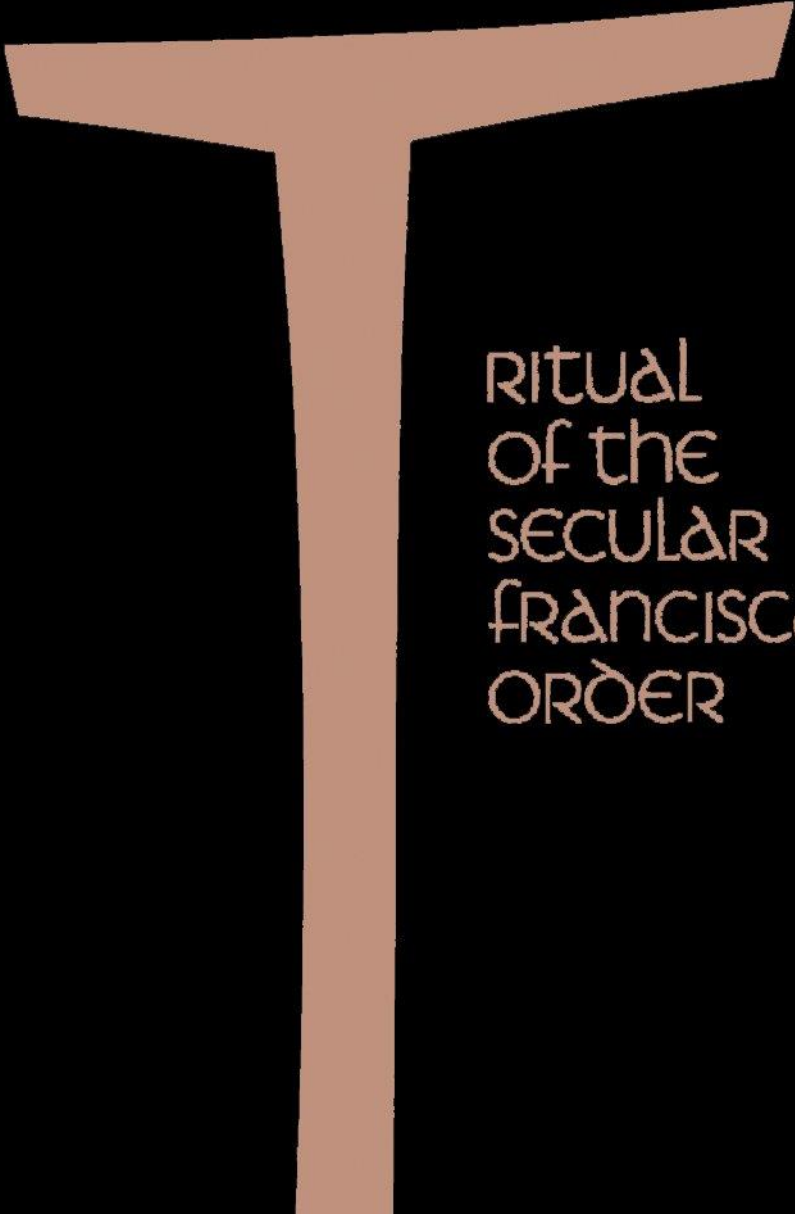


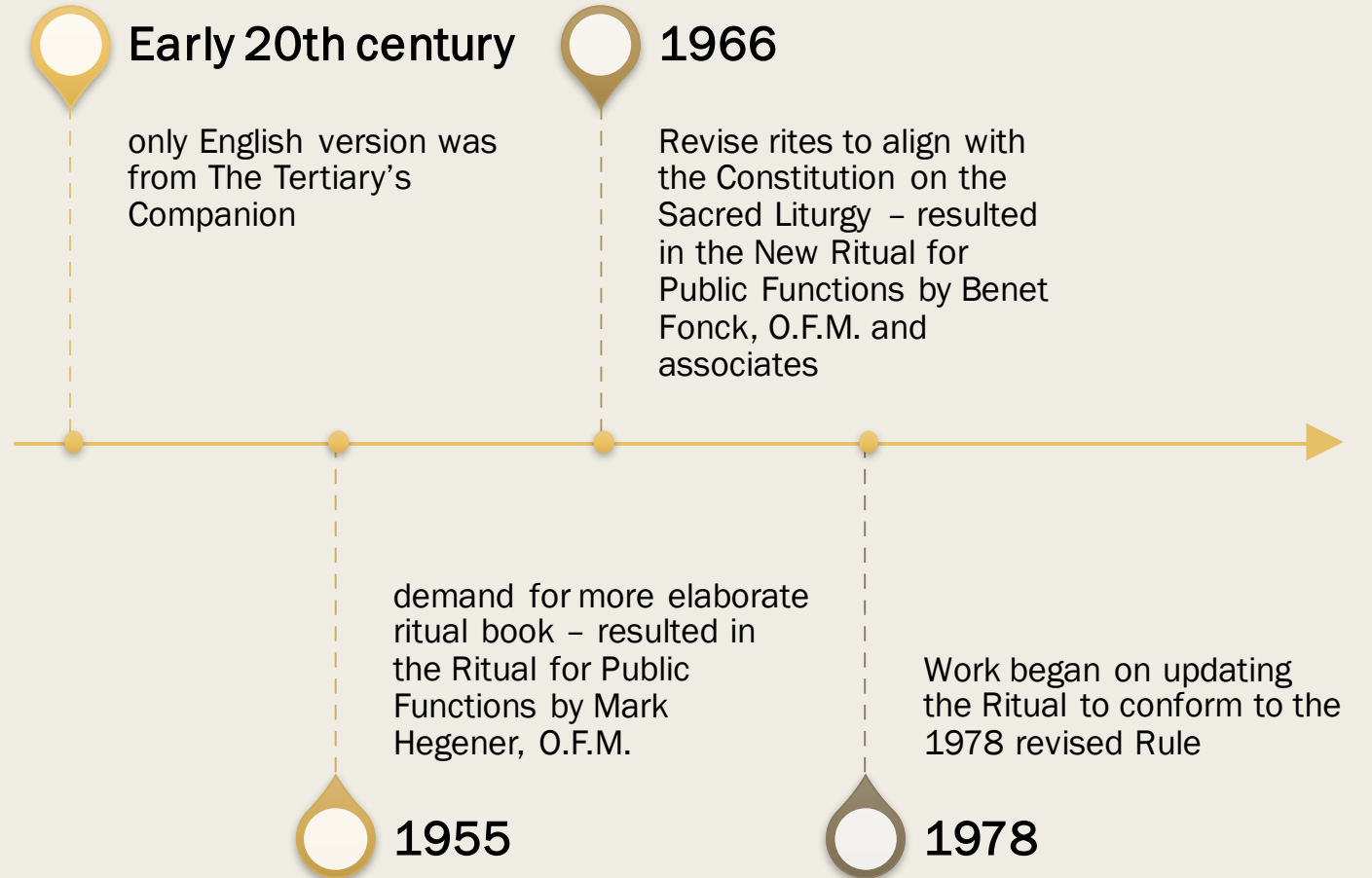
# RITUAL OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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

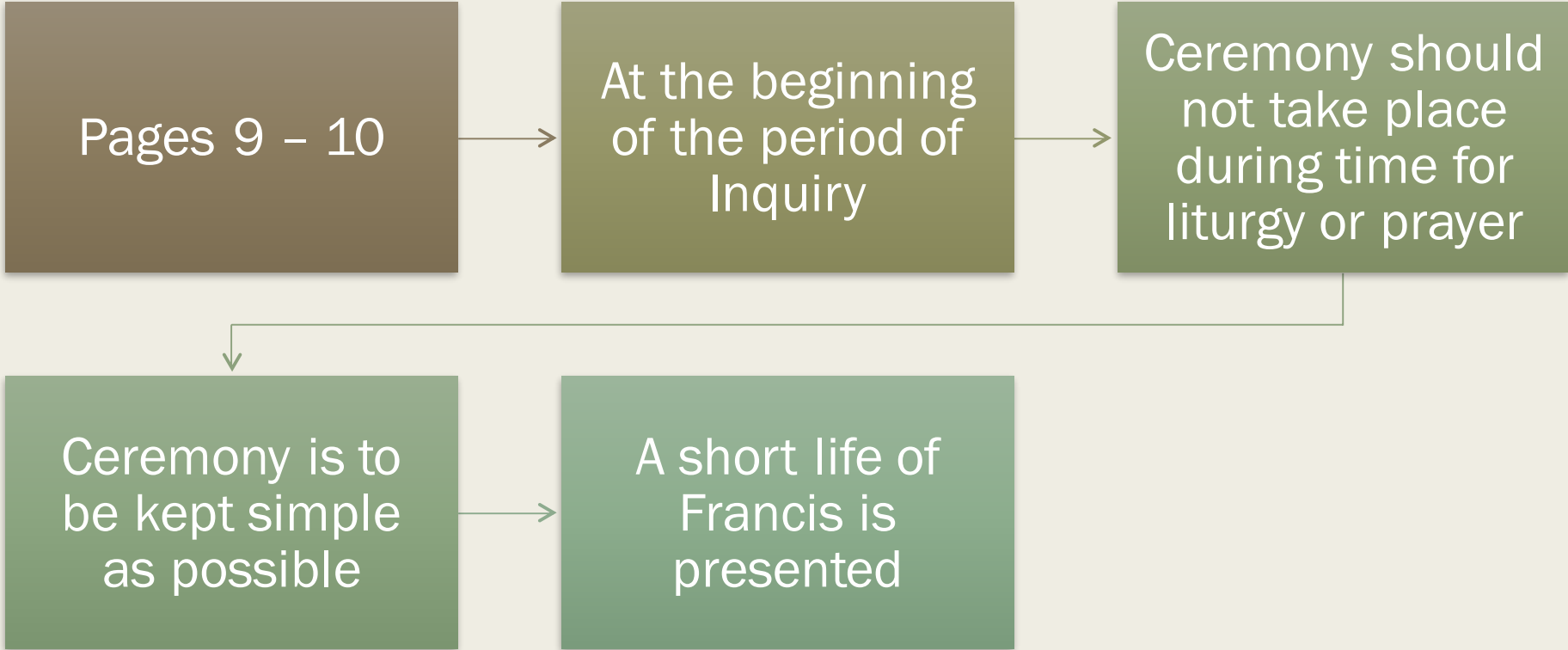
### Rites for Entering the Secular Franciscan Order

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)

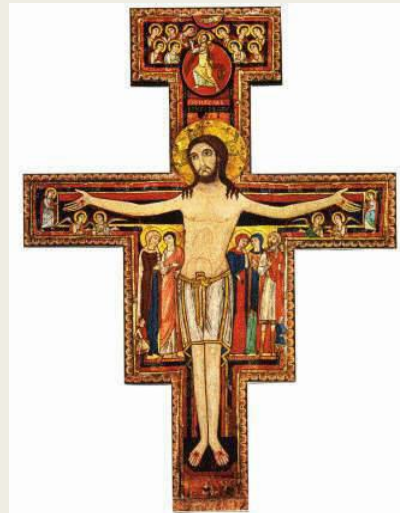
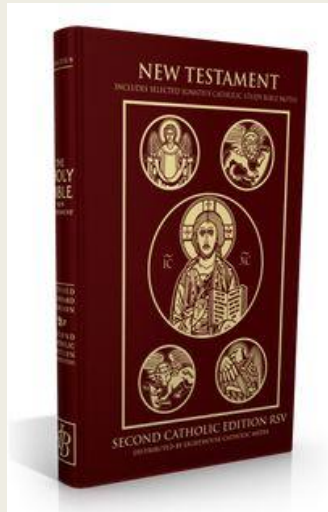
- Promise to live the Gospel
- Observe the Secular Franciscan Order *Rule*
- Incorporation into the Secular Franciscan Order
- Desire to live in and for the world, building a more fraternal and evangelical world

# 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)



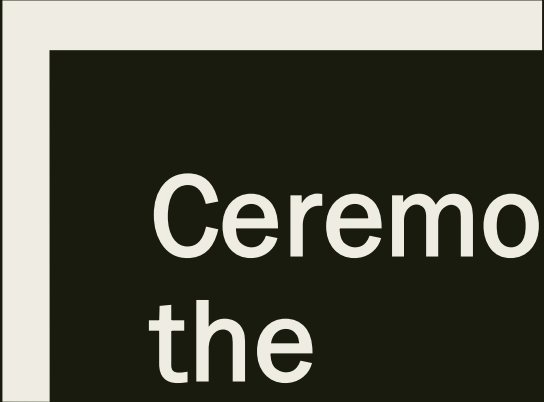
Formula for the  
Rite of Profession  
cannot be altered  
or changed

# 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*
- 25<sup>th</sup> / 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

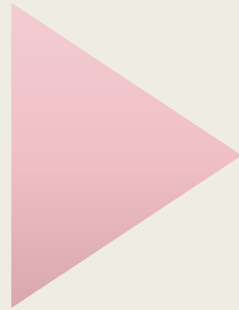
After the **opening** prayer, a **short reading** from **Sacred Scripture** or the **writings** of St. Francis can be shared.

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

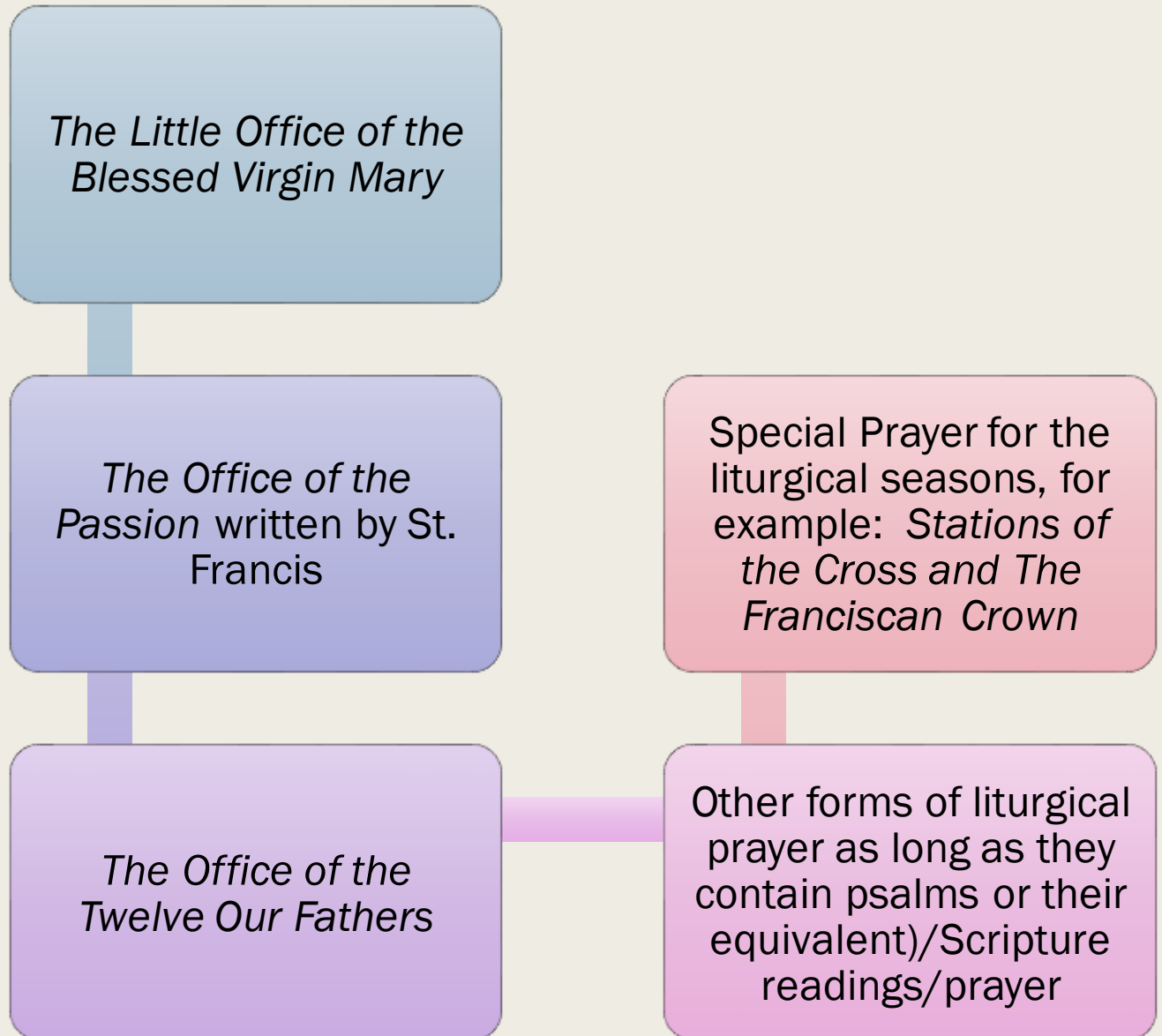
- Scripture Readings, pages 55 – 66
- Franciscan Readings, pages 67 – 80
- Prayers of St. Francis, pages 81 – 102

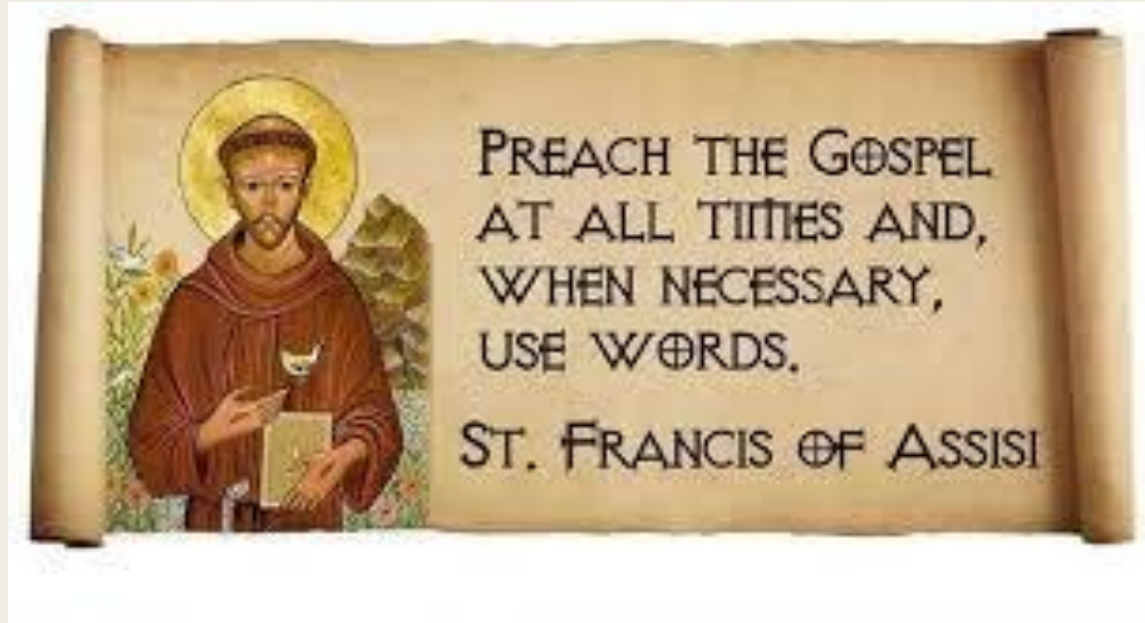


# Appendix II Liturgical Prayer for the Members of the Secular Franciscan Order

- 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*