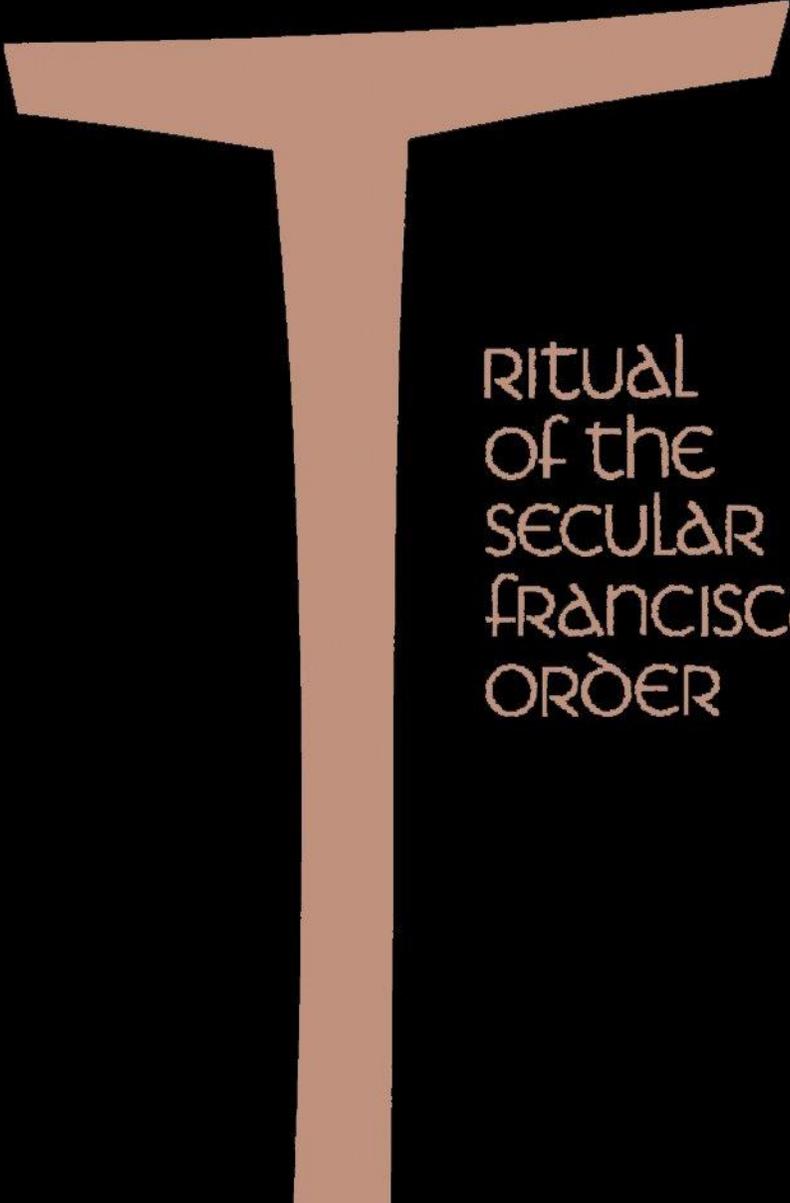




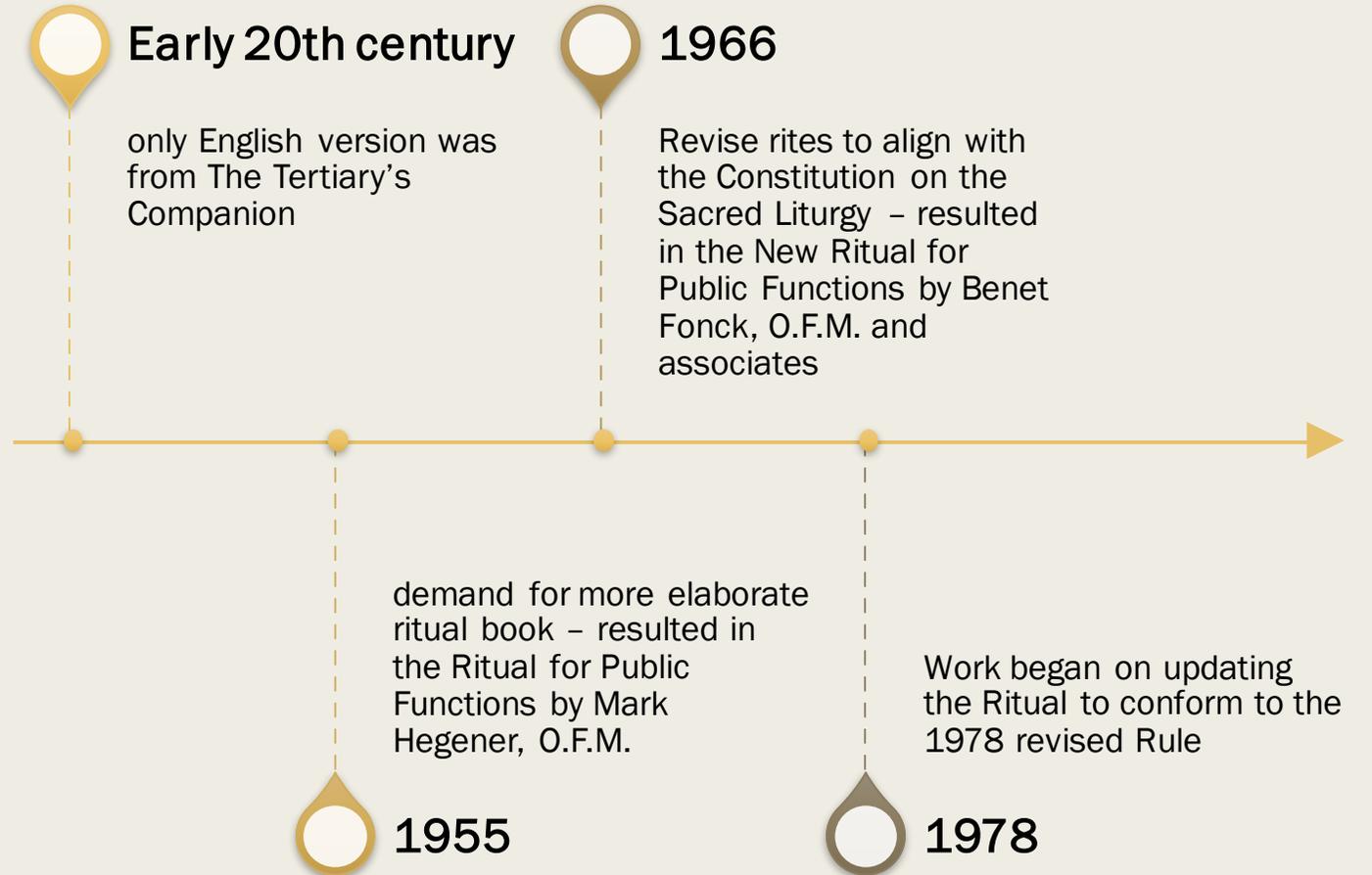
RITUAL OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

International Franciscan Liturgical Commission,
Benet A Fonck, O.F.M.
General Spiritual Assistant, Chairman and Editor
1985



RITUAL
of the
SECULAR
FRANCISCAN
ORDER

History





1984 – Latin text of new *Ritual* approved by Sacred Congregation for Sacraments and Divine Worship

1985 – Current *Ritual* in English approved by same Congregation

1985 *Ritual* offers background information, liturgical guidelines and prayers to enrich the prayer life of our English-speaking sisters and brothers worldwide

Second Vatican Council and 1978 *Rule* injected new spirit and vigor into our Franciscan family

- It is within the competence of national councils to supplement and enrich the ceremonies by incorporating appropriate expressions of their cultures and peoples
- We are urged to enrich our local celebrations with signs, symbols, gestures, music and whatever practices are appropriate to enhance the spirit of prayer of our worshiping community
- We can achieve what Francis desired for us, namely, “to have the spirit of God at work within them, while they pray to Him unceasingly with a heart free from self-interest”

(Rule of 1223, 10)

Part I

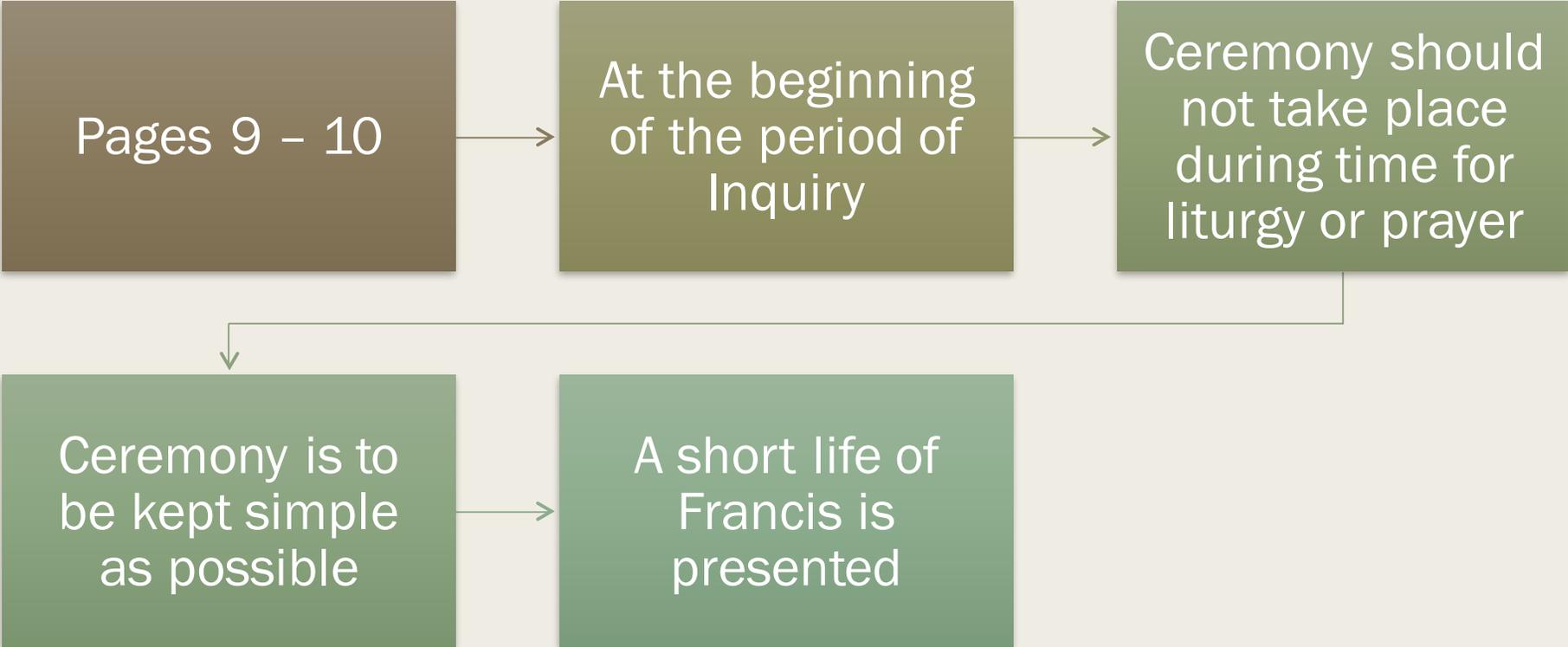
Rites for Entering the Secular Franciscan Order

Invitation:

Read and study the Preface,

pages 2 – 8

Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming

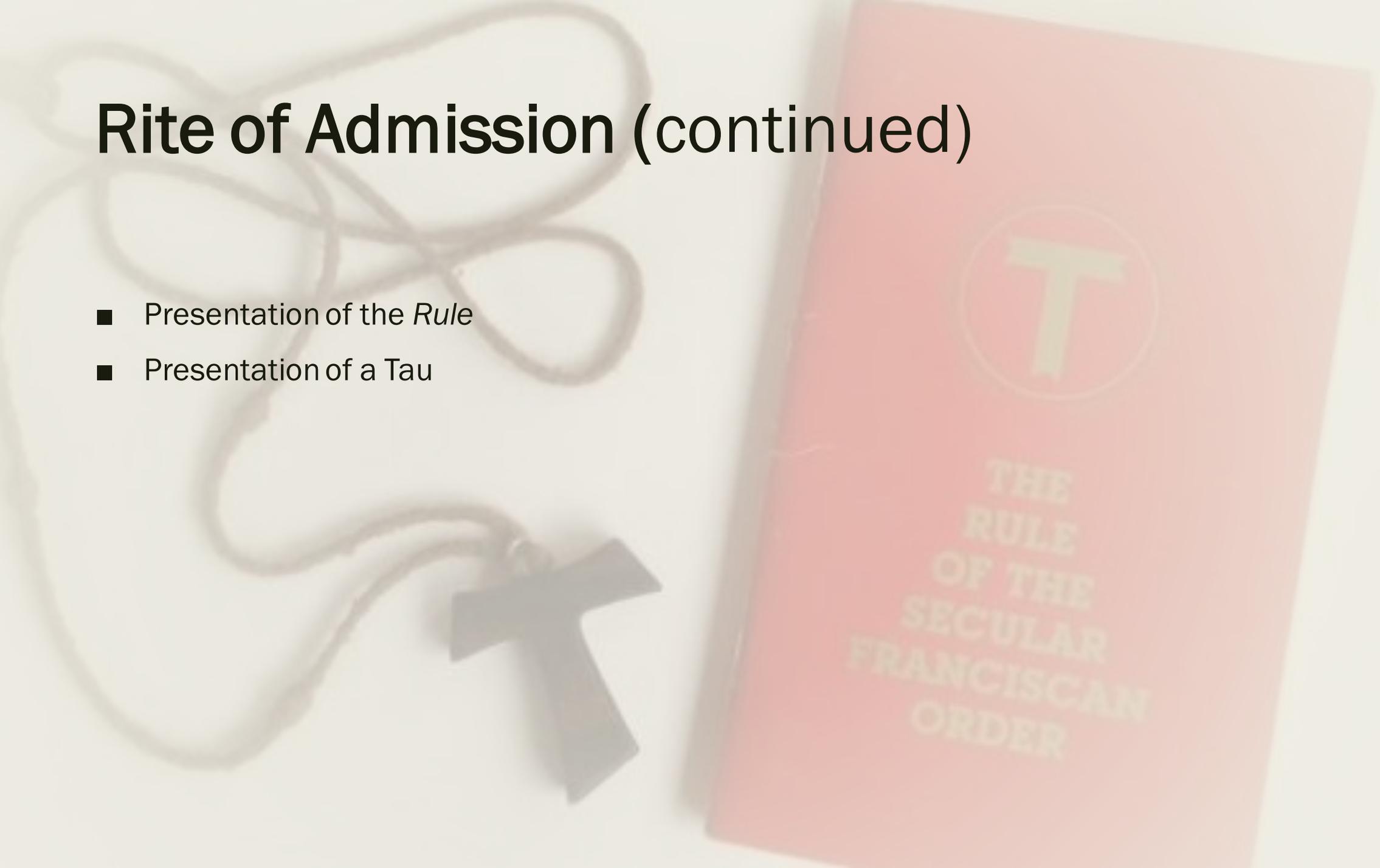


Rite of Admission

- Pages 11 – 17
- At the beginning of the period of Candidacy
- Within celebration of the Word of God, NOT during Mass
- Rite is to be kept simple

Rite of Admission (continued)

- Presentation of the *Rule*
- Presentation of a Tau



Rite of Profession/Permanent Commitment

- Pages 18 – 26
- It is a public and ecclesial act
- Celebrated during Mass, or if that is not possible, at least within an appropriate celebration of the Liturgy of the Word
- Renewal of one's consecration and promises at Baptism and Confirmation
- Consecration of self to the service of God's kingdom



Rite of Profession (continued)

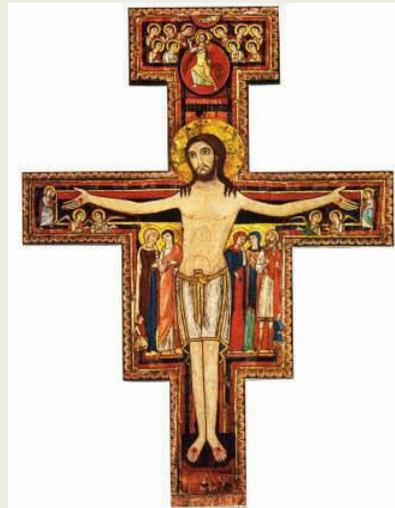
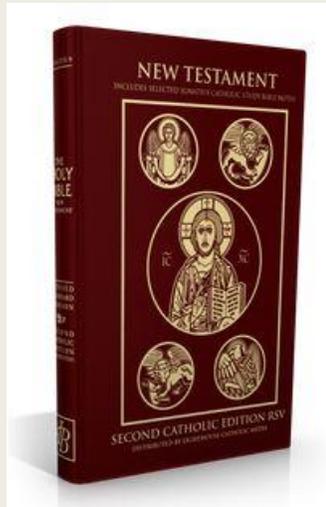
- Promise to live the Gospel
- Observe the Secular Franciscan Order *Rule*
- Incorporation into the Secular Franciscan Order
- Desire to live in and for the world, building a more fraternal and evangelical world

Rite of Profession (continued)

- Desire to live the Gospel for the whole of one's life
- Contribute to the rebuilding of the whole Church
- Minister receives the Profession in the name of the Church and of the Fraternity

Rite of Profession (continued)

- Presentation of the Gospels (New Testament)
- Presentation of a San Damiano crucifix [optional]
- Presentation of a lighted candle [optional]
- Presentation of a ring [optional]



Rite of Profession (continued)



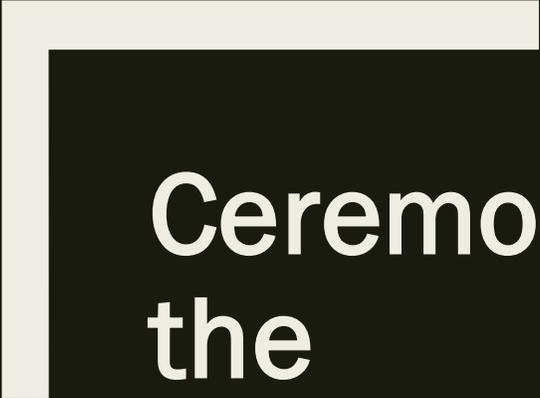
Formula for the
Rite of Profession
cannot be altered
or changed

Rite of Temporary Commitment to the Gospel Life

Pages 27 - 29

Can be renewed annually,
up to three years

Formula cannot be altered
or changed



Ceremony on the Anniversary of Profession

- Pages 30 – 32
- Celebrates fidelity to Gospel and *Rule*
- 25th / 50th Anniversary of Profession
- Mass of Thanksgiving or *Liturgy of the Hours* or another appropriate liturgical celebration

Part II

Prayers for Fraternity Meetings

- Preface, page 34
- Opening and Closing Prayers for Fraternity Meetings, pages 35 – 37
- Prayer for the Regular Meeting of the Council, pages 38 – 40 [Suggestion for page 39 – insert name of fraternity: “to serve the Secular Franciscan [name] Fraternity as its leaders ...]

- There is an important part we often overlook:
Ritual pages 36 and 39.

After the **opening** prayer, a **short reading** from **Sacred Scripture** or the **writings** of St. Francis can be shared.

At the **end** of the meeting, after shared prayer or general intercessions, the **Minister may conclude** the meeting **with a prayer from the writings of St. Francis** or another of his/her own choice.

Celebration of the Fraternity's Chapter of Elections

- Pages 41 – 43
- The Minister of the higher level of Fraternity, or his/her delegate, presides at the elections and confirms them
- An Invocation of the Holy Spirit and a short reading from Sacred Scripture or the writings of St. Francis precede the opening prayer

The Establishment



of a New Fraternity

- Pages 44 – 49
- The one who has the faculty to establish the Fraternity canonically, or his delegate, presides at the ceremony



Prayer for the Pastoral or Fraternal Visit

- Pages 50 - 52
- At the time of the visit, these prayers would ordinarily supplant the prayers for a regular Fraternity meeting
- An Invocation of the Holy Spirit precedes the opening prayer



Appendix I Lectionary

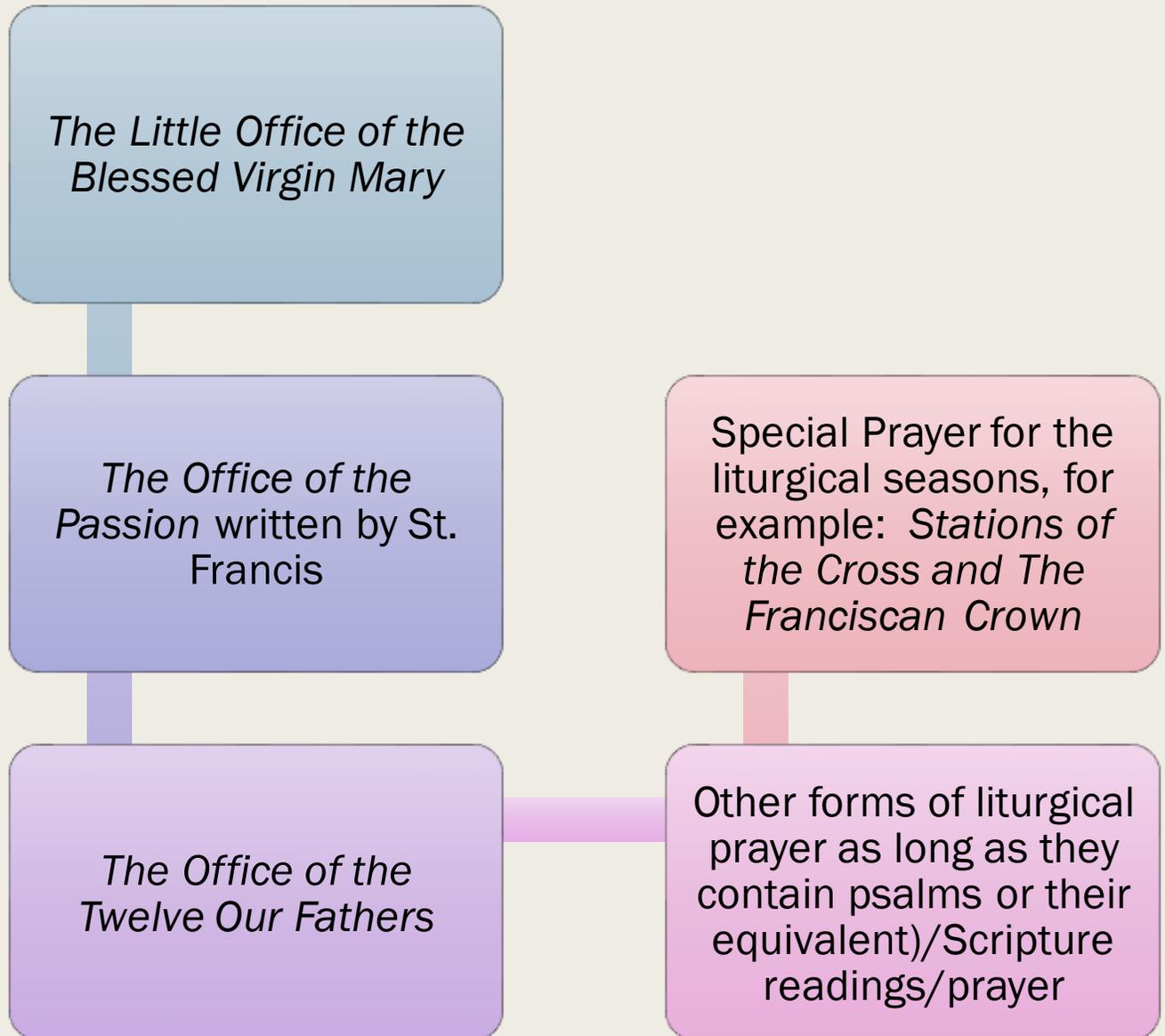
- Scripture Readings, pages 55 – 66
- Franciscan Readings, pages 67 – 80
- Prayers of St. Francis, pages 81 – 102

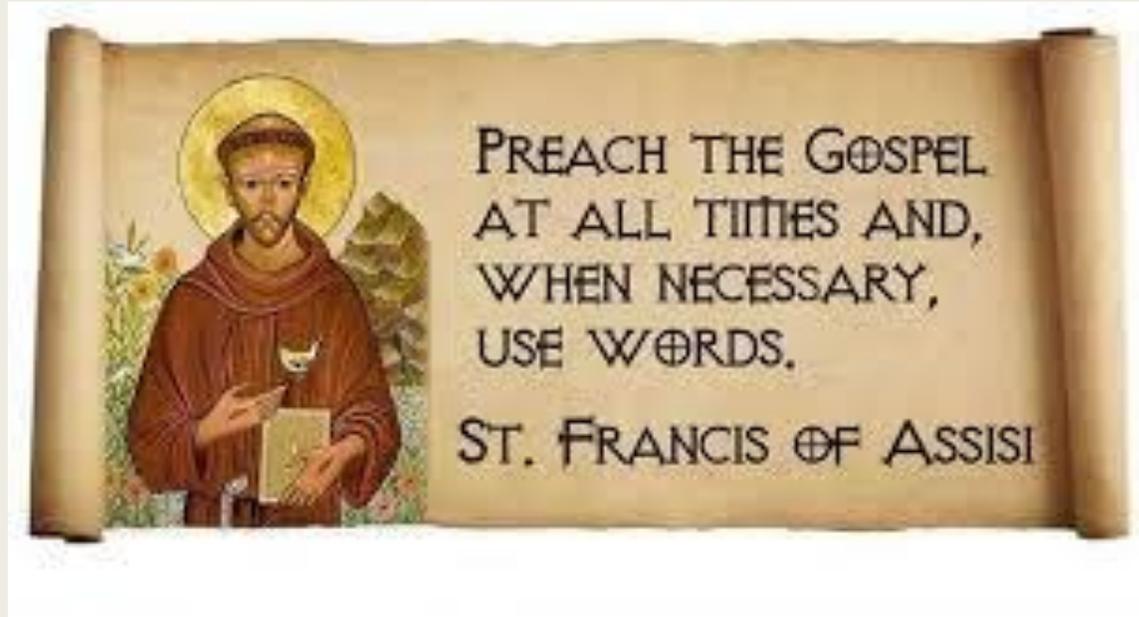


Appendix II Liturgical Prayer for the Members of the Secular Franciscan Order

- Pages 103 – 104
- Rule, Article #8, “Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.” Some suggestions are:
 - *Morning and Evening Prayer* from the *Liturgy of the Hours* (preferred at fraternity meetings)
 - Shortened form of the *Liturgy of the Hours*

Appendix II Liturgical Prayer for the Members of the Secular Franciscan Order (continued)





Thanks to Kathleen White, O.F.S., member of Our Lady of Indiana Region for putting the initial PowerPoint together.

It was modified by Queen of the Angels Fraternity