



CONFERENZA FRANCESCA NA INTERNAZIONALE

dei Fratelli e delle Sorelle del Terz'Ordine Regolare

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular,

As we eagerly await the remembrance of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead next Sunday, we look back and reflect upon this past season of Lent during this year of the 800th anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis.

With all that is happening in the world today, the divisions, hatred and wars, it is not easy to believe that hope can be maintained. Yet remembering that the agony of Good Friday transformed into the joy of Easter Sunday and that the wounds of St. Francis transformed into his Sainthood give us hope that the world's situation can be transformed into something more with prayer and sacrifice.



We need to take to heart the message of Pope Francis to the youth at the World Youth Day this past summer, "do not be afraid to share with others the hope and joy of the risen Christ! Nurture the spark that has been kindled in you, but at the same time share it," and be "the joyful hope of a Church and of a humanity always on the move" At this time in the history of the Church and of the world, we, as Franciscans, are called more than ever, to be instruments of spreading hope, peace and joy among the people of God. It is not an easy task but it is a task that is ours to do.

May the Resurrected Christ fill you this Easter with an inner peace that will transform you so that you can transform those you meet and that peace, hope and joy will radiate from you to them and into the world.

Peace in the Risen Christ!



Sister Frances Marie Duncan, OSF

*Sr. Frances Marie Duncan
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