

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

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September 27, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace and all Good!

As the Feast of St. Francis approaches amid this year in which we are remembering the 800<sup>th</sup> centenary of the First Order Rule and the first Christmas celebration at Greccio, my wish for you is that you may have a most blessed preparation for the Feast and a most joyous celebration. This year, I will be blessed to be in Assisi for the Transitus and Feast since I have a meeting of the Franciscan Family on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have often wondered what it would be like to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis in Assisi so I am delighted that this will become a reality this year.



Peace and all Good! So often we use this greeting in all our correspondence. We have become so accustomed to hearing it that we sometimes miss the power of its message, especially in the world in which we now live. The peace of St. Francis is indeed a gift that the world needs greatly now and we as his followers have a most important mission in praying for and spreading peace. As we prepare for this Feast in whatever way you feel is most meaningful for you, I pray that you include a remembrance of those values that Francis treasured, especially poverty, simplicity and care for creation.

At this time also, as the Church prepares for the momentous gathering of the Synod in Rome, I ask that you support the many delegates who will participate by your prayers and sacrifices. This is a most important time for Pope Francis and the entire Catholic community and many serious issues will be discussed. As you know, the Church, like the world, is divided on many issues. Those who assemble at the synod need the support of our prayers and sacrifices so that they can put aside pre-conceived ideas and be open to the Holy Spirit and be enlightened to recognize the Will of God for the Church into the future.

As always, on behalf of the entire IFC-TOR Council, I thank you for your continued support and prayers wishing that the entire Franciscan Family continues to serve Christ and the Church.

Remembering that we are here with God for each other, I remain, your in Christ,

- 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