

## The Rule of the Lay Fraternities of Saint Dominic

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The Rule is what we live by and the General Declaration is the governance or law by which the rule of the order follows. The General Declaration sites canon law by which the whole Catholic Church is bound. The rule is broken down into specific categories by which the order and chapters are governed.

There are three main categories which consist of the fundamental constitution, the life of the fraternities, and the structure and government of the fraternities. Each of the main categories are further broken down into subsections and give specific directions as to what we are responsible to know and follow as a group or chapter, as well as the entire order worldwide.

The Master of the Order is our leader and then the Provincial Council and then the group or chapter council is our hierarchy or chain of command. As we are always to keep in mind that we answer to a high authority under category III, subsection titled “The Jurisdiction of the Order and the Autonomy of the Fraternities, number 18- The fraternities of the laity are subject to the jurisdiction of the Order; but they nevertheless enjoy that autonomy proper to the laity, by which they govern themselves. This is why we also have 3 elected council members to rule and guide the group or chapter in a day-to-day role, and we should embrace this calling if it should and will present itself.

We are asked to follow these rules as obedient servants and take this oath freely to the Order. The Rules are here to guide us not hinder us in our mission to preach the gospel to all. We should always keep these handy so we can always be certain we are doing what we can to promote the Dominican way in our everyday life.