

News & Views

CNSA



TAV USA - Winter - 2018 - Lester Bach OFM Cap - CNSA Emeritus

Secular Franciscans, on this 40th anniversary of the 1978 Rule, are called to enrich their faithfulness to profession, by building up fraternity life, with conversion as a daily result.

In personal life they reflect faithfulness to the 1978 Rule, by sharing stories, insights, new ideas, prayerfulness, action, support for one another, friendship building, dialogue and shared gospel love.

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Seculars reach out to people in daily life. Neighbors, family, strangers, enemies, migrants, refugees, people from different nations and cultures.

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OFS people share experiences that reflect the 1978 OFS Rule and bring hope and peace to a troubled world, a bit each day.

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This vocation to action calls us to follow the OFS Rule of 1978.



St Paul's advice

*Put on, then, garments that suit God's chosen and beloved people: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, compassion, patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgiving, if any of you has cause for complaint; you must forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Finally, to bind everything together and complete the whole, **there must be love.** Let Christ's peace be arbiter in your decisions ... always be thankful. Let the gospel of Christ dwell among you in all its richness; teach and instruct one another with all the wisdom it gives you. ...*

Colossians 3: 12-16 (REB)

I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, his servant and yours: that if there is any brother (sister) in the world who has sinned - however much he could have sinned - who when he looked into your eyes, would ever depart without your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that you may draw him to the Lord, and always be merciful with brothers (sisters) such as these. ...

Letter to a Minister - Francis of Assisi, the Saint - Page 97-98

United by their vocation as "brothers and sisters of penance," and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls "conversion." Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace.

1978 OFS Rule - #7

As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

1978 OFS Rule - #8



Sometimes we find it difficult to deal with certain situations - even with the best of reasons. We need support and dialogue with one another to engage in some social actions or prayerfulness. We choose to work and dialogue in collaboration with Secular brothers and sisters and other healthy groups. *We are encouraged to do what we can rather than doing nothing.*

Some social actions may need to be accompanied by presence, prayerfulness, together with *conversion* - plus enriching our ability to love one another. To work and pray together is a treasured goal in serving people's needs.

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Franciscans are devoted to Mary, our Blessed Mother. She responded to God's call and trusted God's word. She responded positively when her concerns were dealt with. Her faith accepted the message and showed her trust in God. She was faithful to that call for her whole life.

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

1978 OFS Rule - #9

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United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

1978 OFS Rule - #10

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Ministries with seculars and other groups are a good thing. But family members also need to be faithful in their love for one another. Seculars search for a balance between helping others and responsibilities to family and neighbors.

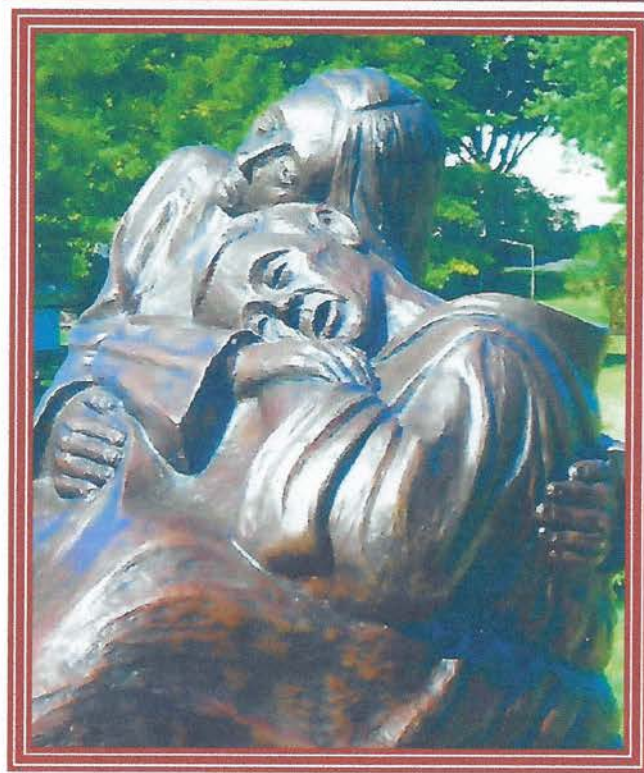
In various ways and forms, but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.

1978 OFS Rule - #1

... Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

1978 OFS Rule - #19

Read articles 13 to 19 of the 1978 OFS Rule, plus chapter 3, articles #20 to #26 - *Life in Fraternity* of the 1978 OFS Rule - They invite us to work together in developing fraternal life.



- SISTER DEATH -

A beautiful statue by Bro. Michael Gaffney, OFM Cap. It is located in the Capuchin cemetery at St Lawrence Seminary, Mt Calvary, WI.

... Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

1978 OFS Rule - #19

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This statue offers a beautiful image of Sister Death as announced in *The Canticle of the Creatures* (Brother Sun)

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Praised be You, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no one living can escape.

... blessed are those whom death will find in your holy will ...

Francis of Assisi - Vol 1 - The Saint
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