



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

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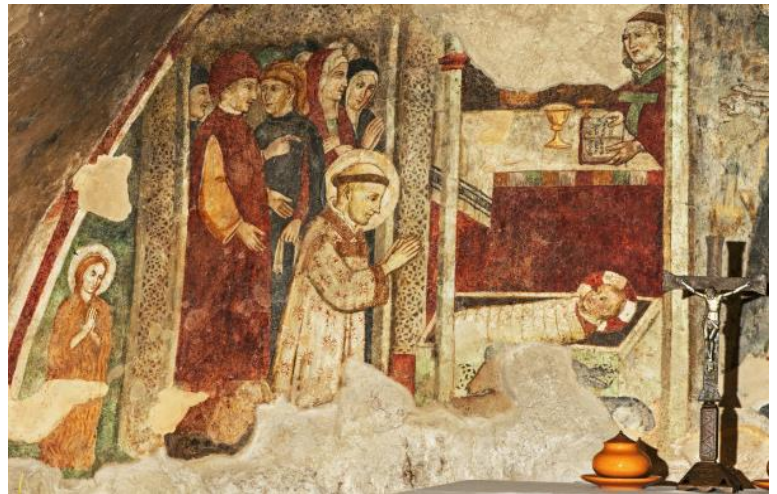
Rome, December 7, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters of IFC-TOR,

Peace and all Good!

On November 29, 2023, the Franciscan Family gathered at St John Lateran Basilica in Rome to celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> Centenary of St. Francis receiving the approval of the rule. The Basilica was crowded with Franciscans from every branch, male and female, religious and lay. It was a wonderful testimony of the spirit of Franciscans.

As we celebrate this special season of Advent leading to the celebration of Christmas, we remember how St. Francis celebrated the Birth of the Holy Child at Greccio 800 years ago this Christmas. Throughout the ages since, we honor His birth with beautiful Christmas scenes and re-enactments. The Holy Father, as has been previously announced, has granted a plenary indulgence from December 8<sup>th</sup> until February 2<sup>nd</sup> to anyone who visits a Church of the Franciscan Family and follows the criteria listed in the decree to gain the indulgence. (Further information is on the IFC-TOR website, <https://www.ifc-tor.org/>)



The IFC-TOR Council met by ZOOM on December 5, 2023. We discussed the survey that had gone out earlier in the year. 44 responses were received. The responses varied greatly as to what was deemed important in terms of resources needed. A few sisters volunteered to work on committees and we will be contacting them after the holidays to arrange a virtual meeting to exchange ideas. Also discussed was the financial situation and it was determined to slightly raise the dues and to seek more donations to meet yearly expenses. An upcoming centenary activity will be the opening of the year of the Stigmata at La Verna on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be live-streamed and made available later on YouTube. We will send information regarding this as soon as it is available. We started preliminary planning for the full Assembly in early 2026 in Assisi. This will be further discussed at the in-person council meeting which will take place from April 14-19 in Assisi. Once the dates for this Assembly are set, we will make them known so they can be put on your calendar.

Wishing you all the best in your important ministry of leadership, we ask that God may gift you with peace and joy during this season of Advent and throughout the Christmas Season. May this Christmas be the beginning of a year of blessings for you and your congregations.



***Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2024!***

*Sr. Frances Marie Duncan, President IFC-TOR  
Sr. Daisy Kalamparamban, Vice-President  
Sr. Beatriz Vásquez Mayta, Councilor  
Sr. Maria Luisa García Casamián, Councilor  
Sr. Rute Almeida Guimaraes, Councilor  
P. Brian Terry, Councilor*