the Beatitudes, and also the gift of his grace that he has given to the whole community by adding new members to the Padre Pio Fraternity.

The permanent commitment to the gospel life publicly proclaimed today during this Eucharistic celebration reminds us of something that is also made present every day in the Eucharist. After the example of Christ and in union with his own act of thanksgiving, we are to present ourselves before the Father as living sacrifices of praise given for the life of the world.

Candidates, please come forward.

**Minister:**

God has consecrated you with water and the Holy Spirit. What do you now ask of God, the Church, and the Franciscan Family?

**Minister:**

By your profession you are the light of Christ in the world. Your light must shine before all so that they may see the goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.

**Vice-Minister:**

We invite all of the members of the Padre Pio Fraternity to stand and raise your hands for the blessing of St. Francis of Assisi for our newly professed members.

**Celebrant:**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

**All:** Amen.

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

**All:** Amen.

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

**All:** Amen.

May almighty God bless you, + the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Minister:**

Thanks be to God! As appointed minister of this fraternity, I accept your profession, and receive you into Padre Pio Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. Your membership in our fraternity is a cause of great joy and hope for all the members of the community and for the whole church.

**Celebrant:**

I confirm your commitment in the name of the Church. Our seraphic father, Francis, himself encourages you in the words of his Testament: "May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessings of the most high Father, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints."

**Formation Director:**

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. By your lifelong profession to go from gospel to life and life to gospel, may you continually encounter the living and active person of Christ.

May you conform your thoughts and deeds to those of Christ and build a more fraternal and evangelical world by fulfilling your vocation as a "Brother or Sister" of Penance."

*Council Members give a Bible, profession certificate and candle to the newly professed.*

**Candidates (Together):**

I ask to be admitted to profession to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and to make a permanent commitment to the gospel life. The experience during the time of my formation has strengthened me in the conviction that the Lord is calling me to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

**Minister:**

Padre Pio Fraternity accepts your petition and is united with you in your prayer. May the Holy Spirit confirm in you the work he has begun.

**Celebrant:**

Before this fraternity and the other members of the People of God gathered here, I ask you to express your will. Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi that are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?

**Candidates (Together):**

Yes, this is what I want.

**Celebrant:**

You have been called to give witness to the Kingdom of God and to build a more fraternal world based on the gospel, together with all people of goodwill. Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans?

**Candidates (Together):**

Yes, this is what I want.

**Celebrant:**

You have been made a member of the people of God by your Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation by the new gift of the Spirit in order to proclaim Christ by your life and your words. Do you wish to bind yourself more closely to the Church and work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?

**Candidates (Together):**

Yes, this is what I want.

**Minister:**

The local fraternity is a visible sign of the Church, a community of faith and love. Together with all members, you now pledge yourself to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community.

**Celebrant:**

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, your grace has led this, your servants to live their faith more fully in the context of the world by coming to profess the gospel according to the life and Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. By the power of your Holy Spirit may they give witness to the life and teachings of your Son to all the world. Grant that they may be continually united to Christ through the gifts of his life so that the Church may be rebuilt and her mission fulfilled through Christ our Lord.

O Lord, our God, watch over your servants. May the Spirit of your love penetrate their hearts, so that your grace will strengthen them to keep his commitment to the gospel life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Candidate (Say together):**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, In my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its Rule of Life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the Franciscan Order by observing its Rule of Life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.