

The Rite of Profession

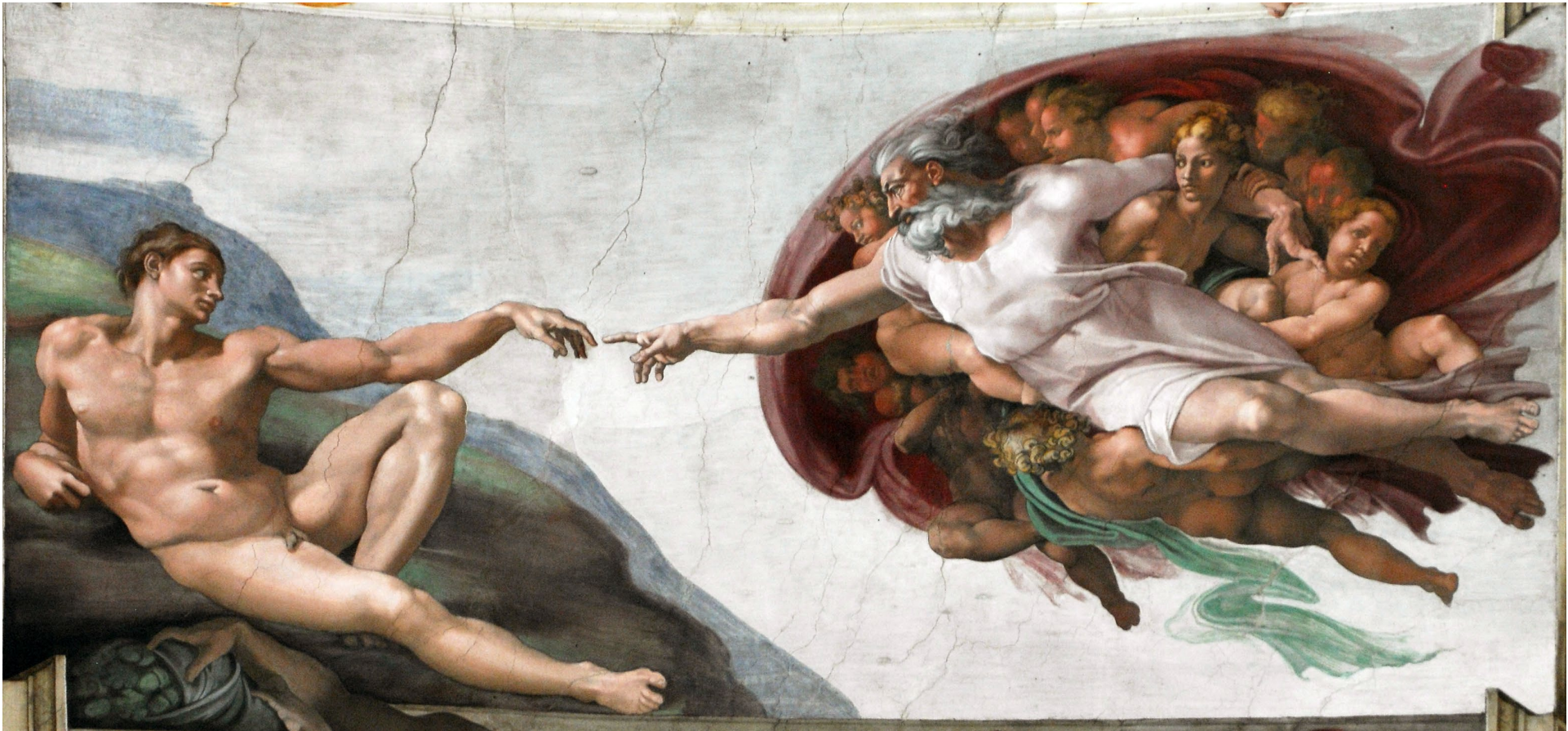
Using the Ritual as a
Formation Resource





Initial Formation Should Anticipate and Illuminate the Ritual.

Rites strengthen our union with God



Sacraments are familiar and visible rites that celebrate, signify, and make present the graces proper to each sacrament



Each rite includes similar essential elements

- ✓ Questioning
- ✓ Witnesses
- ✓ Wording
- ✓ Assent
- ✓ Symbols

OFS Rites signify and effect the desire to become a member of the order and to make a permanent commitment to the Gospel Life.

- ✓ Rite Admission
- ✓ Rite of Profession

Each rite is instructive and affirming of the vocation and life of the Secular Franciscan.





The language of the responses and prayers recapitulates the main emphases of formation up to that point.



The Rite of Profession incorporates into the ritual key themes to be explored and learned during initial formation.

The Key Themes Include:

- ✓ Living the gospel following St. Francis
- ✓ Fidelity to the Church
- ✓ Spirit of Service
- ✓ Importance of the Rule
- ✓ Renewal of Baptism and Confirmation
- ✓ Mission to rebuild the church
- ✓ Centrality of life in fraternity
- ✓ Permanence of the commitment





These themes are expressed in the very language of the ritual

Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?



Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans?



Do you wish to bind yourself more closely to the Church and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?



**I, _____,
by the grace of God,
renew my baptismal promises
and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom.
Therefore, in my secular state
I promise to live
all the days of my life
the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the Secular Franciscan Order
by observing its rule of life.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and our holy father St. Francis,
and the fraternal bonds of community
always be my help,
so that I may reach the goal
of perfect Christian love.**

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Familiarity with the rites
provides a deeper
understanding of their
significance and
expectation



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