LIVING FRATERNITY

Theme: Discovering our Rule ...

In this month of October 2026, we are sharing with you extracts from Module 4, of the CIOFS Formation Secretariat, Chapter 11, the Way of Life, Article 6 of our Rule.

Happy reflection and sharing

Reminder: May our fraternal encounter be a moment of *privileged encounter with* Jesus who walks among us.

OCTOBER 2026 MONTHLY MEETING

Introduction.

Module 4, "Concordances", is dedicated to reflection on the Rule of the OFS and aims to allow members to deepen their understanding of each article of the Rule through a reading that helps them to know and meditate on the sources, in order to understand and deepen their sense of belonging to the Christian, Franciscan and ecclesial dimensions. It is understood that all these aspects are fundamental for any reflection on our Franciscan journey of life, not through an isolated and disjointed reading, but through an integrated reading of the Rule and the sources cited.

Opening of the meeting

After the song proposed or chosen by the members of the fraternity, a prayer according to the Ritual or any other, the meeting begins.

Chapter II – The Way of Life

Rule 6

Chapter II of the Rule of the FSO, entitled "Path of Life", concretely invites us to live our spirituality on a daily basis. In the light of the Gospel and in accordance with the writings of St. Francis, our legislation and the Magisterium of the Church confirm our choice

IN COMMUNION WITH THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, ARTICLE 6 OF THE RULE OF THE OFS

JESUS INVITES US ... MATTHEW 28:16-20
The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, towards the mountain that Jesus had pointed out to them. When they saw him, they fell down, but some had doubts. Jesus came and spoke to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptize them to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. I will be with you to the end of the age." »

SAINT FRANCIS INVITES US... TESTAMENT OF SIENA Write how I bless all my brethren, those who are in our Order and those who will come to it until the end of time... Since, due to weakness and the pains of illness, I do not have the strength to speak, I briefly declare to my brethren my will in these three points, namely: that as a sign of remembrance of my blessing and my testament, they may always love one another, that they may always love and observe holy poverty, Our Lady, and that they may always show themselves faithful and submissive to the prelates and all the clerics of Holy Mother Church. (1)

THE OFS RULE INVITES US TO ... Article 6 ...

Buried and risen with Christ in Baptism, which makes them living members of the Church — to which they are more closely united by their profession — may they become witnesses and instruments of her mission among men, proclaiming Christ by their lives and by their words. Inspired by St Francis and called with him to rebuild the Church, may they strive to live in full communion with the Pope, the Bishops and the priests, in an open and trusting dialogue imbued with apostolic creativity. (2)

Reflection and sharing

After reading the previous 3 paragraphs, share their content. Take the necessary time for a good sharing.

THE GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS OF THE FSO INVITE US:
Article 17

1. Called to collaborate in the building up of the Church as the sacrament of salvation for all men, and having become through Baptism and Profession "witnesses and instruments of her mission", may the Secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their lives and by their words.

   Their preferred apostolate is personal witness in their living environment and service to the building of the Kingdom of God in earthly realities.

Article 99

1. As living members of the People of God and inspired by the Seraphic Father, the Secular Franciscans, "united in full communion with the Pope and the Bishops", strive to know and deepen the doctrine proposed by the Magisterium of the Church through its most significant documents, and remain attentive to the presence of the Holy Spirit who enlivens the faith and charity of the People of God. May they collaborate in the initiatives promoted by the Holy See, especially in the areas in which they are called to work by virtue of their secular Franciscan vocation.

2. The OFS, as an international public association, is united by a special bond with the Roman Pontiff, from whom it has obtained the approval of the Rule and the confirmation of his mission in the Church and in the world. (3)

Reflection and sharing After reading the 2 articles, share your ideas about their content. Take the necessary time. for a good sharing.

THE CHURCH INVITES US.
CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. 820.-

This unity "which Christ has granted from the beginning to the Church . . . we believe that it subsists unfailingly in the Catholic Church, and we believe that it is unfailingly in the Church." let us hope that it will grow day by day until the end of time." Christ constantly gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must constantly pray and work to maintain, strengthen and perfect the unity that Christ wants for her. This is why Christ himself prayed at the hour of his Passion and never ceases to pray to the Father for the unity of his disciples: "That they may all be one. You, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be one in

us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). The desire to rediscover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit. (4)

THE POPE INVITES US TODAY.
"A spontaneous reflection arises: Francis could also have not come to the Pope. Many religious groups and movements were being formed at the time, and some of them were opposed to the Church as an institution, or at least did not seek its approval. A polemical attitude towards the hierarchy would surely have procured Francis many disciples. On the contrary, he immediately thought of putting his path and that of his companions in the hands of the Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter. This reveals his authentic ecclesial spirit. The little "we" that had begun with his first brothers, he conceived from the beginning within the great "we" of the one and universal Church. And the Pope recognized and appreciated this. » (5)

Reflection and sharing
1- Do I live my spirituality in relationship and communion with the Church?
2- Are we aware, as a Fraternity, of the importance of walkilg with the whole Church to accomplish our mission?

Bibliography:
1- 1- LAC Editions, Writings and Biographies of Saint Francis of Assisi 19782-
https://ciofs.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FR-Regle-OFS-s.pdf
3-https://ciofs.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FR-Constitutions-Generales-OFS-s.pdf
4- https://www.vatican.va/archive/FRA0013:
5- Address of the Holy Father Benedict XVI to the Franciscan Family:
https://www.vatican.va/content/benedictxvi/fr/speeches/2009/april/documents_

Life-Objective
In this month of October, let us be bearers of peace and joy following the example of our patron saint Francis ....

Church and Order Events and Information
Recall local and regional meetings and activities.

End of the fraternal meeting (a prayer or a song chosen by the fraternity)