



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale
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Prot. n. 3274

Rome, October 1, 2020

To
All OFS National Councils
All OFS International Councillors
All YouFra National Councils

Object: A call for a fundraising for OFS members in Beirut who suffered damage due to the explosion of last August.

Dear All,

As I am sure you already know, Lebanon is going through a major political and economic crisis that has brought the whole country to its knees. To aggravate this already tragic situation, on August 4 at 6.08 p.m., there was a devastating explosion of 2700 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate in the port area of Beirut, which caused 200 deaths, more than 7000 injured and the destruction of everything within a radius of 10 Km. The estimates of the competent authorities say 300,000 citizens of Beirut had their houses destroyed or damaged. Among these, were some OFS families.

As such, in a gesture of fraternal solidarity, we invite you to consider the possibility of sending a contribution that should help these our brothers and sisters to repair their homes, regain the serenity and security that one's home alone can give.

A first default estimate needed for the repairs of the damages suffered family by family (we retain the names here for respect of privacy) is 70.000 Euro minimum.

Convinced to be interpreting the minds of all the members of the Order who, in a move of solidarity and fraternity, are ready to intervene in the aid of these brothers and sisters who have been deprived of one of the most important goods for a family, the home, the CIOFS Presidency proposes a fundraising and guarantees its coordination and appropriate use. This will be done through the OFS National Council of Lebanon. The fundraising is supposed to involve OFS members at all levels (National, Regional and Local) inviting them to participate with the usual generosity which has been proven in other similar situations.

To avoid overburdening the National Treasurer of Lebanon, we invite everyone to send donations to the current account of the CIOFS in the manner known to all, specifying the reason: SUPPORT TO THE OFS FRATERNITY OF BEIRUT. The CIOFS secretariat will then send what it receives to the OFS of Lebanon with two payments; the first to be made at the end of October 2020 to answer to urgent needs, and the second at the end of December 2020.

For convenience, we provide bank details here:

For contributions in Euro through Bank Transfer

Beneficiary: *Ordine Francescano Secolare*
Via Vittorio Putti 4
00152 Roma – Italia
IBAN: IT09M0306909606100000010743
BIC/Swift Code : BCITITMM

For contributions in USD through Bank transfer
Beneficiary: *Ordine Francescano Secolare*
Via Vittorio Putti 4
00152 Roma – Italia
IBAN: VA47001000000023877002
BIC/Swift Code: IOPRVAVX or IOPRVAVXXX

Else, on the website, www.ciofs.info, contributions can be done in Euro, clicking on Donate/Pay and then following the instructions on the page.

Thanking you now on behalf of our brothers and sisters who, thanks to your generosity, will see their pain alleviated and will feel even more part of the great Global OFS family, I greet you with the formula used by our father Saint Francis:

May the Lord give you his peace

Tibor Kauser, OFS
General Minister

