

Pax et Bonum!

## *Fraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Circular for the months of February and March  
Year of Our Lord A.D. 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the Lord give you peace!

Leo XIII said "My plan for social reform is the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis."(1) Our day sees a flood of error, filth, corruption, and death vomited from the pit of Hell into the very homes of the faithful. Society seems to be racing to its doom, racing from the very arms of the One True God. Adoring its treasure, worldly pleasures the gratification of the flesh, and material creatures made by a loving Creator not as an end in themselves but to lift the soul to the contemplation of its God. The solution though, to all of the problems of modern society is, and always will be, the Gospel. The Gospel which we profess to live as Franciscan Tertiaries, this Gospel is Christ. Christ who is the same "yesterday, today and forever" as the holy Apostle says.

In this perspective we see the wisdom of Leo XIII. If Tertiaries are faithful to their vocation, Christ will again spread His message of Love throughout the world by living in these souls. His reign, His throne is the heart of each one of us. Therefore, in the simplest work shop, the fields, the corner market, or the most common household, Christ, the Light of the World will live. Life will be spread to every facet of society through the souls of the our Tertiaries. "But, it must be put into practice. It is not enough to read the Holy Gospel; we must bring what we read into the countless details of our daily life. The true, the only secret of sanctity and the immense social influence of St. Francis lay in that."(2) We live in an age, a saintly soul once said, where people wish to become saints without doing what the Saints have always done! What an illusion it would be to believe that in our age of unbelief, we are somehow better than our forefathers. And this because we say a few Rosaries, or because we are "traditional Catholics" and have the true Mass. What a mistake to believe we are special fruit in the basket! This is an error, a dangerous lie sewn by Satan to lull us to sleep. To paralyze, to numb our souls and stop them from soaring on the paths of perfection and sanctifying works. God has destined us to sanctity which is bought at a price!

"The human heart is not made for mediocrity" said Peter Maurin. It is precisely because the grace of the religious state is given to us as Tertiaries, though we live in the world, that we must do more. We must strive to become saints, apostles, a noble and kingly race for: "Every Catholic is an apostle" proclaimed Pius XII in his first encyclical. Killian J. Hennrich OFM. Cap. In his book on Tertiarianism comments on this statement, saying "Franciscan Tertiaries are a select and chosen band, rallying about St. Francis as their leader.(3) It is imperative that Tertiaries

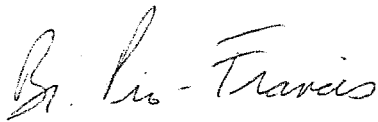
are continually striving to live up to the will of their holy Father Francis, who wished them to be aflame with the fire of the love of God. As Fr. Helmut Liebietis SSPX exclaimed in one of his conferences, we are made to burn. We will either burn with the love of God and become saints in this life through the grace of God. Or, we will go to mediocre school at the end of this life and do time in Purgatory's flames. Or, God forbid it, we will burn in the pit with the demons in Hell.

Your vocation is one of great violence. You are chosen to fight, as knights of Our Lord and our Lady under the banner of the Seraphic. With what violent love of Christ should our Tertiaries storm Heaven with holy prayer, sacrifice, and intercession for the world of souls, many who do not know or love God. With what violence should we strive at putting to death the ego which wishes to reign over our body and soul. "Francis, if thou desirest to know My Will, thou must despise and hate all that thou hast loved and wished for till now. Let not this new path alarm thee, for, if the things which now please thee must become bitter and distasteful, those which now displease thee, will become sweet and agreeable." These words of Christ are to our holy Father Francis. They are an invitation to put to death the self, the ego, and thus live to Christ and find true happiness. "Francis, go and repair my house, which you see, is falling into ruin." Christ's invitations are timeless. They are not only directed to St. Francis of Assisi but to all of his children. This truth is affirmed by the highest authority on earth in Pius XII as he addressed Franciscan Tertiaries. "To work, you too, beloved children! Jesus Himself asks this of you through me, His Vicar. Press forward all! Bring aid to a world in jeopardy! Uphold the Church!" (Art. 85. Constitutions).

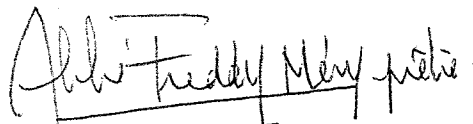
We have very high expectations put on us very dear Brothers and Sisters. May God use us, filling us with great courage and confidence for the restoration of the T.O.S.F. and ultimately the reform of society where Christ is King and Mary Queen! Do not fall into the trap of missing the potential efficacy of your Franciscan vocation. The enemies of Christ are under no such illusion. "Shortly after the national tertiary convention in New York had been announced in the press, the Masonic Journal published a bitter article against the Third Order. The gist was that all Catholic organizations were more or less harmless and constituted no danger to the liberal American spirit and life, but that there was a danger that a strong Third Order might change American religious principles and practices." (4) What a sublime compliment to the Third Order! Satan, the enemies of the Church, they fear the Third Order of St. Francis! Fr. Liebietis related that there were communists working to spread their errors and evil propaganda into every walk of their daily life and with much dedication at that. They would say about their party and its work, "this is our life!" We who have the undeserved, and unmerited grace of the very Way, Truth and Life, we who have been chosen as heralds of our Great King, how we should be attached to the Third Order, which is the "party" and the faithful little flock of Christ the Living God! How we should take to heart the living of the Gospel, how much more should it be our life!

The Tertiary upon making his profession into the Order hears the words of the priest "I, on the part of God, if thou observest these things, promise thee life everlasting." It is a marvelous thing to contemplate dear Brothers and Sisters of Penance, that the humblest, simplest, most hidden Tertiary soul in the state of grace who fulfills each point of his or her Rule and Constitutions as if they were bound under pain of sin to do so, is a living saint. This is what gets the attention of Satan, this is what makes Hell tremble and threatens the kingdom of darkness. It was the devil, miserable creature himself, who confessed that if there were only two more souls like unto the Cure of Ars, his whole kingdom would be lost. In the Holy Scriptures it is noted that whole cities were spared from destruction because of only a few faithful souls who were pleasing to God. We can conclude, those who are filled with a great love of God, who fulfill their office as Franciscans in the world to the letter, they are invaluable to the Church and to the salvation of many souls. Let us imitate the generosity of Christ, the Great Giver and not count the cost of fidelity to the Heart of Jesus and His Mother. As Pere Pichon the director of St. Therese of Lisieux stated "Love does not count its gifts. It is never satisfied. Its ardor carries it to excess, to folly." (5) May we waste ourselves then in the service of God and the Church. May we be zealous in our imitation of St. Francis in living Gospel. Your fidelity, the fidelity of your ordinary duties done with extraordinary love of God, can win the graces needed for the priest to touch the hearts of the most hardened sinners. It can so to speak, prepare the ground for the work of the clergy in the conversion and salvation of souls. It is the means of changing the face of the earth, even if it is kept hidden from you, no prayer or good work is left unrewarded, unanswered. How many souls can be affected by your good works and daily effort, they may be countless. In doing this, a few souls can set the world on fire with the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through Mary!

This penitential season sees four newly professed Tertiaries of the Fraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We thank the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus for numbering us twelve apostles here in Toronto. Te Deum laudamus! St. Francis guide these and all those traditional Tertiaries in Tradition. Jesus and Mary be praised!



Br. Pio-Francis, Minister Prefect



Rev. Fr. Freddy Mery, Director

1. The Spirit of the Third Order of St. Francis. Very. Rev. Peter Baptist OFM. P. 233.
2. The Spirit of the Third Order of St. Francis. Very. Rev. Peter Baptist OFM. P. 233.
3. The Better Life. Killian J. Hennrich. P. 79.(1942)
4. The Better Life. P.118.
5. Seeds of the Kingdom. Pere Almire Pichon.