

PRAYING THE RULE



O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our *Rule* approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3).

Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis, going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel (Art. 4);
- seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in our brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in the liturgical activity (Art. 5);
- go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (Art. 6);
- conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion," making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7);
- let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do (Art. 8);
- imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to the Lord's every word and call (Art. 9);
- fulfill faithfully the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (Art. 10);
- seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (Art. 11);
- acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (Art. 12);
- accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (Art. 13);
- exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (Art. 14);
- be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
- esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (Art. 16);
- cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (Art. 17);
- respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High" (Art. 18);
- be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance as, immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art 19).

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. Amen.

[Proposed by Cyndy Garwood, O.F.S., adapted from Fr. Liam McCarthy, O.F.M. by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]