



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis
Consilium Internationale

Prot. nr. 3816

Rome, April 07th, 2025

To every National Council of the OFS
To every National Council of the YouFra

Ref: International day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's all grace!

I would like to greet you with joy and hope, today, when among the various realities that exist in the different places, we find ourselves to be obliged to live the gift of the vocation we have received, especially in our local fraternities, where we live day by day our being Secular Franciscans and where we are striving to fulfill our mission: to "rebuild the Church". I come to you, brothers and sisters, having in my mind and heart the words of the Holy Father Pope Francis on the occasion of the Jubilee: *"In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring". (Spes non confundit 1.)*

Precisely on the basis of being called to rebuild the Church and to carry out actions that restore or strengthen the hope of all, the CIOFS Presidency has approved the establishment of the

International day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity.

We are aware that solidarity must be practiced constantly, day by day and everywhere, but as an Order we consider that on the international level we can have concrete and achievable activities that strengthen us to be a family and to be more supportive.

The Day will be held on **November 17** of each year, the **Feast of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**, Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order. Franciscan values of humility, service, detachment, charity, the help to the poor, the neediest, those who suffer, are characterizing her life. Talking about St. Elizabeth is a call to contemplate the concrete ways of charity and solidarity in her life, and her actions inspire and set an example. Therefore, we consider that we must promote solidarity not only as a means of assistance, but also as part of the formation that leads to conversion, and the strengthening of unity, integration, collaboration and participation in our OFS and Youfra fraternities, as well as being a living witness of hope in a society that is becoming more and more indifferent.

The Day will be held at all levels in different, but always concrete ways. We are all called to take concrete steps, considering the diversity of realities. The purpose is to raise funds or resources that help the concrete needs in our local, regional, national OFS and YFRA fraternities. These concrete steps can be collecting food or medicine, giving alms, visiting the sick, the elderly, those in need. It is important to highlight that this Day has been established to meet those in various difficulties inside and around our fraternities present in various parts of the world. Therefore, it will be used to get closer to the brothers in difficulty of the same fraternity itself, or those in a neighboring fraternity or of the higher level. The main goal is not to be effective in accumulating resources, but the main goal is to help in any form, to bring hope with concrete actions.

Transparency is also important, so it is recommended to implement the pertinent records of the actions, to keep clear control of what is collected and how it is used, in this way we will avoid confusion, misunderstandings or comments that affect fraternal life.

Dear Brothers, Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee 2025 said: *"Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross". (Spes non confundit 3.)* Let us bring hope with concrete actions, let us become aware of the importance of charity in our lives, in our being Franciscans. Let us be an example of compassion and service, inspired also by the example of St. Elizabeth of Hungary!

Finally, I would like to ask you to support us by making known the International Day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity, and to guide and animate the brothers and sisters for its proper development.

May our Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary and her faithful maternal example assist us and embrace us day by day.

With fraternal greetings,



Tibor Kauser,
OFS General Minister

