

# **“Concordances”**

Module 3

**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 3, 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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# **CONCORDANCES**

## **Module 3 SECRETARIAT for Formation Secular Franciscan Order**

### **CHAPTER II THE WAY OF LIFE Article 5 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order**

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.

**THEREFORE, LET THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS SEEK THE LIVING AND ACTIVE PERSON OF CHRIST. ART 5 RULE OFS**

**JESUS INVITES US.**

**MATTHEW 7:24-25**

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

**ST. FRANCIS INVITES US**

**Sixth Admonition of Saint Francis - On the Imitation of the Lord.**

Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd, who suffered the passion of the cross to save his sheep. The Lord's sheep followed him in tribulation and persecution, in shame and hunger, in sickness and temptation, and in all other things; and for this they received eternal life from the Lord. Hence, it is a great shame for us, servants of God, that the saints performed these works, and we, by reciting them, want to receive glory and honor.(1)

**THE RULE INVITES US.**

**Article 5**

*Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of Saint Francis, who often said “I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except his most holy body and blood”<sup>9</sup>, should be the inspiration and pattern of their eucharistic life. (2)*

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

### **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. (3)

### **THE CHURCH INVITES US.**

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

Words and actions

1153A sacramental celebration is a meeting of God's children with their Father, in Christ and the Holy Spirit; this meeting takes the form of a dialogue, through actions and words. Admittedly, the symbolic actions are already a language, but the Word of God and the response of faith have to accompany and give life to them, so that the seed of the Kingdom can bear its fruit in good soil. the liturgical actions signify what the Word of God expresses: both his free initiative and his people's response of faith. (4)

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

In that bond of “obedience and reverence” to the Pope and the Church of Rome, he recognized an essential element for fidelity to the call and for receiving Christ in the Eucharist; that is why he declares without hesitation the indispensable nature of belonging to the Church. Well then, live the spirit of the Rule through listening and dialogue, as the synodal path suggests. Sustain the Church tenaciously, repair her with your example and witness, even when it seems most difficult!

“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 Bulled Rule (1223-2023)(5)

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

**1. Am I living my spirituality in relation to Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy?**

**2. Are we, as a Fraternity, aware of the importance of living together in the light of the Word of God and the Liturgy?**

Bibliography :

- Concordance OFS Legislation- año 2013, Alonso Acevedo. OFS

1- BAC Editions, Writings and Biographies of Saint Francis of Assisi, 1978

2-<https://ciofs.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EN-OFS-Rule-s.pdf>

3-- <https://ciofs.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/OFS-General-Constitutions.pdf>

4- <https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015>

5-

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/letters/2023/documents/20231109-lettera-famigliafrancescana.html>

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