

1 May 2021

The Secularization Project

Brothers,

Thanks to all who participated in the ranking of offered definitions/descriptions of secularization.

Participants were asked to select the three definitions/descriptions that most grabbed them in some way. The goal of this exercise was to identify emerging consensus. Because of that, the committee is not reporting to you definitions/descriptions that receive only one or two selections. The other chosen definitions/descriptions are reported here in order of the number of selections.

Please consider writing to *Inforum* concerning you observations about these results.

In the coming weeks, we will move on to the next phase of our provincial reflections. Friars will be asked to report:

1. How do you experience secularization in your families of origin?
2. How do you experience secularization within our own Capuchin life, not focusing on ministry at this time?

We encourage small groups of friars or even local chapters to discuss these questions so individuals are more prepared to respond to the survey. Respondents will be asked to keep their responses to no more than 100 words. Precision, conciseness, brevity are all helpful.

We hope you enjoy reviewing the results of the latest survey.

The Secularization Project
Steering Committee

Definitions/Descriptions of Secularization ranked by number of selections:

16	Secularization is a process in which the influences of explicitly or traditionally religious or spiritual values, symbols, structures, institutions, and leaders in a given society are supplanted by scientific, humanist, or other non-religious or spiritual influences, although there may be some substantial intersection in some areas.
8	It is a change or transformation of people from identifying themselves and their religious values. Religion loses its social and cultural significance, and faith lacks the authority and social power needed for the common good. A decline of religion, like creeds and doctrines, takes place as well as spiritual needs. Science becomes more important than religion, and no absolutes remain like truth and beauty.

8	Secularization is a personal, social and societal historical process by which people direct their lives progressively without reference to the transcendent, to the spiritual, to commonly held beliefs.
7	Secularization is a social process through which God and faith become increasingly invisible.
6	The trend of diminishing religious identity and life within a culture or society. In our US context, this includes the relegation of religious belief and action to a merely personal and subjective level; making it no longer a viable power or reason for action in the public square.
4	Secularization is the change from identification with religious/spiritual values toward non-religious/spiritual values resulting in the gradual diminishment of religious/spiritual influence in all aspect of society, including among church attenders and members of religious communities.
4	Secularization is a consequence of the lack of fluidity/openness from the institutional Church to the lived tensions between its own tradition and the ongoing movements of the Holy Spirit (and in the words of Rahner) to become a truly global Church rather than just a European/Roman church with global outposts.
4	Secularization is the inevitable movement of humanity away from organized religion in light of the "Enlightenment" and greater access to education, inevitable failure of religious leadership, and trust in the individual to know. Ultimately it is a process of dying and rebirth... a paschal moment.

4	I think it is problematic to think of secularization as the Other to Religion. This view sets up the binary between secularization and religion, and therefore excludes the complexity of countless factors in the temporal world. I would like to see secularization as an orientation, a way of being and thinking, that is different from the dominant perspectives.
4	The Gospel of J esus is not reaching into the lives of people. I'm not sure what people are looking for. I guess the more we serve the poor and live with them can be our way to preach the gospel and draw people to Christ.
4	Worldly values replace spiritual, religious values.
3	I think secularization is when people don't consider God or the Church in their everyday life decisions. They just do what they want to.
3	Secularization for me is summed up as the faithful becoming less faithful and not believing in God as they used to. This leads them away from attending Church and being less mindful of the presence of God in their lives. Some people have totally lost their faith and consider themselves atheists .
3	Secularization is a condition of our society and environment in which attention to the material more than the spiritual is dominant and may even become exclusive. Particular discernment and choice needs to be taken by members about how a balance between the material and spiritual will be achieved.
3	Secularization is the removal of the forceful religious authority or figures in one's life or society. Sometimes, it is also removal of the spiritual aspects of human life and society. It is also the loss of trust, faith and respect

for Church and its leaders because of clergy scandals and abuse. Christianity by its betrayal of Gospel have caused secularization, to some extent.