

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Explaining The Third Order

St. Francis of Assisi, who was not a priest, founded an Order for priests; and an Order for nuns. He also founded an order for men and women living in the world, who may be married or single, and who desire to lead a perfect Catholic life.

This Third Order is truly a religious order for the laity. It offers them a clear definition of what constitutes their spiritual perfection. It provides ideals, aids; and advantages that direct and assist members toward the perfection of their state in life.

The Third Order presents a system of life by which the Gospel teaching can be practiced more intelligently and effectively by laymen. Members are urged to offer Mass and Holy Communion each day -- however, the rule requires this but once a month. The Third Order Office, consisting of 12 Paters, Aves, and Glorias, is to be recited daily. And members are required to attend a monthly meeting -- even at some sacrifice. Each Tertiary always wears his habit -- a brown scapular and the white Franciscan Cord -- under his ordinary clothing. Members have the privilege of being buried in the full outer habit of the Order.

The rule of the Third Order binds no one in conscience. By failing to follow any prescription of the Rule one simply forfeits the spiritual benefits attached to it.

There are over 100,000 "Tertiaries" in the United States alone. The local campus group had its canonical beginning in the spring of 1937. Great characters of history have belonged to this Order -- Christopher Columbus, Raphael, Michaelangelo, St. Thomas Moore, Daniel O'Connell, Terence McSweeney, Francis Thompson, and Matt Talbot. The popes have encouraged the spread of the Third Order.

The Third Order does not exclude a normal Catholic lay life -- indeed, that is exactly what it fosters. It does not exclude membership in any other Catholic society such as the K. of C., or St. Vincent de Paul, or Liturgical Life, or Y.C.S. It encourages Tertiaries to join in the work of such organizations.

Third Order members, although aiming primarily at their own sanctification, devote themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Notre Dame Tertiaries have a program geared to student needs, rendering many practical services to life here on campus. Later, they will carry the same assistance into their parish life.

If you are interested in joining the Third Order, and want additional information, go to Mike Crowe, 313 Alumni hall, anytime before February 22. Candidates will be received shortly after that date.

We Have Been Reading That...

"...Woman was not taken from man's head to be ruled by him; nor from his feet to be trampled upon; but from his side to walk beside him, from under his arm to be protected by him, and from near his heart to be loved by him."...

-- Gordon Higham.

"... After being swept off their feet, too many girls lose interest in brooms."

-- Al Spong.

Tonight -- The Marriage Institute in Washington Hall. Admission by ticket only.