

A religious painting of a man with a halo, likely a saint, playing a violin. He is shown in profile, looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. The background is a warm, golden-yellow, textured wash. In the bottom right corner, the heads of two birds are visible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**MAY WE CONTINUE  
TO PLAY THE MUSIC  
OF THE LORD,  
EVEN WHEN  
THE REST OF THE  
WORLD DOES NOT  
HEAR HIS SONG.**

# What is Secular Franciscan Formation?

- Formation is a 're-founding' of our life according to the call to live 'the gospel life' in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare
- Formation is a lifelong commitment to conversion
- Formation is centered upon the person of Christ Himself
- Formation is more than sharing information. Formation must transform our lives to reflect Gospel values, attitudes and perspectives

# Basic Roles of Formation

- to bring the person to a fuller 'realization of his/her human and Christian development'
- to deepen the person's faith so that enlivened by the Holy Spirit he/she may live in closer 'union with the Father in Christ the Lord'
- to develop a understanding of the role that the OFS, and each Secular Franciscan, has in the Church and the Franciscan Family

True and authentic formation involves radical, interior change!



# THE RITES OF ADMISSION AND PROFESSION

**Our Commitment in the  
OFS**



# The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order – Who are we? (Section 1)

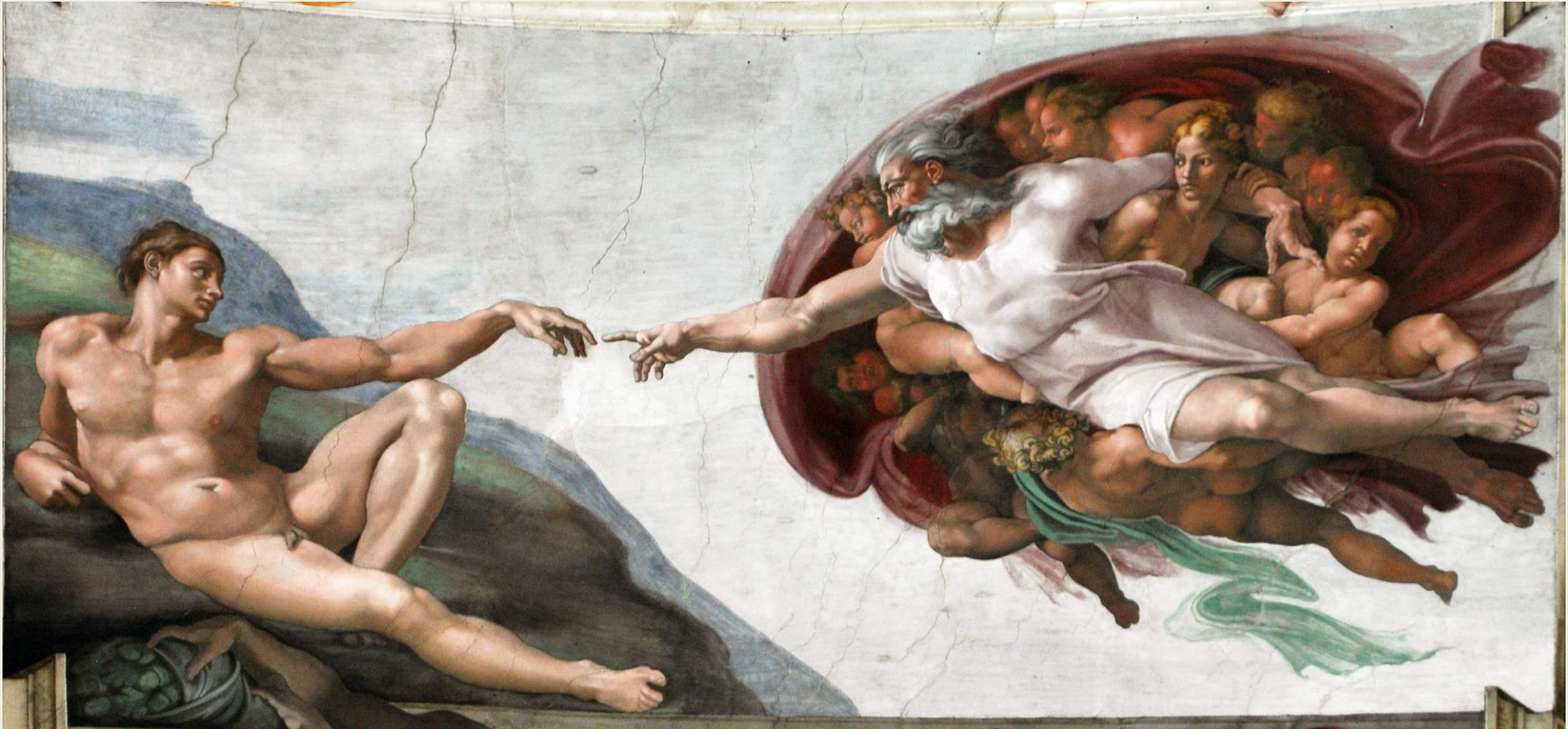
- *“Many men and women, married and single, and many members of the diocesan clergy are called by God to follow the way of perfection of the gospel life after the example and manner of Francis of Assisi, to share his charism, and to make it present in the world. They promise to follow Jesus Christ and to live the gospel in fraternity by entering the Secular Franciscan Order. In this way they manifest the priceless gift of Baptism and realize it in a fuller and more fruitful way.”*

# OFS Rites signify and effect the desire to become a member of the order and to make a permanent commitment to the Gospel Life. Particularly–

- ✓ Rite of Admission
- ✓ Rite of Profession



# Rites strengthen our union with God



# Who We Are

## Our Franciscan Identity and Heritage

**The Rite of Admission** begins with the Inquirers asking to enter the Secular Franciscan Order so that they may live more intensely and faithfully the grace of their Baptism. They seek to follow Jesus according to the teaching and example of St Francis and to be of service to all, as a secular person, for the glory of God.



# Why We Gather

## Life in fraternity and Sense of belonging

An example of why we gather in fraternity is found at the end of the Rite of Admission.

The minister says to the new candidates:

*... [this] Secular Franciscan Fraternity... 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!*

# Who We Are

## Our Franciscan Identity and Heritage

In the Rite of Profession, the candidates ask:  
*...to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and to make a permanent commitment to the gospel life.*

By faithfully living the articles of the Rule, they clothe themselves with our Franciscan identity and make it visible to the Church and to the world.

# Symbols and Gifts

At the Ceremony of Welcoming	At the Rite of Admission	At the Rite of Profession
Biography of Saint Francis and <i>[in some cases]</i> Saint Clare Aspirants introduce themselves	The Rule of Life  The TAU Cross	The Holy Gospels, <i>[and where customary]</i> San Damiano Crucifix, a profession Candle, and/or Ring



# Points to Remember

- † The rites and prayers in the Ritual are meant to be celebrated publicly in the midst of the fraternity. They are not composed to be private devotionals, although they do contain words of wisdom and spiritual depth.
- † Advance preparation and focused intention are vital for the celebrations to be meaningful.
- † When we gather for these occasions, everyone is expected to be a participant. No one is a spectator.
- † The most important point to remember is that when we gather,  
we are in the presence of **GOD**.

# For Discussion: Based on the Rites

- T +Key Learnings:** For you, what are the four most outstanding parts of the Rites of Admission and Profession?
- T +Understanding our Promises:** What are you asked to promise that might present a challenge to you? Give an example and tell why it is challenging.
- T +Conversion:** The Holy Spirit speaks to each of us in a very personal way. As you read the Rites of Admission and Profession, how did they touch and change you and bring you closer to God? Give examples.

**+Discernment:** *The Rites do not transform us into Franciscans. They celebrate the change that has already taken place in you throughout your discernment. We are celebrating the fact that God has called you from the time of your Baptism to live out your life as a Catholic and as a Franciscan. God delights in our acts of love for him. He calls us first. The Holy Spirit has planted the seed of our vocation in us from the very beginning.*

Give an example of how this is taking place in you already.

**+Key Takeaways:** Please list three key takeaways to living as a Franciscan that the promises you make (made) during these Rites will help you to achieve.

# A Prayer For Spiritual Growth

Gracious and loving God,  
I praise you for the gift of this good day,  
And I pray that I use this gift  
To learn to love You more.

Help me to advance  
In the journey of spiritual growth.  
Lead me to look for You, and find You  
In the service of my sisters and brothers.

Gift me with the eyes of faith  
So that in every experience of joy and sorrow,  
I will recognize Your presence, and discover Your tenderness.

I re-dedicate myself to my Baptismal vows,  
As I strive to live a Gospel-centered life,  
Open and obedient to Your voice,  
Willing to embrace whatever You ask of me.

Nourished by prayer,  
And strengthened by Your grace,  
May seeds of holiness, wisdom and charity  
Take root and flower forth  
In my life-long song of glory and honor  
To You, my Lord and my God. AMEN.