

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

Allegato n. 10



Brasile, 22-29 Ottobre 2011

**DECISION ON THE WEARING OF THE "HABIT" IN
THE OFS**

The General Chapter makes the following

DECISION

The practice of wearing a “habit” is not in conformity with the Rule and General Constitutions of the OFS, as already established.

As a practical interpretation¹ of Article 43 of the General Constitutions, the Chapter emphasizes and insists that the distinctive sign of membership in the Order is the "Tau or other Franciscan symbol". (GGCC 43). A “Franciscan symbol” is a small and simple insignia that is worn on the person (for example, a San Damiano cross).

However, an OFS National Fraternity may determine in its National Statutes that the wearing a “uniform” is an acceptable sign of recognition for Secular Franciscans of their own country, providing that the following mandatory criteria is followed:

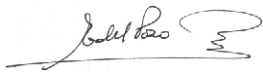

- a) the uniform *does not replace the TAU or the Franciscan symbol selected by the National Fraternity*;

¹ cfr. GGCC 5.2.

- b) the nature of the uniform is to be specified in the National Statutes, including a detailed description (preferably graphical) and be of a style that respects the secularity of the members of the Order;
- c) the style of the uniform should not look like the habit worn by member of a religious Order, so as to avoid bringing confusion between religious and seculars;
- d) the occasions during which this uniform may be worn must be precisely indicated and specifically excludes its use during the rites of admission and/or profession.

The Chapter states that the decision replaces all previous documents in this regard, and becomes in effect now and for the future.

São Paulo, October 29, 2011

Encarnación del Pozo, OFS
General Minister