

## PATRIMONY OF THE OFS - PART 2

### Introduction to the Financial Aspects of the OFS

by Jerry Rousseau, OFS National Treasurer

Dear brothers and sisters,

As I wrote in my article on Patrimony of the OFS in the Spring issue of *TAU-USA*:

*The goods in the Church, therefore, are clearly destined for use by the community, because the members of the people of God are called to share the goods<sup>1</sup>. Sharing is, in fact, the way of life of the Christian community. It is a visible manifestation of that deep unity of spirit that is gained through faith and charity. "This is the 'our' bread, 'one' for 'many.' The poverty of the Beatitudes is the virtue of sharing: it calls us to pool and to share both material and spiritual goods, not because it is required, but out of love, because the abundance of some may remedy the needs of others."<sup>2</sup>*

*This is a concept that can be found clearly expressed in Article 15.3 OFS GC: "Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to reduce their own personal needs so as to be better able to share spiritual and material goods with their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. They should give thanks to God for the goods they have received, using them as good stewards and not as owners."*

**Following is how we, as individuals, local Fraternities, Regions, and the National Fraternity have shared "out of love" with those most in need so far this year.**

- Donations and disbursements for Emergency aid to OFS brothers and sisters after several devastating hurricanes: \$15,000 (USA) + \$7,800 (Puerto Rico)
- Charitable donations: \$13,000 (shared among 13 charities recommended by members)
- Response to an appeal: CIOFS solidarity fund: \$19,145 (donations) + \$3,600 for General Chapter contribution (to assist with the management of the Order)
- H2O fund: \$4,500 (to provide for safe and clean water in Uganda)
- Duns Scotus Formation Trust Fund: \$25,540 (to assist with formation within the United States)
- Fair Share to CIOFS: \$22,608 (our portion in keeping with article 25 of our Rule)

Total: \$111,193



This is what Patrimony in the OFS is all about. Without the generosity of so many, we would not be able to support all these endeavors. Thank you to all who opened their hearts (and their wallets) to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

Jerry Rousseau, OFS

National Treasurer

<sup>1</sup> Lumen Gentium n. 13th

<sup>2</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church n. 2,833