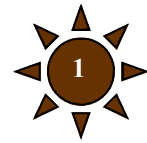




Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 1 The Secular Franciscan Order OFS *1

1. Among the spiritual families which the Holy Spirit has raised up in the Church, *2 the Franciscan family is open to all members of the people of God, lay people, religious and priests, who come to recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. *3 In a variety of ways but in life-giving fellowship with each other, these men and women desire to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church today. *4

Footnotes:

- *1 They are called the Secular Franciscan Order or OFS
- *2 Lumen Gentium 43
- *3 Pius XII 1 July 1956, Discorso ai Terziani, I
- *4 Apostolicam Actuositatem 4.8

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 1.2; 98.1-2

ENDNOTES:

Chapter 1 [title] In line with custom in OFSGB 'Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis' [The Order of Franciscan Secular] is rendered 'The Secular Franciscan Order' throughout and likewise 'Ordinis Franciscani Saecularis' [of the Order of Franciscans Secular] is rendered 'of the Secular Franciscan Order'

Rule 1, 6, 24, 26—'communione' despite its common use in English as the word 'communion' we are choosing 'fellowship' as a more colloquial and less archaic-sounding term; one which avoids its Eucharistic usage & its use in reference to institutional allegiance [Cf. received into full communion]

'many spiritual families
raised up by the Holy Spirit'

SUCH AS?

'in the footprints of St Francis'

MEANING?

'in life-giving union with each other'

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE LONG AND
LIFE-GIVING?

'to make present the **CHARISM** of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church today'

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: **prophecy**, in proportion to faith; **ministry**, in ministering; the **teacher**, in teaching, the **exhorter**, in exhortation; the **giver**, in generosity; the **leader**, in diligence; the **compassionate**, in cheerfulness. (Rom 12.4-8)

"Our Franciscan charism is our gift to the Church. We need to know it and live it. We make our contribution to the wholeness of the reign of God in the world...Loyalty to the Church is important to Franciscans. It is a loyalty that seeks to make the Church reflective of the gospel of Jesus. If the Church wanders from gospel values and ideals, Franciscans lovingly call her to renewed faithfulness. St Francis recognised flaws in the Church of his time. He sought to build a Church of integrity by his way of life."

[Lester Bach *Catch Me a Rainbow Too*, 61-62]