

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale
Via Vittorio Putti, 4/int. 6 - 00152 Roma
Tel. +39 06.45471722 Fax +39 06.45473094
E-mail: ciofs@ciofs.org
www.ciofs.org

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the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary

To the OFS National Councils and
to the Youfra National Councils

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On September 27th, 1982, Pope St. John Paul II called us, Secular Franciscans to *love, study and live* our Rule¹. And during our audience with the same St. John Paul II at the time of our General Chapter 2002, he again called us, this time to *love, study and live* our General Constitutions².

The Rule, the General Constitutions and the Ritual are the official and vital documents of our Secular Franciscan Order. They are not simple readings or juridical regulations but guiding principles for us to live our vocation. So, there is a good reason to love, study and live these documents and consequently, they have to be at hand, and it is also important that not only the content but their structure has to be as accurate as possible. This objective has inspired the previous Presidency of the CIOFS to launch the project of the revision of the translation of these official documents of the OFS. The current Presidency appreciated this initiative and endeavored to continue with this work. So, now, I am very happy to announce that this work has been completed.

It is very important to make you all aware, that this is not a revision of the content of the documents themselves. It has to do only with the translation from the original version.

The so called “editio typica” of the documents remained the same. The original version of the Rule and of the Ritual are in Latin. The original version of the General Constitutions is in Italian. It means they were originally written in these languages.

So now, with this letter, dated on December 8th, feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary, 20 years after the approval of the General Constitutions, I am glad to send

¹Address of pp John Paul II to the General Council of the OFS, September 27th, 1982.


²Address of pp John Paul II to the International Council of the OFS at the General Chapter, November 22nd, 2002

you the revised translation of the official documents. I invite all of you to love, study and live these documents. Use them as an instrument to live your vocation, strengthen the fraternal life and improve the formation.

We have to express our gratitude and appreciation to all those, who worked so hard on this work of the revision: Michéle Altmeyer OFS, Fr. Martin Pablo Bitzer OFMConv, François Delmas-Goyon OFS, Ana Fruk OFS, Attilio Galimberti OFS, Jennifer Harrington OFS, Fr. André Ménard OFMConv, Paula Pearce OFS, Rev. Laurent Pidolle OFS, Encarnacion del Pozo OFS, Fr. Valentín Redondo OFMConv, Mary Stronach OFS. We have to say thanks for their dedication, for the hard work, and the excellent result of their fraternal service.

May the Lord help us all to keep the importance and the proper place of these documents in our life. May the holy pope, John Paul II, who had expressed several times his love to the OFS, help us to love, study and live these documents.

Your minister and your brother



Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General minister

