



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 2 The Form of Life

19. As people who are bearers of peace and ever mindful that peace will always be a work in progress, let them seek out the way of unity and fraternal consensus. May they do this through dialogue, trusting in the divine seed which is present in everyone while being ever trustful of the transforming power of love and forgiveness. *30

As messengers of perfect joy in whatever circumstance, let them strive to bring joy and hope to others. *31

Certain of, and secure in the Resurrection of Christ, wherein lies the true significance of Sister Death, let them wait in serenity for the ultimate encounter with the Father. *32

Footnotes:

*30 Regola Leone XIII II.9; Three Companions 14.58 2 FA:ED (p 101)

*31 Admonition 21 1 FA:ED (p 47); ER 7.15 1 FA:ED (p 69)

*32 Gaudium et Spes 78.1-2

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 23.1; 24.2; 26.1; 27

ENDNOTES:

'veniaequē' - after much thought, and referring to the translations in French and Italian, we have opted for 'forgiveness' as the clearest meaning of the Latin in this context.

[Cf. Legend of the Three Companions 14.58 2 FA:ED (p 101) 'He also used to tell them he wanted the brothers to show reverence...']



Jesus is 'the true light, which enlightens everyone' (John 1.9)

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you' (John 20.26)



Brothers and sisters...agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (II Cor 13.11)

Q. What does it mean to describe peace as a work in progress?

For his great desire was that he [Francis], as well as his brothers, would abound in such good deeds for which the Lord would be praised. He used to tell them: 'As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that the greater peace is in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal through you, but may everyone be drawn to peace, kindness and harmony through your gentleness. For we have been called to this: to heal the wounded, bind up the broken, and recall the erring. In fact, many who seem to us to be members of the devil will yet be disciples of Christ.' [Three Companions 14.58 2 FAED (p 102)]

Q. Reflect on these words, 'for you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence' (Gal 5.13), and the importance of fraternal unity, consensus, dialogue.



Q. How are you preparing for Sister Death?