



In the thirteenth century Saint Francis founded a First Order of Friars, and a Second Order of Poor Clare sisters. Also, due to the wish of so many people to be part of the Franciscan movement, he founded a Third Order for lay people. The Franciscan Third Order is now known as the Secular Franciscan Order. The members do not take vows but commit themselves to live the Gospel after the manner of Saint Francis. They do so in their lay circumstances following a Rule approved by the Church. This year is very important for all the Franciscan family as it celebrates the 800th Jubilee of the passing of Saint Francis to heaven. The Order uses the abbreviation OFS, which is derived from the official Latin title *Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*. It has around 200,000 members worldwide with a presence in over 100 countries. Further information can be found at the website: ofsireland.org

The National Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) was held in Dublin on Saturday August 8th, and the delegates elected a National Council for the next three years. The Elections were overseen by Dina Shabalina, OFS International Council Representative, who travelled from Ukraine.

From Left to Right: Br Godfrey Pereira OFM Cap (Spiritual Assistant), Jim Maher, Kilkenny (Formation), Terence Cosgrave, Dublin (Vice-Minister/Vice-President), Mary Tunney, Ennis (Communications and Vocations), Gabriel Costello, Galway (Minister/President), Mary Tiernan, Dublin (Secretary), Dina Shabalina, Ukraine (OFS International Council), Lorraine O'Shea, Kilkenny (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation – JPIC), Jack Corr, Tyrone (Treasurer), Fr Colin Mary Edwards OFM Conv (Delegate of the International Conference of Spiritual Assistants), Br Ronan Sharpley OFM (YouFra – Franciscan Youth). Also present was Fr. Ailbe Ó Murchú OFM, a Spiritual Assistant to the new council.