

# **“Concordances”**

Module 2

**SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION CIOFS**

Cari Dear Brothers and Sisters  
of the Secular Franciscan Order  
Peace and Good

The CIOFS Formation Secretariat continues working in your service, always seeking to strengthen our formation process and support our formators.

"Concordances," Module 2, focuses on reflecting on our OFS Rule and aims to: provide OFS members with a didactic approach to deepen their understanding of each article of the Rule through a reading that helps us to know and reflect from the sources, thus comprehending and deepening our sense of belonging from the Christian, Franciscan, and Ecclesial dimensions. It emphasizes that all these aspects are fundamental to any reflection on our Franciscan journey of life, not through an isolated and disconnected reading, but rather an integrated reading of the Rule and the cited sources.

- In the Christian sense: The Gospel
- In the Franciscan sense: Sources and biographical texts on the life of Saint Francis of Assisi
- In the Ecclesial sense: Texts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Words and reflections of the Holy Father.

This formation material is intended for the stage of our ongoing formation and especially for formators.

We consider it important to deepen our understanding of our way of life, "Our Rule," throughout our lives. Therefore, we want to offer this new material for our fraternities, keeping in mind that our formators can further enrich our formation programs.

Your brothers and sisters,

SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION CIOFS

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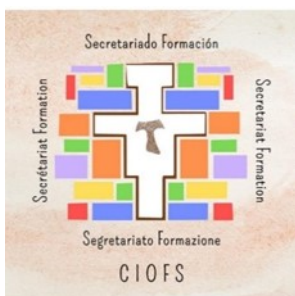
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# **CONCORDANCES**

**Module 2  
Secretariat for Formation  
Secular Franciscan Order**

## **CHAPTER II**

**Chapter II of the OFS Rule, entitled “Form of Life,” invites us in a concrete way to live spirituality in daily life.**

**In the light of the Gospel, and together with the writings of St. Francis, our legislation and the Magisterium of the Church reinforce our Franciscan option.**

### **FROM THE GOSPEL TO LIFE AND FROM LIFE TO THE GOSPEL, ARTICLE 4 OFS RULE**

#### **JESUS INVITES US.**

##### **MATTHEW 5:13-16**

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am\* they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.” (1)

#### **ST. FRANCIS INVITES US**

##### **Prayer from the Letter of Saint Francis to the entire Order**

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, give us miserable ones the grace to do for You alone what we know you want us to do and always to desire what pleases You. Inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we be able to follow in the footprints of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and, by Your grace alone, may we make our way to You, Most high, who live and rule in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, are glorified God almighty, forever and ever.

Amen (2)

## **THE RULE INVITES US.**

### ***Article 4***

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel. (3)

## **THE GENERAL COSTITUTIONS INVITE US.**

### **ARTICLE 8**

1. Secular Franciscans commit themselves by their profession to live the Gospel according to Franciscan spirituality in their secular condition.

2. They seek to deepen, in the light of faith, the values and choices of the evangelical life according to the Rule of the OFS:

- in a continually renewed journey of conversion and of formation; -
- open to the challenges that come from society and from the Church's life situation, "going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel";
- in the personal and communal dimensions of this journey.

### **ARTICLE 9**

1 The spirituality of the Secular Franciscan is a plan of life centred on the person and on the following of Christ , rather than a detailed programme to be put into practice.

2. The Secular Franciscan, committed to following the example and the teachings of Christ, must personally and assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture. The fraternity and those responsible for it should foster love for the word of the Gospel and help the brothers and sisters to know and understand it as it is proclaimed by the Church with the assistance of the Spirit (4)

## **THE CHURCH INVITES US.**

### **THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Consecration and mission: proclaiming the King who is coming

931 Already dedicated to him through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself to the God he loves above all else thereby consecrates himself more intimately to God's service and to the good of the Church. By this state of life consecrated to God, the Church manifests Christ and shows us how the Holy Spirit acts so wonderfully in her. and so the first mission of those who profess the evangelical counsels is to live out their consecration. Moreover, "since members of

institutes of consecrated life dedicate themselves through their consecration to the service of the Church they are obliged in a special manner to engage in missionary work, in accord with the character of the institute."

932 In the Church, which is like the sacrament - the sign and instrument - of God's own life, the consecrated life is seen as a special sign of the mystery of redemption. To follow and imitate Christ more nearly and to manifest more clearly his self-emptying is to be more deeply present to one's contemporaries, in the heart of Christ. For those who are on this "narrower" path encourage their brethren by their example, and bear striking witness "that the world cannot be transfigured and offered to God without the spirit of the beatitudes."

933 Whether their witness is public, as in the religious state, or less public, or even secret, Christ's coming remains for all those consecrated both the origin and rising sun of their life:

For the People of God has here no lasting city, . . . [and this state] reveals more clearly to all believers the heavenly goods which are already present in this age, witnessing to the new and eternal life which we have acquired through the redemptive work of Christ and prelude to our future resurrection and the glory of the heavenly kingdom. (5)

### **THE POPE INVITES US.**

For Saint Francis, the Gospel was at the heart of his existence; and the Church has approved this purpose, returning it to him and to all of you Franciscans as a text that no longer expresses merely the spiritual intuition of a Founder, but a way of life. It is a message of joy that I have often wanted to emphasize because it "fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 1).

Therefore, it is urgent to return to the foundation of a Christian and baptismal commitment, capable of being inspired, in every choice, by the Word of the Lord: Christ is the focal point of your spirituality! Be men and women who, in his example, truly learn "rule and life"!

"Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the members of the Franciscan family on the occasion of the eighth centenary of the approval of the Bull of the Rule (1223-2023)

### **FOR OUR JOURNEY OF REFLECTION:**

**1-¿How am I living the Gospel's invitation in my daily life?**

**2-¿Are we, in my Fraternity, bearing witness to following Jesus in the manner of Francis of Assisi?**

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