

Candidacy 2 Unit 10 The Rule
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15 May 2021

God created everything according to natural law or the natural order. Order makes all things, especially life, understandable, livable, meaningful. Order gives us stability, a foundation, a reference point. In this chaotic world, we need order in our lives now more than ever. The Rule for Lay Dominican Fraternities, gives us the guidance we need to establish and keep order in our everyday lives. Living by this rule, according to this prescribed order, the foundation of the pillars can surely take hold and the charism of St. Dominic can thrive in us. We are God's preachers in the world. We need the rule to keep the world from preaching through us.

The General Declarations also provide order in that it defines for us the laws by which our ordered lives are governed. The Order of Preachers needs a general rule too, founded in Canon Law and prior General Declarations and Congresses. While these declarations do not prescribe remedy for every situation that could possibly occur, the guidance it does provide is the authority by which a determination is made. Some things will be addressed at the provincial level by the president or Prior Provincial, some at the national level, and some are reserved for the Master of the Order.