



SUPERIORE GENERALE

**CONGREGAZIONE DEI SACERDOTI  
DEL SACRO CUORE DI GESÙ**

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Rome, 16 January 2010

Prot. N. 0005/2010

My very dear brothers:

Once again our vocation, our spirit of oblation, our fidelity to the teaching of Christ and our Founder's charism cannot leave us indifferent to the horrible catastrophe affecting our world.

The country of Haiti, as all of you are aware, underwent a terrible earthquake on January 12. It was measured at 7.0 on the Richter scale with the epicenter just about 10 miles from Port-au-Prince, the capitol.

No complete account of the victims and displaced persons is available but the UN and Red Cross report that one third of the country's population has been affected. Thousands of persons are still buried in the rubble and the aid-workers are fighting time in order to save as many as possible. Only one hospital is standing; it can no longer accept patients. Red Cross International is engaged in setting up several first-aid field stations.

Every part of the world is joining in manifesting their solidarity with the people of Haiti where churches, schools, and hospitals have collapsed, where water supply is almost non-existent, and where thousands of people are homeless.

A great number of people have died, including Serge Minot, Archbishop of Port-au-Prince and there is no news either of his vicar general, Bishop Benoit. The apostolic nuncio to Haiti, Bernardito Auza, spoke to *Fides* saying that the cathedral, the chancery building, all the big churches and all the seminaries have been reduced to powder while the same thing happened to government offices and the presidential palace.

As our response, beyond being motivated by the spirit of solidarity that must characterize us SCJs and the appeal issued by the USG (which has volunteered to serve as go-between for all religious institutes who in whatever way have been involved in this tragedy or who wish to express their solidarity concretely), the Curia Generalizia fully intends to do something about requests for help coming from various international organizations dealing with the very urgent needs that the people of Haiti face. With this letter we are asking all provinces, regions, districts that can do so to unite in this expression of solidarity. You can do so by direct contact with the Curia Generalizia,

actually with the General Treasurer here in Rome who will see to coordinating such assistance that arrives. We will try to insure that our contribution will be made via the religious institutes on the scene or through other church organizations.

As usual, we hope that this letter will serve as a stimulus to all of you to express, once more, your fraternity and generosity toward those in serious difficulty.

Together in prayer and close to all those who suffer through our prayer, we greet you all in the Heart of Jesus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ornelas Carvalho', written in a cursive style.

Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, scj  
Superior General