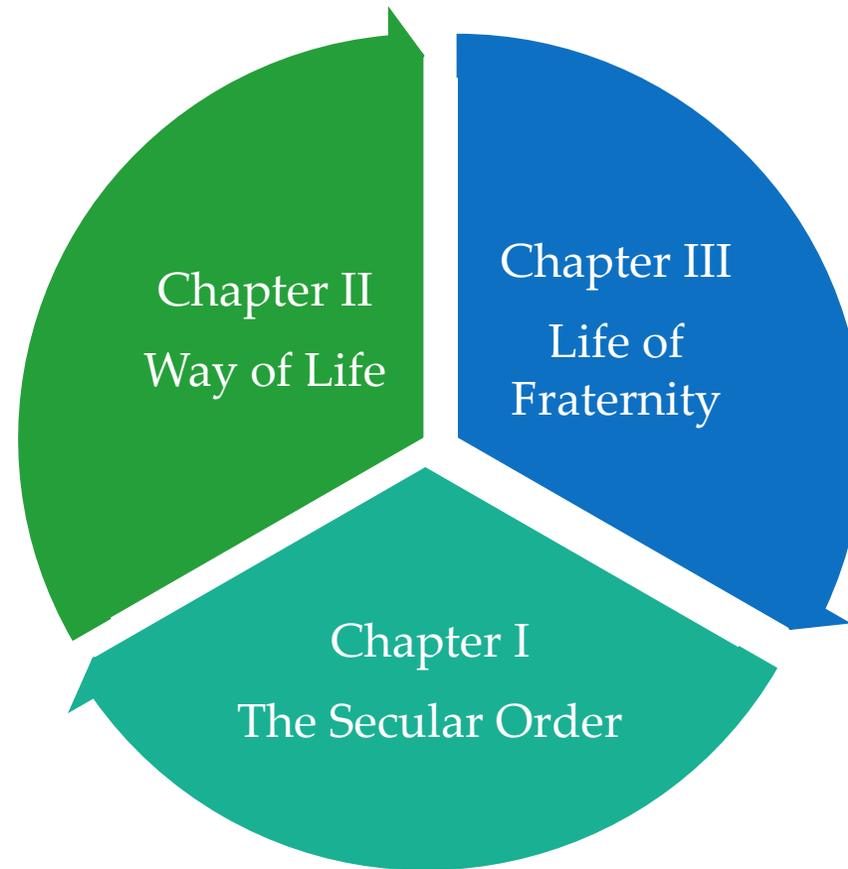


The Secular Franciscan Rule

1978

The Rule Consists of 3 Chapters



Chapter I – The Secular Franciscan Order

- The Secular Franciscan Order as an expression of the charism of St. Francis in the Church.
- Definition of the Secular Franciscan Order as a family of Catholic fraternities living the Gospel in the style of St. Francis.
- Brief note about the legislative history of the Secular Franciscan Order.



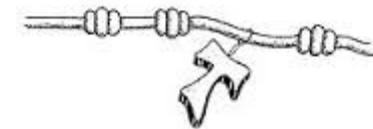
Chapter II – The Way of Life of Secular Franciscans

- The life of the Gospel.
- Christ present in the Brothers and Sisters, in Scriptures, in the Church, and in the Liturgy. The grace of Baptism.
- Union with the pastors of the Church. Creative apostolic vocation.
- Penitential dimension of the Franciscan life. Conversion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Life of prayer, in the Sacraments, the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours.
- Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



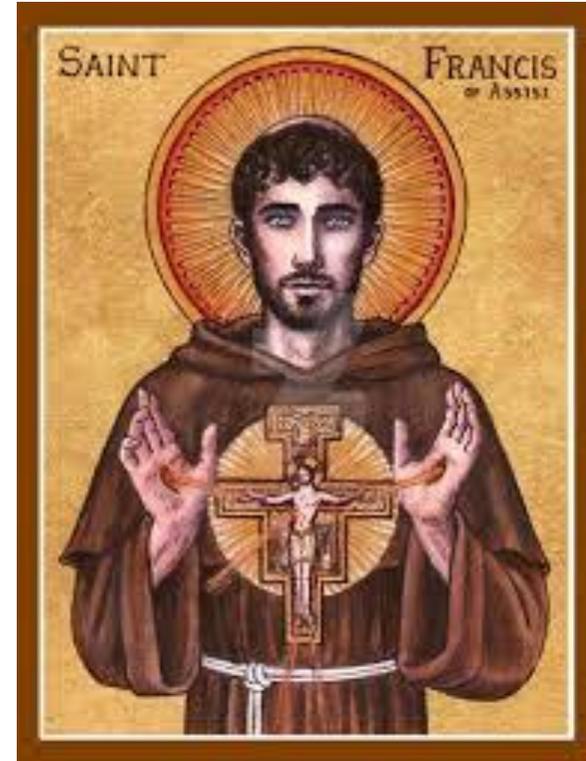
Chapter II (*continued*)

- The evangelical counsel of obedience.
- The evangelical counsel of poverty and humility. Itinerant nature of the Franciscan life.
- Commitment to work for peace, through dialogue and forgiveness. Encounter with "*sister death*" in a true spirit of faith.
- The evangelical counsel of chastity in the secular state.
- Spirit of fraternal love and respect towards all persons.
- Social commitment to the world in a spirit of evangelical service.
- Promotion of justice, in the sphere of social life.
- Value of work as a service to the community.
- Peace and respect of life. Witness of genuine love between married Secular Franciscans.
- Love and respect for all creatures.



Chapter III – The Life of the Fraternity

- Local, regional, national and international fraternities. Way of life contained in the Rule and General Constitutions.
- The fraternity council and the Minister of the fraternity.
- Canonical establishment of the local fraternity.
- Process of acceptance of new members in the Secular Franciscan Order. Rite of initiation, initial formation, profession of the Rule.



Chapter III *(continued)*

- Meetings with other Franciscan groups, especially with young people. Prayers for deceased members of the Secular Franciscan Order.
- Economic administration of the fraternity.
- The role of the Spiritual Assistant of the fraternity, who preferably is a member of the First Order of St. Francis. The pastoral visitation and the fraternal visitation.

