



ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM (FRANCISCAN FRIARS)
P.O.BOX 34: MONROVIA - LIBERIA.
Email:franciscanfriars1@gmail.com: Tel: 1291. 04.90: Fax: 984.001.221
LIBERIA

TO: SUPERIOR GENERAL

Thursday, October 09, 2014

Dear our Brothers in Christ

APPEAL FOR EBOLA OUTBREAK IN LIBERIA

The Ebola outbreak is spreading rapidly. More than 2,000 people have died and over 2,415 cases have been reported across in Liberia.

Entire villages in Liberia have been isolated following confirmed cases of Ebola. Hospitals are filling up with Ebola patients, leaving no capacity to deal with other health needs. Food shortages are expected due to price hikes, border closures and a lack of labour to harvest maize and rice crops.

Women are the worst affected in the outbreak, as many women are health workers, or care for sick relatives. Women also traditionally prepare funerals. Border restrictions are affecting traders, the majority of whom are women, making it difficult for them to provide for their families.

Over the past few months we have been working tirelessly in communities in collaboration with local volunteers, government officials, health workers, media and key members of communities to help people understand how to protect themselves and what to do if they have symptoms. Provisions of essential supplies such as disinfectants, buckets, gloves, and food packages have also been provided in a number of communities.

The disease has a 47% survival rate with the right supportive care, so it is vital that people who are infected seek medical treatment as soon as possible. Our congregation Hospital is among of the hospitals which are serving Ebola patients. The cases are increasing. I wish I did not have to say this, but it is going to get worse before it gets better. The world has never seen an outbreak of Ebola like this. Consequently, not only are the numbers large, but we know there are many more cases than has been diagnosed and reported.

We had appealed to all Priests, Religious and lay leaders, including catechists, to begin to inform and educate our people about the disease. We strongly appeal to all Parish Priests and their Assistants to devote the next few Sundays to the education of all parishioners on the disease. Health personnel should be approached to lead this exercise.

We also appealed to all our fellow hospitals, clinics and other health facilities dotted across the country, to put in place the necessary structures at the facilities to handle reported cases of Ebola with dispatch. While we cannot direct our faithful not to shake hands during the Kiss of Peace at mass, we think that it is possible to minimize the shaking of hands. These directives are intended as short-term measures to prevent the possible outbreak of the Ebola disease in our country.

We currently need £105,980 to continue providing services at our hospital; and the number of patients increasing day and night. I am asking your Excellency to support us during these hard times as we are in need.

FRANCISCAN FRIARS – S. FRANCISCI ASSISIENSIS PROVINCE



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Money appealed will be used to **provide following services**

- provide access to medical treatment and care for those affected by Ebola virus
- support Priests and Sisters who volunteers to effectively manage dead bodies safely and prevent further infection
- raise awareness in communities on the prevention and transmission of Ebola virus disease
- provide psychosocial counselling to affected families and communities
- Setting-up hand-washing stations at schools, health posts and other public facilities to help keep families safe.
- Training health workers in effective infection control procedures

Please send your donation to our account as it is detailed below and let us know.

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Let us Share Christ's Love in Word and deed! Helping broken and suffering people. We look forward to the opportunity to share with you in our current situation of saving the lives of our victim's of Ebola Virus. May God who is our shield, protector and healer, keep all of us safe in these trying moments and help us fight this disease together.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Fr. Dominic N. Isagalando O.F.M

Provincial Minister

FRANCISCAN FRIARS – S. FRANCISCI ASSISIENSIS PROVINCE