

### **“Rebuild My Church”**

**St. Francis responded in faith to the Lord’s invitation to rebuild the Church by living among the people of God, living the Gospels and by example. As members of the Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross, we also strive to live Gospel values inspired by the life of St. Francis of Assisi and guided by the life and rule of our founder, Brother James Wirth. Join us and our mission to be of service to the Church and the people of God by providing care in a joyful giving of self to the sick, the suffering and those in need.**



**“Welcome... Serving God and humanity.”**

**Is God calling you to a rewarding life of serving others, by living a religious life in community in the Franciscan tradition?**

**We invite you to contact us!  
Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross**

**Visit our Website  
[www.franciscanbrothers.in](http://www.franciscanbrothers.in)**

## **Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross**

Walking in the ways of St. Francis of Assisi



**T**he Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross were founded on June 12, 1862 in a small village, Hausen, on the Wied River, in the western forest area of Germany. The founder of the community, Brother James Wirth felt called to do something special for God, for others, and for the Church.

Brother James listened for the voice of God throughout his young life, which prepared him to follow Jesus with a special dedication of helping young orphans. Brother James was an orphan himself. He wanted to build up God’s kingdom by providing a home for orphans and to educate them in life skills and a trade. In this way, these young men would be able to contribute to society as Christians and to earn a living through their work.



Other young men saw what Brother James and his companion Brother Anthony were doing. They wanted to join them in their work. For the small community of Brothers, the development of the spiritual life of the Brotherhood was the foundation of their lives as Brothers. It provided a firm base from which they would be carry out their ministry of service to the sick, the suffering and those in need.

Brother James and his companions were always willing to help others in need. It was while helping people who were sick with smallpox that Brother James contracted the disease and died on March 28, 1871.

Brother James’ model of discernment, of listening to God’s voice and following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, is what gives us an example for our ministries today. We are determined to follow the call of Jesus in our lives and serve those who are in need of our Franciscan witness today. We invite men who are interested in learning more about our way of life to contact us.

**PEACE AND ALL GOOD!**

[www.franciscanbrothers.in](http://www.franciscanbrothers.in)



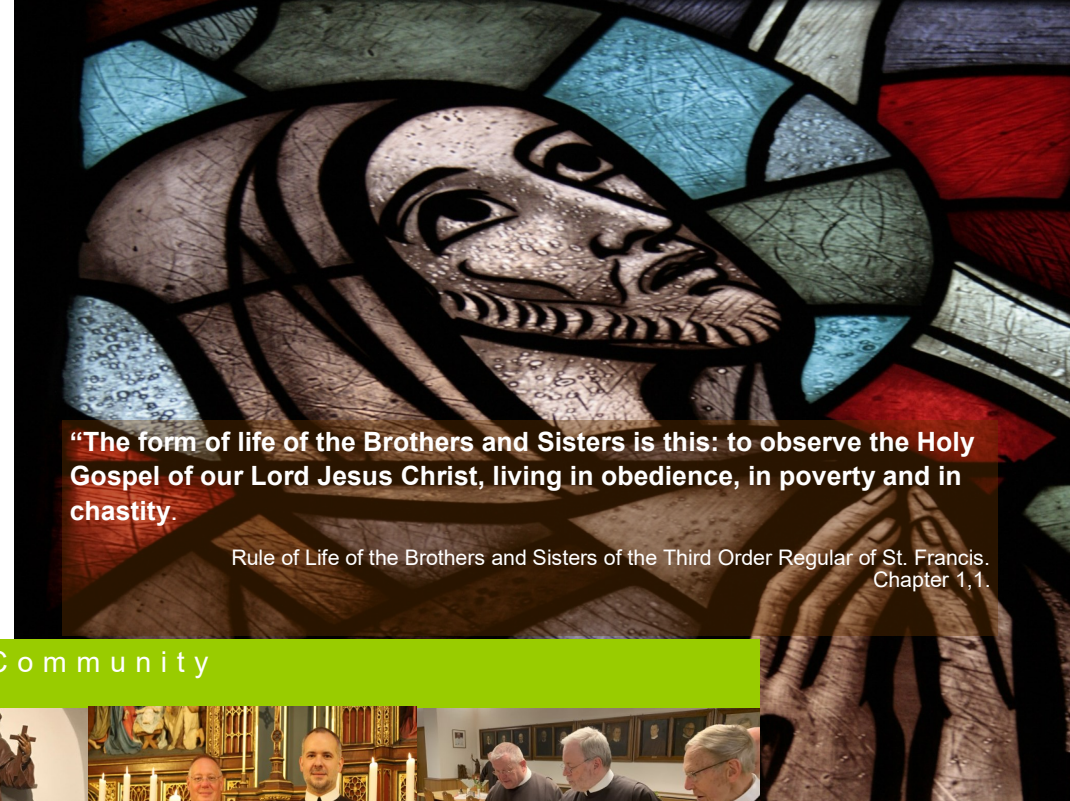
# "FOLLOW ME"

Giving of oneself to serve the needs of others



## Our Way of Life

Community is the key as a Brother attempts to minister and affirm others. He stands in need of similar support from others who have made a commitment of fraternal life and communal living and service to God's people. An important aspect of being a Brother today is not what he does...but how he approaches what he does. A Brother strives to be like Jesus, who was vulnerable, loving, challenging, inspiring, and most of all, human.



**"The form of life of the Brothers and Sisters is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, living in obedience, in poverty and in chastity."**

Rule of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis.  
Chapter 1,1.

## Living in Fraternal Community



A Way of Living Vocation as a Religious Brother in the Church.

A Brother gets involved in the Church by first becoming aware of his own special gifts and talents, his skills and abilities, and then discerns with his community in ways he can use these many gifts. There are many opportunities for Brothers today. Some Brothers are teachers, doctors, secretaries, lawyers, laborers, ministers of pastoral care, religious educators, social workers, carpenters, health care providers, farmers and more.



## The Vows— Growing in love

**Poverty** calls a Brother to live a life-style that challenges the world's emphasis on consumerism. A Brother is a sign that gathering and possessing material things does not define the worth of an individual.

**Chastity** is a commitment to a total love of all God's people. It is not a denial of sexuality but in freedom, allows a Brother to be responsive to the needs of the Church, wherever and whenever he is needed.

**Obedience** is a listening vow. It reminds a Brother to be open and aware of the changes in the world and the Church. Through this vow of obedience, a Brother is called to discover, through prayerful listening with his community, what God is calling him to and how he can respond.