

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Our Third Order Regular Rule
1982-2022

“A Sacred Exchange of Desires, Commitments, and Prophetic Convictions”



*We possess the prophetic message as something altogether reliable.
Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a
dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear
and the Morning Star rises in your hearts. 2Peter 1:19*

Hymn: “Dwelling Place” or other favorite hymn

Leader: You are holy, Lord God, and all your deeds are wonderful.

Reader 1: Be ready at all times to answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope that is within you. Peter 3:15

Reader 2: Hope does not disappoint.

Reader 3: Behold, I set before you an open door. Revelations 3:8

Reader 4: Look, I am doing something new. Isaiah 43:19

ALL: Glory be to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:21



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 ... our Amen! To this Rule binds us together for a new stage of pilgrimage and peacemaking in our time. Margaret Carney OSF, member of “Work Group”

Let the sisters and brothers always be mindful that they should desire one thing alone, namely, the Spirit of God at work within them. **TOR Rule #32**

READER 5: Penitential Spirituality in the Franciscan Sources -

Lino Temperini TOR. *The Assisi Congress on Formation, 1977*

For the sisters and brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis the charism of penance is a **LOVE** must be responded to! This is the uncomplicated substance of Franciscan spirituality.

This is why Francis preached penance.



Howard Schroeder. www.PAINTED PSALMS.com

T *Conversion is the heart of our way of life – an ongoing process of turning to God. God’s goodness and love is relational. It unstopably “turns us” back to God and transforms us to be for others.* Dorothy McCormack, Redwood City OSF

PAUSE for quiet prayer of gratitude for these 40 years of blessing!

LEADER: The first version of the **Letter to the Faithful** (1209-1215) is the Prologue for both the *Third Order Regular Rule* and the *Secular Franciscan Rule*. It presents the **core ideals** by which Francis guided his companions. It is a “response to a gift and a grace of a generous God who gives the Call and makes it possible.” (Cajetan Esser OFM, *Love’s Reply*). The Letter welcomes us to a humble and persevering contact with the word of God, especially the Gospel of John. (Roland Faley TOR),

AND SO WE PRAY ...Let us love God ...

Left Side: with our whole heart

Right Side: our whole soul

Left Side: our whole mind

Right Side: our whole strength

Left Side: our whole understanding

Right Side: with all our powers

Left Side: every effort

Right Side: every affection

Left Side: every feeling

Right Side: every desire and wish

ALL: and love our neighbor as ourselves, bringing forth from within ourselves fruits worthy of true penance. Letter to Faithful 1,2; Earlier Rule 23:8

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The friars and sisters recognize the sacred character of the world... Let them especially bring to those in sorrow the joy of God, and to broken humanity the healing of Christ.

Madrid Statement, 1974

Leader: It was for the **Feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception** that Pope John Paul II approved the new Rule.

All the Sisters and Brothers of the Third Order Regular worldwide may celebrate this remarkable event with their own RENEWAL OF VOWS.

RESPONSE

With deepest gratitude for this time of celebration on our Franciscan journey, we honor Mary with St. Francis' reverent antiphon, as we also pray with the beautiful hymn of the **"Ave Maria"**



ALL: **Holy Virgin Mary**, among the women born into the world,
there is no one like you.

Daughter and servant of our Father in heaven;

Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ;

Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

(Antiphon: Office of the Passion)

“Ave Maria”

Lower Basilica of St. Francis, ASSISI

Concluding reflection with Sharing

Leader: Our prayer has invited us into the depths of meaning of our Rule written almost exclusively in the very words of St. Francis, ... first time in 800 years! And so our spirit is lifted as Francis tells us, *“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 and God will make his home and dwelling place with them.**”*

ALL: *therefore let us desire nothing else; let us wish for nothing else; let nothing else please us and cause us delight. Amen.*

SHARING

*** How has my living of the **Third Order Regular Rule** deepened

1. my gratitude for my Franciscan life with genuine relationships,
2. my sensitivity to the cares that tear at our world
3. opened me to continuous conversion?

*** How is my life **different** because of this Rule?

Closing Hymn: *“Be Exalted”* or *“How Great Thou Art”* or other choice