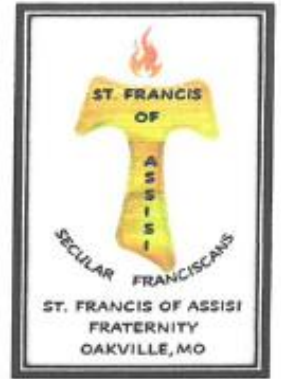


We at the St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Fraternity would like to introduce ourselves. The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), formerly known as the Third Order Secular, is a branch of the Franciscan Family, founded and canonically established in 1221 by St. Francis. Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for ways to embrace the Gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise, as St. Francis did so perfectly. Our Fraternity in Oakville, which has been active since 1959, is blessed to have members from many surrounding parishes in the South St. Louis and North Jefferson County area and are always welcoming those Catholics called to the Franciscan spirituality and lifestyle to join us.



Aspiring to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis as evangelizers, and fulfill Francis' purpose, we are hosting a "GETTING TO KNOW ST. FRANCIS" contest for the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to introduce them to the lifestyle and spiritual standards of St. Francis.

The "GETTING TO KNOW ST. FRANCIS" contest will be presented by one of our Fraternity Representatives, to educate the students not only on St. Francis' life and inspire the students to seek these Scriptural virtues and implement them into their young lives.

Students are first encouraged to research life stories of St. Francis and then choose **one** of the following topics to complete a short essay, 500 words or less. All submissions are due by November 19th. **These may be typed or handwritten, and returned to Emily Kopff at ekopff@sjiparish.org who will pass them along to the committee. Please include your name and grade on your essay.**

1. Write your OWN Canticle of Creation (by St. Francis of Assisi)
2. Write about the first Christmas Creche (live nativity scene) done by St. Francis of Assisi
3. Write about the miracles of St. Francis of Assisi or St. Clare of Assisi

Prizes:

Winner - statue of St. Francis

Winning class - pizza party

Videos:

- Rebuild My Church by Chris Stefanick 15 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCHExu3ltt0>
- Saint Series by Chris Bray 6 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM49y61Kx1E>
- St. Francis by Catholic Central 6 minutes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4ePpcN_SN0

Blogs:

- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/pausepray/st-francis-and-the-creche/>
- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/st-francis-of-assisi-and-his-canticle-of-the-sun/>
- <https://www.lettersfromthesaints.com/blog/st-francis-eye-disease-and-the-miraculous-wine>
- <https://www.lettersfromthesaints.com/blog/st-clare-of-assisi-and-the-miracles-of-the-eucharist-the-mass-and-the-bread>