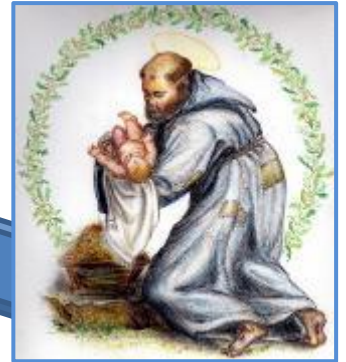




And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.

John 1.14

+++ PACE +++ PAX +++ PEACE +++ PAZ +++ FRIEDEN +++



Christmas, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

### Blessings during the Christmas season of peace and joy!

St. Francis loved Christmas more than any other time. The Incarnation is the true compassion of God that he perceived so clearly. He was so filled with joy that he invited everyone else to discover the eternal mystery and, with him, to enter into it in humility and love. He wrote in his Letter to All the Faithful: *We are mothers to him when we carry him in our hearts and souls by love with a pure and sincere conscience, and give birth to him by doing good.* #31

Pope Francis said, "The most beautiful of Christmas joys is the joy of inner peace." As true as that is, he reminded us that is a starting point for the restoration of peace in our world: "everyone can be an artisan of peace." In our fragile world, daily we are called into solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters, as messengers who announce the saving presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and as artisans who extend compassion and promote peace in our day.

In 2018, may we continue to MAKE A DWELLING by dedicating ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming non-violent people and building non-violent communities that care for our common home.

May the Lord give you peace,

Sr. Deborah LOCKWOOD, President IFC-TOR  
Sr. M. Magdalena SCHMITZ, Vice-President  
Sr. Dolores CANEO, Councilor  
Sr. Joanne BRAZINSKI, Councilor  
Bro. Franco KANNAMPUZHA, Councilor  
Sr. Benigna AOKO, Councilor