



INTERNATIONAL FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE

of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular

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Feast of St. Francis

October 4, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Franciscan Family,

The Feast of St. Francis is always a day of great rejoicing as we remember the life of our holy patron. This year, as we celebrate, amidst the confusion of a world that has strayed far from the values of Christianity, we remember our father, Francis, and recognize that his world had similar troubles. The wars in varied countries, especially in Ukraine, the political unrest, the religious persecutions, the environmental catastrophes, all speak of a world that is not at peace and has limited joy. We as Franciscans have much work yet to do to be of service to our brothers and sisters and what better time to recommit ourselves to do this than at the time of the Feast of St. Francis.

The next few years in our Franciscan family, we are planning a number of celebrations as we prepare for the 800th centenary of some special Franciscan events. In 2023, we will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the first Nativity scene at Greccio and the first Rule of St. Francis. The IFC-TOR website will have links to some of the materials that are available for your use to plan how your congregations will partake in these celebrations. The theme for the year 2023 is "You are Joy."

Let us also not forget that December 8th marks the 40th anniversary of the approval of the revision of our 3rd Order rule. This year should be a time of renewed interest in studying and promoting this rule that forms the essence of our lives as Franciscans.

As we take time to celebrate Francis on October 4th, let us rejoice in our vocation to this Franciscan way of life. Let us be grateful to God and sing His praises for how we have been blessed. Let us also petition Francis to teach us to be models of Joy and to be Peace Bearers in a world so in need of both. May each of you have a most blessed Feast of St. Francis and may St. Francis shower you with the blessings of which you most stand in need.

God bless you!
Sincerely

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

