***Who were St. Francis and St. Clare?***

**St. Francis and St. Clare were both raised in Assisi, Italy, surrounded by wealth and privilege, in the 13th Century. At this time in our heritage, our Holy Mother Church was going through many trials. The Crusades were in high swing and the faithful had become lukewarm at best. Sadly, corruption and indifference seemed to plague all of Christendom. (Sound familiar?)**

**It was this social climate that Francis and Clare rejected in a radical way. They renounced materialism, shallow social relations and the mistreatment of any part of creation so as to seek a deeper intimacy with nature and closer relationship with our Heavenly Father. Through voluntary poverty, charitable service to all those in need, and prayer and penance, they both glorified God with their lives and essentially put “Christ” back in Christian.**



*Live in the world as a fool for Christ.*

**Most High and Glorious God,**

**Bring Light to the Darkness of my**

**Heart!**

**Give me Right Faith, Certain Hope**

**And Perfect Charity**

**Lord, Give me Insight and Wisdom**

**So I might always Discern Your**

**Holy and True Will.**

**Amen!**



**For more information about**

**Franciscan Youth please contact:**

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Or visit:

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Catholic Franciscan Young Adults YouFra Ontario Canada

[www.ofsnational.ca](http://www.ofsnational.ca)

(Commissions: FranciscanYouth)

Franciscan Youth



Is God calling you?

***What is this?***

**This is a personal invitation to enter deeper into your journey of spiritual discernment by way of a unique community called “*YouFra”***

***YouFra***

**Franciscan Youth or “YouFra” is an international community made up of young people (18-30) who feel compelled by the Holy Spirit, to deepen their faith walk and to share the experience of Christian life in fraternity. “*YouFra”* walks in the light of the message of St. Francis of Assisi, meaning to say, they proclaim the Gospel always with their life and defend the value of life and all creation unceasingly. “*YouFra”* Fraternities are also in perfect union with our Holy Mother Church by way of the Secular Franciscan Order.**

***“YouFra”* belong as an integral part to the Franciscan Family and consider the Rule of the OFS its inspirational document. “*YouFra”* Fraternities seek spiritual assistance from competent religious superiors and fraternal animation from the Secular Franciscans.**

**Vocational discernment is to be the main focus during this journey.**

***Vocation and Discernment!***

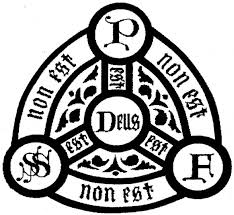
**This can be a great stumbling block for even the most devout and faith filled person. Jesus cooperated with His Father’s plan and struggled. Francis was afflicted with great doubt and struggled. We are also called to do it. How will you answer the call?**

***“YouFra”* offers you the opportunity to create your own environment for discernment. This can be a place were along with your peers and united with wise council, one can enter deeper into your personal labyrinth of discernment.**

**Where to now?**

**800 years ago Francis shook the foundations of his culture with his simplicity. Before him Christ did the same and now is our turn. Blessed John Paul II called all youth of the world to become radical in their faith.**

**In over a dozen other countries in the world youth are heeding this call and are busy affecting their communities by way of living simply so others may simply live.**



***When we get together we…***

* **Develop a more mature spirituality and lifestyle so as to handle the challenges of the world.**
* **We study our faith, especially in light of the Gospel so as to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel**
* **We explore the life of St. Francis, St. Clare and study the OFS Rule**
* **Pray and sing together**
* **Have small group discussions**
* **Be Peacemakers by living the Beatitudes**
* **We pursue Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) which flows naturally from the life of St. Francis**