



Missionaries of the
Holy Family
Family • Vocations • Missions

3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118
314.577.6300

Founded in 1895

www.MSF-America.org

14 December 2011
St. John of the Cross

Dr. John & Mrs. Mary Timmons
Ave Maria Retreat Center
27199 State Route 1
Danville, IL 61834

Dear Dr. John & Mary,

I am honored to write this letter of support for the Ave Maria Retreat Center. I enjoyed my family retreat weekend there in September of this year, and I encourage you in your efforts to serve Jesus Christ and His Church by helping families to grow in holiness.

The retreat center campus is beautiful, the facilities are "homey," the lodging is comfortable, and the chapel is the crowning jewel. One can truly feel the presence of God in this family atmosphere of innocence and purity.

I am edified by your example and your work to help sanctify families using the resources of the Apostolate for Family Consecration (AFC). I am familiar with the 33-day consecration by St. Louis de Montfort, which is the basis for the AFC's 40-day consecration for the family.

As you know, St. Louis de Montfort's devotion was a favorite of Blessed Pope John Paul II, and our late pontiff held the family in high esteem, reminding us that, "*The future of the world and the Church passes through the family.*"

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is the standard of holiness for all families, and your emphasis on this model of family life is critical as we courageously fight the Culture of Death for the soul of our society. You are faithful and loyal to the teachings of the Church, and you will be blessed for it.

It is my hope that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peoria, Illinois will enthusiastically support your efforts to help families grow in holiness. Our future depends on it. May God reward you.

Eternally Yours in the Holy Family,

Maurice Prater, MBA, CFRE
Mission Advancement Director