

## "Altius moderamen"

It is a Latin term used in Canon 303 to mean that the friars of the First Order and Third Order Regular are to guarantee the fidelity of the SFO to the Franciscan charism, communion with the Church and union with the Franciscan Family, values which represent a vital commitment for the Secular Franciscans. (*General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order*, Article #85.2)

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|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>First Order:</b>               | <b>Order of Friars Minor</b>             | <b>O.F.M.</b>       |
|                                   | <b>Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin</b>   | <b>O.F.M. Cap.</b>  |
|                                   | <b>Order of Friars Minor, Conventual</b> | <b>O.F.M. Conv.</b> |
| <b>Third Order Regular Friars</b> |  | <b>T.O.R.</b>       |

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## THE CATHOLIC FRANCISCAN FAMILY

|                      |  |                     |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>First Order:</b>  | <b>Order of Friars Minor</b>             | <b>O.F.M.</b>       |
|                      | <b>Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin</b>   | <b>O.F.M. Cap.</b>  |
|                      | <b>Order of Friars Minor, Conventual</b> | <b>O.F.M. Conv.</b> |
| <b>Second Order:</b> | <b>Poor Clares</b>                       | <b>O.S.C.; P.C.</b> |
| <b>Third Order:</b>  | <b>Secular Franciscan Order</b>          | <b>S.F.O.</b>       |
|                      | <b>Third Order Regular</b>               | <b>T.O.R.</b>       |

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There are several hundred Congregations of Religious Women and Men who also follow the Third Order Regular Rule. Many serve the SFO as Spiritual Assistants, but do **not** exercise the "altius moderamen" of the First Order and Third Order Regular friars. These congregations use a variety of initials, such as the following:

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|---|-----------------|
| <b>Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis</b>  | <b>C.F.P.</b>   |
| <b>Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the<br/>Third Order Regular of St. Francis</b> | <b>O.S.E.</b>   |
| <b>Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix (Felician Sisters)</b>                                | <b>C.S.S.F.</b> |
| <b>Franciscan Brothers of Peace</b>   | <b>F.B.P.</b>   |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary</b>                                   | <b>F.H.M.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception</b>                           | <b>F.H.I.C.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child</b>                                     | <b>F.M.D.C.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus</b>                                     | <b>F.M.I.J.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the<br/>Third Order of St. Francis</b>                   | <b>F.M.S.C.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Missionaries of Mary</b>   | <b>F.M.M.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph</b>   | <b>F.M.S.J.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of Mary</b>  | <b>F.S.M.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate of the Third Order of<br/>St. Francis of Assisi</b> | <b>F.M.I.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph</b>  | <b>F.S.S.J.</b>        |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of the Poor</b>  | <b>S.F.P.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood</b>  | <b>F.S.R.</b>          |
| <b>Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration</b>   | <b>F.S.P.A.</b>        |
| <b>Little Brothers of St. Francis</b>  | <b>L.B.S.F.</b>        |
| <b>Little Franciscan Sisters of Mary</b>   | <b>P.F.M.</b>          |
| <b>Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception</b>                            | <b>M.F.I.C.</b>        |
| <b>Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception<br/>of the Mother of God</b>              | <b>S.M.I.C.</b>        |
| <b>Order of St. Francis</b>  | <b>O.S.F.</b>          |
| <b>Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross</b>  | <b>S.C.S.C.</b>        |
| <b>Sisters of St. Francis of Peace</b>   | <b>F.S.P.</b>          |
| <b>Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis</b>                               | <b>S.S.J.-T.O.S.F.</b> |
| <b>Society of the Atonement (Greymore Friars and Sisters)</b>                                | <b>S.A.</b>            |

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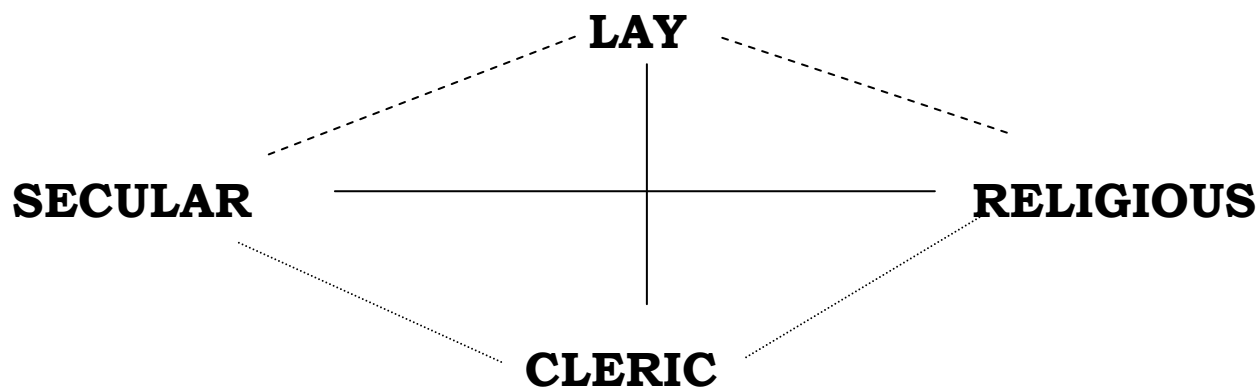
Our secular Franciscan brothers and sisters from other faith traditions include the following:

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|--|-----------------|
| <b>The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis<br/>(Anglican/Episcopalian)</b> | <b>T.S.S.F.</b> |
| <b>Order of Ecumenical Franciscans<br/>(Christian denominations)</b>             | <b>O.E.F.</b>   |

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Clarification of Christian **life-style** (how a person *lives* in the Church) and Christian **ministry** (how a person *acts* or *works* in the Church).

(cf. *Code of Canon Law* #207; Benet A. Fonck, *Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ*, 1995, pages 12-4 to 12-14.)



(Compiled by David & Thérèse Ream, S.F.O., National Formation Commission, 1999, 2005.)