

# St. Aloysius Gonzaga Retreat House

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Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels

Pax et Bonum!

Dear Members of the Third Order,

Since I was appointed by Fr. Rostand to serve as Chaplain of the Third Order of Saint Francis in the United States, this is the first time that I have had the joy to write to you.

First of all, I sincerely thank Fr. Rostand for his confidence in placing upon my poor shoulders the important task of helping you to live more zealously your engagement to the spirit of St. Francis. Additionally, my purpose is to work with you to organize and develop the fraternities which currently exist in various places across the country where members have, for many years, heroically held and maintained the life of the Third Order in the United States, either isolated or with the support of their pastors.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Fr. Young and Fr. Bergez, my predecessors in this task, for their support and for the information that they were so kind to have provided to help me begin.

Finally, I wish to thank very much all the Tertiaries who have manifested so much support since my assignment to help me set up a mailing list of our members, to publish a Newsletter, and to translate texts from the Capuchins from Morgon. I am most grateful to all of you for this assistance, but above all, I offer my heartfelt thanks for the spiritual support that you have given me through your prayers and sacrifices. Be assured that I am very touched by your kindness which is most appreciated, and which is giving me a true taste of the joyful and charitable Franciscan spirit. Thanks to you, I have been able to see that even though our Third Order needs to be a little bit more organized in our country, the spirit of St. Francis is well and very much alive in the hearts of many and because of this, I believe there is strong positive hope for the future development of the Third Order in this country. Indeed, many among you have recently been received as Novices in several Society chapels in this district.

As we prepare for the Feast of our Great Patron Saint next week, I wanted to make my first contact with you especially in celebration of this occasion. Be assured of my fervent prayers at the Holy Mass that I will offer on the fourth of October in honor of Saint Francis for all the Tertiaries, their families and for the development of our Third Order in this district.

I am happy to announce that next week I will have the great joy to welcome Brother Francis from St. Mary's, who is coming to Los Gatos to help me organize the secretarial duties and the administration of the Third Order. Brother Francis will also take advantage of his stay in Los Gatos to teach me about St. Francis and to instruct me regarding the Rules of the Third Order so that that I may be better prepared to assist you, to support you, and to answer questions that may

arise concerning your engagement in the footsteps of St. Francis. I am truly most grateful to Brother Francis for his kindness in traveling to Los Gatos and for the tremendous support that he has already provided to me during these past months, in order to teach and advise your “Novice Chaplain” in his new duties and responsibilities to you.

Last July, after the General Chapter in Ecône, I had the privilege to meet with Fr. François-Marie at the Capuchin Convent in Morgon. As you know, Fr. François-Marie was appointed by Fr. Antoine (the Superior of the Capuchins in France) to be in charge of the Fraternities of the Third Order which are out of France. Thus, he is our Superior and is acting towards us as the Visitor of our Third Order in the United-States. Fr. François-Marie knows very well the situation of our Third Order in the States, thanks also to Brother Francis, who just visited Morgon this past summer. It has been consoling for me to meet with Fr. François-Marie, who has been very supportive of this new challenge and who has encouraged me very much to work closely with him and Brother Francis for the development of the Third Order. He told me that he was hoping to come to visit our fraternities next year or the year after. I am now hoping that he may be able to come next year to preach a retreat for our Third Order Members, here in Los Gatos. Father Rostand has already given his permission for this project. Let us pray that Fr. François-Marie may be able to come to visit us next year and be our preacher for our Third Order retreat.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all Tertiaries to pray for one of our faithful who has been unjustly attacked in the courts by a man who is looking for money, who is without any scruples and without any consideration for his age, his sickness and his family situation. If he is found guilty by the judge, our faithful could be sentenced to jail. Due to his age, his health condition and the psychological shock which he would suffer from this iniquity, this unjust sentence would probably hasten the end of his life in the most sorrowful and humiliating conditions. Even though he is very strong and resigned, continually repeating the words of Our Blessed Lord in His Agony: “*Not according to my will, but Thy Will,*” this dear friend needs our prayers and support. When he told me that the final court appointment will take place next week on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Saint Francis, I told him to make a novena to our great Patron Saint and I promised him that I would ask all the Tertiaries to pray for him so that he may have a positive outcome to this most unfair accusation. I will certainly keep you posted on determination of this case in my next letter.

Finally, since I have just a few email addresses and a few street addresses of our Tertiaries, I would simply ask all of you who receive this letter, to be so kind as to forward it and/or to print it in order to distribute it to all the other members of your fraternity, as well as to isolated members whom you may know. In order to make a mailing list for the Tertiaries in this country, I would ask all the members of the Third Order to provide to their Prefect their street address, email address and phone number, who in turn would send all of this information to me.

May this month of October be for you a time to increase your love of our heavenly Mother by your pious praying of the Rosary and by devoting time to avail yourselves of graces received

from spiritual readings about Her. Pray the Rosary with greater recollection and devotion as if you were constantly in the presence of our most gracious Queen and beg Her, with fervor, to admit you to a closer union with Her and Her divine Son by the contemplation of these holy mysteries.

*“The world has need of that Franciscan spirit, of that Franciscan vision of life. It is your duty, beloved children, to know it thoroughly, to love it with enthusiasm, and above all to live it with the perfection that your state of life allows.”* (Pope Pius XII, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1958)

I wish each of you a blessed and meaningful Feast Day of Saint Francis. May he bless us, and may he protect and guide us as we endeavor to devote ourselves to the development of the Third Order.

With my prayers, receive my blessing in Cordibus Jesu et Mariae,

Father Jacques Emily