



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

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Rome, December 21, 2020  
To all YouFra members around the World

Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus!

Far from the spotlight, decorated trees, streets and squares, Jesus was born in a small stable without much fuss. He came into the world as a small baby, so fragile and dependent on his parents, and yet, no night has been as magnificent, and no night has brought so much love, humility, and joy as that night.

Just as it was more than 2,000 years ago, this Advent and Christmas are different. The difference for each one of us is that without as many lights, crowds and outside glitter, we have an opportunity to be closer to our families, and closer to Jesus in the little stable of Bethlehem. However, for many families, this year will be cold, the food on the tables will not be as plentiful, yet we believe the presence of Jesus in our hearts will provide a special warmth.

Dear YouFra members, the service and love that you show every day to the people in need and to your parish is visible all year round and not just at Christmas. Thus, I implore you during this time of need, to open your hearts to others and share what you have with them. Your little may be a lot to someone in need; your smile is the whole universe for someone who is lonely; and your hug is a balm for someone's wounds. Be there for others, but above all, be there for Jesus. Keep Jesus as the center of your Christmas. Don't let the present culture entice us with Santa Clauses, fairies and elves, and home decorations that take our eyes off Jesus. Let us find a special place for the crib in which the baby Jesus will dwell on Christmas. Let us find a place in our heart for the baby who brings only good into the world.

Blessed be your Christmas and the Holy Birth of Jesus! May the baby Jesus and the Holy Family keep you, teach you, and guide you through life.

With love,

Sister Andrea

Andrea Karlović,  
International YouFra coordinator

