



Who is Saint Francis of Assisi?

Born in 1182 the son of a rich fabric merchant, Francis grew up preoccupied with worldly affairs. Disillusioned by his experience as a soldier and prisoner of war, he had a profound spiritual transformation.

Abandoning his life of luxury, he knew God was calling him to live the Gospel by following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Over 800 years later, many have chosen to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis leaving all behind to follow the example of Christ.



Contact Information

If you have any questions or want to learn more, scan the QR Code to visit us online or email us at

info@franciscancommunity.org



FranciscanCommunity.org

Who are the Conventual Franciscans?



Living an 800-year Tradition of Gospel Fraternity & Service





Our Foundation



We live the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the footsteps of our founder St. Francis. As brothers in Christ, friars live together in community and follow the Gospel way of prayer and humble service.

The Conventual friars are rooted in the establishment of the Order in 1209 and known as the “Friars of the Community.”

The title “conventual” is from *convenire* (Latin) meaning “to come together.” The identification was introduced by St. Bonaventure in 1260 as the Order began to mature and friars started forming communities to minister together in cities and universities.



Who We Are



Universal Presence

The heart of the Order is centered in our communal life and continuous ministry at the basilica tombs of St. Francis in Assisi and St. Anthony in Padua in Italy. Going outward, our Conventual friars now serve in 67 countries on six continents.

Local Identity

St. Bonaventure Province was established in 1939. Our friars currently minister in the Archdioceses of Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit, and the diocese of Peoria, IL.

Our Values

- Ongoing conversion of mind and heart to Jesus Christ
- Fraternal life in common
- Solidarity with the poor and marginalized
- Sanctification of society through beauty and culture
- Catholic response to the needs of our time



What We Do



Each friar contributes to our mission by developing and applying his God-given talents. Teaching, nursing, administering sacraments, and sharing musical or artistic abilities are just some of the ways we build up the Kingdom of God.

We also place special emphasis on serving the most vulnerable groups of society.

The work of the friars flows from the shared fraternal life in our Conventual friaries. Friars live and work at our Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, our Kolbe National Shrine and Retreat Center at Marytown in Libertyville, IL and at friaries in Chicago and Wenona, IL, and Dearborn Heights, MI.

