

THIRD ORDERS – SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Catholic Church, Canon #303: - **6 Requirements**

1- Associations

- they are regulated by the *O.F.S. Rule* and *General Constitutions* approved by the Catholic Church
- the fraternities are led by an elected council
- with multiple duties to the group with initial formation.

2- whose members lead an apostolic life

- they try to develop ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their families and society.

3- and strive for Christian perfection

- they promise “to live the Holy Gospel”
- to embrace daily conversion
- to live their Baptismal gifts of faith/hope/love.



4- while living in the world

- not in monasteries
- nor by public vows, but by public profession.

5- and who share the spirit of some religious institute

- in the Franciscan family
- share Franciscan spirituality in their daily living.

6- under the higher direction of that same institute [altius moderamen]

- they have a Spiritual Assistant appointed by the Franciscan Province they are bonded with.

are called third orders or some other appropriate name.

Can. 303 – Associations whose members lead an apostolic life and strive for Christian perfection while living in the world and who share the spirit of some religious institute under the higher direction of that same institute are called third orders or some other appropriate name.

[Code of Canon Law, Latin-English Edition, Canon Law Society of America, Third printing 1984]