



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 3 Life in Fraternity

21. At the various levels, every fraternity will be animated and guided by a Council and Minister (or President) elected by the Professed according to the Constitutions. *34 Their service, which is for a limited period, is characterised by a willing and ready spirit, by making themselves available and by their sense of responsibility towards each member and to the whole group.

The fraternities are structured within themselves by the norms of the Constitutions and vary according to the different needs of their members and regions, all under the guidance of the Council concerned.

Footnotes:

*34 Code of Canon Law 697 (309)

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 31; 32.2

ENDNOTES:

GC, Art 31.4 *Endnote* reads:

‘infondere animo e vita’ - is literally ‘infuse/give soul and life’. The Italian does have the expression ‘dedicarsi anima e corpo’ [to dedicate oneself life and soul] and it seems appropriate here to get the thrust of what is intended by the less literal, but more convincing, colloquial English: ‘let them seek to bring heart and soul...’

Q. What does it mean to say that ‘every fraternity will be animated and guided by a Council and Minister’?



‘I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. 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 12.1-2, 6-8)

Q. Consider how we are identifying and making use of these gifts at fraternity level— ‘their service’ - as the Rule here exhorts.

Clues? ‘prophecy’ - builds up the Church
‘ministry’ - means serving
‘teacher’ - the importance of formation in OFS life
‘exhorter’ - getting people to give more of themselves
‘giver’ - secret bag
‘leader’ - accepting office in the Order
‘compassionate’ - cheery/happy: this is the **Christian** life for God’s sake!

