



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Prot. 3541

Rome, February 7th, 2023

Ref: Need for help for brothers and sisters in Syria and in Turkey

To all OFS and Franciscan Youth National Councils

*Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively<sup>1</sup>.*

Dear brothers and sisters

Peace and Good!

The devastating news of the earthquake and aftershocks in Turkey and Syria summon us to “*build a more fraternal world*” which our OFS rule requires of us.

To date, more than 10.000 people have lost their lives (and this number is growing hour by hour) in this tragic accident of nature, and thousands more have been seriously injured and are now homeless. Thank God our OFS fraternity in Latakia (Syria) has not suffered any loss of life.

In response to this most tragic news and reality, the most important thing is to pray with our OFS family in solidarity and support of all God’s children in the area – those whom we have lost, those suffering in hospitals, those still waiting to be found under the rubble, those left behind who are in panic or are fearful for their families and their future.

In order to express our solidarity in a concrete way the Presidency is asking you to support our sisters and brothers and all those, who are caring for the needy in Syria and in Turkey. Our friars are presently providing food and shelter for some of the homeless families. They will need help with supplies. Hospitals will need additional support as well. We’d like to respond as quickly as possible – our family needs us now.

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<sup>1</sup> OFS Rule, Article 14:

Please send your donations to the **CIOFS bank account (IT 09 M 03069 09606 10000010743)**, or through the **CIOFS website (<https://ciofs.info/donate-pay/>)** indicating the destination: **Syria and Turkey earthquake, financial solidarity**. We will send you a full report of where the funds are used as soon as we have full details.

With much love and appreciation of all that you do,

Your brother



Tibor Kauser  
CIOFS Minister General

