



INTERNATIONAL FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE

of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular

Piazza del Risorgimento, 1
00192 Roma — ITALIA

Tel. (+39) 06/3972.3521
Fax: (+39) 06/3976.0483

E-mail: secretary@ifc-tor.org
Website: www.ifc-tor.org

June 30, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers, General Ministers of TOR,

Peace and every good to each of you. Know that we think of you and the many concerns and anxieties you have in this time of leadership during the pandemic. We represent sisters and brothers in Europe, India, Africa, North and South America and have seen the realities of our sisters and brothers in those areas firsthand, and our congregations include those in Asia and Oceania also. Our General Assembly theme must have been inspired by the Holy Spirit as we chose, *growing in universal love with undivided hearts*. Surely this is what the pandemic will challenge us to and draw out of us.

On June 23, 2020, the IFC-TOR Council met via ZOOM to consider a question weighing heavily on us as we begin the last year of our term as Council. The question concerned the 2021 General Assembly to be held in May in Assisi — the one we asked you to save the date. Covid19 and the pandemic have changed so much in our present and our future of coming together. We looked back and at the present and saw such uncertainty about travel, about numbers and peaks of infection, about many limitations in the countries (all so varied and unpredictable). We asked ourselves about the fear and anxiety that you, the members of the assembly, might have in traveling, even about the possibility of travel, to attend the meeting. We know that some 2020 General Chapters have been postponed until 2021. All of these things could give counterproductive influences in regard to the number and diversity of our participants. This would have great impact on the election of new Council members.

Looking ahead, we ask ourselves questions about the meaning of the international gathering in light of our Franciscan heritage and our charism of fraternity. We have not answered all these questions yet, however, we feel that it is in the best interests of all the members of IFC-TOR to postpone the 2021 General Assembly until May of 2022. With this letter we come to you for your affirmation of this proposal. We would also like to know your comments, questions and suggestions.

Please consider the following and send by email your response to Sr. Margherita Merlino, General Secretary, at secretary@ifc-tor.org

YES	NO	Do you affirm the postponement of the IFC-TOR General Assembly until May, 2022? Any questions, suggestions, comments:
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Thank you for your input which we will use at our September 2020 Annual Council meeting. Let us continue to pray for the people of our world, those suffering from coronavirus and for all caretakers and first responders.

Wishing you peace and every good,

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