

How do you become a Tertiary?

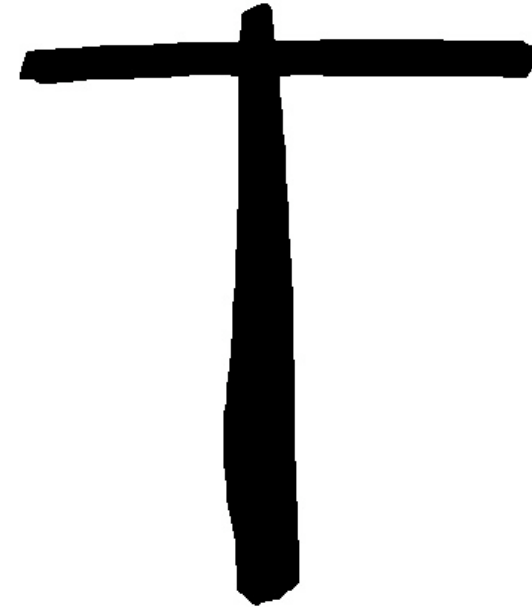
Individuals wishing to join the Third Order undertake a three-year guided programme of discernment (a novitiate) to discover if they have a vocation to the Order and hence an awareness of a call to serve God in this particular way of life. Initial enquirers are given the opportunity to find out more, share their faith journey, meet some local Tertiaries, and to attend a Local or Area meeting before starting the process which can lead to a life long commitment.

For more information visit our website: www.tssf.org.uk.



Enquiries can be made by phone or e-mail to the Provincial Novice Guardian, Philippa Bird TSSF on 020 8932 1518, or novguard@tssf.org.uk

The Third Order Society of St Francis *(European Province)*



Am I being called to this way of life?

What is the Third Order?

The Third Order is a world-wide Anglican Franciscan Religious Order of men and women over the age of 18, lay and ordained, married and single, young and old of varying ethnic and educational backgrounds. We take life vows to lead our lives according to a Rule of Life, while living in our own homes, working in the community and caring for our families. There are about 3000 members worldwide, 2000 of whom are in Europe.

The aims of the Order are to:

- Make our Lord Jesus Christ known and loved everywhere
- To spread the spirit of love and harmony
- To live simply.

What is distinctive about its members?

Tertiaries, as members are known, desire to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, whom we serve through prayer, study and work, after the example of St Francis and St Clare. The keynotes of our lives are humility, love and joy. We are inspired by St. Francis' challenge to the Church to follow closely Jesus' earthly life, to proclaim the gospel and bring justice and peace.

The life of the Order is rooted in Eucharistic worship and personal prayer and we believe that we are called to serve within the Church and in the World, enriched and strengthened by periods of contemplation and retreat. We know of many holy men and women who are not members of a religious order. But for us, this is an important lifestyle and commitment that enables us to keep our most important promise – the one we made at our baptism.

Franciscans seek to worship and serve God in His creation and are therefore pledged to the service of others and to respect for all life. We aim at a simple lifestyle and at self-denial, living in solidarity with the poverty of the world and accepting its claim upon our stewardship.

Why the “Third” Order?

The Third Order is part of the Society of St Francis which contains two other Anglican orders:

The First Order consists of men and women who live in community under a Franciscan Rule based on the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The Second Order is composed of women who feel called by God to a life of contemplative prayer, coupled with work to be self-supporting.