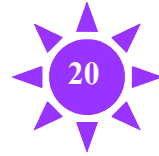




Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 3 Life in Fraternity

20. The Secular Franciscan Order is expressed in fraternity at various levels: local, regional, national and international. These levels each have their own moral personality in the Church. *33 The manner in which the fraternities at various levels work together and are bound one to another shall be in accordance with the norms of this Rule and the Constitutions.

Footnotes:

*33 Code of Canon Law 687 (309)

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 28.2-3; 29.2

ENDNOTES:

Legitimately constituted associations have the right, in accord with the law and statutes, to issue particular norms respecting the association itself, to hold meetings, to designate moderators, officials, other officers and administrators of goods. (CIC, 309)

‘The Order of Franciscan Seculars is expressed in fraternities at various levels’. The purpose being to provide a well-ordered structure, that fosters fellowship and reciprocal relationships among the brothers and sisters, that encourages their active communal presence in the Church, both local and universal. In addition, the OFS will encourage the fraternities to be of service in the world, particularly their contribution to life in society.

The brothers and sisters gather together either in local fraternities established at a church or religious house, or in individual fraternities, constituted by the specific and valid reasons stipulated in the decree of establishment. (GC, 28.2-3)

Q. Why does the word ‘fraternity’ occupy so central a place in the OFS?

Q. What is meant by ‘moral personality’?

GC, Art 28.2 *Endnote* reads:

‘to provide’ - for ‘promuovere’ - was chosen to demonstrate the positive action that is implied here. This is more than just ‘promote’ - help forward/encourage—but it is ‘provide’ [pro + videre] ‘to see it beforehand’, supply, furnish, equip with necessities. Actually getting one’s hands dirty in this business/mucking in....

Q. Are you on the lookout for ways to serve the Order, ways to exercise your particular gifts—or are you tempted to leave it to others?