



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

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

Peace and all Good!

“I praise you, Father, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children, for such was the will of your Father” (Luke 10:21): it is precisely so; the “Poverello of Assisi” has become a burst of captivating energy for the whole of humanity. Let us say ‘thank you’ to Francis, but above all to the Lord, because that tiny seed has now been growing for 800 years.

Francis was a great saint and a joyful man. His simplicity, his humility, his faith, his love for Christ, his kindness towards every man and woman made him joyful in every situation. Indeed, there is an intimate and indissoluble bond between holiness and joy. The French writer Léon Bloy said that *‘there is only one sadness in the world: that of not being a saint’*, that is, of not being close to God. Looking at the example of Saint Francis, we realise that this is the secret of true happiness: to become saints, close to God!

On this centenary of Saint Francis’s passing into Heaven, let us renew our commitment to living out his legacy of peace, brotherhood and love for every creature. May his example illuminate our path and make us instruments of good in the world.

Like a seed sown in the earth, Francis left this world to take root in millions of hearts. On the centenary of his death, let us continue to nurture the garden he began. May the spirit of St Francis illuminate our path with simplicity, love and peace towards every creature.

We wish you all a happy feast day, invoking, through the intercession of St Francis, every blessing of peace for each and every one of you and for the whole world.

On this day dedicated to St Francis, I hope you will always cherish in your hearts the Word of God, the peace, the simplicity and the joy that he gave to the world.



With sincere affection, may our prayers and our warm embrace reach each and every one of you.

*Sister Daisy Kalamparamban
and IFC-TOR Councilors*