



## INTERNATIONAL FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of IFC-TOR,

Peace and all Good!

The year 2025 will be a year of challenges and blessings. Pope Francis calls us to be a “People of Hope” in this coming Jubilee Year, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Laudato Si* reminds us of the challenge to renew the earth and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis writing the *Canticle of Creation* beckons us to recognize our oneness with all Creation.

The Season of Advent brings a needed message of hope for the present world in which we live. People on every continent are waiting again for someone to bring sanity to a world that seems to have gone wild with hatred, individuality and greed. Nations at war with each other and within themselves, disasters bringing devastation by fire and floods, nature crying out to be saved, all these things prey on our minds and form our intercessions in prayer as we await a time of peace and justice to reign.

Let us use this Advent time to make ready the way of Christ in our hearts.

Let us empty our hearts of all that will prevent Christ from shining through us to others.

Let us resolve to do all that we can to be “People of Hope” and “Instruments of Peace” to a world who desperately needs both. If each Franciscan could bring a sense of Hope and Peace to at least one other person, what a difference we could make!

May your Advent Season be filled with blessings of hope, reminders of love and an overwhelming sense of peace. May Christmas be a reawakening of the knowledge of the love God has for you and a deeper realization of the presence of God within you.

May Christ teach you what is yours to do in the year 2025.

Blessings of Peace, Joy,  
Love and Hope!

***Blessed Christmas and  
a Happy New Year in 2025!***

*Sr. Frances Marie Duncan and  
the IFC-TOR Councilors*

