

Korsimoro, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007

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Dear Michał Panicz,  
the Chairman of the Fr Dominik Kiesch Association of Friends of Franciscan Missions,

Fr Robert Jurzysta and I have read your letter with great interest. First of all we would like to congratulate you on the nomination to the position of chairman of this new association. This is a very honourable and important function – bringing help to the people in need.

We for our part, together with the congratulations, assure prayer support because it is very needful in order to fulfil these functions and duties of the association well.

Fr Krystian has sent us the Statute of the Association so we could read it and think it over. You have mentioned that the Association will have its first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Góra św. Anny. You also ask whether we have any projects to carry out.

We have been very busy for the last few weeks. Every day we go to different communities for meetings and we come back home late in the evenings. That is why I did not reply to your letter for such a long time. I would like to apologize for it.

As for the programmes to carry out, we do not have any detailed programmes worked out. However, it does not mean that we do not have any needs and problems to solve.

I would like to present two problems that bother us very much although, as I have mentioned before, we do not have a specific plan which should be provided to other institutions to which you turn for financial help.

The first matter which worries us is the dietary situation of people for the next season. People live here by farming. Sahel is our region. The average rainfall here is about 400 millimetres. This year it started to rain really late. The farmers started to sow after the 10<sup>th</sup> July. In spite of the fact that it rained regularly and we thought that everything would be fine, it finished much too early, in the middle of September. The corn dried really beautifully and it did not yield a satisfactory crop. I am not an expert in statistics and calculations but I think that people had only about 40% of what they usually gather. Many people will not be able to make it through until the next season. And they have to wait for the new season for the next 9 months. Our request, therefore, is connected with helping those who need most help. We know that we cannot help everybody, but every help will be welcomed. Now a 100 kilograms of corn cost about **15000 FCFA** which is **€22,90**. If we could buy at least **100 such bags of corn**, it would be a great help for 100 families. It would be a gesture of solidarity with those who are suffering.

The second matter which worries us is the situation of our catechists. All of them work in our parish voluntarily. All of them live by farming. This year seven of them must repair their houses which have suffered damage during the rainy season. (Houses are made of ground and during the rainy season many of them suffer damage.) As if it was not enough, the government decided to make a new division of building plots in this region. **Two families** of our catechists live on the land which does not belong to them anymore. Therefore, they have to leave these plots during the dry season and build new houses on the plots that have been granted to them. Building a house, despite the fact that it is made of ground, costs a lot and is beyond their capabilities. Our parish has not been prepared for such expenses as well.

Building **one** house costs about **1000000 FCFA** which is **1526€**.

If we could receive any help for this aim we would be very grateful. Catechists are our first co-workers in evangelization. Without their help we would not be able to do much.

Thank you in advance for any help which is provided to any Province where our missionary fellow-brothers work.

Let Good God bless this work and our Father Dominik intercede for us.

Together with our kind regards we assure prayer support for all members of the Association. Let Christ the King keep watch over you!

God bless!

Yours sincerely,

Fr Robert Jurzysta ofm

Fr Raphael Segiet ofm