

THE TERTIARY'S RULE

Every Tertiary is required to have a Spiritual Director, ordained or lay. Each Tertiary has a Personal Rule of Life (not to be confused with the Rule of the Order as a whole). Initially, as a Novice, the Tertiary seeks to live to a Basic Rule, working towards one which is personal to him/her self by the time of Profession.

The purpose of the Rule is to give practical expression in the particular circumstances of the Tertiary's life to the ways of service- Prayer, Study and Work- and to help the Tertiary fulfil the principles of the Order. Consideration must be given to the Tertiary's circumstances of life, responsibilities and duties, and to his/her personal gifts.

The Rule therefore is a means of spiritual growth, developing our formation as Franciscan Christians. It is dynamic, not static and needs therefore to be regularly reviewed and where necessary revised. This should be done with the help of the Tertiary's Spiritual Director. Major changes will also need the assent of the Tertiary's Area Formation Guardian.

The Rule is drawn up under the following headings.

- 1. The Holy Eucharist**
- 2 Penitence**
- 3 Personal Prayer**
- 4 Self-Denial**
- 5 Retreat**
- 6 Study**
- 7 Simplicity**
- 8 Place in society; work; family**
- 9 Obedience.**

THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TERTIARY'S VOCATION

The Third Order provides the opportunity for a review annually. Each tertiary is required to renew his/her pledge as a member of the Order and to offer up his/her Rule of Life.

As the Tertiary undertakes this review, looking at each heading, such questions as follow may be helpful:

Personal Situation

Have I developed in my Franciscan journey in the last year?

If so, how? If not, why not?

Are there any changes in my personal situation?

If there are, do I need to make changes to meet them?

Do I need a different kind of help?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Spirituality

How have Francis/Clare/ the Franciscan Order(s) inspired me in this past year?

How do I need to build on this in this coming year?

Has there been a deepening, or change, in my prayer?

Penitence? Worship? Study?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Third Order Life

Who nurtures me, or cares for my nurture?

Whose nurture do I care for?

Does my Local Group support my ongoing nurture and formation?

If so, how? If not, what could it, ideally, do?

Have I shared this with others in the Group?

Does my Area support my ongoing nurture and formation?

If so, how? If not, what could it ideally do?

Have I shared this with any members of my Area Team?

What contribution could I myself make to others' nurture in my Local Group or Area?

Is there any special interest group which I could usefully form, or belong to, to support me on my Franciscan journey?

Could I help to support others in this way?

Am I carrying too much/too little responsibility in the TO?

What do I need to do?

Simplicity

Do my lifestyle and finances continue to reflect Francis' love of Lady Poverty, through the 'generosity that gives all' (Principles. Day 12)?

Service and Mission.

How have I served God and born witness to Him in this past year?

In my work? my family? my local church?

my local community?

In the Third Order?

Do I need to do more/less?

Do I need to develop any particular area of service?

Do I need to share any of this with my Spiritual Director or my Area Formation Guardian?

Acknowledgements

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Other prayers are from Francis and Clare: The Complete Works, translated by Regis J Armstrong, OFM Cap and Ignatius C Brady, OFM. Copyright © The Missionary Society of St Paul the Apostle in the State of New York, published by SPCK and Paulist Press.

The hymn "Francis in the poor and foolish"
is by Rowan Clare Williams, formerly CSF.

The hymn "Mine ears have heard the music..."
is by Sr Susan Elizabeth OSC

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