

***Franciscan Journey* chapter 30 notes**

Fraternity Life

Rule Article 22

The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

Commentary

The local fraternity is the basic living organism of the whole Secular Franciscan Order and a visible sign of the whole Church in miniature. Hence, its beginning and development is guided by Church authority, for it is the center for spiritual growth, apostolic outreach, and loving union among its members. This paragraph calls the members to relate with one another more personally and intensely and stresses the ties with the local bishop.

Constitutions article 46.1, 46.2

- The canonical establishment of the local fraternity belongs to the competent religious major superior, and the written consent of the local Ordinary is necessary for the canonical establishment of a fraternity

Constitutions article 47.1, 47.2, 48.1, 48.2

- Rules about how to establish or cease a fraternity.

National Statutes article 16.3

- Subject to the local bishop – local fraternity should dialogue with the bishop and follow his directions

The local fraternity

- The local fraternity is the foundation of all that is done regionally, nationally or internationally
- Formation process, both initial and ongoing, is vital at the local fraternity level
- Regional councils, through visitations, help evaluate the local fraternity's Franciscan life; primary goal is to encourage one another and provide tools to live our Franciscan life with greater dedication
- Being in relationship to the Church is part of our Franciscan vision
- Through ongoing formation we find ways to live as the Church invites us through our approved Rule

History of Mother Cabrini Fraternity in line with *FJ* page 323-324

- Newly forming group established by the BSSF Region Council December 6, 2014. Sponsoring fraternity was Our Lady of Good Counsel in Greenville

- Bonded to the OFM Province of the Most Holy Name, which originally assigned Friar Aubrey as our Spiritual Assistant
- The Region approved our request to move to the next phase, Emerging Fraternity (not mentioned in *FJ*) January 21, 2017 after a visitation
- Mother Cabrini Fraternity was canonically established during a Mass celebrated Mother Cabrini's feast day, November 13, 2020
- Our official document "For the Canonical Establishment of a Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States of America" was signed by:
 - DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS – Regional Minister BSSF
 - Fr Gene Pistacchio, OFM – Provincial Spiritual Assistant, Holy Name Province
 - Robert E. Guglielmone – Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston
 - Deacon Thomas Shaver, OFS – Provincial Delegate
 - Witnessed by:
 - Judy Bruce, OFS, Minister OLG
 - Christine Lukesh, OFS, BSSF Area 2 Councilor

Secular Franciscans' role in the Church

- Support the Church as a community of love
- Bring the Franciscan spirit to situations we may confront within the Church
- Dialogue
- Live the Beatitudes – forgiveness and reconciliation
- Follow Jesus in ways to establish and maintain relationships

Franciscan values

- Franciscans create a caring community
- Sharing, compassion for others
- Reverence of creation
- Peacemaking

Saved in Hope (*Spe Salvi*) - Benedict XVI

- Biblical hope in the Kingdom of God has been displaced by hope in the kingdom of man, the hope of a better world which would be the real "Kingdom of God"
- This hope is constantly receding
- This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain

US Catholic Catechism for Adults

- The Church is the sacrament of salvation
- The Church is the People of God
- The Church is the Body of Christ
- The Church is the Bride of Christ
- The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit
- The Church is a communion

The Updated Writings – *The Saint* – Chapter V

- Should not boast in gifts that we have
- But we can boast in our weaknesses and in carrying each day the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

Scripture reflection: *Luke 17:11-19*

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

- Jesus’ words suggest that the Samaritan received more than the physical healing that all ten lepers received. Luke’s readers would thus be reminded that faith in Jesus leads to salvation. (*Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*)
- The Gospel records this event to teach us the value of gratefulness: “Get used to lifting your heart to God, in acts of thanksgiving, many times a day.” (*Navarre Bible*)