



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

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Pace e Bene!

Happy Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis! This Feast, for many of us in the Franciscan Family, signals the beginning of preparation for the Feast Day of our brother, St. Francis. In this special year during which we remember the 800th anniversary of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata at LaVerna, we celebrate this reminder of how great the love of Francis was for Christ and how great the love of Christ was for St. Francis.

St. Francis continues to be well loved by people of all faiths and nationalities because he models for all the simplicity and sincerity for which we long. In a world of complexity and turmoil, the witness of Francis' life of living poorly and peacefully challenges us to emulate his values in the way we live. As we prepare for the feast and celebrate his life, may we commit ourselves once again to mirror the virtues of St. Francis for the world.

We wish you a blessed time of preparation and a joyous celebration of the Feast. May St. Francis guide your life and lead you more fully to Christ.

Happy Feast of St. Francis!

*Sister Frances Marie Duncan, OSF
and IFC-TOR Councilors*

