



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

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Fr. Walter Jiménez Herra, OFM
National Spiritual Assistant
Haiti

Dear Fr. Walter,

May the Lord give you peace!

As we have viewed the news clippings during the past 24 hours, we have all been shocked by the devastation caused by the recent earthquake that shook Haiti. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you, and especially to our Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters who have undoubtedly been impacted by this catastrophe, either directly or emotionally and in solidarity.

In the name of our Minister General, Encarnación del Pozo, and of the Presidency of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order, I am writing to express our deepest condolences to all of the brothers and sisters in Haiti and to assure them of our solidarity during their time of suffering and as they begin to recover from this massive earthquake. As National Assistant, I would ask that you convey these sentiments to the Secular Franciscan community of Haiti, at your earliest convenience and in whatever manner you deem most appropriate.

In moments of profound suffering like these, when so many people are directly affected by tragedy, we also call upon the entire Order to be actively engaged and to participate generously with the Church and civil organizations which will provide humanitarian assistance to all who have been affected. A letter will be dispatched shortly to all National Fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order urging them to reach out to the brothers and sisters from our Order in Haiti and to provide whatever assistance possible.

In addition, be assured that there are many brothers and sisters from different parts of the world, who are in contact with us, and who are bringing in prayer this disaster to the feet of our loving God, asking that those who have died be lovingly welcomed into his eternal presence and interceding for individuals, families and communities in their suffering and who have been impacted by this tragedy. May you be blessed with every consolation at this time. Please be assured of our prayerful and fraternal support.

Fraternally,

Doug Clorey, ofs
Vice-Minister General
Secular Franciscan Order