



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 2 The Form of Life

6. Buried and risen with Christ in Baptism, they have been made living members of the Church. By their Profession, they have been bound to the Church even more strongly. So going forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church among humanity and announcing Christ by their life and words.

Inspired by Saint Francis and called with him to restore the Church, let them keenly devote themselves by a life of complete fellowship with the pope, bishops and priests, *10 and let them foster open and trustful dialogue of apostolic fruitfulness.

Footnotes:

*10 Paul VI 19 May 1971 Discorso ai Terziari, III

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 17.1-4; 53.2-5; 99.1

ENDNOTES:

'communione' see endnote for Rule 1, sheet 1
'ecclesiam restaurandam vocati' - commonly rendered 'called to rebuild the Church'. We have rejected 'rebuild' with its suggestion of pulling down and starting over again; and 'repair' with its suggestion of a patch-work approach. We are preferring, therefore, 'restore' [Cf. Italian with 'chiamati a ricostruire la Chiesa' - 'to reconstruct'] which better encapsulates the meaning of the Latin. That is to say, Francis was not called to construct a new Church, or to redesign it, but to take it back to what it was originally [Latin 'restituo']

Q. What is meant by (1) a witness—the Greek is ‘marturos’ [martyr], and (2) an instrument?



Q. How do we become ‘inspired by Saint Francis’?

Q. What are we to understand by ‘let them foster open and trustful dialogue of apostolic fruitfulness’?