



**CONFERENZA FRANCESCANA INTERNAZIONALE  
dei Fratelli e delle Sorelle del Terz'Ordine Regolare**

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September 11, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The month of September holds great significance to all Franciscans as we remember the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis on September 17<sup>th</sup> each year. This feast also is the start of preparations by many third order members for the Feast of the transitioning of our holy father, St. Francis from life in this world to life in the next on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the celebration of his life on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We wish all our Franciscan family members many blessings during these special celebrations of the sacred moments in the legacy of St. Francis.

This September to October, a different transition will be taking place at the office of IFC-TOR in Rome. Our faithful friend and secretary, Sister Margherita Merlino, will be retiring after many years of service to this conference. Sister will be continuing throughout September and will be on call during October to assist with the transition of ministry to our new executive director. We wish Sister Margherita God's abundant blessings as she approaches this new chapter in her life and we thank her abundantly for her ministry of being the face and voice of IFC-TOR to so many for so many years.

We welcome Ms. Emanuela Miceli as our new executive director. Emanuela will begin her work at the IFC-TOR office September 11<sup>th</sup> and will work alongside Sister Margherita for the month of September. Emanuela has been most active in leading non-profit organizations in Italy and is fluent in Italian (native language) and English. She also knows Spanish well. Emanuela has ministered with Franciscan sisters in projects in Africa as a long time in-person volunteer and in raising funding for the projects of the sisters. Emanuela also has experience in publishing magazines and teaching Italian to foreigners. We are confident that her talents will be beneficial to moving IFC-TOR into the future.

As we end this 800-year anniversary of the Rule and Greccio, we ask God to continue to instill within each of you the awe and wonder that filled St. Francis as he recognized God in every person, in every creature and in every aspect of Creation. May we continue to work to preserve the spirit of "Fratelli Tutti."

Peace and all Good!

*Sister Frances Marie Duncan, OSF*

Sister Frances Marie Duncan, President  
and Councilors of IFC-TOR