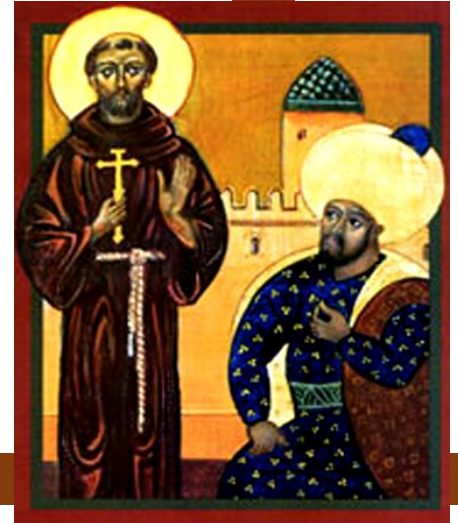


May the Lord give you PEACE!

October 4, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings for the feast of St. Francis!



During these days of September and October, the Franciscan family commemorates a very important event in the life of Francis of Assisi. It was 800 years ago at this time, that Francis was in Damietta, Egypt. He was the self-proclaimed Herald of the Great King! In the summer of 1219, he boarded a ship and left Italy. After a long journey over strong and raging waters, he made his way to see the Sultan Malik al-Kamil, with the dream of changing the course of violence to peace, after the two bloody years of the Fifth Crusade.

What surprise awaited not only Francis, but the Sultan himself. Both men believed in peace and could be considered heralds of peace. Both men laid bare their souls to allow the surprising breath of the Spirit blow in the crevices of their expectations and pre-conceived ideas. And what became of it was certainly a new life, a new relationship, a new friendship, that unfolded into a new brotherhood, a seed of peace that could be carried to the world.

What is our dream of peace and how do we announce it to others?
How do we let peacemaking take us by surprise?
What seeds of peace do we see developing in our lives?
How do we nourish them?

May this be a great hope as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis, Herald of the Great King.

Happy Feast of St. Francis!

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