



October 4, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi!

About 800 years ago, St. Francis wrote a letter to “*all who live in the whole world.*” This was a huge undertaking... especially in those days without social media! Yet, he wanted to send a message with the words of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, words of spirit and life, to everyone on earth. What did he say to the people of the whole world?

In summary, “¹⁹*Let us love God, therefore, and adore Him with a pure heart and a pure mind...* ⁴⁸*And the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon all those men and women who have done and persevered in these things and [the Spirit] will make a home and dwelling place in them...*” Second Letter to the Faithful

In these days of pandemic, Francis would say the same to us. These months of isolation have left a mark on the world, a mark that can define the coming years, or destroy them. As Franciscans, we have chosen to follow in the footprints of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who gave his life for the very things our world is most in need of now: human community/solidarity, love and compassion for our brothers and sisters, earnest searching for the truth and doing God’s work. Isolation, staying-in-place, brings each person to the stark reality of his/her life in the context of the world. With reflection and with courage, each of us can recommit ourselves to the deep desires we have and God has for all creation. Let us receive “*with kindness*”, once more, the Second Letter of St. Francis to the Faithful and understand it in the context of the pandemic and put it into practice as Francis commends us. He assures us that God is with us and the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us. Perhaps we can help our world turn the pandemic of disease into a worldwide venture into newness of life, a pandemia of love, justice and peace.

Let us go forth, trusting our good God is with us.

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