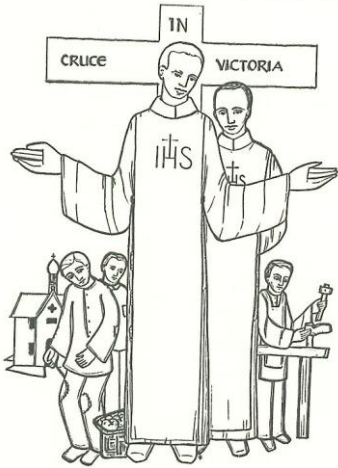


Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross

The Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross is a Religious Congregation in the Catholic Church. We are vowed religious men who share a life of prayer and apostolic work in community.



The Congregation was founded by Peter Wirth, later to become Brother James, in 1862, in Hausen, Germany. Brother James founded the Congregation in response to his deep desire to answer God –who was calling him– to the care and

education of orphan boys and to the attendance and care of the sick and the poor.

Brother James and his followers had a deep conviction of their personal calling, in imitation of St. Francis of Assisi: to live and to preach by example the message and love of the Cross of Jesus Christ. The motto of the Congregation is: "*In Cruce Victoria!*"; "*In the Cross is Victory!*"

The General Motherhouse, the site of the original foundation, is located in Hausen/Wied Germany. The community has houses in Germany and in the United States.

The Brothers are presently engaged in various ministries that meet the needs of people and the Church in various ways: in the Health Care settings; in homes for the Developmentally Disabled, Nursing Homes and Hospitals. The Brothers are teachers, health care workers, hospital chaplains, religious education teachers and directors, sacristans, secretaries, administrators, mechanics, social workers, and also work in Diocesan offices in roles of service.

The Brothers strive to bring all people to the knowledge of the Gospel and the message of the Cross, and to make others know they are valued

and have a place in making the world a better place. The Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross engage in various ministries to help attain this goal.

As Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross, we freely bind ourselves to a life of commitment through the act of public vows: Consecrated Celibacy, Poverty, and Obedience.

We welcome interested men who are in good health -physical, psychological and spiritual and are at least 21 years of age and upward to age 45 to our community. We encourage candidates to have some college/university studies and work experience. Some exceptions can be made for men who are older depending on their circumstances. Formal entrance, however, would be initiated after a time of discernment with the vocation office.

Once accepted, the candidacy process allows an individual to live with our community for a period of six months in order to get acquainted. Following this period of experiencing community life and setting a good spiritual foundation, the candidate enters the Novitiate. The Novitiate lasts for two years. During this time of prayer, study, ministry experience, formation and reflection, the Novice continues to deepen his relationship with the Lord. Following the Novitiate, the Brother pronounces his first vows and begins his temporary profession, which lasts for five years, during which time he continues his education, if necessary, and is active in ministry. At the completing of his temporary vows, the Brother pronounces his perpetual Vows, and is incorporated into the Congregation as a full member.

For further information, please contact:

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