

10. Resources

IX. Apostolic Life

29. **T**he brothers and sisters are to love God with their whole heart, their whole soul and mind and with all their strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves (Mk 12:30). Let them glorify God in all they do. Sent into the whole world by God, they should give witness by word and work to God's voice and make known to all that only God is all-powerful (Mt 22:39; 1LtF 1:1; Tb 13:6; Tb 13:4; LtOrd 8-9).

30. As they announce peace with their lips, let them be careful to have it even more within their own hearts. No one should be roused to anger or insult on their account; rather, all should be moved to peace, kindness and harmony because of their gentleness (L3C 58). The sisters and brothers are called to heal the wounded, to bind up those who are bruised, and to reclaim the erring. Wherever they are, they should recall that they have given themselves up completely and handed themselves over totally to the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, they should be prepared to expose themselves to every enemy, visible and invisible, for love of the Lord because he says: Blessed are they who suffer persecution for the sake of justice, theirs is the reign of God (Mt 5:10; ER 16:10-12).

31. In the charity that God is (1 Jn 4:16) all the brothers and sisters, whether they are praying or serving or working, should strive to be humble in everything. They should not, because of good words or works, and even anything good that God does, speaks and makes in and through them, seek glory or rejoice or exult interiorly. Rather, in every place and circumstance, let them acknowledge that all good belongs to the most high God, Ruler of all things (ER 17:5-6). Let them always give thanks to the one from Whom all good proceeds (ER 17:17).

MASSIMO CRUCIANI *Glass Paintings*

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TAB 10

Appendix

JOHN PAUL II
as a
Perpetual Memorial

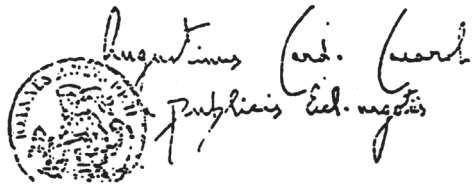
Much as in past centuries, the Franciscan ideal of life even in our times continually draws many men and women desirous of evangelical perfection and thirsting for the kingdom of God. Inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, the members of the Third Order Regular set forth to follow Jesus Christ by living in fraternal communion, professing the observance of the evangelical counsels of obedience, poverty and chastity in public vows, and by giving themselves to innumerable expressions of apostolic activity. To actualize in the best way possible their chosen way of life, they dedicate themselves unreservedly to prayer, strive to grow in fraternal love, live true penance and cultivate Christian self-denial.

Since these very elements and motives for living the Franciscan ideal are clearly present in “The Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis” and since they are clearly in accord with the genuine Franciscan spirit, We, in the fullness of our apostolic authority, determine, declare and order that the present Rule have the force and importance to illustrate to the Brothers and Sisters this authentic meaning of the Franciscan life, while bearing in mind what our predecessors Leo X and Pius XI, with the Apostolic Constitutions *Inter cetera* and *Rerum conditio* presented on this matter in their own times.

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.

We decide, moreover, that this Our decision have force from this moment on and be effectively binding both in the present and in the future, everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, at Saint Peter’s under the ring of the Fisherman, on the 8th day of December, 1982, the fifth year of Our pontificate.

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Augustinus Card. Casaroli" and "Publicis Eccl. negotiis". To the left of the signature is a circular seal or stamp, partially obscured by the ink. The seal appears to contain a coat of arms or a religious emblem.

Augustin Cardinal Casaroli
Prefect for Public Affairs of the Church

Rome, April 30th, 1983



**THE SACRED CONGREGATION
FOR RELIGIOUS AND
SECULAR INSTITUTES**

Reverend Sisters and Brothers,

In the audience the Holy Father gave me on December 17th, last year, I allowed myself to present him with the text of the “Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis,” approved by the Sacred Congregation with a few modifications, asking him to kindly ratify it by a solemn Pontifical document, dated December 8th. The holy Father acceded kindly to my request.

I am glad to inform you that H. E. Monsignor Eduardo Martinez Somalo, Substitute of the Secretary of State, by a letter prot.n. 104.237, dated April 21st, has transmitted here the Brief *Franciscanum Vita Propositum*, as well as a copy of the “rule.”

Rejoicing with the whole Franciscan family at this new token of kindness on the part of the Holy Father, 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.

I am pleased, on this occasion, to express to you my respectful and religious wishes in Christ and his Holy Mother.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Card. Pironio, Pref."

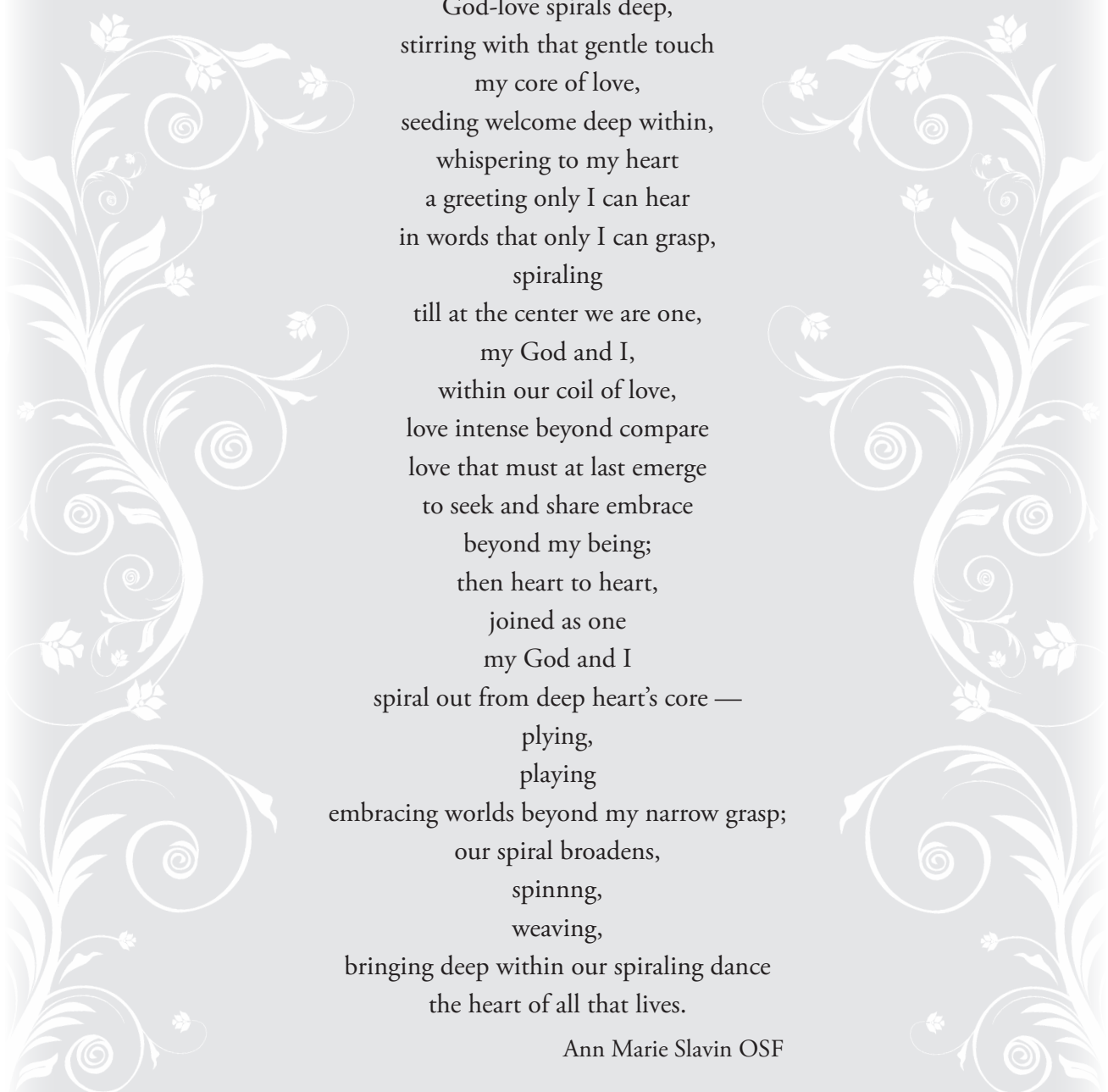
Edward Cardinal Pironio, Pref.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Augustin Mayer, Secr." with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Augustin Mayer, Secr.

REFLECTION ON TOR RULE, ARTICLE 8

Within themselves, let them always make a home and dwelling place for the one who is Lord God almighty, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, so that, with undivided hearts, they may grow in universal love by continually turning to God and neighbor.



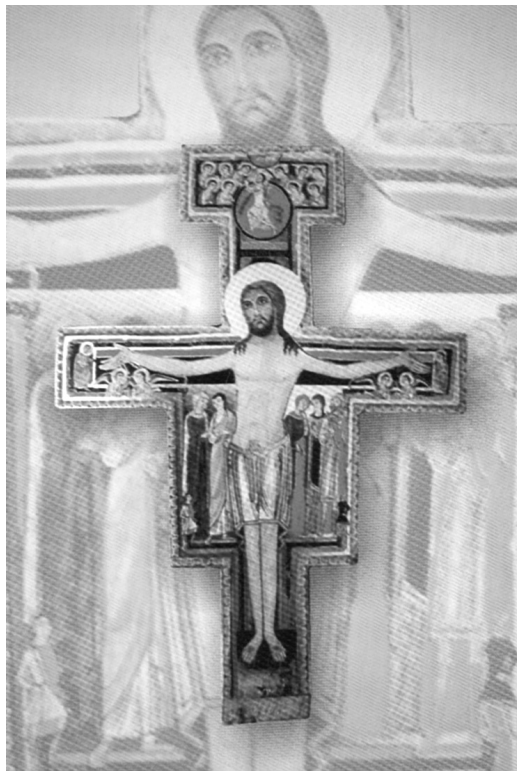
God-love spirals deep,
stirring with that gentle touch
my core of love,
seeding welcome deep within,
whispering to my heart
a greeting only I can hear
in words that only I can grasp,
spiraling
till at the center we are one,
my God and I,
within our coil of love,
love intense beyond compare
love that must at last emerge
to seek and share embrace
beyond my being;
then heart to heart,
joined as one
my God and I
spiral out from deep heart's core —
plying,
playing
embracing worlds beyond my narrow grasp;
our spiral broadens,
spinnng,
weaving,
bringing deep within our spiraling dance
the heart of all that lives.

Ann Marie Slavin OSF

ANN MARIE SLAVIN OSF is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

A former teacher at both elementary and secondary levels,
Ann Marie now works in communications, writing and editing for
her congregation's publications.

Retreat on the Third Order Regular Rule and Life



*We are each given the gift of our journey.
We are led by God's grace to breathe, to trust, to move into a deeper knowledge . . .*

*Layer by layer . . . we come to know more clearly
that we have been and always are **loved** . . .*

*This soul journey is the process of spirituality into the heart
of the Holy where, in reality, we are always loved.*

Doris Klein CSA

With gratitude to Rosalie Wisniewski OSF, author of *A Journey into the Heart of Our Third Order Rule*
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kirkwood, Missouri

TOR Rule, Chapter 2

4. Those who through the Lord's inspiration come to us desiring to accept this way of life are to be received kindly. At the appropriate time, they are to be presented to the ministers of the community who hold responsibility to admit them.



*How have you come to community?
Tell the story. What stirs in your heart as you recall your story?*

TOR Rule, Chapter 2



5. . . . Let **everything** pertaining to this gospel way of life be explained to them, especially these words of the Lord: *“If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* And, *“if you want to come after me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.”*

Francis often uses Scripture in the Rule.

What words or phrases of Scripture burn within you right now?

TOR Rule, Chapter 3



10. **With all creatures**, the brothers and sisters are to praise the Lord, the Ruler of heaven and earth and give thanks because, by the holy will and through the only Son with the Holy Spirit, God created all things spiritual and material, and created us in the divine **image and likeness**.

Where do you find beauty in creation?

How does mindfulness of God's beauty influence your life?

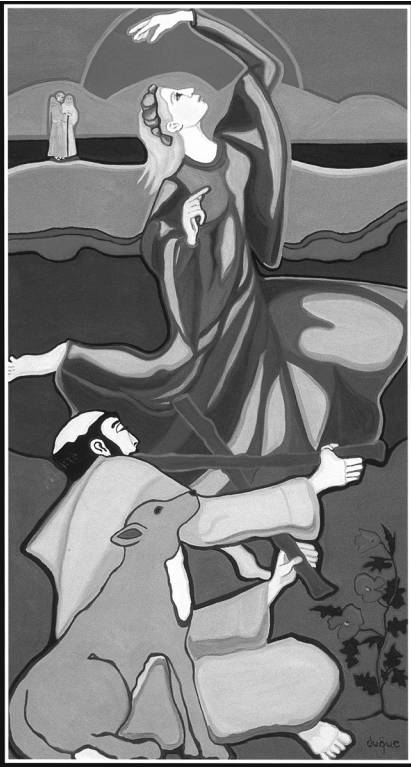
What in this big wonderful world allures you, brings you closer to the God who created you?

TOR Rule, Chapter 5

20. Let the sisters and brothers be gentle, peaceful and unassuming, mild and humble, speaking respectfully to all in accord with their vocation.

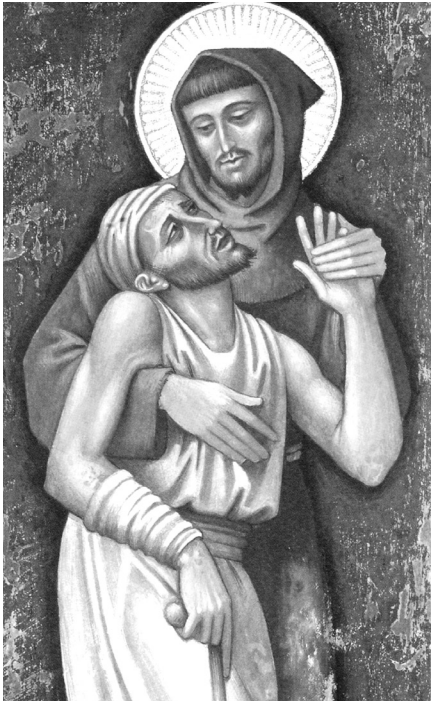
Wherever they are or wherever they go throughout the world, they should not be quarrelsome, contentious, or judgmental towards others. Rather, it should be obvious that they are “joyful, good-humored and **happy in the Lord**” as they ought to be.

And in greeting others, let them say, “God give you peace.”



Share an example of a time in community where you experienced being “joyful, good-humored and happy in the Lord.”

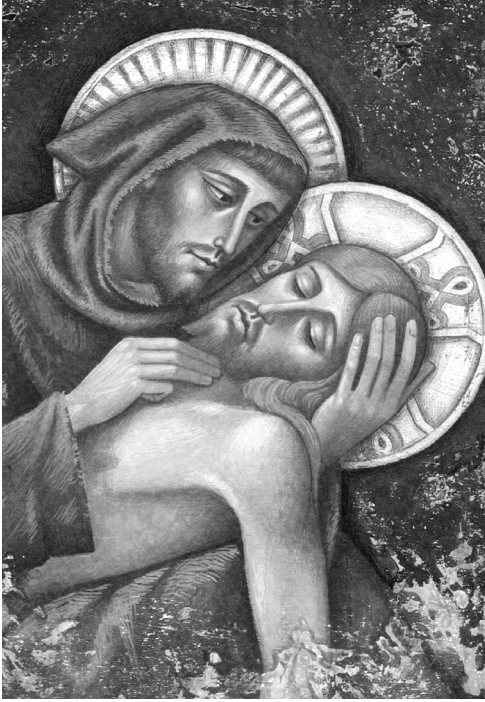
TOR Rule, Chapter 7



23. **Because God loves us**, the brothers and sisters should love each other, for the Lord says, *“This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you.”* Let them manifest their love in deeds. With confidence let them make known their needs to one another so that each can find and offer to the other that which is necessary. Blessed are those who love the others when they are sick and unable to serve, as much as when they are healthy and of service to them. Whether in sickness or in health, they should only want what God wishes for them. For all that happens to them, let them give thanks to the Creator.

How do your deeds say, “I love you” to your sisters in community?

TOR Rule, Chapter 9



30. As they announce peace with their lips, let them be careful to have it even more within their own hearts. No one should be roused to anger or insult on their account; rather, all should be moved to peace, kindness and mercy because of their gentleness. The sisters and brothers are called to heal the wounded, to bind up those who are bruised, and to reclaim the erring. Wherever they are, they should recall that they have given themselves up **completely** and handed themselves over **totally** to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, they should be prepared to expose themselves to every enemy, visible and invisible, for love of Him because the Lord says, “*Blessed are they who suffer persecution for the sake of justice, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

Maintaining inner peace is a challenge. Describe concrete ways of holding on to Peace in the midst of disharmony.

Spend time with the words: “completely and totally” in this Article. What do they say to you about the Franciscan journey?

TOR Rule, Exhortation and Blessing

32. Let the sisters and brothers always be mindful that they should desire one thing only, namely, the Spirit of God at work within them. Always obedient to the Church and firmly established in the Catholic faith, let them live according to the poverty, the humility and the holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ which they have solemnly promised to observe.

“Whoever will observe these things shall be filled with the blessings of the most high Father in heaven, and on earth with the blessings of the beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit, and with all the virtues and all the saints. And, I, Brother Francis, your little servant, in so far as I am able, confirm to you within and without this most holy blessing.”

What has this Journey into the Heart of the Rule meant to you?

What is the greatest message that God has given you in this Journey?

Helpful Resources

A Franciscan Solitude Experience and The Pilgrim's Journal

created by Sister Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF

"Extracting the marrow of the Gospel contained in the Rule's economical thirty-two articles."

In the Foreword of this valuable resource, Margaret Carney OSF, one of the TOR Rule's authors, writes, *"This Manual is a tool, rooted in the Rule's four fundamental values of conversion, contemplation, poverty and minority/humility. It allows sisters and brothers of the TOR family to immerse themselves in a liturgically grounded pilgrimage of spirit into the inner world of the 21st century Franciscan penitent."*

Available from: Sister Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF, **Portiuncula** Center for Prayer,
9263 W. Saint Francis Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423 • 815-464-3880



Retreat Journal

A Journey into the Heart of Our Third Order Rule

Created by Sister Rosalie Wisniewski OSF
(included in the Manual)

Each article of the TOR Rule is presented with its sources for Scripture and the Writings of Francis and Clare. The reflection questions accompanying each article give this Resource a formative spirit of Spiritual Direction.

Available from: Sister Rosalie Wisniewski OSF, Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
335 South Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122 • 314-965-3700



"All Praise Be To You." 25th Anniversary Booklet: Daily Readings and Reflections on the TOR Rule

This simple 54 page *Anniversary Booklet of Reflections on the Rule* can be used throughout the year for:

1. Reflections on the 31 articles of the Rule;
2. Meditation on each day of the month;
3. Private retreat and days of recollection.

The call to conversion frames each reflection.

Also included are Readings for a nine-day Retreat that can be used during Holy Week. This was prepared by Diane Jamison, Oldenburg, IN Franciscan.

Available from: Allegany Art, Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, 2924 W. Curtis St., Tampa, FL 33614
813-879-2181 • alleganyart@tampabay.rr.com

Turned to the Lord

Thaddeus Horgan SA

This 1987 *timeless* booklet, newly reprinted by the Franciscan Federation in 2011, continues the legacy of Thaddeus Horgan, Atonement Friar. Thaddeus was tireless in tending the charism of the Third Order Regular. He was one of the authors of the TOR Rule. He died suddenly of a heart attack in April, 1990.

In Thaddeus' own words, "*This book's purpose is to bring to Third Order Regular Franciscans reflections on the basic themes and fundamental values set forth in the Rule of Life which all share.*"

Here we experience Thaddeus Horgan as theologian of the TOR tradition and Rule, together with his rich knowledge of Franciscan Sources. Here we read, "The Franciscan: An Active Contemplative," "Evangelical Life: Following Christ Literally," "Servants and Recipients of God's Love," and so many more "heritage" pieces.

Available from: Franciscan Federation, P.O. Box 29080, Washington DC, 20017
202 529-2334 • franfed@aol.com



Propositum

A periodical of Third Order Regular Franciscan history and spirituality

published by the International Franciscan Conference, TOR.

The magazine takes its name and inspiration from "*Franciscanum Vitae Propositum*," the Apostolic Brief of December 8, 1982, by which Pope John Paul II approved and promulgated the revised Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis.

This resource is published in English, German, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Available from: International Franciscan Conference, TOR — Piazza del Risorgimento, 14
00192 Rome, Italy • www.ifc-tor.org



The Cord – 25th Anniversary Issue: Volume 57, No. 4

October/December 2007

Edited by Daria Mitchell, Oldenburg OSF

*"What legacy is being given to the new generation of Franciscans? To assist in this reflection members of the Third Order Regular have been invited to reflect on the **Rule and Life** within the milieu of the 21st Century and their life experience of the past 25 years. Therefore, this **commemorative issue** of **The Cord** is offered as a gift to the entire Franciscan world."* Suzanne Kush CSSF – Introduction, p. 364

This issue addresses each chapter of the TOR with articles by: Margaret Carney, Diane Jamison, Mary Elizabeth Imler, Gabrielle Uhlein, Kevin Smith, Ingrid Peterson, Dorothy McCormack, Mary Beth Bux, Patricia Hutchison and poetry translated by Felicity Dorsett.

Available from: The Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778 • www.franciscanpublications.com

History of the Third Order Regular Rule: A Source Book

Edited by Margaret Carney OSF, Jean François Godet-Calogeras,
Suzanne Kush CSSF 2008

This *invaluable* resource of 510 pages provides seven chapters dedicated to future generations of TOR Franciscans who in studying the story will “*know our happiness as men and women who persevered in doing this work*” (cf. 2LtF 88).

The Source Book gives 1) Historical Sources, 2) Contemporary Sources, 3) Rome International Assembly: Matrix Presentations, 4) The 1982 Rule Text, 5) First Generation Commentaries, 6) Contemporary Commentaries, and 7) Testimonies of the Rule “Companions.”

Available from: Franciscan Institute Publications, St. Bonaventure University,
St. Bonaventure, NY 14778 • www.franciscanpublications.com



Kathleen Moffatt OSF with Sister Jane Bertelsen, General Council Member of the Franciscan Sisters of Divine Motherhood, Surrey, England, a congregation with presence on four continents, and Rev. Michael Higgins TOR Minister General, IFC Assembly, Assisi 2009

Wishing *pace e bene* with gratitude to **Michael Higgins** on his ministry as TOR Minister General. Mike's scholarship and dedication to Formation in the TOR spirit and Rule is gift to the entire TOR Family.

Kathleen, *Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia*, Aston, PA, seen here with Jane and Michael, has been involved in the implementation of the TOR Rule since serving on the Franciscan Federation's *Rule and Life Committee* with Margaret Carney OSF, Thaddeus Horgan SA and led by Ann Carville OSF, Executive Director, as the Rule was written — 1980-82.

In the 80's, she helped design and present Federation's "Roots and Wings" Program as a training seminar giving the new Rule the traction needed to be integral to Initial and Ongoing Formation in the USA. As Ongoing Formation Director of her own congregation, Executive Director of the USA Franciscan Federation and Director of the Office of Franciscan Charism Services, she has coordinated the 10th anniversary Seminar of the TOR Rule at St. Bonaventure University, July 1992; the 25th anniversary of the Rule at Neumann University, Aston, PA, August 2007; and authored four Manuals on TOR history, spirituality and rule, respectively. Kathleen resides in Wilmington, DE, and is now involved with the retrieval of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition in service to the OFM Secretariat for FIT.

It was Kathleen's experience at the International Franciscan Study Centre, (FISC) Canterbury, England, teaching in the Trinity Term for seven years (2004 – 2010), that supported her desire to prepare this TOR Manual on the Rule. Being with Franciscan Sisters and Brothers from over fifteen nations taking courses presented in English convinced her that such a Manual would be welcomed. The 2009 IFC Proposal sealed the conviction. And the *rest is history!* Kathleen has participated in four of the seven International Franciscan Conferences, TOR since 1989.

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Exhortation and Blessing

32. **L**et the brothers and sisters be mindful above all things that they must desire to have the Spirit of God at work within them (LR 10:8; FLCI 10:7). Always subject to the Holy Church and established in the Catholic faith, let them observe the poverty and humility and the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which they have firmly promised (LR 12:4; FTCL 12:11).

Whoever will observe these things shall be filled with the blessings of the most high Father in heaven, and on earth with the blessing of the beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete and with all virtues of heaven and with all the saints.

And I, little Brother Francis, your servant, in so far as I am able, confirm to you within and without this most holy blessing (Test 40-41).