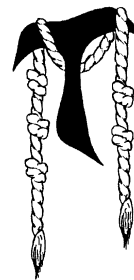


The **Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order** is made up of three chapters. We shall briefly present the structure of the Rule with the aim of noting the characteristic elements of the charism of the Secular Franciscan Order in the world today.



Chapter I - The Secular Franciscan Order

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

Chapter II - The Way of Life of Secular Franciscans

4. The life of the Gospel.
5. Christ present in the Brothers and Sisters, in Scriptures, in the Church, and in the Liturgy. The grace of Baptism.
6. Union with the pastors of the Church. Creative apostolic vocation.
7. Penitential dimension of the Franciscan life. Conversion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
8. Life of prayer, in the Sacraments, the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours.
9. Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
10. The evangelical counsel of obedience.
11. The evangelical counsel of poverty and humility. Itinerant nature of the Franciscan life.
12. The evangelical counsel of chastity in the secular state.
13. Spirit of fraternal love and respect towards all persons.
14. Social commitment to the world in a spirit of evangelical service.
15. Promotion of justice, in the sphere of social life.
16. Value of work as a service to the community.
17. Peace and respect of life. Witness of genuine love between married Secular Franciscans.
18. Love and respect for all creatures.
19. Commitment to work for peace, through dialogue and forgiveness. Encounter with "*sister death*" in a true spirit of faith.

Chapter III - The Life of the Fraternity

20. Local, regional, national and international fraternities. Way of life contained in the Rule and General Constitutions.
21. The fraternity council and the Minister of the fraternity.
22. Canonical establishment of the local fraternity.
23. Process of acceptance of new members in the Secular Franciscan Order. Rite of initiation, initial formation, profession of the Rule.
24. Meetings with other Franciscan groups, especially with young people. Prayers for deceased members of the Secular Franciscan Order.
25. Economic administration of the fraternity.
26. 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.