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Prot. n. 3485

Rome, June 20, 2022

To all OFS National Councils
to all YouFra National Councils

Subject: Donations in solidarity with the OFS in Brazil and in Ukraine

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and All Good,

This year begun with some bad news. First, we have heard about the natural disaster in Brazil, which made a lot of families lose their homes, lose their personal belongings, making their daily life very difficult. Soon after, the day February 24, 2022 shook our Franciscan and human family to its core. It was the day that the war between Ukraine and Russia began.

Such tragedies, however, prompted all of us to want to find some way to help the brothers, the sisters, the families, who lost their homes, their security, their belongings, even their family members.

Shortly after these sad events began, I sent out a plea on behalf of our Presidency, asking our Secular Franciscan family to support our brothers and sisters devastated by the natural disaster and by the war. The response was overwhelming. As of today, for the brothers and sisters in Brazil we have received cca 28,000 Euros, for Ukraine nearly 70,000 Euros... and more is arriving every day!

Your kindness and generosity will make a difference in the lives of very specific people in Brazil and in Ukraine.

While none of us could be there personally to support and comfort them, together we felt empowered, providing funds to give them hope and some relief.

I thank you very much for your gift and for all the prayers, also on behalf of our Brazilian and Ukrainian families!

We have already sent the whole sum of your donations to Brazil, in the hope that it will be used efficiently, bringing better circumstances to those who were suffering from this natural disaster. With this we can close that action of solidarity.

Through our Presidency Councilor, Dina Shabalina, who lives in Ukraine, we received the first request to help brothers and sisters in Ukraine who need medical attention, surgeries, medications, food, baby supplies, firewood, walkers, money to pay for utilities – very specific people with very specific needs. I hope that very soon we can send the first part of the aid, which surely will be followed by other steps.

In the meantime, we expect to hear from many more because this war continues to bring hardship and devastation far beyond what we can imagine.

If you have not had a chance to make a donation yet, or if you are able to send another, please consider a gift which will be delivered in person to those suffering in the Ukraine.

I thank all of you, again, your generous donations. This has been a very strong symbol of the sense of belonging to the OFS, of the wonderful fraternal spirit. Once we have reports on how the funds were used, we will let you know it.

With fraternal greetings

Your brother and your minister



Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General Minister

