

Chapter II FORM OF LIFE AND APOSTOLIC ACTIVITY

Title I THE WAY OF LIFE

Article 8

1. Secular Franciscans commit themselves by their profession to live the Gospel according to Franciscan spirituality in their secular condition.
2. They seek to deepen, in the light of faith, the values and choices of the evangelical life according to the Rule of the OFS:
 - *Rule 7.* in a continually renewed journey of conversion and of formation;
 - *Rule 4.* open to the challenges that come from society and from the Church's life situation, "going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel";
 - in the personal and communal dimensions of this journey.

Article 9

1. *Rule 5.* The spirituality of the Secular Franciscan is a plan of life centred on the person and on the following of Christ⁹, rather than a detailed programme to be put into practice.
2. *Rule 4.* The Secular Franciscan, committed to following the example and the teachings of Christ, must personally and assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture. The fraternity and those responsible for it should foster love for the word of the Gospel and help the brothers and sisters to know and understand it as it is proclaimed by the Church with the assistance of the Spirit¹⁰.

Article 10

Rule 10. "Christ, poor and crucified", victor over death and risen, the greatest manifestation of the love of God for humanity, is the "book" in which the brothers and sisters, in imitation of Francis, learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering. They discover in Him the value of contradictions for the sake of justice and the meaning of the difficulties and the crosses of daily life. With Him they can accept the will of the Father even under the most difficult circumstances and live the Franciscan spirit of peace, rejecting every doctrine contrary to human dignity.

Article 11

Mindful that the Holy Spirit is the source of their vocation and the animator of fraternal life and mission, Secular Franciscans should seek to imitate the faithfulness of Francis to His inspiration. They should listen to the exhortation of the Saint to desire above all things 'the Spirit of the Lord and Its holy activity'¹¹.

⁹ See *Rule of 1221*, Ch. 22:41, *Omn*, p. 49 (1 FA:ED, ER); *Second Letter to All the Faithful* 51, *Omn* p. 96 (1 FA:ED, 2 LtF 51).

¹⁰ See *Dei Verbum* 10.

¹¹ 2 *Reg* Ch. 10:8, *Omn* p. 63 (1 FA:ED, LR).

