Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I am writing to each and every Secular Servite today in anticipation of our National OSSM/UNIFAS Conference scheduled for this October in Techny, Illinois. Many of you I have met at our last Conference in 2015 at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, California, and I am eagerly looking forward to visiting with old acquaintances and making new ones!

One of the administrative topics from the last Conference, was an explanation about budgets. It was explained that the Secular Servites had been established to be financially independent from the Provincial Chapter of the Friar Servants, and that each Community was to provide a portion of their collections towards supporting National. We must remember that the Friar Servants are still a Mendicant Order, and rely on donations themselves.

The response in 2015 was very generous and has been able to allow National Council to travel as required, as well as our Advisors, and to pay for certain administrative costs regarding, non-profit fees, speaker fees, online communications and organization, online conferencing, newsletters, and the like. Your offerings have allowed us to be independent of the Friar Servants as our charter requires.

While the generosity is always appreciated, over the course of time it is necessary to refresh our enthusiasm with a reminder. Annual donations of support have decreased each successive year. In order to continue to grow into a vibrant and supportive organization, we at National discussed at length ways to maintain a healthy, financially-independent Council with regular contributions from every Community. I would like each of you to refer to Chapter 2 in our Rule of Life, number 21:

*“In the spirit of the Beatitudes, the Secular Fraternity shares a communion of goods. The members contribute, according to their means, to the expenses of the local, national, and international fraternities, and to the assistance of sisters and brothers in financial difficulties.”*

We would like each Community Treasurer to go to their members and collect one month’s dues *extra* and send that to National Council. If your Community has a fixed amount per month that they collect for dues, then please request a “13th” month from each member, and send annually to National. For example, if the individual dues for a Community are $15/month, then collect an additional $15 from each member for an annual Community donation. If the dues are annual, say $60/year, then collect an extra $5 from each member for an annual donation.

With this renewed commitment, we feel that your National Council can continue to bring to you the quality services, spirituality, communications, speakers and conferences that you have come to enjoy. We are serious in our fiducial responsibility to you and the Order. If you have questions or concerns, please bring them to us so we can assist you.

Prayerfully,

Michael Williams, OSSM

Our Most Sorrowful Mother Community, Portland, Oregon

National Council, Treasurer