

An Ignatian
**CONTEMPLATIVE
RETREAT**

*An introduction to the Contemplative
Way of Life and to the Jesus Prayer*

St. Clare's Retreat
Soquel, CA - 2019

January 2 (3:00pm) – January 9 (11:00am)
Cost: \$110 a night (7 nights)

Led by Fr. Anton Altnöder, SJ
Nuremburg, Germany

Retreat Coordinator
John Privett, SJ
jprivett@jesuits.org

Some Background Information

In 1984, Franz Jalics, S.J. became director of a retreat house, *Haus Gries*, in Germany. There he developed a style of retreat/school for meditation to help those seeking a more contemplative way of praying and living.

This emerged from/through reflection on his own experiences:

- his own rootedness in Ignatian Spirituality
- the contemplative prayer that sustained him after being abducted and imprisoned in Argentina in 1976. While in prison for five months he was handcuffed, chained and blindfolded.
- his retreat work over many years

Fr. Jalics' work has become known particularly through two publications: *The Contemplative Way – Quietly savouring God's Presence* and *Contemplative Retreat. An Introduction to the Contemplative Way of Life and to the Jesus Prayer*.

Over the last thirty years, Fr. Jalics' retreat work at *Haus Gries* has grown beyond any expectation. Teams now lead the individually guided retreat in many different parts of the world. Countless local groups meet regularly to nurture a contemplative way of living through the 'Gries Path' way of contemplative prayer.

January 2 – 9, 2019 an Ignatian Contemplative retreat is being offered at St. Clare's Retreat House, Soquel, CA. Places are limited so if you are interested in participating, an early response would be helpful.

The cost is \$110/night room and board + \$50 for director stipend. (Total \$820 for the retreat.) All rooms have private baths.

Retreat Elements

- * AWARENESS OF - nature, breathing, body, word
- * PRAYER - 8 meditation periods of 25 minutes each
 - One on one conversation with director
 - Daily Eucharist
 - Silence throughout the retreat

There are many paths to contemplation. I show you just one of them. I'm conscious of the fact that God leads many people to contemplation without any external help. Frequently he uses natural circumstances. A simple life of love, some years on a sickbed, a brush with death, the leaving of one's homeland in order to live among the poor, and other events can lead to contemplation. I also deeply respect the non-Christian ways of contemplation. And there are in the Catholic Church itself many other introductions into contemplation. I do not want to exalt my way above others. On the contrary, I am very happy that they exist and I appreciate them. I myself have walked the way I describe: should it help someone else to find his or her way I am satisfied.

Franz Jalics, Contemplative Retreat. P 6.

If you are interested in the **Jan. 2-9, 2019** retreat, please send the following information to John Privett, S.J. at jprivett@jesuits.org

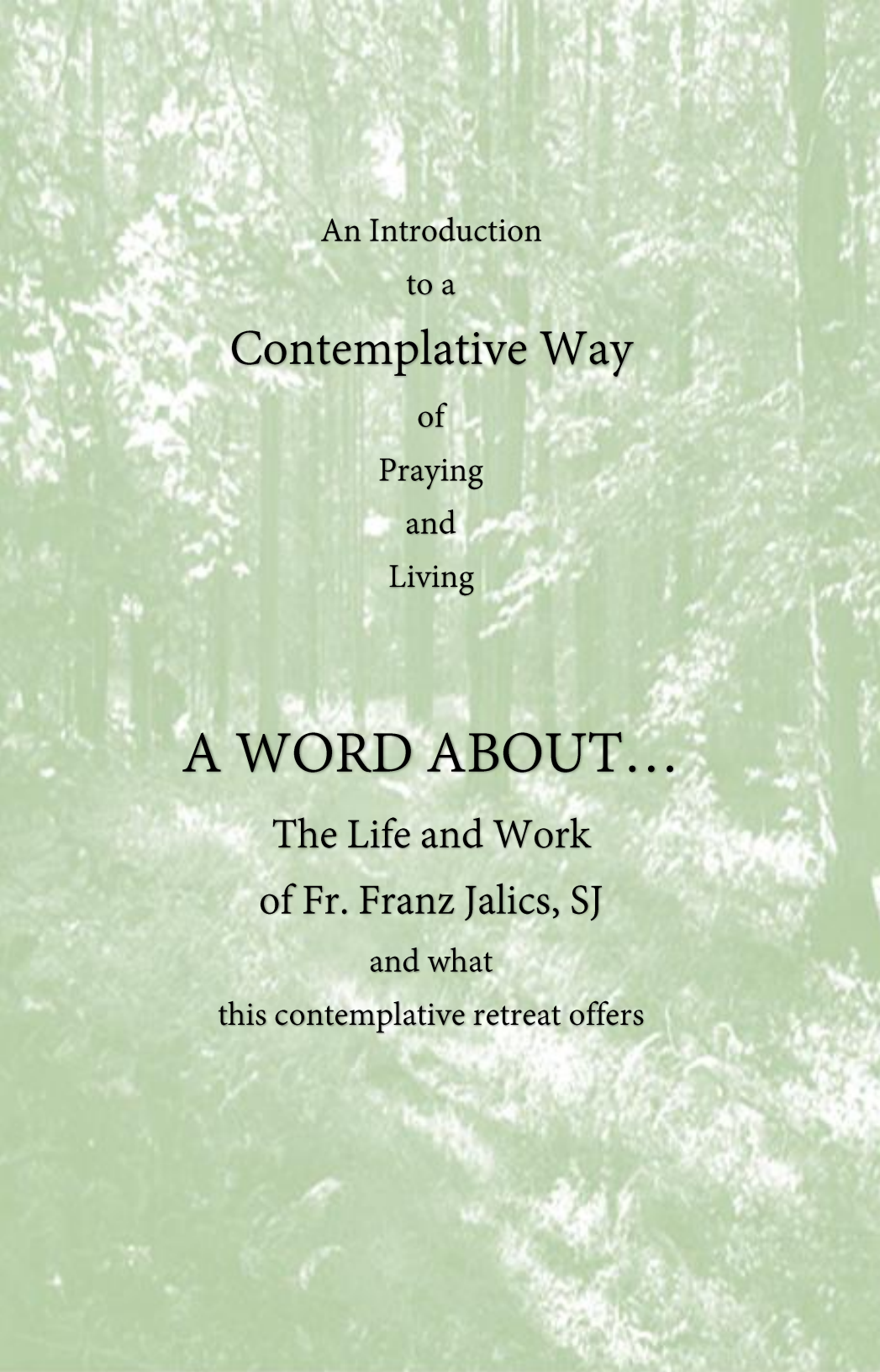
Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Questions?



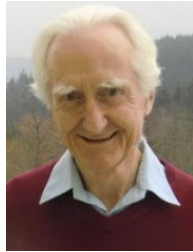
An Introduction
to a
Contemplative Way
of
Praying
and
Living

A WORD ABOUT...

The Life and Work
of Fr. Franz Jalics, SJ
and what
this contemplative retreat offers

Life and work of Fr. Franz Jalics SJ

Franz Jalics was born in 1927 in Budapest. He spent his childhood on the estate of his parents. From an early age he was very impressed by the beauty and tranquility of nature.



In late 1944 he came as a 17-year-old cadet with his unit in Germany. During a bombing of Nuremberg, he had a religious experience that profoundly shaped his faith. Following the war, since he could not return to Hungary he remained in Germany, out of work but able to study. Again he spent a lot of time in nature, which, as he puts it himself, is an "outstanding teacher of contemplation".

After his return to Hungary he entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1947. Soon after, under pressure from the communist government he had to leave Hungary. Jalics completed his philosophical studies in Pullach near Munich and in Leuven-Eegenhoven, Belgium. After further studies in Chile and the study of theology in Buenos Aires, he became Doctor of Theology and professor of fundamental theology and dogmatic theology. In 1963 he became the student's Spiritual Director.

At the beginning of the 1970's, Fr. Jalics and two fellow Jesuits went to live in the slums to share their life with the poor. In 1976, a right-wing group kidnapped and imprisoned him in an undisclosed location. For five months he and another Jesuit were their captives, blindfolded and tied hand and foot. He was released without explanation, surreptitiously. He left Argentina late in 1977 and spent a year in the USA and Canada.

Since 1978 Franz Jalics has lived in Germany. After several years of spiritual direction in many retreat houses, mainly in southern Germany, in 1984 he opened a retreat house in Gries, Wilhelmsthal, Germany.

After 20 years of management of Haus Gries, Fr. Jalics handed over responsibility for the house to the Jesuit Order. A team continues to develop his retreat work, and he continues retreat direction in Gries and abroad.

Writing is a further focus of his work.

- **If you want to prepare for a Contemplative retreat it is recommended to read the book: *Contemplative Retreat. An Introduction to the Contemplative Way of Life and to the Jesus Prayer* ISBN 1-594671-56-7**

What we are offering...

- An *introduction* to what has become known as the *Gries Path of Prayer*
- A sharing arising from our own experience, based on Jalics book. Guided steps (Franz Jalics calls it a 'school') leading into *one* (of various) forms of contemplative prayer:

There are many paths to contemplation. I show you just one of them. I'm conscious of the fact that God leads many people to contemplation without any external help. Frequently he uses natural circumstances. A simple life of love, some years on a sickbed, a brush with death, the leaving of one's homeland in order to live among the poor, and other events can lead to contemplation. I also deeply respect the non-Christian ways of contemplation. And there are in the Catholic Church itself many other introductions into contemplation. I do not want to exalt my way above others. On the contrary, I am very happy that they exist and I appreciate them. I myself have walked the way I describe: should it help someone else to find his or her way I am satisfied.

Franz Jalics. Contemplative Retreat. P 6.

- A gradual introduction to the *Jesus Prayer*
- A way of praying that Jalics has developed emerging from/through reflection on his own experiences:
 - his rootedness in Ignatian Spirituality as well as Catholicism
 - the contemplative prayer that grew and sustained him during five months imprisonment, handcuffed, chained and blindfolded following his abduction in Argentina in 1976.
 - his retreat work over many years.

For anyone

- yearning for God, desiring to orientate themselves ever more closely towards God
- longing for a more simplified approach to God
- wanting to *live* as well as understand contemplation
- willing to stick to a long and 'rather steep' path of discovery