



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

Piazza del Risorgimento, 14 - 00192 Roma, Italia
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March 15, 2022

As they announce peace with their lips,
let them be careful to have it
even more within their own hearts.
TOR Rule 30



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Francis of Assisi exhorts us to have peace so deeply within our hearts that it overflows in our words and actions, and all will be moved to peace. Pope Francis says the same in another way, praying and calling all to “demilitarize our hearts.” These days of conflict and war in Ukraine shout out to us that peace begins and continues in the heart of each person. As followers of the man of Gospel peace, let us, led by his inspiration, be shining lights of the hope of peace, in whatever way God’s holy Spirit leads us to work to bring about peace within and without.

Some of our brothers and sisters are directly involved in the outreach to help the men, women and children fleeing their homeland in Ukraine to seek refuge and safety in neighboring countries. Some of our congregations have houses in the areas of conflict and minister to the manifold needs of the people surrounded by war and violence. We are grateful to these men and women who accompany the people in this time of sorrow and grief. We pray and we fast begging God’s mercy and the restoration of peace to a land greatly devastated.

We know costly it is to transport, feed and shelter those away from home. Perhaps, the third part of our Lenten observance can be to give alms to our Franciscan sisters and brothers assisting in relief efforts for the refugees far from home. There are two sides to our giving:

- 1) As we want to assist the efforts of our brothers and sisters who companion those directly affected by the war, we ask the TOR General Ministers who have brothers or sisters working with refugee assistance to tell the IFC-TOR office in Rome secretary@ifc-tor.org if their congregations are involved in the effort.
- 2) We invite all IFC-TOR congregations to donate money to a collective fund for refugee assistance for the congregations named who are giving direct assistance.

Please use the banking information at the end of the letter to forward your money to Rome as quickly as possible. The IFC-TOR office will distribute the funds equally among the needing congregations indicated to us. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your generous response.

Please use the following means for making your contributions for refugee assistance by our TOR Sisters and Brothers making sure to indicate the donation is for **Refugee Assistance**:

1. Money transfer to BancoPosta:
Account name: **CONFERENZA FRANCESCA NA INTERNAZIONALE**
Address: **Piazza Risorgimento, 14 - 00192 ROMA**
Name of bank: **BancoPosta**
IBAN Code: **IT 7 5 H076 0103 2000 0101 0808 044**
SWIFT / BIC: **B P P I I T R R XXX**
2. Bank check made out to **Conferenza Franciscana Internazionale - TOR** and mailed to the IFC-TOR office
Piazza del Risorgimento, 14
00192 Rome, ITALY

Please notify the General Secretary, Sr. Margherita Merlino, at secretary@ifc-tor.org about the money that you are sending or any questions.

We pray with all peoples of the world: Lord make us instruments of your peace...

Sr. Deborah LOCKWOOD president and Council Members