



CONFERENZA FRANCEScana INTERNAZIONALE

dei Fratelli e delle Sorelle del Terz'Ordine Regolare

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

A warm greeting full of gratitude to each one of you.

The feast day of our Seraphic Father St Francis is now upon us. We are still living the Jubilee, a Holy Year characterised by hope that never fades, hope in God. Let us continue to be drawn to hope and allow it to spread through us to all those who desire it. May our lives say to them: *'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord'* (Ps 27:14). *'May the power of hope fill our present, as we wait confidently for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory now and for evermore'* (Pope Francis).

The recurrence of the 'Franciscan Jubilees' is an extraordinary event of grace that this year includes the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures (2025) and that of Francis' Easter (2026). With the Canticle, nourished by prayer, inspired by the biblical psalms and generated by his heart capable of seeing and observing with his eyes the beauty of every animate and inanimate creature, Francis first says an "amen", a "yes" to life and to this world, then praises and thanks his Lord, whom he calls with confidence and love "my Lord", my Lord. As Tommaso da Celano testifies, Francis 'was no longer a man who prayed, he had become a living prayer' (*non tam orans, quam oratio factus*; the text is in *Vita Seconda* 95; *Fonti francescane* 682).

On this feast day, let us seek to change within ourselves, to throw ourselves into the deep sea of faith so that we may become new seeds of hope that can be sown in our lives and in our communities every day. May the spirit of love and peace of St Francis inspire us ever more to reproduce this hope in our lives. May St Francis of Assisi, together with St Clare, bless our dreams of goodness!

With sincere affection, we send you our prayers and warm embrace.

Happy Feast of Saint Francis!

*Sister Daisy Kalamparamban
and IFC-TOR Councilors*

