

# Resource Manual for the Study of the THIRD ORDER REGULAR RULE

*I heartily wish that this solemn confirmation  
be a new stimulus for  
a life of generosity  
in the religious consecration in imitation  
of the holy Patriarch Francis of Assisi.*

Edward Cardinal Pironio, Pref.  
The Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes  
Rome, April 30, 1983

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*Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia*, Aston, PA

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## 1. Introduction

**Words of St. Francis to His Followers**  
**(Volterra Document 1:1-19)**

**A**ll who love God with their whole heart, with their whole soul and mind, and with their whole strength (Mk 12:30), and love their neighbor as themselves (Mt 22:39), and who despise their tendency to vice and sin, receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and bring forth from within themselves fruits worthy of true penance.

How happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things, and persevere in doing them because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them (Is 11:2) and God will make a home and dwelling place (Jn 14:23) with them. They are the children of the heavenly Father (Mt 5:45) whose works they do. They are the spouses, brothers and sisters, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 12:50).

We are spouses when the faithful soul is united by the Holy Spirit with our Lord Jesus Christ. We are for him brothers and sisters when we do the will of the Father who is in heaven (Mt 12:50). We are mothers when we bear him in our hearts and bodies (1 Co 6:20) with divine love and with pure and sincere consciences, and when we give birth to him through our holy actions which must shine in example to others (Mt 5:16).

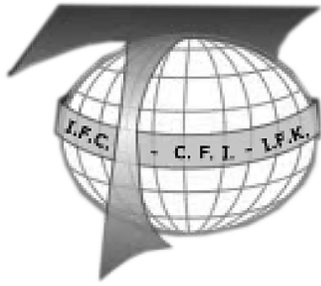
How glorious it is, how holy and great, to have a Father in heaven! How holy, consoling, beautiful and wonderful it is to have such a Spouse! How holy and how loving, pleasing, humble, peaceful, sweet, lovable and over all things desirable it is to have such a Brother and such a Son, our Lord Jesus Christ who gave up his life for his sheep (Jn 10:15) and prayed to the Father, saying: Holy Father, keep in your name (Jn 17:11) those whom You gave me in the world; they are Yours and You gave them to me (Jn 17:6). And the words which you gave me I gave to them, and they accepted and truly believed that I came from You. And they know that You have sent me (Jn 17:8). I pray for them and not for the world (Jn 17:9). Bless them and sanctify them (Jn 17:17). I sanctify myself for their sakes (Jn 17:19). I do not pray only for these but also for those who, through their word, will believe in me (Jn 17:20), may they be holy in oneness as we are (Jn 17:11). Father, I want that where I am they too may be with me so that they may see my glory (Jn 17:24) in Your reign (Mt 20:21). Amen.

**MASSIMO CRUCIANI** *Glass Paintings*

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## International Franciscan Conference of the Sisters and Brothers of the Third Order Regular

[www.ifc-tor.org](http://www.ifc-tor.org)

*The International Franciscan Conference of the Third Order Regular*, with its office at Piazza del Risorgimento, 14, 00192 Rome, Italy, represents 237 congregations, five TOR Monasteries and 28 Federations/Study Centers. Working in six languages (Italian, French, German, Portuguese, English and Spanish) the IFC-TOR serves 51 countries on five continents.

The IFC was established in response to the vibrant era of the Third Order Regular collaboration in the writing of a new Rule, promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1982. **The affirmation of this new Rule came from an international assembly of over 200 superiors general in Rome, March 1982.**

These sisters and brothers expressed the wish that a *permanent* structure be created to ensure that the common bond of their Franciscan TOR heritage — and the cooperation achieved in the writing of the Rule be continued *effectively*.



**Sister Ann Carville OSF**, Executive Director of the Franciscan Federation USA during the Rule Project years, was instrumental in the creation of the by-laws and norms for the new IFC Office. Ann's initiative and untiring efforts in implementing the new TOR Rule in the USA tapped a great enthusiasm towards renewal in the charism. The structure of the new IFC was approved and established at a general assembly of 130 superiors general who met in Assisi, October 1985.



**Sister Alma Dufault FFM** was the *first* Secretary General of the IFC. Alma was Superior General of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (over 8,000 members in 70 countries) while the Rule was written and promulgated. As such, Alma became a member of the **International Franciscan Bureau (BFI)**, six women and men who held the responsibility — delegated by their peers — to supervise the entire project and submit its results to the Holy See at the appropriate time.

*The AIMS of the International Franciscan Conference are:*

### AS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

1. **To promote genuine communion** within and among the institutes of the Third Order Regular throughout the world by fostering Franciscan life and spirituality *in harmony with the spirit and content of the Rule and its fundamental values.*

## MUTUALITY AND SOLIDARITY

2. **To create and maintain solidarity** among the institutes regarding:
  - Mutual assistance both spiritual and material
  - Collaboration in the apostolate
  - Shared information and communication
  - Assistance with life-long Formation ministry
  - Outreach to smaller and more isolated institutes
  - Support for new regional or national Franciscan federations or organizations

## TOR RESEARCH

3. **To encourage and disseminate research** in TOR Franciscan spirituality and history so that we may live our *forma vitae* in a manner that awakens a *new ecclesial and social consciousness* and fosters dialogue in the midst of diverse cultures, peoples and religions.

## JPIC COMMITMENTS

4. **To support or initiate efforts** to safeguard the rights of every human person as well as promoting innovative dialogue through word and work in the areas of:
  - Peace and reconciliation
  - Ecumenism
  - Respect for diversity
  - Advocacy of those who are voiceless
  - Care of the earth

## COMMUNICATION

5. **To promote greater Franciscan visibility, voice and vision** in the world and the Church through personal/institutional relationships and the world-wide web.
  - Increase communication with all IFC-TOR through collaboration with Franciscan Federations in various countries.

## The TASKS of the IFC-TOR

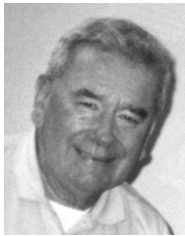
1. **Continue the Itinerant School of TOR Spirituality** giving priority to countries, regions, and language groups presently without access and opportunities throughout the world. Continue to include education in non-violence, integrity of creation and incorporate the study of *Franciscan Evangelical life* and the Franciscan theological tradition. Encourage the development and use of audiovisual and internet resources.
2. **Offer international programs** for formation personnel as well as for those in formation.
3. **Re-engage** members in the **study of our Rule and Life**, beginning with Chapter IX on the “mission.”
4. **Create new resources** for life-long formation, and *publish* and *make known* existing ones.
5. **Bring newer members** to the Assembly 2013, and find ways of including the concerns of young sisters and brothers.
6. Search for member institutes’ **histories** so that future scholarship on the history of the Third Order Regular will include its heritage. [185 published works collected by 2008]
7. Seek *new forms* of Franciscan life in community for the 21st century.
8. Continue publication of *Propositum*, the periodical of TOR history and spirituality published in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish by the IFC, Rome at least twice a year. This is to be accessed from the IFC web page [www.ifc-tor.org](http://www.ifc-tor.org).



## IFC ASSEMBLIES

There have been **seven** international assemblies since the creation of the Office in Rome, 1985. These have all been held in Assisi in 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2009.

Pictured right: Margaret Carney OSF, Thaddeus Horgan SA, and Kathleen Moffatt OSF at the second Assembly in 1989. Thaddeus' untimely death of a heart attack, April 19th, 1990 left both an ache and a legacy in the telling of the Rule's story.



Together with **Roland Faley TOR**, Minister General of the TOR Friars at the time of the writing of the new Rule, Thaddeus' zeal for the tradition left the entire Third Order Regular Franciscan Family with a renewed understanding of its fundamental charism of continuous conversion. Roland's biblical scholarship on *metanoia* and study of the heritage of the TOR, together with Thaddeus' theological and Franciscan studies, deeply influenced the final writing of the Rule.

*"Becoming a Disturbing Presence in Today's World: Christ, through Francis, Clare and . . . ME!"* This was the 2009 General Assembly theme. Held in Domus Pacis in Assisi, the new Council and Staff are pictured below.

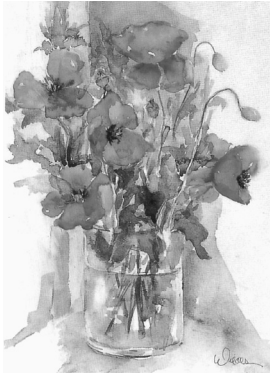


Back: S. M. Xavier Bomberger, S. Doreen D'Souza, S. Santina Cangemi (Finance Administrator), S. Louise Hembrecht, Fr. James Puglisi SA (President). Front: S. Janet Gardner, S. Margherita Merlino (General Secretary), S. Jesse Payyappily

**We extend much gratitude to the IFC Council for supporting this 2013 *Manual of Resources on the Third Order Regular Rule.***



**The American Delegation** from the Franciscan Federation for the Third General Assembly of the IFC-TOR, May 16 – 22, 1993 in Assisi



What a joyous task then lies before us each day.  
Showered with blessings,  
it will take our entire lifetime  
to learn to be  
nothing but a  
***Living thankfulness.***

*Simple Ways*, Gunilla Norris

## Introduction

*Since we know how diligently and assiduously this “Rule and Life” has traveled its path of “aggiornamento” and how fortuitously it arrived at the desired convergence of different points of view through collegial discussion and consultation, proposals and studied amendments, for this very reason with well-founded hope we trust that the longed for fruits of renewal will be brought to full realization.*

John Paul II — *as a Perpetual Memorial*

### ***Breve Pontificium***

Franciscanum vitae propositum — December 8, 1962

On this 50th Anniversary of Vatican II directing that religious return to the original charism of their Founders [*Perfectae Caritatis*, 2; *Lumen Gentium* 45] it is a great privilege and blessing to present this Manual for the study of the **Third Order Regular Rule** to the worldwide family of TOR Franciscan sisters and brothers, together with our Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) companions and all our congregations’ Associates.

Nothing less than a prophetic response to the call of the Council to “retrieve and become newly enlivened” by the *original* charism of Francis and Clare made such a Rule possible! Pope John Paul II said as much in his “Perpetual Memorial” quoted above.

Nearly two hundred superiors general were personally present at the final voting assembly in Rome, March 1982.



*The audience with Pope John Paul II in Clementine Hall at the Vatican — March 1982,  
for the members of the Rome Assembly which approved the new TOR Rule.*

**When one considers that never in our history had there been an attempt to create a global consultation of the Third Order Regular, the success of the efforts borders on the truly miraculous.**

Margaret Carney OSF “A Decade of Development,” *The Cord*, September 1992

**Sister Margaret Carney OSF**, member of the Working Group writing the Rule, comments, “Never before in the Order’s history have the members exercised such collective responsibility and global communication . . . Our Amen! to this Rule binds us together for a new stage of the pilgrimage of penance and peacemaking in our time. This Rule has emerged as a sacred exchange of desires, commitments, and prophetic convictions.”

[Tab 3 – page 32 of Introduction]



This TOR Manual, as a study on the Rule, presents the essentials of a Story that can only be called a “chronicle of grace.” It is the response to the 2009 proposal from the IFC assembly that resources on the Rule “be updated and new ones created, published and made known for initial and ongoing formation.” To this end TOR sisters and brothers representing the USA, Great Britain and Rome offer with grateful hearts our *best* resources. Here again Margaret urges, “It will be particularly important for this work to be exported to developing nations where the Order sees wonderful growth and a promising future.” [Tab 3 – page 31 of Introduction]



In *Phase one* of the Manual design, in the Fall of 2009 **Sisters Elise Saggau**, Little Falls Franciscan, pictured far left, and **Clare D’Auria**, Aston, PA Franciscan, pictured left, met with me at our Motherhouse, Our Lady of Angels Convent, Aston, PA gathering, shifting and sorting so many of the resources we valued on the development of the Rule. Little did we guess the surprises in the Spirit’s real unfolding of treasures yet to be discovered.

*Phase two* found me at Rio Rancho, NM where Felician **Sisters Margaret Padilla** and **Veronica Marie Lucero** assisted in the preparation of a comprehensive bibliography with entries easily accessible by all in the TOR family. [Tab 8] As 2010 graduates of the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University, NY, I knew I was in good hands.



*Left to right: Sister Veronica Lucero CSSF, Brother Edward Coughlin OFM, Director of the Franciscan Institute, and Sister Margaret Padilla CSSF*

But that was not all — Tab 7 holds a beautiful new CD with the music of the four values of the TOR Rule: contemplation, minority, conversion and poverty. This, too, was reflective of the Integrative Study towards Margaret and Veronica’s M.A. at the Institute. The gracious hospitality of Sister Seraphine Moynier, Local Minister at the Rio Rancho, NM Convent, and the great generosity of Sister Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister of Our Lady of Hope Province, Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America, only deepened my sense of the Spirit’s lead in this Project.



Another new surprise was the “**Followers of the Troubadour**: reflections on the lives and spirituality of the Third Order followers of Francis of Assisi” created by **Thomas Bourque TOR** of Sacred Heart Province, Loretto, PA. Tom, a member of the Federation’s *Spirit and Life* Committee for seven years, and former President of the Franciscan Federation, has been instrumental in a great many *Franciscan* study initiatives of his own Order, together with the Franciscan Institute and Federation Forums and Symposiums.

We meet here, Elizabeth of Hungary, Louis IX, King of France, St. John-Marie Vianney, and Blessed Pope John XXIII. This project was implemented for Ongoing Formation for the TOR Friars. Other Third Order saints and blessed continued to be researched. I want to acknowledge here the fine work of Ingrid Peterson, Rochester, MN Franciscan and Giles Schinelli TOR of the Immaculate Conception Province, Newry, PA, in research and presentations on Franciscan Third Order Women. There is much more to come.

*Phase three*, working at St. Bonaventure University July of 2012, provided the invaluable editorial assistance of **Elise Saggau OSF**, former Editor of *The Cord*. (See her article in Tab 2.) I also had the support of Felician **Sister Suzanne Kush**, Director of the Franciscan Center for Social Concern, and adjunct faculty member for Franciscan Studies, St. Bonaventure University, NY, whose own article is in Tab 4 of the Manual. It was also a chance to share the project with **Sister Margaret Carney OSF**, member of the original Work Group on the Rule, and now President of St. Bonaventure University, NY.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the permission to use the *many* Franciscan Institute Publications in this Manual. Eight selections alone are from *The Cord*. The 2008 *Source Book on the TOR Rule* was invaluable in preparation of this Manual. A sincere “Thank You” as well to the Franciscan Federation TOR of the United States. Its forty-eight year history of faithfulness in tending the TOR Tradition and Rule makes it a “trustee of the charism.”

The Manual is designed with the stunning artwork of **Massimo Cruciani of Assisi**. He quite generously offered his designs, grateful for the visits (and commissions) of the many IFC-TOR assembly participants over the past 12 years. They are worthy of each Chapter of the Rule which they hold.

April 25 – May 1, 2013 at Domus Pacis in Assisi, this Manual will be presented to the IFC-TOR Assembly. It is the considerable financial support of the IFC Council with the enthusiastic contributions of over 33 USA congregations, two Great Britain congregations and four USA generalates in Rome that is making this response to the 2009 IFC-TOR Assembly proposal possible. I am deeply grateful to my own congregation, *Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia*, Aston, PA for the gracious gift of time, and always encouragement, needed to undertake this project.

I especially want to express sincere gratitude to **Mr. Al McCarthy** of Valley Press Inc., Bala Cynwyd, PA; his sons, **Al** and **Tom**; and co-workers, **Shari Sikora**, **Jody Burns**, and **Sue Langer**. There is no measure to the commitment, interest, and quality of service that this family and staff have given to the Third Order Regular Franciscans for **over 35 years**. For the *Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia*, Aston, PA, and the National Office of the TOR Franciscan Federation, Washington, DC, they are “household names.”

Just knowing we can hand on the legacy of these past three decades of lived experience of the revitalization of the TOR charism . . . reflecting excitement, hope, trust, and challenge in living the Gospel as a TOR Franciscan to all coming generations . . . is a priceless! expression of gratitude.

Sister Margaret Carney, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Rule in 2002, reminded us, “. . . These have been decades of sealing anew our penitential and Franciscan covenant with the Most High and with each other. *We should indeed be glad.*”

*This Manual is our expression of **deep** gladness . . .*

*I ask all my brothers [and sisters] to learn and frequently call to mind the tenor and sense of what has been written in this life for the salvation of our souls.*

*I beg God, Who is All-powerful, Three and One, to bless all who teach, learn, retain, remember, and put into practice these things, each time they repeat and do what has been written here for the salvation of our souls, and, kissing their feet, I implore everyone to keep, and treasure them greatly.*

— St. Francis of Assisi. Earlier Rule 24:1-3. FA:ED 1, 86

Sister Kathleen Moffatt OSF, Editor  
Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2013