

Parish Script

Thank you, Father [name] and good [time of day] everyone. My name is,[name] and I am a Secular Franciscan. The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is a branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family. We are single and married. We work, worship and play in the community where we live. The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi himself almost 800 years ago for a married couple who wanted to follow his example but who could not enter a convent or monastery. Our purpose is to bring the gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for practical ways to embrace the gospel in our lives and try to help others do likewise.

Since we celebrate the feast of St. Francis on October 4th, the Franciscan family started an initiative in 2024 to make October Franciscan Month similar to the other months we celebrate like Black History month and Autism Awareness month.

The mission of Franciscan Month is to celebrate the 800 year old Franciscan movement and to demonstrate how relevant St. Francis is today. He is truly universal. Did you know there are Lutheran, Anglican and other Protestant Franciscans? That says much about the impact that Francis left on the world. Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death.

Franciscan scholar and poet, Murray Bodo, says that Francis used to praise God the Artist in every one of God's works. He rejoiced in all the works of God's hands, animate and inanimate. He embraced the overflowing goodness of God revealed in everything that exists!

You may know this man Francis only as the sweet saint who adorns birdbaths and whose statues proliferate in gardens all over the world. We know him as the patron saint of ecology, creation and animals and we bless animals around the time of his feast day as we will do here on [date]. That tradition of blessing the animals around his feast day is rooted in his deep love and reverence for all creatures. He saw all animals as his brothers and sisters reflecting the goodness of God the Creator.

The Franciscan Month team is preparing a series of coordinated events and a large-scale digital campaign for October.

Recognizing the reach and impact of digital media, our primary emphasis will be on spreading awareness of Franciscan values through online platforms. This includes weekly themed blogs, videos, and social media content, alongside in-person events developed in collaboration with our target communities which this year are Franciscan colleges, universities and high schools, Franciscan and diocesan parishes and selected retreat centers across the country.

Our ultimate goal is an official Vatican designation of October as Franciscan Month.

Please visit our website - www.franciscanmonth.org – and see the parish bulletin for more information. Thank you