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December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pax et Bonum!

Dear Members of the Third Order,

On this great Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on which we honor our Lady as our Patroness and Queen of our Seraphic Order, I would like to encourage you to increase your devotion, your confidence, and your love towards the Immaculate Heart of Mary also, of course, at the same time towards the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These two devotions cannot and must not be separated. They are but one in essence, which is the love of God communicated and given to men through these two vessels of charity: the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary.

It is important to note that the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is meant to lead us towards the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but the devotion to the Sacred Heart is meant, in turn, to lead us towards the Immaculate Heart of Mary. One might ask why these two Sacred Hearts work this way within us. Simply stated, it is because we are their children, and, like children who receive the mutual love of their parents, these two Sacred Hearts want to communicate to us the fire of their love in order to enkindle in our own hearts the same love they have for the Father and for the Holy Trinity. Thus, our devotion towards these two Hearts makes us enter into the divine exchange of love that they have in heaven for one another, and into the love that they have, together, for the Holy Trinity.

By the Fiat of Mary and by the action of the Holy Ghost, these two Hearts were united forever at the moment of the Incarnation in order to work out our redemption and to glorify the Holy Trinity. It would be easier to separate the light from the sun than to separate these two Hearts because of the divine link which has united them since the Incarnation, and also because these loving Hearts have together, with all the plenitude of grace which dwells in them, agreed to accomplish the redemption of mankind for the love of God and of our souls.

Therefore, if the union and the work of these two Sacred Hearts cannot be separated, our devotion to them also must not be separated. On the contrary, our devotion must embrace these two Hearts in a single act of love, even though it might seem separated when the exterior manifestation of it are regarded.

May these simple considerations about the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary help us to better realize how our devotion towards them should be a constant reminder of our end, as well as the epitome of the message of the Gospel! Is not the main and central message of the Gospel, the love of God and of our neighbor? Now, is there a better image to remind us of this First Commandment than the one of these two loving and Sacred Hearts?

This is why, dear Tertiaries, I strongly recommend that you fervently embrace this devotion towards the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as the principle and foundation of your spiritual life. *"To honor, to reverence and serve these two Hearts to save our souls"* should be the keen object of our devotion, simply because these two Hearts perfectly summarize all the mysteries of our redemption, because they are the glorious symbol of the mutual love of Jesus and Mary in the bosom of the Holy Trinity, and finally, because they are the powerful reminder of the key message of the Gospel. This is why I earnestly encourage you to continually contemplate these two Hearts as the most conducive way to live according to the spirit of Saint Francis and as the most powerful force to motivate your zealous observation of the Rule.

This is the reason, dear Tertiaries, why our Rule invites us to: *"Every year in the month of January or of June, each fraternity shall publicly **make or renew its solemn consecration***

*to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and in the month of May or December, its consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, using the approved prayers.” (Article 68)*

Thus, it is a duty for me, on this Feast of the Patroness of our Order, to remind you of this sweet but important obligation to make or renew the consecration of your group and/or of your families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, since our Rule also strongly recommends that: **“the consecration of the families to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, be annually renewed.”** (Article 72)

#### **Some News:**

#### **Third Order Retreat: November 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

I am very happy to share with you today the great news that Father Guardian of Morgon has indeed given permission for two Capuchin Fathers to come and preach our Third Order Retreat next year in Los Gatos. The Fathers are planning to visit our main groups in the United States and also in Canada before and after the retreat. I am hoping to be able to join them for their visit since this would give me the most welcome opportunity to learn more about our Third Order and to meet with you. This retreat is open to men and women but because the number of rooms is limited, I would suggest that you do not wait too long to register.

**Third Order Website:** [sspx.org](http://sspx.org) =>Third Orders =>St. Francis of Assisi

We are very pleased to announce that Father Rostand, our District Superior, has encouraged the publication of our website within the links of the US District website. I wish to express, on behalf of our Tertiaries, our sincere gratitude to Father Rostand, but also to Fr. Duverger and Mr. Louis Tofari, the District Webmaster, for their support and the work they have done which have resulted in this publication. I would like to suggest that going forward, you use our US website rather the Canadian site. The Canadian website is run by a layman who has recently taken a position against Bishop Fellay and our superiors. In no way can I recommend or support his work which apparently does not have any ecclesiastical supervision. I cannot either encourage our Tertiaries to correspond with him or to visit his website, however attractive or well-documented it appears to be, it is simply dangerous. Even though this person does not use his TOSF website to attack Bishop Fellay and our Society, the negative attitude of this person against the legitimate authority of Bishop Fellay and of our superiors is subversive and is certainly not animated by the spirit of Saint Francis. It is, then, my duty to warn you, since it is the responsibility of the shepherd to keep the wolf away from his sheep. Beware of the wolf!

**Prayers request:** In my previous letter, I have asked you to pray for one of our faithful who is facing a most unfair trial. The two audits which have taken place went well, but the final court sentencing will take place on December 21. Please continue to fervently pray for the positive result of the judgment.

*With my prayers for all your intentions at the crib and at the Holy Altar, receive my best wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas!*

*Very sincerely yours in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Fr. Jacques Emily*