



Let Us Pray!

Most High, Glorious God; Bring light to the darkness of my heart. Give me right faith, certain hope and perfect charity, insight and wisdom, so that I can always observe your holy and true command. Amen.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM

and

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

**THE RULE OF THE SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER**

and

Evangelii Gaudium

Joy of Faith

Joy of Prayer

Joy of Relationship

Joy of Conversion

Joy of Fraternity

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

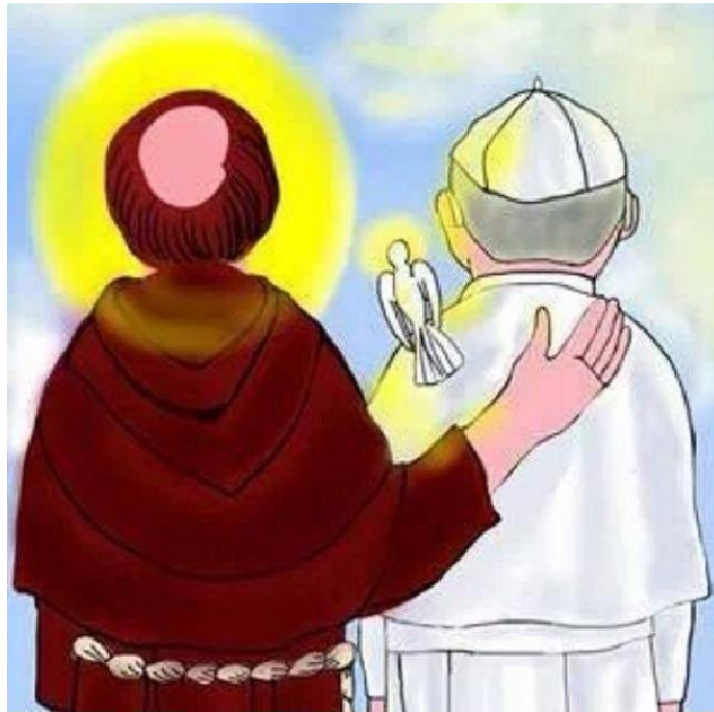
Joy of Detachment

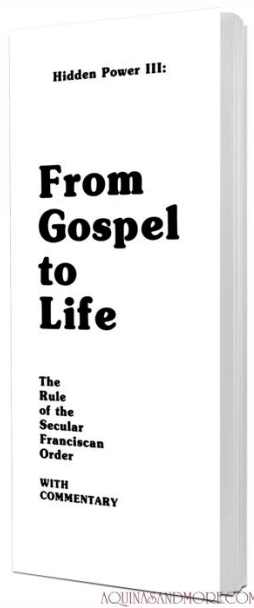
Joy of Service

Perfect Joy

Joy of Salvation

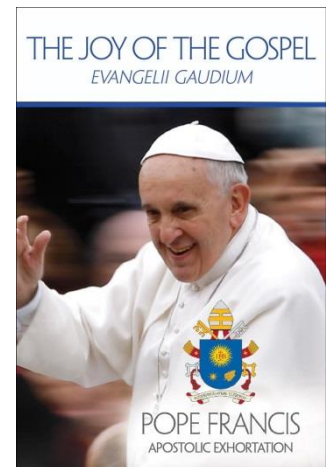
WE ARE CHALLENGED





By our Rule and by EG

- To meditate on Scripture
- To live the message of the Gospel
- To pray and contemplate
- To seek Justice and peace
- To thrive in Community – fraternity
- To strive for personal daily conversion



Article 4 – OFS Rule

- “The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.
- Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.”





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- ◉ **"The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart." 5:264**
- ◉ **"The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith." 3:175**

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The Challenge

- “Reading the Scriptures also makes it clear that the Gospel is not merely about our personal relationship with God. Nor should our loving response to God be seen simply as an accumulation of small personal gestures to individuals in need, a kind of ‘charity à la carte,’ or a series of acts aimed solely at easing our conscience.”
4:180

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The Challenge

- “The Gospel is about the kingdom of God (cf. Lk 4: 43); it is about loving God who reigns in our world. To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace and dignity. Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society.” 4:180



Article 5– OFS Rule

- “Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity.”

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- “...we must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, Trusting others is an art and peace is an art.” 5:244
- “If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving.” 5:274

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The Challenge

- “God’s word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us: What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of ‘going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters’” 4:179





Article 6– OFS Rule

- “They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by Profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.”

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- "The kerygma has a clear social content: at the very heart of the Gospel is life in community and engagement with others." 4:177
- "By preaching Jesus Christ, who is himself peace (cf. Eph 2: 14), the new evangelization calls on every baptized person to be a peacemaker and a credible witness to a reconciled life." 4:239



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- “Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence.” 5:259

Article 7– OFS Rule

- “...motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls conversion. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.”

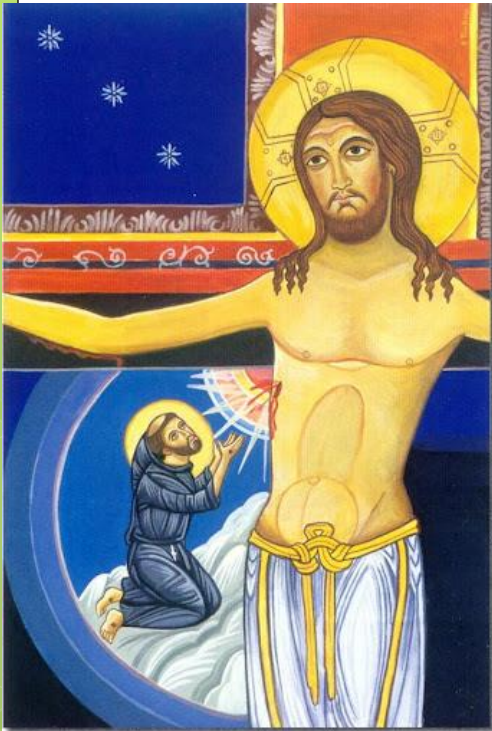


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- “How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.” 1:3

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The Challenge



- “Now is the time to say to Jesus: ‘Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you . I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.’ 1:3

Article 8– OFS Rule

- “So let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do. Let them participate in the sacramental life of the church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.”



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- "Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervor dies out." 5:262

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The Challenge

- "Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence." 5:259



Article 11– OFS Rule



- “Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs.
- Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.”

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- “I (also) think of the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith.” 1:7

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The Challenge



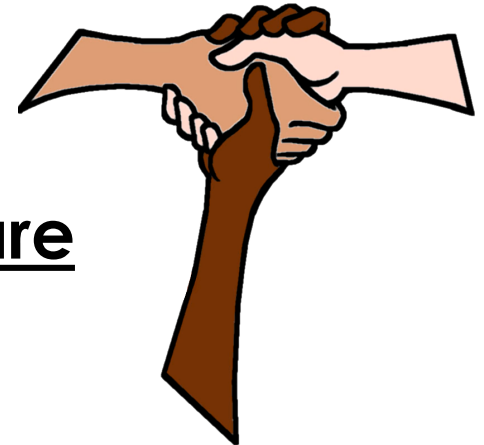
- “Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor.” 1:2

Articles 13 & 14 – OFS Rule

- “A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ
- Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively.”

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- “We are called to bear witness to a constantly new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of community!” 2:92
- “Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: ‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’” (*Jn 13: 35*). 2: 99



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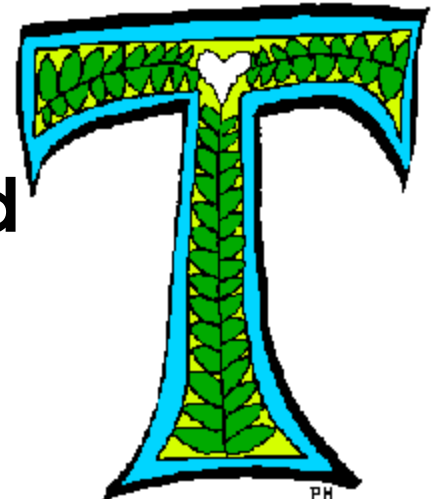
The Challenge



- **“It is a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being, of tolerating the nuisances of life in common by clinging to the love of God, of opening the heart to divine love and seeking the happiness of others just as their heavenly Father does.” 2:92**

Article 15 – OFS Rule

- “Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.”



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- “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.” 4:187
- “The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised.” 4:218

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The Challenge

- “An authentic faith—which is never comfortable or completely personal—always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.”

4:183

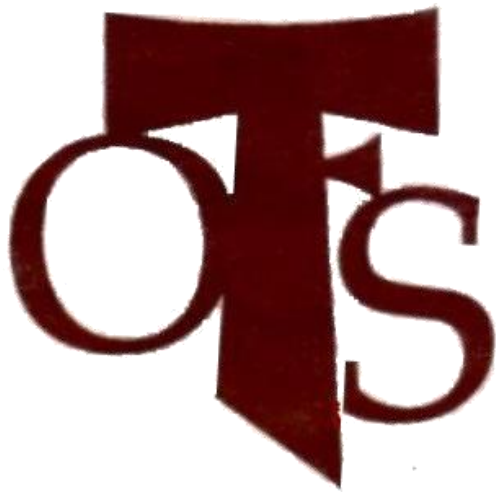


As We Go Forth from this Place



- ◉ We need to step outside of ourselves.
- ◉ Pope Francis challenges us to “be who we say we are.” (*Dan Horan, OFM*)

As We Go Forth from this Place



- Who are we according to our Rule?
- What are the challenges that we have been given through the document?
- What opened your heart today?
- What will we take back to our fraternities?

