

## THE OFFICIAL NAME OF OUR ORDER THE USE AND THE TRANSLATION OF THE NAME OF OUR ORDER

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SÆCULARIS  
XIII. GENERAL CHAPTER  
São Paulo, 2011. October 22-29

### THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE ORDER THE USE AND THE TRANSLATION OF THE NAME OF THE ORDER

1. **The official name** of the Order is **Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis**.

#### 2. **Translations of the name of the Order**

2.1 The translation of the name of the Order is already made in the four official languages, and these are the ones to be used in these languages, namely in Italian, in English, in Spanish and in French.

2.2 The name can be translated into local languages only when the literal translation from Latin is easily understandable even by the civil society and does not change its meaning or substance.

2.3 When the translation into the national language distorts the meaning of the name, or is linguistically impossible to transfer the genuine meaning, **Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis** must always be used, which can be followed by expressions to clarify and make more understandable the nature of the Secular Franciscan Order to everyone in the local language.

#### 3. **The acronym**

The acronym which refers to the name **Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis** is **OFS** and is always to be used regardless of the language. For example, when Secular Franciscans use the acronym after their name, they must use "**OFS**".

Encarnación del Pozo, OFS  
General Minister

## LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL MINISTER THE OFFICIAL NAME OF OUR ORDER AND OUR NEW ACRONYM

Beloved National Family,

At the last International Chapter in October in Brazil, *The Official Name of our Order* document (see above) was introduced, voted upon and approved.

You will see in the official document the words "Secular Franciscan Order" are still used when referring to our Order in English, and "Secular Franciscans" is still used when referring to us.

I also give you these exact words in an email from Doug Clorey, who many of us know from previous (CIOFS) visitations:

"Document on the 'Name of the Order' should be released shortly in a circular from our Minister General. This document was presented to the General Chapter in Brazil, voted and approved.

Doug Clorey, ofs, Vice-Minister General, Secular Franciscan Order

Note that Doug, our Order's Vice-Minister General, is still a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. When we use English, we are still the Secular Franciscan Order, not the Order of Franciscan Seculars or whatever. We remain Secular Franciscans, not Franciscan Seculars, when we use English. What has changed is that Doug is now, in English, when he uses the initials after his name, is Doug Clorey, OFS not SFO.

Again, I am absolutely certain that OFS or SFO does not make me or you or Doug any more or less Franciscan. We are still permanently professed. Our Order is still, in English, the Secular Franciscan Order.

Peace and Love in this New Year with our new language changes! The substance remains.

Tom Bello, OFS  
National Minister

## LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

## **THE OFFICIAL NAME OF OUR ORDER AND OUR NEW ACRONYM**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I received the following message from our National Minister, Deacon Tom Bello, this morning. It is the clarification of the name of our Order and the post-nomial designation which we are all to use, henceforth.

The discussion came up at our National Chapter as a result of the information received from the recent General Chapter meeting. There was some confusion and a need for clarification which apparently has been received.

The bottom line is we, in English are still called the Secular Franciscan Order. However, the post-nomial "SFO", can no longer be used. Instead, we must all defer to the Latin usage, OFS.

So, henceforth, we must all refer to ourselves in writing our names, as John Smith, OFS or Mary Smith, OFS. "SFO" is no longer to be used.

Fraternally,

Ron Pihokker, OFS

Regional Minister